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# INSIDE IDLE NO MORE

**WOMEN STAND UP, PG. 6**

Cover Photo by Chris Parent

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## WEEKLY DISPATCH

# STUDENTS UNITE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Not so long ago it was possible to pay for a year's education by working for a summer at minimum wage. Today, that seems somewhere between a bad joke and a fantasy.

However, the current situation of high tuition and high student debt is not something that needed to happen. It is the direct result of the federal government abandoning its responsibility to fund post-secondary education in the early 90s.

In 1993, the federal government eliminated federal transfers to the provinces to help fund post-secondary education. This forced the costs of a university education onto Canadians, and tuition fees have tripled since then. Increases to tuition fees have happened faster than the rate of inflation, making it less accessible by the year.

Provincial governments in Nova Scotia were less than helpful to students, and rising student debt was not contained. However, students across the province organized and spoke up.

In 2007, not long after a Nova Scotia-wide Student Day of Action, a freeze on tuition fees was won from the Progressive Conservative government of the time. Darrell Dexter, leader of the New Democratic official opposition, was supportive of students' demands for lower tuition fees. He had this to say in the Evening News:

"The result is that they get this great education, but in order to pay off the debt that they assume, they end up going west to higher paying jobs. So it's a net loss for the province."

The NS NDP were elected in 2009 to a majority government. In 2011 the government lifted the tuition freeze, allowing a 3% increase to tuition fees per year for the next three, while cutting 10% from university operating budgets by 2013. There is no cap on tuition increases for international and professional (dentistry, law, medicine) students.

A provincial election is expected to be called in fall 2013, and students are calling on all parties to make it a priority to reduce student debt.

—John Hutton

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# 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) Dal women's hockey pleads for reinstatement

Henry Whitfield, Sports

### SPORTS OPINIONS:

### 2) University has mistreated women's hockey—Jon Pickett, Sports

### 3) Hazing 18-year-olds merits suspensions—Dylan Matthias, Sports

### 4) Hidden information in hazing scandal—Graeme Benjamin, Sports

### 5) Grawood liquor license suspended—Torey Ellis, News

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Daniel Boltinsky News Editor

# Dal's hidden food bank

Students say the service needs more publicity and support

Rachel Bloom  
News Contributor

Dan Malone's hunger pains were unmanageable. They hurt so much at times he couldn't get out of bed for class. Malone, a third-year student at the University of King's College, didn't know there was a food bank within walking distance on campus until this year.

It is suggested we eat three meals a day. Before discovering the food bank, Malone couldn't afford to do so.

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) opened a food bank in 2003, says Derrick Enslow, a health promotion program manager at Live Well @ Dal. The program started after four social work students recognized there was no support for students struggling with food insecurity. The students approached Live Well @ Dal to start a food bank that could assist students like Malone.

According to an article in Nutrition and Dietetics from February 2011, university students are struggling to have enough money to buy food in addition to paying tuition. Expensive fees have resulted in universities and student unions opening up campus food banks to support their students.

Malone has a student loan that covers rent for the year and his parents pay his tuition, which keeps increasing. They can't afford both

his expenses and tuition, he says. According to Statistics Canada, as an undergraduate student in Nova Scotia, Malone would pay the third highest undergraduate rate in the country.

The food bank is one reason Malone is eating more than last year, but he only found out about it last month through word of mouth. He points out that there are a lot of advertisements on campus for meal plans but none for the DSU Food Bank.

"It is promoted, not extensively, mainly because we don't receive a lot of food from Feed Nova Scotia," says Enslow. Feed Nova Scotia organizes food bank donations throughout Nova Scotia. Enslow says the SUB food bank currently supports 30 to 40 people a week, but can't afford to support any more than that.

Even for students who know about it, the food bank isn't the easiest thing to get to. Malone says the first time he tried to go there he had difficulty finding what he described as a "broom-closet sized room" because the entrance is in an obscure corner of the basement of the SUB.

"I didn't want to ask anyone where it was because of the stigma," says Malone.

In 2012, Food Banks Canada reported that 882,000 Canadians were using food banks, which is an increase of 3.6 per cent from last year. And according to Feed Nova

Scotia, the number of people using food banks in the province increased 4.7 per cent from last year.

Feed Nova Scotia provides the food donations for the DSU Food Bank, but healthy food is hard to come by. The food bank donations often include a lot of Kraft Dinner, crackers and canned goods—enough to keep hunger at bay, but with little nutritional value.

"One time we got three buckets full of jars of olives," says Bridgette Belzevic, a fourth-year Dal nursing student who volunteered at the food bank.

According to Enslow, the student union's food bank receives about 10 to 12 banana crates of food every Thursday, and most of it is gone by Friday.

"We could be doing a better job soliciting donations," he says.

Though the food isn't ideal, Malone says the bank is essential for him.

"I'm obviously not going to have a healthy diet eating Kraft Dinner and cereal, but at least I'm not hungry," he says.

"About a month ago, I was convinced I was going to drop out," says Malone. "I wasn't eating, I was stressed with school and I'm not guaranteed a well-paying job when I graduate. I just wasn't sure anymore." ☹



For some, the food bank is essential. Photo by Calum Agnew



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Unlike students, Dal profs face few penalties for submitting late work. ••• Photo by Bryn Karcha

## When profs miss deadlines

### Students still without grades

Kristie Smith  
Staff Contributor

The new semester means buying books, planning papers, and forgetting about last month's exams for most students. But some are still waiting on final marks from last term.

School policy is that grades must be submitted seven calendar days after the exam, or 14 days for classes without exams. Despite that guideline, there are still students waiting to find out their marks.

"I didn't go out of my way to complain about not having them," says third-year student Helen Pike.

"But if other people were complaining I joined right in and suddenly felt upset that we had deadlines and consequences for missing those deadlines, when it seemed that [instructors] didn't."

There are no specific consequences for instructors who fail to submit marks on time. The process is more reactive than preventative.

If the registrar's office notices that a class or individual students are still waiting to be graded, they contact the professor. If the professor fails to complete the marks within a reasonable amount of time, the faculty dean is contacted.

"After the notices and calls to remind instructors to submit grades, we submit a report to the deans of each of the different faculties if there are still outstanding grades in their faculty," explains Mairead Barry, the associate registrar and director of admissions at Dal.

"And then it is at the discretion of the dean of the faculty what they do at that point, in terms of repercussions for late grades."

While the wait is inconvenient, the registrar's office says it's an inevitable evil that comes with trying to schedule thousands of students' exams without overlap.

"We try to get the grades out as quickly as possible," says Barry, "and I think getting it done in a timely manner can be tricky, especially when we're dealing with large classes. I would say it has been a bit of an issue and that the seven calendar days limit is not always adhered to."

Associate professor Brian Bow had one of those tricky large classes, POLI 2520: World Politics. For some students, this class is necessary for their degree. On Jan. 8, Bow explained the long wait in an 800-word email to over 200 students:

"I should begin by apologizing for how long it took for the grades to be posted, and for the fact that there are some even now which have not yet been posted. There were several reasons for the delay."

His exam was scheduled towards the end of exam period, which over 200 students took and wrote approximately 10 pages each, which he and his TAs were expected to grade on top of the 12-page term papers within one week. One of his TAs had been double booked with another class and was unable to mark as many as the others, and the papers had to be sent back and forth physically across the continent.

Inconvenient and arguably avoidable, yes, but by no means the mark of incompetence or spite.

"On the flip side I also felt bad, because there was just one of them and so many of us," says Pike.

"I don't take issue with marks taking a while to produce but I do think that if they are going to go over deadlines those should be changed so that students know what to expect."

Barry says that they do what they can to arrange the exams to benefit everyone, but they can't book every large class in the first few days. Instructors have to deal with the time and try to submit the marks when they can, which can be hard to remember sometimes.

"We have an academic standing and dismissal process here at Dal," says Barry.

"So there is the possibility that because a final term result could be below the minimum academic standing, a student could be no longer able to continue with the university. So, if we don't have their grades in an appropriate amount of time, we wouldn't be able to notify them about this and they could be put in an awkward position." ☹

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# No longer idle at Dal

## IDLE NO MORE 'TEACH IN' RECEIVES STRONG SUPPORT

Kate McKenna  
News Contributor

The auditorium was bursting with people. Well over 400 sat between chairs, on the floor, and against walls, all in solidarity with the Idle No More movement.

But the room was silent, save one voice. Tayla Paul spoke about her struggles as an Aboriginal woman.

For five years, she scoured garbage for food and walked miles every day with nowhere to go. Homeless in Toronto and Halifax, she spent her teenage years warding off predators and fighting for survival. It's a brutal image, but she says it's all too common for First Nations women.

The Idle No More 'teach in,' held at Dalhousie on Jan. 10, aimed to raise awareness on the challenges facing First Nations people and communities. Attendees included Halifax MP Megan Leslie and many members of the Dal community.

For Paul, the deluge of awareness about First Nations issues through Idle No More is long overdue.

Paul is a third-generation residential school survivor from Pictou born into a bi-racial family. It's difficult to unravel the personal and communal plights of First Nations people, says Paul; her first experience with racism came from an unlikely place.

"It was in my own family where I first realized racial discrimination happened. I realized my white family was treated better than my Native family ... by my mother."

Sébastien Labelle runs Solidarity Halifax. He helped organize the event with Idle No More. He says the grassroots Halifax political scene is abuzz

about Idle No More, but the community is confused about the ever-changing story.

"We had the feeling that this was a very important cause," says Labelle. "The appropriate and needed next step was to share information and educate the broader public about the context of the struggle, the context from which Idle No More emerges."

The Idle No More movement grew out of longstanding issues between the federal government and First Nations, but is specifically targeting bills C-38 and C-45. Both bills involve the constitutional rights of consultation between First Nations and the federal government. Some Aboriginal communities see these budget implementation bills as a final straw in already fraught intergovernmental relations.

Although the national movement has become mired in controversy and occasional confusion, Halifax seems supportive.

But for some Dal students, the teach-in was quite literally a class. For Marguerite Holland, attendance was mandatory. Her second-year Canadian studies class trickled into the right side of the auditorium and took careful notes during the presentations, a notable juxtaposition to the rest of the crowd.

"Environmentalism is kind of my thing, so it was cool to learn more about it," Holland said.

"I had heard of the bill C-45 but I didn't know that it was affecting Aboriginals so much. So I learned about the background of Idle No More and I learned about what the effects of the omnibus bills will be."



Halifax MP Megan Leslie addresses the Jan. 10 Idle No More teach-in. ••• Photo by Chris Parent

# The cat man of Halifax

## Students part of feral cat problem

Jonny Bolduc  
News Contributor

Pierre Filiatreault sits in his truck on a small, winding hill overlooking the Halifax naval dockyard. It's eight in the morning, and warm for winter. The snow is thawing. According to the 52-year-old Navy veteran, it's a great day to feed feral cats.

"There's not a cat outside on a cold morning," jokes Filiatreault as he looks towards his shelters.

"Cats will come out to see you in the summertime. Now, they'll wait inside until their food is ready, and then come outside."

Filiatreault drives down a short driveway, and before he can stop his truck, cats are emerging from the comfy shelters he built with the help of fellow dockyard employees.

As originally reported by Laura Hubbard in *The Halifax Commoner*, the shelters are small wooden shacks that are designed to keep heated during the winter. Some shelters have mini generators inside of them, and some shelters have heating lamps. Inside the "house" are blankets, beds, water bowls, and even scratching posts.

An orange spotted tabby, called Charlie Brown, stretches his body into the truck as Filiatreault feeds him bits of chicken. A massive white cat named Placid lurks in the background. He's the boss-hog of the colony.

Every morning, Filiatreault goes into his kitchen—filled with supplies, blankets, and cans of food—to make the concoction of dried food, wet food, vitamins, and water. After he feeds the "North End Gang," he moves to other shelters around the

dockyard that are the homes of cats who have been exiled or cast out of the original colony.

"Some people tell me that my cats are fat," he says, smiling. "But they're healthy. They have a steady source of good quality food, medication, and treats. They aren't spoiled, but they are cared for."

Filiatreault is known to friends and donors as "cat-man." He is the founder and proprietor of Pierre's Alley Cat Society (PACS), an organization that houses, feeds and cares for the hordes of feral cats that inhabit the dockyard and Point Pleasant Park.

PACS, five years old this year, first started as an out-of-pocket endeavour. Driven by his love of animals, Filiatreault paid for the feral cats around the dockyard to be spayed and neutered from his own pocket.

"Animals are my kids," says Filiatreault. And it's Filiatreault's love for animals that has propelled PACS.

"People look at stray cats and say, 'Why don't you do something?' I'm the guy who did something about it."

"I used to teach and train young adults," says Filiatreault. "Kids want to be pampered. They want to be pampered for, they don't want to do anything for themselves."

But animals are different. Life for a feral cat in Halifax, and for feral cats in general, is considerably bleak.

"In the wild," says Filiatreault, "feral cats live for a maximum of two years. But our cats are 7 to 8 years old."

Spaying and neutering cats, even house cats that are allowed outside, is the key for preventing the feral cat problem. Filiatreault says students are a contributing factor.



Feral cats live for a maximum of two years. ••• Photo by Jon Bolduc

"Human greed is a big problem," says Filiatreault.

"Students are also a big problem. They go to school, and want a kitten. They get a kitten, and they call a local vet to get it spayed and neutered and are scared off by price. Then, when they leave for the summer, their parents don't want a cat so they leave it outside, and suddenly that unspayed and that un-neutered cat starts a colony."

Halifax city council is currently considering a program that would subsidize spaying and neutering of pets, after 'Tuxedo Stan'—a cat—ran a high-profile campaign during the municipal election dedicated to the issue.

"I cannot solve the problem on my own," says Filiatreault. "Do I go home and cry about it?" He pauses for a moment, looking out at the harbour. "Yes."



—Jessica Perrie

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The INM teach in on Jan. 10 (bottom left) was closely followed by the rally Jan. 11. ••• Photos by Chris Parent

# THE FEMININE FIST RAISED

## WOMEN LEADING IDLE NO MORE

**Sam Elmsley**  
Opinions Editor

Walking into the Halifax World Trade and Convention Centre on a grey Sunday morning, Marina Young worried the turnout would be low. She was pleasantly surprised, when she arrived early, to see a handful of people already waiting for the Idle No More (INM) conference to begin.

When she wasn't running around greeting newcomers, Young was sitting in the audience, in front of the panel of eight speakers and the podium beside it. Waving her hands or putting them together in a gesture of thanks, she tried to keep speakers on task.

"I was just making sure the room stayed calm," says Young.

At the same time, she was trying to keep her four-year-old daughter, who is in many ways the inspiration for her involvement, occupied. It was, all things considered, an immense balancing act.

The room had just fallen silent for a serious prayer, but her daughter couldn't stand to sit any longer. First she started to squirm, then cry and then—yell.

"I don't want to be here!" she hollered.

No, Marina thought, *Not now...* The child, however, was determined. Heads started to turn, covert eyes glancing up, and still the prayer carried on. Giving in, Marina carried her daughter past the audience and into the hallway, hoping to calm her down.

About three other parents had brought their children that morning, caught, as Marina was, without daycare over the holidays.

"It kind of says a lot about, you

know, women in the movement," says Young. "There's a lot of parenting, a lot of chaos." But for many of the women involved, it's a labour of love: a fight for their children's future.

Begun by Sheelah Mclean, Nina Wilson, Sylvia McAdam and Jessica Gordon in Saskatchewan, INM Halifax is also being propelled by women. Three young women—sisters Shelley and Marina Young, along with Molly Jean Peters—have come forward as leaders of the INM movement in Nova Scotia.

Young is an arts student at Dalhousie and was recently elected president of the Dal Native Student Association (DNSA). She has dedicated much of her time with the movement to researching treaty history, and the effect that proposed legislation will take on those agreements.

"[Shelley and I] both realized that there's a lot of history we have to try to cover within a really short amount of time," Young says.

"The big neon sign above that, is that we should have already known our history."

A student, a president and an activist, Marina also has a four-year-old daughter at home. Young says her motivation for this movement stems in large part from her daughter, who loves to sing Mi'kmaq songs.

Also involved in the movement is Erin Wunker, an English professor and head of the Canadian studies department at Dal. Wunker, a non-Aboriginal ally of the cause, participated in a four-day fast from Dec. 27 to 31 in solidarity with Chief Theresa Spence, along with roughly a hundred other fasters in Nova Scotia. She

took water and kept to her house for the duration of the fast, her two dogs keeping her company while her partner was out of town.

Shelley Young, Marina's sister, was fasting traditionally in Millbrook at the time, refraining from water and inaccessible by phone or Internet. Wunker, who has taught Marina in some of her classes, wanted the sisters to know they had an ally in their professor, which motivated her to do the fast.

"It didn't matter to me so much if anybody knew I was doing it," says Wunker. "It mattered to me that Shelley and her sister Marina ... knew that I was doing it. I just wanted them to know that they had non-Aboriginal allies in positions of relative power," Wunker says with a laugh. Young and Shelley had invited Wunker to participate in the fast.

Wunker and Young are remaining active in the movement into the winter term, having both been involved in the Solidarity Halifax teach-in held at Dal on Jan. 10.

Young feels the reception of INM among the Halifax community has been positive. Proudly, she recounts the INM Halifax conference that took place Dec. 21, to correlate with the National Day of Action called upon by the broader INM movement. Labelled as an open discussion, participants ran the political gamut. MPs, activists, union leaders and concerned citizens were all present. The two Young sisters and Wunker worked constantly in the three days leading up to the event.

"We were frantic, calling everybody," Young says. "A lot of time spent on the computer, emails, contacting media, letting everybody know."

Wunker approaches the movement

in part through her involvement in Canadian Women In the Liberal Arts (CWILA), a group of about 300 women founded last spring. CWILA's mission is to call attention to the shockingly low numbers of reviews of work by women in the liberal arts.

"CWILA came out with a very clear agenda to promote work by and about women, especially marginalized groups," Wunker says. She sits on the board, and together with fellow CWILA member Jillian Gerome wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, calling on him to address the growing INM movement. Members of CWILA could choose to add their digital signature if they wished to indicate their support.

"Jillian and I started talking about trying to leverage the fact that CWILA has more than 300 members to throw some heft behind a letter-writing campaign," Wunker says. The letter has since been revised, and can be viewed on the CWILA website. It currently has about 280 signatures.

For Wunker, it is unsurprising that women seem to be spearheading this movement.

"In many First Nations communities, you're coming out of a matriarchal culture. It's women's responsibility to care for the land, to care for the future," she says.

Since Idle No More developed out of a response to Bill C-45, which reifies changes to the Navigable Waters Act, among others, it makes sense that women are emerging as leaders, says Wunker.

Outside Halifax, First Nations women are taking charge, fighting for the rights of First Nations people in Canada. Cindy Blackstock, head of the First Nations Child and Caring Society of Canada, is a driving force

behind an upcoming Human Rights Tribunal case against Canada. The case alleges that the government is discriminating against First Nations children by failing to provide as much funding for support services as it does for non-Aboriginal children. On Feb. 25, the case will go to trial and she will begin to learn whether Canada will be held accountable. *The Vancouver Sun* recently reported a gathering of hundreds of women and children at the Peach Arch border crossing in Vancouver in support of INM. Chief Theresa Spence has emerged as an obvious leader in the search for First Nations rights.

As INM continues to gain steam, women—alongside, and with the support of both men and women—continue to step up as leaders. **G**

### ABOUT IDLE

From coast to coast to coast, First Nations peoples and their non-Indigenous allies are striving to build a better future together. The Idle No More movement is reacting against changes to legislation written into the omnibus bill, including Bill C-45, which reduces the number of votes necessary to sell property to a private owner on reserve land. Although C-45 received royal assent on Dec. 14, the Idle No More movement continues to fight against other proposed changes to the Indian Act, as well as for better representation of First Nations voices in national decision-making processes.





The case for diaries Preserving personal perspective

Janice Allen

Opinions Contributor

It's a rare moment of solitude in my apartment, the crisp winter sun streaming through the window above my desk and refracting through the steam rising from the coffee at my elbow. I'm indulging in one of my more meditative hobbies: filling the pages of my hand-written journal. It's a practice I try to make space for daily. Even a few moments devoted to gliding pen across paper, reflecting on the previous day's experience and my aspirations for the day to come, has a soothing impact on my mind. I have no doubt that diary-writing, like eating well, staying fit, and making time for family and friends, is valuable to maintaining my sense of well-being. Recently, though, I have begun to think that the private practice might also have value on a larger scale.

Diaries record a personal perspective on the events of a particular place and time, and therefore offer a unique contribution to the historical

record. More engaging than simple facts, diaries capture a span of time from an individual vantage point. If the aim of studying our past is not just to memorize a string of milestones, but rather to understand the nuanced experience of human life, the diary is an invaluable historical record.

The directors of The Great Diary Project, based in the UK, agree. Following the belief that 'diaries are among our most precious item of heritage,' they strive to collect and preserve as many diaries as possible. The content of these journals are freely available to researchers or other interested readers. The aim is to capture, through a collection of individual perspectives, the essence of life in our current time.

Still, with a few notable exceptions (Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* springs to mind) using diaries to convey an historical viewpoint is not common practice. Diaries may be less accurate than formal texts, especially if written by those untrained in history or academic record keeping. It's

also reasonable to argue that a single personal story is biased (though a collection of journals covering the same time and place might resolve this issue). Perhaps the strongest aversion to sharing diaries stems from their typically private nature. When considering journals written long ago, however, the intimate insight that follows from reading another person's diary provides a sense of connection with history.

Is our experience as individuals more accurately preserved by a recitation of the events of our lives or by our own immediate perceptions of them? By incorporating diaries into the historical record, we stand to preserve the human experience. Diaries flesh out an objective overview of facts with a collection of perspectives that will conserve the individuality of that experience.

Would you donate your diary to posterity? It's a question to ponder, perhaps during my next session of writing by the window. ☹



Diary accounts humanize history. ••• Photo by Amanda Rolfe



Does the NHL owe their fans for hockey lost? ••• Photo supplied

Justin Hartling

Opinions Contributor

Where were you when you heard the news?

I had just rolled over in bed to check the time on my phone. Then I saw the notification from CBC News.

"NHL, players' union reach tentative deal to end lockout." I tried my best to contain my excitement so I did not wake my girlfriend.

I quickly opened Twitter on my phone. I couldn't wait to see all the excitement that followed from rabid fans and sports journalists who now had something to do. But what did I find?

"The NHL owes the fans! I better get [NHL] Center Ice for free" and "I'm not gonna watch the NHL this year...what are they going to do for the fans? Nothing."

It had been less than six hours since Gary Bettman and Don Fehr announced that the lockout would soon be over and that is what greeted me. I expected parades and a national holiday, but instead I got bitter people still complaining.

An article published in *The Ottawa*

*Sun*, less than 36 hours after the news broke, says "In a fair world the NHL would slash ticket prices by 50% for the rest of the reason. It would remove all surcharges...Of course, the NHL will do none of that, and when fans still return, then the NHL will have learned only one lesson."

Keep in mind: these people on Twitter and this author would have sold their soul to the devil two weeks earlier to have the NHL back.

But it got me thinking. I missed out on half a season of quality NHL hockey. I missed half a season of watching my Montreal Canadians lose. I missed another Sidney Crosby concussion because of this lockout.

For all of these missed moments, what does the NHL owe me?

Do they owe me NHL Center Ice? Do they owe me free stuff? Do they owe me tickets and a flight to go watch my favourite team on their home ice?

No.

The National Hockey League owes me hockey. It owes everyone hockey. We have the luxury of watching hockey for a 48-game regular season and then we get to watch hockey

deep into the summer months during the playoffs. At that point, every other person will be complaining that the NHL playoffs are too long and it should have ended months ago.

To be honest, I never missed the NHL. I resigned myself to the idea that if the league missed one game, it would miss the entire year. However, there has always been hockey. You could have gone to see the Halifax Mooseheads play, or you could have gone to a rink and watched university hockey. There have been AHL games on TV.

Hockey never left. The NHL is simply another spoke in the wheel.

I'm not saying the NHL isn't a big part of hockey. It is where the greatest players in the world go to compete for the game's top prize.

The NHL owes use the same thing that the Continental Hockey League owes us, the same thing that the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League owes us, the same thing your local pee wee team owes us. Hockey.

I for one am glad to get what I am owed. ☹



Inter-library loaning is on the chopping block. ••• Photo by Bryn Karcha

Kristie Smith

Staff Contributor

We're told our country prizes academics and encourages curiosity, but it sure has a strange way of showing it here in Canada.

The April 2012 federal budget cuts were deep and unforgiving, as were the budgets of most countries coming out of a recession. In this country, however, the departments to take the brunt of it were a peculiar selection. At the time of release, most people noticed the scale backs being done to the CBC, and the eradication of the penny. Now that the initial shock from those headliners has worn off, more troubling trends have come to light.

The Harper government has, in a move that surprised none of its critics, substantially reduced public library funding, this time eliminating inter-library loan services almost entirely. This cut is coming not long after earlier announcements that cut the StatsCan budget by 10 per cent (according to an article by *The Montreal Gazette*) and reducing the Library and Archives Canada workforce by 20 per cent.

No one ever said the Conservatives were liberal with information.

I can attest from my time working at a library that these new changes will affect everyone, regardless of age or race or any other divider. I grew up and worked in a city that was mostly English but had a strong French community. The inter-library trading

service made sure no one was without books because of a language barrier. I was never told that I couldn't get the book because my library didn't carry it.

These programs have most likely been sacrificed to protect jobs and hours of operation, but is it a fair trade off?

Nova Scotia lost its last bookmobile in April of 2011. With the inter-library sharing service being discontinued, people of all ages and cultures will suffer the reduced access to books. Equal access to information is vital to maintaining a fair society, and the inter-library loaning cuts will affect access.

The budget must be checked over again. Programs are being cut that should be kept, and attention is being drawn away from this problem by a shiny new building—the new Spring Garden library—that is supposed to solve all of our problems.

Governments of all levels need to be reminded that education and access to information, be it archives or books, is important to Canadians. No one should have to buy a book—or be forced to do without it—because their library can't afford to stock it. Libraries are an invaluable resource for Canadians, many of whom cannot and should not have to pay to borrow a book for school or for a good read.

Maybe if I didn't believe that education is something to value, then I wouldn't have a problem with these cuts. ☹





## ADVICE FOR STUDENTS Fred Connors Owner, FRED. beauty food art

It does not matter how nice, good-looking or smart you are. If you want to have an impact, do something great. Demonstrate what you can contribute to the world. Otherwise, shut the fuck up! No one is listening.



—Kathryn Johnson



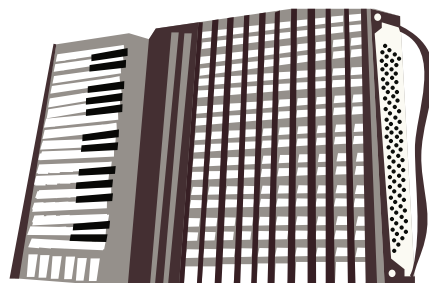
—Bethany Riordan-Butterworth

blb'13

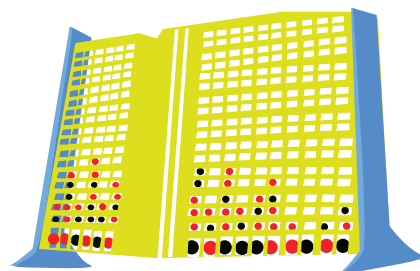


—Alison Creba

## LOOK-A-LIKES The Maritime Centre



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—Daniel Rotsztain



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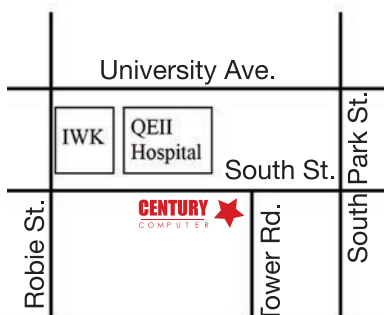
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## EAST COAST Candlepin Bowling

The Other Gazette went on a road trip to Liverpool, N.S. to play traditional candlepin bowling. Unlike in standard duckpin bowling, candlepin sports rodlike pins and smaller hole-less balls. Pins aren't cleared between rounds and scoring is much more difficult.

Developed in New England in the late 19th century, candlepin style predates the more popular duckpin game and remains more prominent in the Maritimes. We checked out "Alley 9" and its classic lanes and had a great time.

When we asked the barman why it was called Alley 9 when there were only eight lanes, he was quick to respond that the ninth alley is the bar. So here's to Alley 9 and its classic candlepin bowling game. —Jonathan Rotsztain





# STREET

IF YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE TO THE STREETS

## What would you protest?



"Student fees"  
**Antonia Tibbo**  
Halifax resident



"Financial waste"  
**Matt Flewelling**  
Dal Facilities



"Racism"  
**Sanjay Jairajon**  
Master's in computer science



"Human rights"  
**Connie Chung**  
Master's in library studies



"Health care"  
**Luke Friesen**  
4th-year history



"More funding for science"  
**Carmen Lawrence**  
4th-year marine biology



"Housing costs"  
**Afua Cooper**  
Sociology professor



"I have no idea"  
**Simon Morr**  
4th-year business

by Calum Agnew and Jonathan Rotsztein



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The lion hunter makes purses CLUTCH CULTURE



Mo Handahu with her clutches. • • • Photo by Joy Blenman

Joy Blenman  
Arts Contributor

Musemo (Mo) Handahu was flipping through a fabric catalogue when she heard a voice. “It literally said, ‘Make a purse,’” says Handahu, the designer of up-and-coming handbag company Clutch Culture. She gathered vibrant print textiles and began sewing away. Her first clutch was flimsy—nothing special—but to Handahu, that first bag represented the beginning of

a journey. “I’d be sewing straight into the morning and I just couldn’t stop because I kept wanting to make it better, and I haven’t looked back,” the 30-year-old says. “I (always) knew when I was younger ... that I was expected to live up to (my names) or at least be the best that I could be in whatever I wanted to do,” says Handahu. Handahu is from Zimbabwe, and her first name means ‘pillar of strength.’ Her last name means ‘lion hunter’ in Tonga, a language spoken

in Zimbabwe. Handahu is gathering a majestic narrative. Designing clutches gave Handahu an idea of the type of life she’d like to design for herself, one handcrafted with meaning. With her new blog, lionhunter.com, Handahu hopes to inspire by showcasing talented people who are often overlooked by mainstream media. “With my previous blog, I was kind of put in the genre of the curvy style girl. Which is great, but that’s not what I’m all about,” she says.

“Sharing other people’s amazingness is what I love to do.” She’s done features on a variety of local people on her blog, from thrift shop owners to musicians. Handahu says she got her work ethic from her grandmother and mother. “I have to believe that there is so much more to life than just being mediocre,” she says. Handahu thought she’d be selling clutches to only a few close friends, but Clutch Culture has gained a following. Designing for Clutch Culture and freelance styling are now Handahu’s full time occupations. Media outlets such as *Fashion Magazine*, the CBC, and CTV have featured Handahu’s work. She is also a style panelist for *Fashion Magazine*. This summer, she had her first runway show at Atlantic Fashion Week, and received glowing reviews from *The Coast*. Handahu’s clutches are a combination of vibrant prints and colours paired with leather. A print of tropical leaves over coral blue leather, tribal prints mixed with tan canvas or geometric shapes paired with brown leather. Handahu only creates one or two of each design. Her guiding philosophy is female empowerment. Handahu often scouts the models for Clutch Culture off the street. They are stunning, but not in the typical, toothpick, cookie-cutter sense of the word. They are curvy, and their faces are left un-airbrushed. Handahu is between collections. She recently finished her seventh

collection, but is taking time before beginning a new one. If Handahu is to do anything, she says, her heart must be in it. The creative process is a struggle, and the determination to go on once you begin to pursue your dreams is even harder, she says. “You get through all the hardships of people saying no and then having to prove yourself a bit more ... It really takes a lot out of me sometimes.” Handahu says Diane von Furstenberg is one of her favourite designers because she fought for decades to climb to the top of the fashion world. Stories such as von Furstenberg’s inspire Handahu to keep going. In her early days, von Furstenberg nicknamed herself Diane the Hunter. Handahu was given the name hunter at birth. “Do I live up to these names?” she asks. On the wall beside Handahu’s bed hangs a collage of magazine clippings, a picture of Oprah Winfrey, and various quotes. In bold fonts, the quotes say things such as “own your power,” “a man on a mission,” and “own your own vision.” At the top is a cover story about her in *The Coast*. Handahu has lived in Halifax since she came to the city for school when she was 17. When she was younger, Handahu studied business administration at Acadia University. She intended to pursue a career in human resources. “When I look back, that would have just been existence. For me to be truly happy I needed to discover this.”

FILM PREVIEWS 7 movies to feel lucky about in 2013

Luke takes a look at the future

Luke Orell  
Staff Contributor

1. *Man of Steel*— This needs to be good in order to make up for the blasphemous *Super Man Returns* that unfortunately flew to the world in 2006. It was just a movie where Superman pranced around and hid in bushes like the Halifax night watcher. The trailer does look promising, although director Zack Snyder did manage to mess up the comic—ahem, I mean, graphic novel—*Watchmen* (2009). 2. *Evil Dead*— It’s tough to say if this movie will actually live up to the original: the director has little credit to his name, and the original 1981 version is brilliant. Still, a horror buff can dream, and my dream is to see some chain saw dwelling protagonist like Ash square off against the dead with sheer brutality. 3. *The Place Beyond the Pines*— A crime story infused with a bleached-blond dirt-biking Ryan Gosling: do you need any more information to see this film? I would even watch a movie where Gosling fixes a broken sink in order to compete in a checkers competition hosted in Oregon. 4. *Star Trek Into Darkness*— After J.J. Abram’s *Star Trek* (2009), even Klingon-hating, William-Shatner-

despising earthlings were raving about the franchise. *Into Darkness* looks like another impressive accomplishment by Abrams. Let’s hope this delivers like *Wrath of Khan*. (I hope somebody got that reference.) 5. *Anchorman 2*— If I didn’t include this on the list, I would probably get attacked by a stampede of automations whose redundant *Anchorman* quotes are more annoying than those 20-second advertisements before a YouTube video. Hopefully this movie is funny, and hopefully it’s not constantly quoted by a bunch of drunken frat boys. 6. *Oldboy*— This is a North American remake of the evocative and beautiful Korean revenge film. Seriously, try eating any sort of seafood after this one. I don’t know why Spike Lee is attached, though—where is David Fincher when you need him? 7. *Sin City: A Dame to Kill For*— Finally, this movie is pushed out of the bleak world of production purgatory and is set to come out in October. This movie will undoubtedly be amazing, and provide yet another lame Jessica Alba poster for the bright minds of Dalhousie.

We’re all dying to dance Aucoin brings the party to his alma mater

Andrew Mills  
Arts Editor

Rich Aucoin is a kinetic thinker: his insight turns more on drum machine 32nd notes than Latin aphorisms. He runs with the big questions—half marathons between shows to raise money for kids with cancer, to be exact. The former philosophy student writes his albums like essays—impossible essays where the classroom just blew out to include 520 of his closest musical friends amidst skittering 808’s and where the thesis is “We Are All Dying To Live.” Curious life achievements are Aucoin’s specialty. His debut EP syncs with *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, his shows usher slouching hipsters into an ecstatic rave under a giant parachute, and he’s known to bike (or run) for charity between gigs. Aucoin might be the friendliest musical existentialist since Brian Wilson, the most motivational ‘partyologist’ since Andrew W.K. With all this danceable carpe diem, it’s a surprise to hear Aucoin speak about Russian novels and suicidal Brits. “I originally did the FYP [Foundation Year Program] at King’s and I was pretty into Plato, Nietzsche, Hume and a lot of the existentialists. *Myth of Sisyphus* is definitely a favourite,” he says. “Sisyphus,” the title of an instrumental track, is tagged onto the album like some esoteric parallel between Albert Camus’ manifesto against futility, and the stone-up-

a-mountain task of squeezing 500 musicians onto a record. “For the instrumental track “Watching Herzog and Listening to the Idiot”—it’s the two things Ian Curtis did before he killed himself.” *The Idiot*, an Iggy Pop album notoriously left spinning in the Joy Division vocalist’s flat, was inspired by a Dostoevskian novel about a saintly epileptic. “I put that in because when I was making the record I had a seizure. There was a period when everyone was like, ‘You’re epileptic.’ During my shows, I’d have to close my eyes for the strobe parts and I was really nervous that I had epilepsy—until I went and got an EKG done, which is basically them slamming a strobe light in your face at point blank range and you either have a seizure or you don’t, and if you don’t they’re like, ‘All right, you’re fine,’” he says with a laugh. “It was crazy nerve wracking, lying in my hospital bed with all these electrodes to my head and I had a hoodie on, and I had my hands in the pouch, and when I took my hands off my stomach at the end of the test my whole stomach was just soaked from the sweat coming out of my palms. I definitely was really relieved, and it’s amazing how fast I went back to not being afraid of strobe lights.” The scene is remarkably similar to an animated sequence in the music video for his single “P.U.S.H.” where the ‘Robo-boy’ is strapped to electrolodes and brought to life through colourful electrical shocks.



Rich. • • • Supplied photo by Scott Munn

“The visuals are always really important for me, since I write all the music to sync up old movies. With the P.U.S.H. Video, it’s awesome that we put the mythology to the music.” Aucoin’s live shows are known for communal sing-alongs, like a church choir, but he says spirituality influences his life more than religion. “I don’t go to church now, I feel having like spirituality through other means than conventional religion is something that is still a part of my life,” Aucoin says. “It feels more like school choir than church to me. It’s funny, growing up Roman Catholic, no one really sang everyone kind of just mumbled along. So if [the show] was like church, it’d be one of those rad, singing-like-crazy denominations.” Aucoin will be preaching to the hometown choir at Dalhousie on Jan. 18. “I always look forward to playing in Halifax, everyone goes pretty hard which is great. I think going with a fun group of friends is really motivating.”





Easel freestyles. Photo supplied

# Art Battle 41

The painting version of Iron Chef

**Mat Wilush**  
Arts Contributor

In the center of the black room, four easels and four blank canvases sit under a spotlight. A crowd assembles, shying from the light and the easels, and the first of the night's 12 combatants get set under a canvas to wait for countdown.

At the Bus Stop Theatre, Halifax's first Art Battle takes off in a frenzy of splattered acrylic paint and applause. This is not some high-brow artistic venture, a point that was made clear as soon as "99 Problems" began playing over the sound system. This competition is a rap battle on canvas.

Halifax was inducted into the Art Battle forum on the Jan. 12, met by a remarkable at-capacity audience and 12 local painters. An Art Battle is a three-round free-for-all between four painters, who (under no restraints of content) have a mere 20 minutes to create an original piece. The winner is decided via audience vote, and moves on to paint against winners of the other rounds.

"We wanted a live arts event that really engaged the audience and showcased the painters at the same time," explains organizer Chris Pemberton over the phone.

"Not only would they be enthralled with the work going on, they'd be involved in the artistic process."

Pemberton and Simon Plashkes organized the first Art Battle in Toronto in 2009. Since then, 40 Art Battles have taken place between Toronto and Vancouver, including their first ever Art Battle National Championship, which was held last year.

Art Battle 41 was Atlantic Canada's first, with Pemberton and Plashkes planning monthly Art Battles in Halifax with artists vying for a spot in the Halifax Championship, speculated for early summer. Artist Grace Simms was voted champion on Saturday, after winning her initial round robin and the frantic 20-minute finale.

The night was filled with a great assortment of painters, all of whom come from a variety of backgrounds. Ingrid Singing Grass, a third-round competitor, has been painting for 18 years, and paints live not to compete, but for the therapeutic effect of sharing. Justin Lee, winner of the second round, works as an animation director and nodded along to the Rural Alberta Advantage through his headphones as he worked. And then there was Alfonso Bustamante, who didn't even know that he would be painting that night.

"I wasn't allowed in at first [because the theatre was at capacity], but as soon as I got in, my friend said to give my name to Chris [Pemberton]," says Bustamante. "I just painted something I drew in my sketchbook earlier."

"This place is filled with communities," says Plashkes, "filled with people excited to coalesce around something. And we're excited to provide the framework; we're hoping to start a movement."

*The next Halifax Art Battle is scheduled for Feb. 23 at the Bus Stop Theatre. Artists ready to blend blood and paint can register to compete at [ArtBattle.ca/Register/](http://ArtBattle.ca/Register/)*



## Position As Desired

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Photographs from the Wedge Collection

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Détail de : Dawit L. Petros, Sign, 2001, tirage numérique. © Dawit L. Petros et Dr. Kenneth Montague / Wedge Collection





Rookie Rachel Wright helped the Tigers recuperate from a sluggish first set. ••• Photo by Chris Parent

Winning spark for nationally ranked Tigers  
Women’s volleyball perseveres through shaky first set

Benjamin Blum  
Sports Contributor

Sometimes all it takes is one player to start a comeback and revive a sputtering team.

Raeesa Lalani was that player Jan. 13. After subbing in late in the first set, she helped lead the Tigers to a straight sets win over the Cape Breton Capers.

It was a successful return from the winter break for the Dalhousie women’s volleyball team, now ranked fifth in the country. After beating Acadia in straight sets the day before, Dal returned to face the winless Capers in a matinee at the Dalplex. The Tigers stumbled out of the gate, keeping the first set closer than it should have been.

“Inconsistent,” summarized Tigers coach Rick Scott regarding his team’s play for most of the first set.

“Give Cape Breton credit, they

served tough and attacked the ball well.”

After committing 10 errors compared to CBU’s four, the Tigers regrouped to close out the set 25-21.

“We were just trying to get the jitters out a bit,” added team captain Louise Facca. “But I think we cleaned it up in the second and third set.”

During the final two sets, which the Tigers handily won 25-13 and 25-8, they outperformed the shorthanded Capers, with a 20-8 kill advantage and only nine errors to CBU’s 20.

“Rae was great today. She jump-started that second set with her serving,” says Facca, regarding Lalani’s burst of seven serves in a row to pull away from CBU in the second set.

Facca contributed with a seven-serve streak of her own in the third set, but was happy to acknowledge the hard work of her teammate.

“I think she [Lalani] really stepped up today and was a good leader for

us.”

“That’s our player,” added coach Scott of the fourth-year outside hitter. “She played really well for us and was very deserving of the player of the game.”

While Lalani’s performance is deserving of praise, Scott acknowledged the hustle of team leaders like Facca and Tarah-Lynn Truant.

“Our leaders have done a good job providing that competitiveness, desire and mental focus which is really important to being successful and for us to reach our goal of being champions.”

The league-leading Tigers are owners of a 9-2 record. They are the winners of their last seven games. 🐾

*Dal returns to the court this weekend for a pair of road games. A rematch is scheduled against Cape Breton on Jan. 18 and the next day they face St. Francis Xavier.*



Our old weight room isn't so old anymore. ••• Photo by Abram Gutscher

New equipment  
at the Dalplex  
Dumbbells, barbells and machines, oh my

Graeme Benjamin  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Dalplex gave Dalhousie students a late Christmas present when they returned from their holiday break.

The weight room in the fieldhouse has a brand new look to it. Sixty-five pairs of top-of-the-line dumbbells as well as 24 new barbells were brought into the Dalplex. A four-station weight machine has been added to the second floor gym as well.

Kathie Wheadon-Hore, senior manager of building operations at Dal, was the brains behind the operation. She said the new workout equipment was well overdue, with some of it being over 20 years old.

“It’s something we wanted to do for a very long time,” Wheadon-Hore said. “We’ve kind of had some money here and there but some of [the weights] were just so old I think we had to do it.”

The old equipment was redeployed throughout the rest of the building,

in the smaller gym and the varsity weight room. Whatever was leftover was put on a surplus website for others to purchase.

After the university’s fiscal year ended last March, Wheadon-Hore and other members of Dal’s athletic staff found room in the new budget to finally bring in new equipment. The total capital cost was \$50,059.

“We wanted to get good ones that would last and that people would feel good about using,” she added.

Wheadon-Hore has faith these weights will last much longer than the older ones. She said the new equipment is designed to take a beating.

“They better last at least 10 years,” she said.

The general feedback from students has been positive, she said. Wheadon-Hore hopes the new weights will help those students with a New Year’s resolution of getting fit to stay on track. 🐾

BEN’S  
10

Benjamin Blum  
Sports Contributor

Athletes can be frustrating. Whether they’re sounding off in press conferences, sulking during the game, or pulling a Robin Ventura by refusing to sign autographs, we fans often lose patience with today’s stars.

That’s why everyone loves sports movies and TV shows. The protagonists are relatable, we sympathize with them even if their conduct would get them fined in the real world and we always hope they will come out on top. For those of you who are tired of listening to real athletes gripe about insert banal complaint here, take a look at our 10 favourite fictional sports heroes we wish were real.

FAVOURITE  
FICTIONAL  
ATHLETES

**Honourable Mention: Jesus Shuttlesworth, *He Got Game* (1988):** I know, I know. Ray Allen is a real athlete playing a fake one. But this was still infinitely better than any movie Shaq has ever done, ever. Plus, he’s got to have game to beat Denzel.

**10. Crash Davis, *Bull Durham* (1988):** This grizzled, smooth-talking baseball player held the minor league record for most home runs. But it wasn’t about that. He played For Love of the Game. Wait, no, that’s a different Kevin Costner movie. Anyway, once he built it, people did come. No, that’s Field of Dreams. You could fit all of Costner’s sports movies in a tin cup and bodyguard it with dancing wolves. Waterworld!

**9. Vince LaSalle, *Recess* (1997-2001):** Everyone knew a ‘Vince’ during elementary school. This Recess character was exceptional at every sport he tried, notably kickball, while still having time to partake in shenanigans with T.J. and the rest of the gang.

**8. Will Ferrell as Rojo Johnson:** Not only does he figure skate, play basketball, and shake-and-bake on the track, but Will Ferrell also appeared in a real-life minor league baseball game as the fictional beer-chugging, heat-throwing relief pitcher Rojo Johnson. This effectively transcended the boundaries of fictional athletics.

**7. Gordon Bombay and the Mighty Ducks, *The Mighty Ducks* (1992):** Proof that a group of ragtag misfits could learn to love the game of hockey and excel with Charlie Sheen’s brother as their coach—winning!

**6. Rick “Wild Thing” Vaughn, *Major League* (1989):** Emilio Estevez’s favourite sibling was perfectly cast to play the eccentric, uncontrollable Indians pitcher. “Wild Thing” is the greatest athlete, real or fictional, to

ever emerge from the city of Cleveland.

**5. Air Bud, *Air Bud* (1997):** He’s a golden retriever who can play sports! I wonder what’s more likely: canines playing pro sports or a new arena at Dalhousie. My money’s on the dogs.

**4. Happy Gilmore, *Happy Gilmore* (1996):** This kind-hearted yet crazed golfer makes John McEnroe look like Tony Randall. Yeah, that’s right. Don’t know who Tony Randall is? Google him.

**3. Roy Hobbs, *The Natural* (1984):** He knocked the cover off the ball and literally hit the lights out. Legendary.

**2. Rocky, *Rocky* (1976):** One of the greatest sports heroes in cinematic history, “The Italian Stallion” always wins, even when he loses. Seriously, his greatest victories (other than when he singlehandedly ended the Cold War in Rocky IV) were in the first and sixth movies when he lost. Just goes to show that da best winners ain’t always da ones who win, y’know?



Flash Gordon! ••• Photo supplied

**1. Flash Gordon, *Flash Gordon* (1980):** Quarterback of the New York Jets. Oh, he also saved the universe and taught a generation of kids the difference between right and wrong and that the term “acting” has an extremely broad definition. Death to Ming! 🐾





All eyes are on what the women's hockey team will do next. A legal challenge is a possibility. • • • Photo by Richard Lafortune

# Women’s hockey: still suspended

## Team lobbies for reinstatement

Henry Whitfield  
Staff Contributor

**UPDATE:** Jan. 16 at 10 a.m.: The team's appeal has failed. Dal president Tom Traves confirms to the media that he stands by his decision to suspend all non-rookies.

Dalhousie president Tom Traves met with the varsity women's hockey team Jan. 14 as team members continued to seek a reprieve from their season-ending suspension for a hazing incident.

Dal spokesperson Charles Crosby said that nothing new was brought up and that while both sides had the opportunity to ask questions, he does not expect the president to revoke his decision to suspend 17 of the 22 players.

The president also provided the team with a written response to their statement and letter. He will consider the team's request and respond in the coming days.

Last Friday, Crosby addressed the suggestion that the university has taken the controversial stance to sus-

pend the team to save money. "They're flat-out wrong. Those who have suggested that, they're flat-out wrong."

Crosby strongly refuted the claims, stating the school knew about the AUS fines for forfeiting, which is \$2,000 per game.

"I think this does give some context to the suggestion that this is some kind of enormous savings. This was never about that," said Crosby.

In total, Dal will pay the league \$24,000 for forfeiting 12 games.

According to AUS executive director Phil Currie, the fines were put in place to discourage teams from forfeiting matches in order to play exhibition games in which they were paid to play.

The university has not reported what happened at the rookie party due to privacy concerns, but players included in their public statement that the suspensions "far exceed the severity of the events that occurred at the party."

If Traves' rejects the team's appeal, it appears as if the women are prepared for a legal challenge. Parents of the women's hockey team opened a legal fund this past weekend.

# Opinion: *Hazing 18-year-olds merits suspensions*

Dylan Matthias  
Editor-in-chief emeritus

In the media circus surrounding the suspension of the Dalhousie women's hockey team too many pundits have forgotten one crucial thing: this is not a professional or adult team. It is a team of capable but young university students.

There's a contradiction in being a university student: am I a strong, independent adult? Or a young, growing student? Seeing an AUS rookie dangle past a defender and score high glove can make it easy to forget the kid who just did that is 18.

No one really knows exactly what the Dal hazing involved. Dal spokesperson Charles Crosby says it was "humiliation, intimidation, personal disrespect—it was bullying." AUS broadcaster Jon Pickett says it was "Tom Cruise in Risky Business crossed with Heath Ledger as the Joker." From what the senior players say, it was a run-of-the-mill trial most adults would brush off. But the rookies aren't adults.

In a team filled with 21 and 22-year-old players, the rookies are junior high kids all over again, susceptible to both peer pressure and bad judgement. That they agreed to hazing is only natural. It's natural to trust older peers.

The social demand to blend into a high-performing team before the puck drops makes it hard for rookies

to say "no" to hazing plans. The subjective severity of the hazing isn't the problem, it's the pressure put on anyone to do it in the first place, despite what accommodations or good intentions follow.

The captains forgot that the rookies are 18-year-olds, alone for the first time in Halifax, balancing fiendish coursework and gruelling practices. The ordinary first-year can't figure out where Dartmouth is, let alone try to fit into a new social group while trying to pass an intro English course at the same time.

First year should be a mix of the unknown and of growth: personally, academically, socially. It's unfair to expect every 18-year-old to have the emotional self-confidence to tolerate hazing, or her teammates' silent scorn if she refuses.

No matter how strong and independent a young student wants to be, he or she is still vulnerable to bullying, at least until learning that most upper-years just muddle through, too, making mistakes—sometimes very public ones—as they go. It's time for the older players to stop trying to spin this story to their advantage and accept they not only did wrong, but deserve the consequences.

Why? Because one player was hurt enough to speak up. That she felt strongly enough to do that should be scary enough for the older players to admit, unconditionally, that the party was a bad idea.

Seniority means that apologies no longer make everything better again. It means investigations aren't easy. University graduates should know that mistakes carry penalties. Hopefully the captains and the other players who have played their last game know that now.

Dal has been criticized for being secretive about what really happened. In truth, they likely can't say much, because to do so would leave the one first-year who complained without the only friends she may have in Halifax, subject to a media whorl, and estranged from the reason she came to Dal at all: to play hockey.

Let's not forget as this story grows that there is both a person and a player at its heart. Every athlete on every team bears responsibility for this precisely because Tigers athletes represent their school so well.

By forgetting that their teammates have fears all their own, the older women's hockey players deserve to lose the right to wear their jackets. They failed their school and their fellow scholars and for that they no longer really have a team, whether they have games to play or not. ☹

*Dylan Matthias is a former editor-in-chief (2011-12) and sports editor (2010-11) at The Dalhousie Gazette. It took him until his second year of university to work up the courage to attend a Gazette contributor's meeting.*

Graeme Benjamin  
Assistant Sports Editor

"I read the statements and they're still being extremely selective in terms of what they're sharing actually occurred at the party." —Dalhousie spokesperson Charles Crosby

This is a statement that people following the women's hockey hazing scandal have heard multiple times from Crosby as this story has unfolded. He has been consistent in reiterating that the players have been dishonest in their explanation of what occurred and that he will not release what happened at the house party to protect the privacy of the affected players. Understandably so, but with

# Opinion: Hidden information in hazing scandal

an entire university interested in this issue, and in a story that has gained national attention, it's extremely difficult to keep anyone's identity a secret now.

Let's put things in perspective: all 19 non-rookies have been suspended, leaving only five rookies that currently make up Dal's hockey team. That must mean those five players were the individuals who got hazed at the house party, right? They are the victims.

As a result, Crosby's efforts to keep the identities private of the players affected by the hazing have been completely ineffective. Their identities are out. We know who the affected players are. At this point, Crosby might

as well tell the public everything he knows. Right now, by not telling the public, it creates the impression that there's more to this party than what we already know. That doubt works in the university's favour—it makes us believe this party could have been much worse. But maybe there isn't more to this party? Maybe what the players told everyone is indeed true?

This is just one example of the ineffectiveness in how this whole hazing incident has been handled. The university allegedly 'bullied' the players into signing a behavioural contract they didn't have the full opportunity to read it. They were then told they had to go through one-on-one interviews in what the team's state-

ment refers to as 'interrogations.' The university also made their suspension decision in November and only informed the team at the beginning of 2013. It just doesn't seem fair.

Crosby can still, however, tell the media and the public what happened at the house party. This wrong can still be made right. Instead of telling people that the women are only providing select information of what occurred at the party, tell us what actually happened. Hazing can be such a vague term and multiple conclusions can be reached depending on whom you talk to.

Hazing can range anywhere from verbal attacks to physical assault. There have been hazing incidents

in the past that have actually led to death. So what actually happened and how serious was it? If it was as serious as he's making it out to be, then maybe this bandwagon of support the players have received will diminish. If he provides this information to the public, people may begin to feel at ease about the punishments. Maybe the university is hiding something from us? At this point, who knows.

Until Crosby reveals the truth, we will just have to believe what the players say. ☹



Do you know a Dalhousie student who deserves the spotlight?  
Have you, or a student, society or res group you know made some great contributions to student life at Dal?

# NOMINATE!

for an **IMPACT AWARD**

The second annual Dalhousie IMPACT awards night will take place on **March 26, 2013**, showcasing some of Dalhousie's exemplary students – as chosen by YOU!

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# ACADIA

UNIVERSITY

## Bachelor of Education Program Information Session

Acadia University, School of Education

Room 303, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Student Union Building (all faculties)

Thursday, November 22, 2012

5:30 p.m.

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## The Dalhousie Gazette

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Feb. 21 • SUB, Location TBA

Applications for editorial positions also due by Feb. 21. Please note, anyone interested in applying for an editorial position must have written five articles this year for the Gazette by that date. Hope to see you there!

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5. METZ - METZ
6. JD McPherson - Signs and Signifiens
7. Ennis - The Fortunate Ones
8. Peggy Lee Band - Invitation
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10. How To Dress Well - Total Loss

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JANUARY 18-19	JANUARY 19-20	JANUARY 20
Men's Volleyball Interlock Tournament DAL plays Friday at 8pm and Saturday at 1 & 8pm	AUS Swim Meet Saturday at 12 & 5:30pm Sunday at 10am	M Hockey vs ACA 7pm, Halifax Forum

Michelle Campbell  
Science, 5th Year

Alex Dempsey  
Arts, 3rd Year

Shea Kewin  
Management, 4th Year

webcasts are available at **[WWW.DALTIGERS.CA](http://WWW.DALTIGERS.CA)**





# THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

## Machines are starting to learn and adapt

Are we responsible enough to teach machines properly?



Melwin Meelankavil  
Staff Contributor  
MASc Cand. '13

Perhaps the one noteworthy aspect that distinguishes a human being from a machine is that the human being can learn. They can learn from their past experiences (successes, blunders or just a plain memory recollection) and accordingly adapt their actions in the future, should the same situation arise. One of the amazing God-given talents that man possesses lies in the beauty of experience – the ability to draw the information from past experiences and suitably adapt to the current scenario.

Imagine if this phenomenon of learning could be developed in a machine. Try to visualize a machine (perhaps a robot) being able to make decisions on its own from its own “experiences” and “memories”. This process is called Machine Learning, and is a

popular topic today worldwide for scientists and engineers to master and implement. I shall illustrate the concept with two examples.

Let us consider a stock trader who trades regularly in the stock market. The basic goal of the trader to make a profit would be to either buy the stock before the price rises, or sell the stock before the price falls. Determining the stock prices is not always easy to predict as it mainly depends on the state of the economy and the attitude of the traders themselves. By using past information (“memories”), machine learning algorithms are designed to analyze and predict the stock prices based on parameters such as P/E ratio, previous day's closing price etc. Though this can never accurately replace the traders task of predicting prices, nonetheless it can be used to provide an approximate prediction.

Consider another example of web page ranking, in which a query is submitted to a search engine. The engine

must respond with a set of web pages corresponding to that query and rank them in the order of relevance. To achieve this, the engine must know which pages are most important. This knowledge can be obtained from various parameters such as the popularity of the web page, frequency with which the users will go to the links listed in the web page, the link structure of the web pages and their content etc. Machine learning can be used to design such an engine i.e. over time the engine can gain sufficient knowledge to rank the web pages in the order of preference.

The benefits of machine learning are enormous. Traditionally, the machines designed for a particular environmental setup. If there is an environment change, the machine will not be able to adapt itself to the change. If the machine has the capability to learn, it can gather useful data as time progresses, and probably restructure itself so as to adjust itself to the environment. This would also reduce the need for

constant re-designing of the machine as time progresses. Also, in certain scenarios, a machine will be able to capture considerably more knowledge from an environment compared to that of a human being.

An obvious fact is that as the dependence on machines increases, human beings become more “dumb” and idle. This has already been seen in many ways. Even though technology has greatly improved our standard of living, it has to some extent crippled our minds and thinking powers nonetheless.

To conclude, machine learning will be widely used in the near future. We can only hope that mankind will use this benefit in the right way. ☸

## Why bother with general electives?



Alex Holgate  
Opinions Columnist  
Industrial '13

There is a concept in psychology concerning how people make decisions with a given number of options. It has probably been called many things, but the basic idea is that when too many options are available it actually becomes more difficult to come to a decision. It's somewhat of a relief to me then that the task of selecting courses for the semester has concluded; there are so many courses available for us to take that selecting options becomes quite a process. The endeavour got me thinking though, what criteria goes into selecting a course? Or a degree for that matter? Lastly, why do individuals choose to enroll in unemployable degrees?

Individuals expect many things out of getting a degree. I would guess that the top reason is to improve employment prospects, but this is just an assumption. What other reasons exist? People can take degrees in subject areas they are passionate about, or maybe select a program based on a higher purpose or ideal. Passion and

purpose are both perfectly valid reasons for taking a degree; however, the courses required for degrees of this nature may vary from the courses and degrees that potential employers find attractive. Without this realization there could be an extreme disconnect between the expectations of higher education and the realities faced upon graduation.

An academic degree exists as a form of proof that an individual has successfully completed some form of study, it exists as proof that you have learned some concepts in a specific area. That certainly is useful! If I was looking to hire people to program a mobile application for me, it becomes relatively easier to find individuals with the right skills if they have a degree. Their accreditations indicate to me who has at least some background knowledge related to what I hiring for. Aren't most people trying to enter the workforce and become employed? Why then select a degree that only conveys things nobody is interested in?

I mentioned earlier that I believe passion and purpose are valid reasons enrolling; however, if you are taking a degree you are passionate about why

would you need to prove that you are interested in that area? For example, the music department here at Dalhousie offers the class, Listening to Classical Music. Okay, people like listening to music, myself included, I get it. But why would I ever need to prove that? Certainly not for improved career prospects! However, it seems to me that many people are under the impression that any degree should improve their employability. This is certainly not the case, so why do some people who have taken fluff degrees expect to get jobs better than the average high school graduate?

I would argue that generation Y, or whatever you choose to call it, is not an entitled generation. However, there are those among us that generate a lot of noise with sob stories of job prospects that are few and far between. Guess what, there are jobs out there! In fact, Northern Alberta has a labour crunch; unfortunately they aren't looking for English degrees. It's not only the booming oil sands that offer jobs either. I think a major question is what jobs are these people looking for? Have expectations been mismanaged? It's easy to see how some may think they are entitled to

great jobs since they have a degree, when in reality they have developed few appreciable skills in four years of university education.

Regardless of what degree an individual decides to take, there are enough options available to them to make it useful for employment purposes. There are many examples of very successful people who come from all sorts of different backgrounds. Of course that is assuming you are taking a degree for employment and not passion or purpose. I would speculate that these people have a common denominator, they have a plan. So while there is still time to add and drop classes, think about how History of Rock & Roll fits into your plan. If you graduate from University and don't like your job prospects you should be looking in the mirror before you start blaming society or anyone else. ☸



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MEETINGS**

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**THURSDAY JANUARY 24  
9 PM** – Chemical Engineering night feat. Ostrea Lake & Liars on Fire. \$3, 19+

**THURSDAY JANUARY 31  
9 PM** – Pre-Munro Day Trivia with Stan and Matt. \$3, 19+

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1**  
Bar closed due to Munro Day

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7  
9 PM** – Society night. Details TBA. \$3, 19+

Share your Sexton event by sending details to

**SEXTANT@DAL.CA**

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### Meet Alex.

She's a half German, half Greek dancer and dog lover from a small farm town in Minnesota. A few years ago she moved to Los Angeles with her mother and two rescued Chihuahuas, and has been attending school, practicing jazz and ballet, and modeling for American Apparel ever since. Her favorite style is the Polka Dot Chiffon Maxi Skirt, and so far, her favorite photo shoot has been the road trip to Big Bear, California, where she learned to ski!