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The Dalhousie Gazette

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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 does the Harlem Shake**
Daniel Boltinsky and Katrina Pyne, Videos
- 2) Redefining Theatre: the King's Infringement Festival**
Leah Shangrow, Arts
- 3) DISP gets trimmed**—Joelline Girouard, News
- 4) Resurgent roar for Tigers women's volleyball**
Benjamin Blum, Sports
- 5) Women's volleyball seize AUS crown**
Benjamin Blum, Sports



—Jessica Perrie



Salt stains in February

THE BREAK IS NIGH

Katrina Pyne
Editor-in-chief

The salt stains on winter boots have become so familiar they appear to be just another part of the design. The plastic sheeting on windows begins to lose its adhesive, peeling away and letting in the unwelcome winds. The furnace in our basement is now so worn out it needs to be restarted almost daily.

It must be February.

There's no other time of the year when I can almost feel the clichéd ennui of the ages creeping into my routine. I begin to monitor my LinkedIn account, organize dresser drawers, even dust—always sure signs of ennui.

In what other month could a song like the Harlem Shake become an anthem? Is it boredom? Even the vastness of the Internet is not enough to fill the void of this month.

If February were a song it would be the blues. If it were on TV it would be an infomercial. If it were a vegetable, it would be the peas, reheated and unsalted. If it were a spice, it would be...well... it wouldn't. And that's the point. It's boring.

This is usually the time of year when I take to my own devices to liven things up. Scissors come out and hair comes off. Chop it off. Dye it. Get a tattoo. Do something crazy.

I feel like a re-chargeable battery

that's been plugged in and emptied so often it needs to be jolted with something unworldly to gain its former strength.

Then I remember.

READING WEEK. The holiday that only February could warrant. A ridiculous and glorious piss off to the world topped by only those fancy umbrellas that a good daiquiri can buy.

Bring on the vacations. Or, if for whatever reason you are stuck in town, find a way to escape your normal routine. (Cue, "If you like piña coladas...")

Take a stay-cation. Allow yourself to be cleansed. And if, like me, you don't actually get a reading week this year, you'll have to find your own way to beat those February blues.

Find a new way to spice up your diet, even if it just means getting a new cereal to bury your face in every morning. Stock up on vitamins and don't avoid the sun despite the cold. Try a new look, although I recommend thinking twice about permanent changes. And the next time you reach for those old resented winter boots of yours, don't despair. Take a little care to scrub off the salt stains. ☺

If you like piña coladas...
and getting caught in the rain.

Photo by ChrisGoldNY via flickr



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Levied society opt outs proposed for spring DSU elections

Students will vote on motion if approved by council

Geordon Omand
News Contributor

Dalhousie students may soon be able to opt out of funding levied societies.

At a Dal Student Union (DSU) meeting on Feb. 13, councillor Andrew Mecke put forward a notice of motion to include a plebiscite question on this spring's election ballot asking what students think about having to pay a levy to societies.

"To me it doesn't make sense that you can't [opt out]," says Mecke, who sits on the board as one of the union's two health profession representatives.

"If you don't want access to all the services provided by the student union then you shouldn't have to pay for it."

Of the over 200 ratified societies at Dal, eight are levied: CKDU, Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), *The Dalhousie Gazette*, South House, DalOUT, World University Service of Canada (WUSC), *The Sextant* and the Loaded Ladle. Together, these eight levies total \$25.64 from every full-time student and \$8.35 from each part-time student annually. Amounts per society vary from \$9 for CKDU to \$0.50 for DalOUT and *The Sextant*.

Mecke's notice of motion follows

another he had proposed, and has since withdrawn, that would have forced levied societies to face a referendum every five years in order to continue receiving student funding.

"The original goal of the referendum was to gauge the relevancy of societies," says Mecke. "Some of these organizations were created 20, 25 years ago. Are they still needed? Are they still needed in the same capacity?"

Mecke's new motion—which is a plebiscite and not a referendum, and therefore not binding—asks whether students believe that an opt-out provision should apply to all eight levied societies. It would also apply to students' residence and faculty associations and the DSU at large.

But societies are speaking out on the negative effect these changes would have for them.

"The ability to opt out would critically impact our ability to create safe and inclusive space, especially for the LGBTQ community and their allies," says Justin Dubreuil, vice president of DalOUT.

DalOUT is Dal's LGBTQ student society. It was established in 2002 and ratified as a levied society by a student body-wide vote five years later. It depends on a yearly levy to operate.

Dubreuil takes issue with the wording around the question, about the onus of proving relevance.

"They're asking us to prove ... that LGBTQ members matter at Dalhousie."

Before council can vote on whether to include Mecke's proposed motion on the ballot it must pass an operational and legal inspection by the Board of Operations. If approved, council will vote yay or nay on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

DSU president Jamie Arron opposes the motion.

"It doesn't make sense to me personally," says Arron. "And I suspect that will be a sentiment shared by a vast majority of folks."

He says some levied societies already have opt-out provisions, and of those that do not, most are willing to put one in place.

"When basic human rights are at stake ... there's a moral or ethical argument that everyone should be contributing," says Arron. "You may not know you need a service until you need it."

He's also concerned that introducing uncertainty into societies' funding models will hinder their ability to operate effectively.

"How do you create a budget for the year with the potential that your



Andrew Mecke wants students to opt-out of the DSU. • • • Photo via Facebook

revenues may not come to fruition?"

This is not the first time the topic has been raised at the DSU: the issue of opt outs arises every few years. Arron says he intends to put together a proposal on the matter to be presented at the first council meeting in March to "put this debate to bed."

If Mecke's motion passes, students will be able to vote on the plebiscite

during the DSU's spring election. The election campaign period is scheduled to run from March 9 to 17 and voting will take place from March 18 to 20. ☎

Full disclosure: the Gazette is a levied society. It receives \$5 or \$3.50 per year in funding from full-time or part-time Dal students.



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Impeachment of Dal commerce society president fails

Was found intoxicated representing Dal at convention

Kristie Smith
Staff Contributor

Colin Beiswanger, current president of the Dalhousie Commerce Society (DCS), faced an impeachment vote on Feb. 11 but remained in power. The DCS executive put the impeachment to a vote after Beiswanger was found smoking marijuana in his hotel room at a Dal-hosted convention with 12 other universities present. Beiswanger, the DCS and the interim dean of management, Greg Hebb, chose not to comment, saying it would be inappropriate at this time. The Dal Student Union (DSU) has been involved only to make sure the process followed the rules. "I will be keeping in touch with the person who brought the motion forward to begin with, to make sure procedures were followed," says Aaron Wolf, VP (internal) for the DSU. "At this point if there's an appeal, which is what I would assume could be the only thing that could require a next step, I'll help how I can, but if they want to appeal it or try again, there's procedure for that too." Wolf has been in contact with Danny Shanahan, DSU rep on the DCS executive, who approached him when the news broke. The two went over the DSU and DCS constitutions

and laid out the next few steps. "Ultimately they followed the process that was needed for the hearing itself, which entails giving the general membership a vote, given a certain amount of time in advance, usually a week, and making sure there's an impartial chair and secretary," says Wolf. The impartial secretary was DSU secretary Nicole Crozier and the chair was Ben Wedge, who declined to comment on the procedure as well. One student, who has asked to stay anonymous to avoid repercussions with the society and fellow students, says the vote was a closed ballot of about 75 members, chaired by a member of the DSU to ensure fair trial, and was a very formal and professional process. Once the vote failed and Beiswanger was maintained as president, the meeting continued as it normally would. "Someone in his office should conduct himself in a more professional manner," says the student. "Especially at an event like the JDCC conference where he is representing the business school as a whole. But I also understand that people make mistakes." The JDCC, or Jeux de Commerce (Commerce Games) Central, is a three-day event that was hosted this year by Dal at the Halifax Marriott

Harbourfront Hotel. Beiswanger was present as a part of the Dal debate team. "As a person, I like him but I feel maybe a precedent should have been set going forward that if you mess up like he did that you maybe shouldn't get a second chance," says the student. The Dal team's website, daljdcc.ca, is and has been unavailable for days, and no public comment has been made about the proceedings. The DCS has recently elected a new executive, who will replace the outgoing executive in September. It was the current executive who called for the impeachment vote, which surprised some members. "I feel like Colin as the president is supposed to represent the people and maybe the call for impeachment should have come from them," says the student. Impeachment is rare, and the last time the idea was brought up was in 2009. DSU council attempted to impeach its VP (internal) of the DSU's executive, but that vote also failed to pass. "A lot of these things are learning experiences for everybody, and so mistakes are made every once in a while and they need to be dealt with," says Wolf. ☹



Beiswanger was the first impeachment attempt at Dal since 2009. ●●● Photo by David Munro

Islamic community rep proposed for DSU council

Students will decide at AGM

Calum Agnew
Assistant News Editor

Another councilor may be joining the Dal Student Union (DSU) next year: Muslim cultural community rep. The motion approved by DSU council at the Feb. 13 council meeting will send the idea to the unions annual general meeting. If the proposal is approved at the Annual General Meeting, the DSU will have its 27th councilor. Ramz Aziz is president of the Muslim Students Association (MSA). He presented the proposal to council. "The main idea of this position is to serve the needs of the Muslim population on campus," says Aziz. "There's a huge population that needs to be serviced. They're underrepresented—there is no representation, actually, at formal levels." However, some have reacted strongly against the formal inclusion of religious representation in the union's constitution. Shiva Nourpanah is a PhD student studying social anthropology. "I am very much against any form of formalization or institutionalization of religious groups in a secular society," she says. Nourpanah voted against the proposal at DSU council. She is a émigré to Canada, arriving 5 years ago. Prior to coming to Halifax, she worked as a UN staffer in Iran, where most of her family remains. "As someone who comes from a theocratic regime, where religion is mandatorily enforced, I just found myself almost viscerally reacting against somehow institutionalizing religion in campus life." But Aziz says that a 'Muslim community rep' already exists, albeit informally: he is often the point man for issues important to Muslim stu-

dents on campus. "If there's an issue with prayer space in the computer science building, I'm the one who gets an email about it," says Aziz. "People are aware that I exist, and they contact me—but this is informally." Aziz says that the creation of the position is pragmatic, and that this position wouldn't be anti-secular. He points to the multi-faith centre on campus as a precedent. "It's a knee-jerk reaction," says Aziz. "No one is saying, 'incorporate religion into the workings of the university.' But to a certain extent, you have to recognize that there is a huge population of students who recognize Islam as their culture and religious identity. "No one is going to force you to say a Muslim prayer before DSU council meeting. I do not care about that. The point is that these students comes here and feel at home." Aziz says there still exists discrimination against Muslim students at Dal. Aziz says that leaders in the Muslim student community are occasionally contacted by the Canadian Secret Intelligence Service (CSIS). "In a post 9/11 world, it isn't easy to be Muslim all the time," says Aziz, "There's a lot of stigma around it—and a lot of Islamophobia." Currently, the DSU has councilors representing different faculties, residences and societies on campus. There are also councilors for aboriginal and black students as well as Dal-OUT, representing LGBTQ students. Supporters of the proposal at the Feb. 13 council meeting compared the Muslim community rep to these potions. Nourpanah disagrees, pointing out that Dal has an office of human rights, equity, and harassment prevention to deal with specific incidents.



Ramz Aziz (R) and members of the Dal Muslim Students' Association are hoping students will create a new Muslim community representative position on DSU council. ●●● Photo by Calum Agnew

"To claim that Muslim people face the same kind of discrimination that black people and aboriginal people have historically, in a legalized systemic matter, faced in Canada and Halifax, in its local variations—to claim that it's the same? To me that is an absolutely false, outrageous claim." Aziz says that the position would also help ensure that an otherwise disengaged community is kept connected. He worries that without the position, Muslim students may become less engaged with the DSU should there not be a council representative position. Gaidah Khashmel is the women's

committee chairman in the MSA. She says the DSU has been engaging with Muslim students at events, citing the 'Cheque it out' event held in September, but that more needs to be done. "It was a really great event," says Khashmel, "but for us to have to wait for these really rare events to voice our concerns is not really convenient." Nourpanah is disappointed that council chose to send the motion to the AGM. "People who were not necessarily supportive of the motion, or had nothing to do with the motion, it's like they just become so paralyzed by fear of giving offense, or fear of not buying into this victimized Muslim

trope that they just can't think critically," she says. "This supposed to be a place of free thought, free enquiry, and challenging each other. This is not supposed to be the place where we continually keep parroting buzzwords: 'diversity, tolerance, student representation.'" Khashmel is pleased that students will engage with these issues. "For me it's not just to get to a resolution, it's to get these things to be heard," she says. "Because a lot of people were really surprised, like 'really, you've been treated unfairly?' Yeah. There is discrimination." ☹

opinions

opinions

gazette opinions welcomes any opinion backed up with facts, but we don't publish rants. Email Sam at opinions@dalgazette.com to contribute

Sam Elmsley Opinions Editor



A tale of two reading weeks

DAL SHOULD ADOPT FALL BREAK

Ben Wedge

Staff Contributor

In the United States, it is a time-honoured (honored?) tradition for universities to have an extended Thanksgiving holiday. Students take advantage of the break to head home and visit family, taking the time to step back from intense academic pursuits. In Halifax, our schoolwork seems to increase as the days grow colder, unrelenting until late December. Is it time to follow the lead of other Canadian universities and implement a fall reading week?

In 2012 Ryerson University became the first major Canadian university to adopt a fall reading week, held in early November. They did so by reducing their semester to 12 weeks and pushing the start and end dates by a few days. At 13 weeks (after removing holidays), Dalhousie has the longest instructional period of any Canadian university. As Ryerson discussed the full reading week, Dal opted to introduce a one-day study break, in order to extend the holiday around Remembrance Day. This began in 2011. To create a one-week holiday would cost but three additional days.

Since Ryerson made the move, the University of Ottawa and York

University have followed suit, and Waterloo, Wilfred Laurier, and the University of Alberta have all begun the discussion. All of the universities in question started the discussion with a movement within the student union, with the central theme being mental health. Extended breaks allow students to step back from the constant bombardment of assignments, papers, and midterms, and pursue other leisure activities, allowing student to return to campus with a fresh mind to tackle the remainder of the work.

As students, we are in a unique workload position. Our main breaks from academia are in December, for 2-3 weeks, and the summer, for four months. In the workforce, two to four weeks of vacation spread throughout the year is more common, and most Canadians enjoy weekends off to focus on leisure. Having 13 weeks of class plus two weeks of exams without a true pause is trying, especially with the days growing shorter and colder.

The issue of a fall reading week has waxed and waned on campus. Former Dal Student Union (DSU) VP (academic external) Rob Leforte said in an email that the issue was being worked on at least as far back as 2009. His successor Sarah Bouchard,



as well as past president Chris Saulnier, added that the fall study day had been incorporated as a compromise. They put the reading week issue on the backburner last year as a result of the study day. When asked, current VPAA Aaron Beale said he had no idea if it was being discussed this year. Beale's role is to oversee the student caucus on the University Senate, and is in charge of lobbying on issues such as this. According to the min-

utes of the University Senate for their Nov. 26, 2012 meeting, Beale was present when the academic dates for the 2013/2014 academic year were approved. Based on the comments from Beale and president Jamie Arron, the issue is far from being a priority for the DSU.

The University of Ottawa exercised some creativity to rearrange their semester in discussions around a fall break, but Dal would do stu-

dents a service by simply shortening the fall semester. There's no reason to teach for an extra week over Queen's and other similar-sized institutions. In my experience, most profs conclude classes the week before they officially ended, thinking that we had exhausted the time available.

It's time for Dal to join the club. Offer students a week to themselves in the fall. **g**



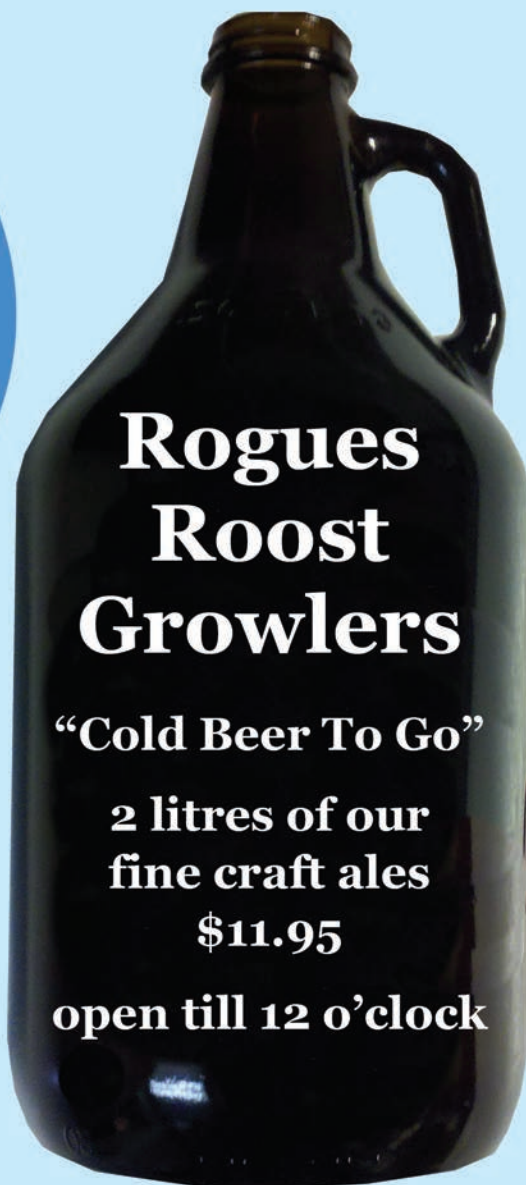
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A furry conundrum

You can't denounce fur and eat meat

Neetika Chohan
Opinions Contributor

Fur: the topic of endless debate between traditional haut couture and animal rights groups. My initial exposure to the notorious dispute arose during my adolescence, when I saw a television clip displaying the brutality inflicted on some animals to sustain the fashion industry. My immediate reaction was alarm and bewilderment that there was no government regulation or advocacy for safer retrieval of fur. I began to question the humanity of our society. I knew that some communities didn't have the necessary resources to eradicate it, especially because of the money needed to implement change, money that had to go to healthcare and education. Ready to change the world I began to talk with friends, seeking others who felt the same anger towards the fashion industry. But through these conversations, I became apathetic toward the subject.

I was forced to investigate the intentions behind people's beliefs. People who suggest it is wrong to kill an animal for its fur should also agree that it is wrong to kill an animal for its meat. I see no difference between the two: both involve killing, just for different reasons. I began to notice my anti-fur comrades dining on various meats. It seemed contradictory to what they were promoting. Think about what human rights groups stand for. You don't see these organizations stating that it's wrong for children to be neglected by their schools, but it is okay for their parents to abuse them. Not only would that make no sense, but the children being protected would have no faith in the system. I believe in promoting ideas that I genuinely believe to be true, not merely by verbal testimony but through the way I conduct my life. When I became interested in this cause, I assumed the people within this community were not just concerned with saving fur but with all

aspects of animal welfare. I've heard many different scenarios regarding how fur is retrieved, two of the most prominent being fur farms and hunting. It may seem heinous to cage animals up for their entire lives just to trim their fur every so often, but think about the cattle that are raised specifically to be killed for meat. Does that not fall in the same category? Is it not as disturbing and unfair? Some of the people I met seemed to be supportive because it was trendy to be activists, without really thinking about the core of the argument: protecting animals from harm. My point is simple. If you believe in animal rights, you must fully embrace what the movement stands for. Believing in one aspect doesn't help the whole cause. The best way to support any cause is to fully understand what you are getting involved with. Ensure that your actions do not contradict your motives.



Animal rights activists, don't contradict the cause: go veg. ••• Photo by Melissa Pike

Driving through a loophole

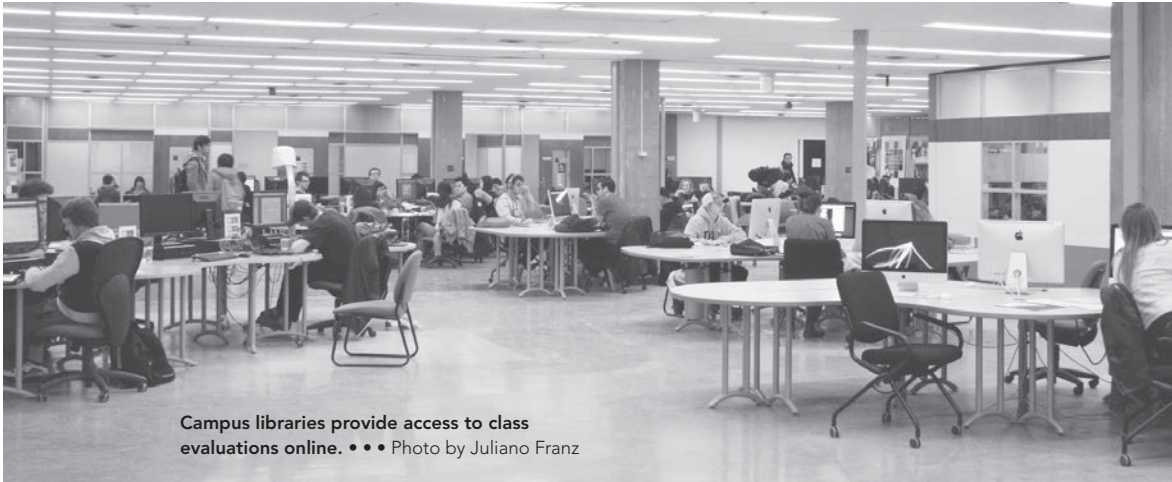
The license switcheroo

Evan McIntyre
Staff Contributor

I would like to formally apologize to the drivers of Ontario and Nova Scotia. I am a menace to both provinces' roads. But I beat the system, and maybe you can too! Since I received my G2 driving permit in Ontario, I doubt I've driven a motor vehicle more than 10 times. A G2 permit isn't a full driver's license. It allows someone to drive alone, but there are certain restrictions regarding blood alcohol content and passenger limits. Here in Nova Scotia, the license system is less graduated. There's only a learner's permit and after a road test, a person is considered "Newly Licensed." These new drivers have a two-year probationary period, with restrictions similar to the Ontario G2.

On Jan. 23, I hopped on the 52 crosstown bus and headed for Access Nova Scotia. The office was located in Bayers Lake—a mystical land where only the brave out-of-province students have gone before. It was nestled under an overcast sky, beside big box stores and underused parking lots. I walked from the closest bus stop over exhaust-stained, automobile-chundered snow to the government office to get my new license. Upon entering the building, I felt a sense of peace. It was warmer in both temperature and colour. The walls were yellow and used studio lighting. There were prints of oil paintings on the walls: a small boutique in Europe, some flowers, a few abstract works. I saw the boutique print repeated twice. Because Access NS is a 45-minute bus ride from the peninsula, there wasn't any lineup when I arrived. I took my number and walked directly to an open teller. The process of switching my license was quick. \$70, some paperwork, and a horrible mugshot later, I had a brand new, full Nova Scotia drivers' license. It expires in 2018, and I won't have to do a road test in Ontario until I'm 80.

In Ontario, to go from a G2 to a full driver's license, you have to do another road test. In Nova Scotia, you just need to wait two years and complete a defensive driving course. Andrew Feldman graduated from Dalhousie last year. He said he switched his license over "for the purpose of avoiding doing [a] road test in Ontario." He also mentioned that his Ontario permit was going to expire before he could come home to do a road test. "That just made it imperative," he said. Amelia Wilding is a third-year University of King's College student who procured an NS license after losing her original permit from British Columbia. "By doing that, I would get a full license, instead of having to do one more exam in BC," she said. According to Service Nova Scotia's website, "you need to get a Nova Scotia driver's license within 90 days of becoming a resident," and you're a resident if, "you are attending school or college here." Not only is it efficient to switch licenses, it's required if you're driving. Not wanting to let my permit expire, and too lazy to arrange and practice for a road test in Ontario, I decided to do the inter-provincial



Campus libraries provide access to class evaluations online. ••• Photo by Juliano Franz

EVALUATING ONLINE

A TA perspective

Janice Allen
Opinions Contributor

Toward the end of last semester I found myself standing somewhat awkwardly in the hall outside a lab room full of second-year geology students. My fellow TA and I were waiting as the student ratings of instruction (SRIs) were administered. While waiting, we discussed a new twist on the SRIs: the switch to online evaluations.

"A FEW THEMES HAVE EMERGED."

Last semester Dalhousie moved to an online system for managing student ratings of instruction. The Board of Governors made that decision, and a final call to switch to the online model was put forward over the summer. As with any substantial adjustment, the change met with mixed opinions from faculty and students. From my perspective as a teaching assistant in the geology department, the transition to online SRIs seemed relatively smooth. The switch is part of a natural evolution towards electronic and online management at Dal, and it will have important consequences. In addition to embracing a general trend in academia towards increasing online content, this change in how SRIs are managed benefits the

Dal community. For those of us with an environmental bent, the move away from paper-based evaluations reduces waste, saving roughly 60,000 forms each semester. Instructors and TAs now receive a summary of their evaluations as a PDF file, which I personally find much easier to store than the traditional paper summary. A related consequence, to my mind, is that the electronic evaluations add a certain formality to the process of receiving, reviewing, and filing feedback on one's teaching. This new system may encourage instructors, particularly graduate students who are interested in pursuing teaching after finishing their degrees, to take greater care in cataloguing their experience. A few themes have emerged in the criticisms of the system. First, there was concern that participation rates would drop because students might feel less compelled to complete the online forms. Data from last term suggests this was not the case. According to Deborah Kiceniuk at the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT), participation rates last semester were between 52 and 61 per cent, comparable to rates from previous years (typically 59 to 63 per cent). Another concern is the effort required to train both managers and participants in the use of the new system. This cost will be offset by a reduced human resources demand in managing SRIs at the CLT. Finally, there is some concern that the online system may not be as economically inclusive as the paper option, especially since students are encouraged to complete the forms in

class. While students can complete the forms any time during a two-week window and all students at Dal have access to computers on campus, the emphasis on in-class completion might lead to participation rates skewed towards students who regularly carry laptops or smartphones. The move towards online student ratings of instruction is an important step forward for Dal and promises many benefits. This system has the potential to be especially beneficial to graduate student TAs, myself among them, who will increasingly be expected to provide evidence of their teaching experience if they apply for academic positions.

CKDU 88.1

TOP TEN week of Feb. 18

1. Stephen Fearing - Between Hurricanes

2. Buddy Miller & Jim Lauderdale - S/T

3. Bjork - Bastards

4. Orlan & The Autumn Lovers - Nord Time

5. Each Other - Heavily Spaced

6. Ben Harper & Charlie Musselwhite

7. Elizabeth Mitchell - Blue Clouds

8. Jenn Grant - The Beautiful Wild

9. Pissed Jeans - Noneys

10. Foals - Holy Fire

www.ckdu.ca



ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

Halloway Jones

Front-woman, Hind Legs

Director of the

Pigeon Gallery

I imagine it's nearly impossible to get through university unscathed. However, if you don't fuck your profs, go to class occasionally, and manage to maintain amicable relationships with the idiots you meet, then you should be OK.



EAST COAST

Canada's Chocolate Town

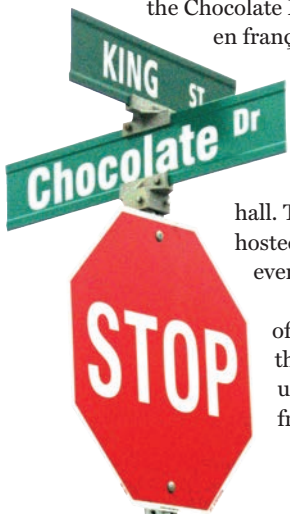
Do you just melt for chocolate? Well then you've died and gone to heaven if you visit St. Stephen's New Brunswick. Located in south-western New Brunswick, just a hop, skip and a jump away from the U.S. state of Maine, the town is home to the historic and important Ganong Bros. chocolate company.

Just two years after St. Stephen was incorporated, brothers James and Gilbert Ganong founded Canada's oldest candy company in 1873. James' son Arthur introduced the world to the chocolate bar, inventing the wrapped chocolate in 1910. Another famous first for Arthur was the heart-shaped candy box, originally a Christmas present until it found its natural home with Valentine's Day celebrations a few years later. Arthur had a life-long love of chocolate and is said to have eaten at least three pounds a day.

As a result of Ganong's presence, St. Stephen is officially known as Canada's Chocolate Town and is the location of the Chocolate Museum ("Le Musée du Chocolat" en français). Opened in 1999, the museum is housed in a former Ganong factory building and tells the story of chocolate, the company and the town. The building is also home to St. Stephen's town hall. Together Ganong and the town have hosted the St. Stephen Chocolate Festival every year since 1985.

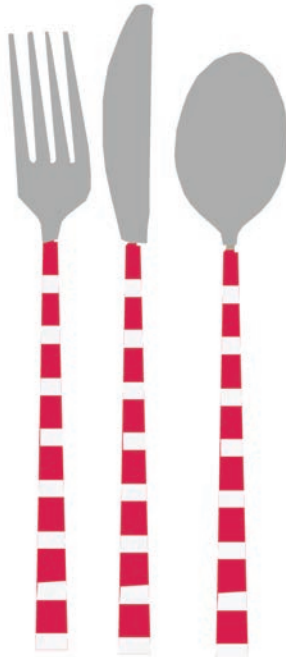
Chocolate is part of the lifeblood of St. Stephen and Ganong passes the traditional—and easy to understand—love of chocolate down from generation to generation.

—Jonathan Rotsztain

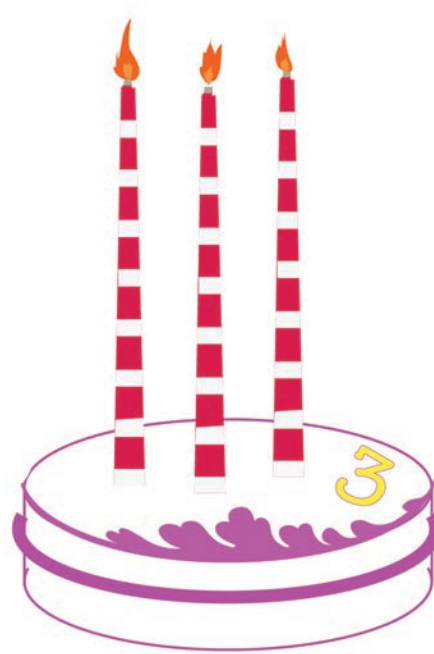


LOOK-A-LIKES

The Three Sisters smoke stacks



CUTLERY SET

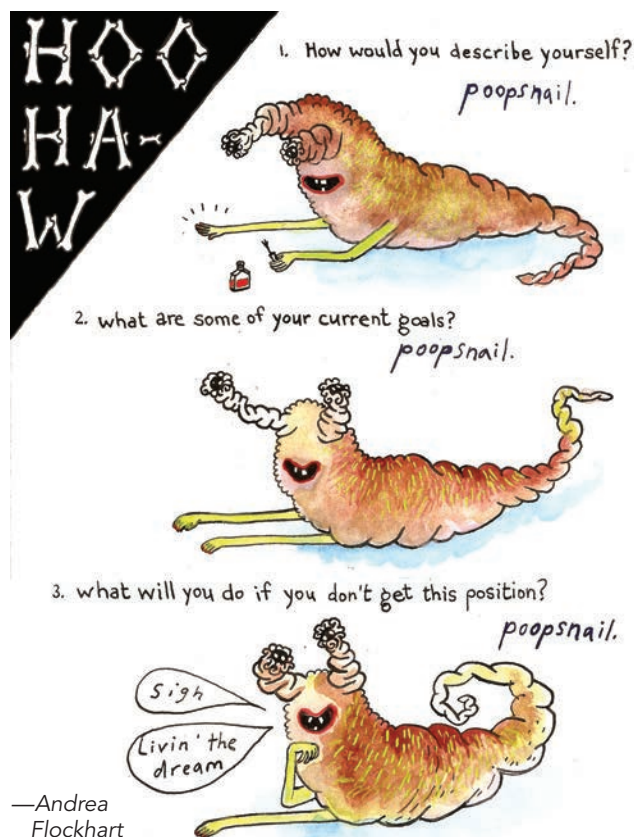


BIRTHDAY CANDLES



PICNIC BLANKET

— Tracy Kent and Daniel Rotsztain



—Andrea Flockhart



—Bethany Riordan-Butterworth

Wb 13

LOOKING BACK

Party talk



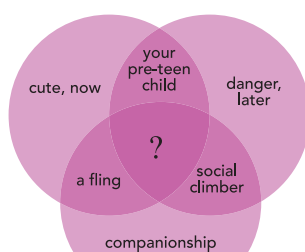
—Rebecca Roher



the other

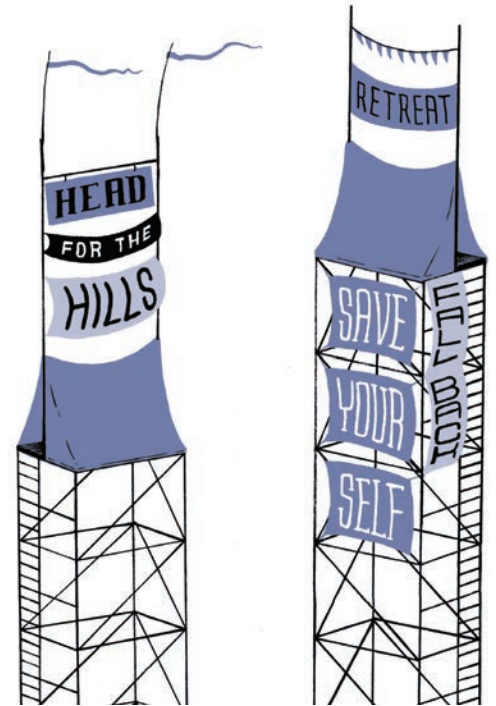
WAY TO HAVE A
SHOWER is to chill
out and take a bath

GET VENN'D Howl



ANSWER: Addnd jjom

—Daniel Rotsztain



—Chris Foster EDC 5031

STREETEER

What is your favourite local act?

By Calum Agnew and Katrina Pyne



"Don't have one"
Mahmuda Begum
Second-year science



"Signal Hill"
Lily Barton
Fourth-year nursing



"Live bands at Gus"
Sam Nyhuus
Fourth-year English history



"Yuk Yuk's"
Philip Yeo
Master's in computer science



"Pacifco on a Saturday night"
Robin Pecehe
Fourth-year kinesiology



"We're Doomed at The Seahorse"
Ben Cable
First-year arts



"Mellotones"
Gabrielle Logan
Third-year biology



"Folk singers"
Nick March
First-year social work



"Joel Plaskett"
Taylor Velemirovich
Second-year political science



"Stratton"
Leah Khoury
First-year commerce

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By Chef Tom



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There’s plenty Mo where that came from

East Coast musician Mo Kenney nominated as ECMA rising star



Geordon Omand
Arts Contributor

For up-and-coming musician Mo Kenney, being in the running as a rising star in the East Coast Music Awards is music to her ears.

“I’m really excited,” says Kenney. “To be nominated for my first record is pretty unbelievable.”

The Waverley-based alternative folk-pop rocker broke onto the East Coast music scene as a stand-alone artist last September with the release of her self-titled debut album.

Produced under the mentorship of

industry veteran and rock hero Joel Plaskett—who also appears in the recording, with several co-written songs—the album was over a year in the works.

Since its release Kenney has toured the country, both with Plaskett and solo, including a recent first-time gig in Montreal.

“The most exciting part of life right now is playing,” says Kenney. “Going out on the road and playing for new people, seeing new places: that’s the best thing about being a musician.”

With a subtle fingerpicking style underscored by pensive prose, Ken-

ney’s songs vary from lyrical and introspective to quirky and upbeat.

Her warm voice and depth of song-writing belie her young age, suggesting a musical maturity beyond her 22 years.

“I’ve always written,” she says. “It’s a natural process to me. It makes me feel really good; I try to do it every day, as much as possible.”

This spring Kenney will head west to open for Ron Sexsmith on tour before hopping the pond in May to play The Great Escape Festival in the United Kingdom.

She’s also hoping to release a sec-

ond album in 2014.

Besides Kenney, East Coast Music Award 2013 nominees for Rising Star Recording of the Year include Ben Caplan, Breagh Mackinnon, Heather Green and Repartee. ☎

The awards will be presented during the East Coast Music Week, which takes place in Halifax from March 6 to 10.

Mo Kenney’s debut album is nominated for the ECMA rising star recording of the year. ••• Photo supplied



“The government’s got us living in brackets,” raps Nixx.
••• Photo by Rana Encol



COMING UP STRONG IN UNIACKE SQUARE

Halifax rapper Nixx reps the streets of his childhood

Rana Encol
Arts Contributor

“I was born in the 80s, when even down in Scotia, crack went crazy.”

—Nixx a.k.a. Micky Blanks,
“Blow That Smoke,” *Practice*, 2011

Madison Murray “Nixx”, a.k.a. Micky Blanks, was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1987 and moved to Halifax with his mom when he was two or three. He grew up in the small community of Uniacke Square in the North End. Even five years ago, he says, the area was far more packed and life more fast-paced. In the video for “Streets Won’t Let Me Chill,” shot in the Creighton St. area, the streets are emptier than the streets Nixx remembers in his lyrics.

“People are leaving, some moved away, some may be in jail, we have a few deceased. What I’m talking about in my music, those are memories from my past and growing up there,” he says, which is especially true of his *Practice* mixtape.

The tape is anything but practice for Nixx, who started writing raps after stumbling on a Ruff Ryders cassette when he was nine years old. There was one song he’d play, pause, and rewind on his Walkman until he got all the lyrics copied down on paper. He hid the tape in the bathroom and practiced memorizing lines for an hour a day until his parents

caught him.

They found a kid’s scrawled notes, replete with curse words they could barely make out, and thought Nixx had written them himself. So Nixx started writing his own rhymes.

He inherited a love of smooth, soulful sounds from his mother and a sense of rhythm from his father, who played the drums. Nixx was lucky to be able to tamper with a drum set and gain early experience in beat production: his versatile delivery reflects his fascination with drum patterns.

Few kids had computers or access to studio space or musical equipment growing up. Everybody from the square packed the North End library to look up artists on the Internet; Nixx and his friends would freestyle while banging out beats on classroom tables.

When Nixx was 12, he remembers local rap artists coming into St Patrick’s-Alexandra School to do a compilation project with the kids.

“That was like heaven right there, knowing we’re gonna be on a mic. That’s when shit changed.”

Nixx started recording at James McQuade’s studio, home of MC J and Kool G, the first Canadian hip hop group to be signed to a major label.

Nixx releases his songs and videos independently online because there’s little outlet for what others might call street hip hop in Halifax: artists who represent communities that are too

often represented through one lens in the media or government.

“Everybody already knows the struggles of growing up in Uniacke Square—it’s a low-income housing project, we all know that. The light’s been shined on that too many times. We’re tired of hearing that shit,” he says.

“You have some people that may sell drugs but they’re doing it because that’s the only way they can feed themselves at that moment. You’re gonna point out someone’s selling drugs but you’re not going to point out who put the drugs in the community in the first place,” he adds.

Nixx says artistic unity in Nova Scotia is poor, but that’s why he started the Come Up Squad eight years ago.

“I’m speaking and repping for everybody that’s on their uprising, on their path to moving forward, not being set back. I don’t care if you’re a cashier at Sobeys and you move up the ranks to store manager, that’s a come-up right there.”

In that spirit, he’d like to lead his people to “bigger and better things.” So what about Uniacke?

“I’ll never let that die. Never. I want people to know where I come from, where I was raised,” he says.

“I consider myself to be that. I am that Uniacke Square music.” ☎

Nixx will release #JAM, Just Another Mixtape, this April.



This cloud is not lonely

Aboriginal group on ECMA nomination

Joana Trussler
Arts Contributor

Lone Cloud’s latest album *We are Medicine People* has been nominated for Aboriginal Recording of the Year at the 2013 East Coast Music Awards. Lone Cloud put this album together for their fans, cumulating their greatest set music into one beautiful blend of modern folk melodies and First Nations traditions.

“THE SOUND IS SENSUAL.”

Lone Cloud’s heart is centered on Aboriginal drumming and eclectic guitar melodies. The group speaks in both English and Mi’kmaq language to send a truly inspiring message about the preservation of tradition and culture while still embracing a little modernity.

Their song titled “Lone Cloud” from the new album is about Jerry Lone Cloud, a Mi’kmaq medicine man, whom Alan Syliboy describes as a Renaissance man with a strong community presence. Lead singer Rachael Henderson, their newest

member, sings soothing and haunting tones against lead guitarist Evan Syliboy’s dark and trailing melodies. The sound is sensual and connects deeply with audiences.

Lone Cloud came together almost ten years ago when Alan Syliboy and his son Evan were invited to open a music center in Truro. The group’s lineup has changed, but not their mission to tell stories through original song with a traditional Mi’kmaq First Nation perspective. Each member has left their mark on the music through bringing influences from folk and rock to jazz. We can expect that Lone Cloud will continue to evolve as they collaborate on their next album, led by accomplished singer-songwriter Henderson.

Syliboy hopes that the nomination will raise the profile of traditional Aboriginal music and culture. He wants to encourage other Aboriginal artists in the Maritime community, and throughout Canada, to collaborate on music with a First Nations perspective. ☎

••• Album art supplied



A GYPSOPHILIC AFTERNOON

DAPPER AND DANCING

Mat Wilush
Staff Contributor

From the sidewalk, the six figures beyond the window must look caught up in a silent hurricane, eyes closed and instruments swaying. Up the wooden stairs and through the front door: the house is filled with rich jive. Bright gypsy-tinged jazz bounces off wallpaper and dangling disco balls, is draped across doorframes and furniture, and reaches back around to the sextet laughing and jamming on couches in the living room. Sunday afternoon stretches on infinitely alongside Gypsophilia, Halifax's swing and gypsy jazz connection.

The *Gazette* met with Gypsophilia in the home of Ross Burns, one of the troupe's three guitar players, for

a photoshoot. The band is among the East Coast's most prolific. They won two East Coast Music Awards with *Sa-ba-da-OW!*, their sophomore release, and are returning to the limelight with a third full-length, *Constellation* (which has been nominated for three East Coast Music Awards this year, including Best Album).

Blending gypsy folk and swing-era jazz, the seven-piece outfit is Ross Burns, Alec Frith and Nick Wilkinson on guitar, Sageev Oore on keys and accordion, trumpeter Matt Myer, violinist Gina Burgess and Adam Fine on the upright bass (who was unable to attend).

The band has been performing for eight years, evolving from covering Django Reinhardt tracks to developing music that recalls the warmth of

dusty records and the weird worldliness of foreign words whispering from alleyways. Having released three full-length records and toured Canada extensively, the band has become celebrated for high-energy live shows.

"The music is transformative," says Oore, "Sometimes we play something different live, and we all like it and add it into the song. There are parts of songs that are very structured, and other sections left open for improvising."

Since the beginning, Gypsophilia has run swing concert parties in churches and theatres. The parties have become increasingly renowned: recent shows exceeded 250 people decked out in their 1920s best.


"We heard that around the time of

our last event that all the local thrift shops sold out of gloves and hats and dress-up stuff like that," says Burgess with a laugh.

Gypsophilia is preparing their biggest swing party to date, which will be held March 30 at Saint Antonio's Hall.

A record spins on Burns' high-fidelity stereo system as photographers and musicians set up for the shoot. As the record cuts, the absence is filled with an impromptu Gypsophilia jam-session. Those off-camera play along with those in the frame. Uma, Burn's grey-speckled cat, weaves between shuffling feet, unfazed. This is a page torn from the Gypsophilia handbook; the camera is invisible within the action. From the jagged deer antlers hanging above the fireplace to the

80s-themed family portraits on the fridge, an air of hominess pervades the peculiar scene.

As the afternoon wanes, cameras are packed away but the living room performance continues. Even as the exit march commences and goodbyes are shared, the outro music continues. This is what the group lives for. Music is a weightless expression of good times past, excitability for the present, and who knows what? for the future. It never stops. 

Gypsophilia, from top L to bottom R:
Ross Burns, Gina Burgess, Sageev Oore,
Nick Wilkinson, Matt Myer and Alec Frith.

• • • Photos by David Munro





L: Captain Louise Facca fittingly had the championship-winning point in her final Tiger year; R: Dal won 16 straight games for the honour to be named AUS champions. ••• Photos by Darek Nakonieczny via NLSportsphoto.com

Women’s volleyball seize AUS crown

REVITALIZED TIGERS CLINCH FIRST CONFERENCE TITLE SINCE 2005

Benjamin Blum
Staff Contributor
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With one final point from veteran captain Louise Facca, Dalhousie’s AUS season ended in triumphant victory over the defending champion Saint Mary’s Huskies.
“It was such a huge rush of emotion for me,” said Facca. “I’ve been waiting for that moment for four years. It was just an unbelievable feeling.”
The Tigers closed out the Huskies in straight sets, avenging last season’s championship loss to claim their first AUS title since 2005.
This marks a return to the upper echelon of Canadian university volleyball for Dal. The CIS No. 3 ranked Tigers will move on to the national championships at the end of this month in Sherbrooke, QC.
“It’s great for the Dalhousie women’s volleyball program,” said head coach and AUS coach of the year Rick Scott. “The girls have just worked really hard to achieve the goal of being AUS champs and they deserve all the credit.”
The hard-fought final was a team

effort for the Tigers, undefeated all season in conference play. The black and gold put pressure on their cross-town rivals right off the bat with a well-balanced front court attack coordinated by fourth-year setter Hilary Sears. This offensive output combined with solid blocking earned Dal a 25-15 first set win.
The second-seeded Huskies, winners of five of the previous nine AUS championships, were outmatched by the surging Tigers, who continued their offensive onslaught in the second set, winning 25-12.
“I think our blocking and our defence were the real keys to our success today. We did a real good job blocking early on—it set the tone. Defensively, we played really well, made it really difficult for them to score. That was huge,” said Scott.
This season has been a trying one for Saint Mary’s, who started the campaign 0-5. Their fortunes turned around with the addition of Ariel Smith. Since rejoining the team, this season’s MVP led the Huskies to a 10-3 record and a bye into the semis, where they dispatched Memorial 3-1.

Despite their best efforts, the star-laden Huskies were helpless against a staunch Tiger defence. At the outset of the season, defence was targeted by Scott as an area of improvement for his team, and those results were evident in their sweep of St. Francis Xavier in the semifinals and the Huskies’ low scores in the championship match.
“The girls worked really hard on their defence, getting better, committing to it, taking pride,” said Scott about the evolution of the team’s defence. “[For us,] that was huge.”
The final set epitomized the Tigers season. Attacks rained down on the Huskies from the power, middle and offside positions, while the team’s hallmark defence and hustle kept their opponent at bay.
Even when facing a late rally from the Huskies, Scott called a timeout, allowing his team to regroup and close out the game 25-13.
With two straight sets victories in the playoffs, Dal has not lost a set in the past 11 games.
While winning the title was special for the entire team, it has particular

significance for player of the game Louise Facca. The graduating captain, who transferred from Bowling Green State University in Ohio four years ago, ended her career against AUS competition with the game-winning kill.
“I know how bad Louise wanted to win. It’s just fitting that she gets the last point to cap off her AUS career,” Scott said.
Facca’s mother Lorraine was a member of the 1982 Tigers team that won nationals, as well as a teammate of Dal’s director of varsity athletics Karen Moore. The Tigers of 2013 are now in contention to win the school’s first national title since that victory 31 years ago.
“It meant a lot to me that [my mother] was there,” said Facca, “knowing that she was behind me 100 per cent. She’s been there, she knows the feeling, so she was just really proud and I went over and hugged her in the stands after. It was great to have my family there.”
For her tremendous efforts in the front court, Maggie Li was awarded championship MVP. Li and fellow

second-year Tara Gowan scored 15 kills combined in Dal’s final victory.
“I’m pretty impressed with this being only their second year, and a lot of people don’t realize that or forget that,” said Scott of the dynamic duo. “It was great to see them do that on a big stage like the AUS final.”
The Tigers will have most of its core returning next season, apart from the graduating Facca and Sears. But for now, the Tigers intend to enjoy the moment and get ready for nationals.
“We’re just going to keep doing what we’ve been doing, [and that’s] working on our game,” said Facca.
In 2009, Dal was well below .500, trying to iron out the kinks with a new coach after missing the playoffs for three seasons. Five years later, with their road to redemption complete, the team turns its attention to the national stage.
If they can bring the same level of focus and dedication to this tournament as they did in the AUS season, roars of victory may become more frequent for these Tigers. 🐅

STRETCH DRIVE FOR DAL BASKETBALL



Tessa Stammberger fights for the ball.
••• Photoby Nick Pearce via Dal Athletics

Ian Froese
Sports Editor
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Women’s Tigers keep it close
Fresh off a midweek loss that ended Saint Mary’s undefeated streak at 16, the Huskies had no intention of starting a losing skid against the Dalhousie Tigers.
The Huskies took the lead early Feb. 16 at home and never let go, dispatching the Tigers 83-78.

SMU’s Justine Colley—who has topped 30 points on 10 occasions this year—led the way with 31 points. Barring a catastrophe, Colley likely secured the three points she needed Feb. 20 to take sole possession of the AUS’ single-season scoring record. The current milestone is 515 points.
The fourth-ranked Tigers saw point production in the losing effort from Anna von Maltzahn with 20 points, 18 from Robbi Daley and 16 from Tessa Stammberger.

Dal’s basketball teams are in action against Acadia, Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Dalplex to close the regular season. The AUS men’s championships are the first weekend of March, while the women’s tournament happens in the second weekend.



Simon Marr blocks for Dal.
••• Photoby Nick Pearce via Dal Athletics

Comeback for surging men’s team
If there were any doubts that Dalhousie men’s basketball team isn’t a threat in the AUS, the team attempted to silence its last detractors Feb. 16 at the Homburg Centre.
The Saint Mary’s Huskies were in control from the start of the halftime break, but the stingy Tigers saved their best for last.
Up 71-64 with three minutes to go, the Huskies would not score again. Dal’s William Yengue made three baskets in a row and Devon Stedman dropped a lay-up while being fouled to earn the Tigers their seventh win in nine games.
This mid-season turnaround is from the same Tigers team that recorded a far from stellar 2-5 record before the holiday break. 🐅



L: Two-time AUS player of the year Julio Fernandez, one of UNB's biggest threats last weekend. • • • Photo by Juliano Franz; R: Humility after UNB sweeps bitter rivals for the title. • • • Photo by Sandy Chase via The Brunswickian

Men’s volleyball title no longer Dal’s to lose

Tigers dynasty effectively ends with second title defeat in three years

Stephen Campbell
Staff Contributor

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The days of Dalhousie’s perennial dominance in men’s volleyball are over. Despite winning 31 of the last 34 AUS titles, the Tigers have lost twice in the past three years, both times at the hands of the UNB Varsity Reds.

After dropping the opening game of the best-of-three championship series at home last Friday by a score of 3-1, the Tigers were in a hole heading to Fredericton for Game 2.

In a fashion strikingly similar to their first meeting, Dal came out of

the gate hot two days later and took the first set 25-23. But it was all downhill from there, as the Tigers dropped the next three sets 25-17, 25-19 and 25-6 to end their season without a banner.

The young Tigers team, which welcomed 11 new players at the start of the season, showed signs of frustration as the game progressed, including a yellow card to setter Carson Moeller in the fourth set after questioning an official’s call.

Although he doesn’t blame youth as the sole reason for his team’s loss, Dal head coach Dan Ota acknowledged that inexperience played a factor.

“Our guys played beyond their years for most of the season,” says Ota. “We didn’t agree with a lot of the calls made by the officials and we let that affect our composure. The emotion of the situation caught up to us.”

Dal was unable to withstand the V-Reds’ attack all game, led by the game-high 18 kills of back-to-back league MVP Julio Fernandez and Elvind Andersen, who finished with 10 kills and nine digs. UNB also had great production from their captain, fifth-year libero Matt Sweet, who had seven digs and played well defensively.

Bryan Duquette had 11 kills and


four digs, while Alex Dempsey contributed with 10 kills and five blocks for the Tigers.

UNB’s win signals a changing of the guard in AUS men’s volleyball. Two years removed from seeing their 24-year championship streak snapped, the Tigers are once again searching for answers.

Duquette, who was a member of the losing team two seasons ago, emphasized that his team has to look toward the future and move on from this tough loss.

“Two years ago when [Dal] lost for the first time in 24 years, the veterans gave [the rookies] a good talking-to

about what we had to do to never let it happen again,” says the third-year captain. “It’s unfortunate that things went the way they did this year, but we have to have the same thought process moving forward. The steps to do that are already in place.”

If the Tigers are to bring the AUS men’s volleyball title back to Halifax next year, they will need to use this loss as motivation and learn from their mistakes. By capturing their second title in three years, UNB has shown not only that they are a force to be reckoned with, but have every intention of starting a streak of their own. 

Tigers leave competition in the dust

Track and field sets pace in preperation for AUS championships

Bryn Karcha
Sports Contributor

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The Dalhousie track and field team was the undisputed champion of the Tiger Track Classic last weekend at the Dalplex.

Facing competitors from St. Francis Xavier, Saint Mary’s and Acadia, Dal managed to win most of the events they competed in as they prepare for the AUS championship Feb. 23-24 in Moncton.

“We had a lot of personal bests,” says Rich Lehman, the Tigers head coach. “For the 60-metre we had an all-Dal final which was pretty sweet. Jumps, we didn’t have many of our top jumpers competing this weekend, but still pretty solid, and our throwers are always good. We’re looking good going into AUS this weekend.”

While not every member of other university teams could attend the meet to pose a greater challenge for Dal, Lehman says he’s confident the Tigers will perform well at the AUS championship.

“I still expect to win easily next weekend,” he says.

Dal’s women’s team has won 23 consecutive AUS banners, while the men have earned the nod 11 times.

Highlights at Dal’s premier track meet included Adam Lewis finishing first in the 60-metre final, as well as winning the men’s 300-metre with a time of 36.6 seconds. Matt Bartley

took second in the 60-metre, his first race of the season since coming off an injury.


Matt McNeil crossed the line in first in the men’s 3000-metre, and also set a personal best for the 1500-metre, coming in second. Rookie Heather Grandy won the women’s triple jump with her best jump of the season.

Fourth-year runner Lesley d’Apollonia soundly defeated her competitors in the women’s 300-metre, finishing with a personal best of 40.5 seconds, nearly a second faster than anyone else.

“You gotta go into racing knowing that you’re gonna win, and not be afraid of the race,” says d’Apollonia. “Because if you become afraid of the race, that will affect your running and you’ll be tight, not confident. You won’t be able to pass somebody.”

Around 195 athletes competed in the weekend event. University students were joined by several high school and post-collegiate competitors.

There was also a ‘pros vs. joes’ relay event last Saturday where Tigers athletes in basketball, soccer and hockey competed against each other, while other Dal students and some of the track and field coaches took part.

“It was a lot of fun,” Lehman says. “We’ll try to make it a little bigger next year. Maybe include some alumni.” 



Vanessa Linton hands off the baton to Britany MacArthur in Dal’s winning race in the women’s 4x800-metre. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

Runner speaks out about mental illness

Mental health and Dal's athletes: "It's crazy how prevalent it is"



Kennedy MacLean.

Photo by Alice Hebb

Graeme Benjamin
Assistant Sports Editor

Kennedy MacLean laces up her navy and silver track shoes. Her 600-metre race is drawing near. A friend walks over, shares a laugh and wishes her luck, leaving MacLean alone to continue stretching and listening to music. She then proceeds to the track to loosen up.

She's focused. She's healthy. She's ready.

This pre-race ritual was a lot different only two years ago for MacLean. For the majority of her teenage years, she suffered from depression, anorexia, anxiety and bulimia, all common mental illnesses that she says some varsity athletes deal with

every day.

The 20-year-old from Dartmouth, who competes in middle-distance events, showed symptoms of a mental illness when she was just 13, but only came to terms with it as of late.

"I always had a hard time admitting that I had a mental illness because I always thought that there was someone out there that was sicker than me," she says. "But then things really started to go downhill and I thought, 'maybe there's something wrong.'"

MacLean made frequent appearances at the hospital when her illness was at its worst. Her most recent trip was a year ago when she was severely dehydrated. She says her experiences in the hospital were frightening.

"You don't know what's going on and it's scary to think that it can't be fixed with medicine."

After being rushed to the emergency room four or five times, MacLean knew something had to be done.

When MacLean came of age, she took a program through the QEII Health Sciences Centre where she learned how to eat healthier and rebuild confidence through individual therapy.

Her parents were supportive throughout the healing process, but MacLean says she found immense support from her teammates and coaches.

"My training partner Morgan Hawkes has been amazing," she says. "I also live with people on my team and they've just been great."

MacLean is now healthier than

she's ever been in her life. She's able to focus better, not only on the track but in her everyday life as well.

"I was talking to one of my teammates and I told her about the amount of energy I had and she told me this is what healthy is like," she says with a laugh.

MacLean says mental health issues are something many athletes at Dal deal with. She believes the most relevant illness is anxiety, due to the pressure placed on athletes to always compete at their best.

"It's crazy how prevalent it is," she says. "I know a lot of varsity athletes who suffer from anxiety issues, and I don't blame them. I'd be surprised if someone said that they didn't have difficulty coping with some of the things that go on."

There are services on campus for people who think they might be suffering from a mental illness, but MacLean is disappointed about how the services are publicized.

"Nobody knows about it," she says. "I didn't even know until this year that our Dal health plan covers therapy. People don't know that there's an option to get help and that's so frustrating."

But MacLean says support is out there, referencing the recent mental health fundraiser by Bell that raised over \$4.8 million. She hopes awareness doesn't only last for one day.

"It's getting the word out there," she says, "and it was amazing to see my whole Twitter feed filled with 'Bell Let's Talk.'"

MacLean decided to tell her story



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to show athletes and the Dal community that it's OK to talk about mental illnesses and to admit that something is wrong.

"It really upsets me, the stigma that's around mental health. A lot of people view it as a weakness and it's not." ❧

arts&culture *continued*

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IN THE CARDS

A skeptic delves into the world of fortune telling

Zoe Doucette

Arts Contributor

Madame X spreads a line of stars across the table and asks me to pick nine cards intuitively.

Is this silly? I want to give in to the heavy smell of incense wafting in from the new-age shop, to the chanting on the sound system, give up some control to chance—but I can't stop thinking of order and odds and the power of suggestion. I gave up on healing crystals a long time ago, and accepted into my heart the truth of neurotransmitters.

I fear fortunes written on the body. An umbilical cord around a neck, telomeres with frayed ends, an imbalance of serotonin that causes dreams of exit bags, lesions on the myelin sheath, the chance chromosomal oddity, the development of amyloid plaques that will make you forget and slowly vanish: true fate.

The star-patterned tarot deck is fanned across the table. A plethora of choice. What should I be drawn to? Will Madame X know I'm picking the blue and white cards at random, unable to feel the 'vibrations' or whatever is supposed to emanate from the pictures on the obverse side?

She reads out names as she flips and arranges my cards.

"Four of cups, The Lovers, seven of wands, seven of swords, seven of cups, The Fool, two of pentacles, The Devil, ten wands."

She squints at the pattern of sevens with interest. "Cool!" she says. The three sevens indicate doubt and change.

"You're having a lot of skepticism

about everything that's going on in your life. Calling everything up for question. After going through that process we are hit by this clarity. We decide to live our path differently."

Could she tell I'm not a believer? Maybe it's in my face, or the way I can't keep my hands still in my lap.

The Lovers, the Fool and the Devil are from a group of cards known as the major arcana. They correspond to life altering patterns. The numbered suits—the wands, swords, cups, pentacles—are everyday conditions, the minor arcana.

"Imagine this new weather system coming in," X says of the major arcana.

"Early on you might experience the energy of that card in small ways. You might see it every time you turn on the TV., in conversations you have. When it finally moves into your life, you'll get the full impact of it. This is the baseline of your life, where it's heading."

She weaves a beautiful narrative into the air, measuring and lining factors together, integrating small personal details she has culled from our minutes face to face. The two of pentacles with the Lovers indicates the likelihood of an intense, love-hate relationship—a balancing act of differing forces. The sevens and the Fool, the possibility of out-of-character life choices and opportunities. The Devil says to enjoy the excess brought by opportunity, but don't get carried away.

The delicate interaction she builds is mathematical. Fortune telling is a performance, somewhere between improv comic, shrink and priest.

She forecasts the offer of a position "that would require a great deal of commitment from you, and may shock people. There seems to be the idea that it's far away, whether it's Thailand or India or Toronto."

The other major forecast is a "volatile" ("with the Devil, watch out for possible co-dependence") relationship that shifts between extremes.

I don't believe X's forecasts of the volatile relationship or career success: Tarot readers solidify what is inside. They reveal doubt and indecision and prompt resolution, mirroring it with their interpretation of the cards.

At the end of the reading, she tells me to pull a card. It will predict my well-being. The image on the card I flip tightens my every nerve: a man face down in the snow, his back pin-cushioned with slender rapiers and broad lines of steel. He's bleeding into the white. It looks like defeat and relief.

"The ten of swords is kind of fatal-



The fourth major arcana. ❧ Illustration by Zoe Doucette

looking," X says. "We think of it as learning things the hard way, allowing things to continue until you get the slap in the face, the door slamming closed. It's a long, drawn-out, stressful, anxiety-producing situation reaching a painful head. This is the end of the road."

The picture is imprinted in my mind for the rest of the day. It's a source of comfort, this message about the end of the road. I want to make it true. ❧



THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

The Empire (Theatre) Strikes Back

Movie theatres make for inadequate lecture theatres



Richard Wile
Assistant Editor
Civil '15

For the second year now Empire Theatres in park lane mall has served as lecture space for second year engineering students. After having personal experience with this location as lecture space it has become obvious that more suitable lecture space is needed. Specifically for second year students who often find them self in somewhat of a crisis whether they belong on Sexton or Studley campus.

When I first heard a good portion of my second year lectures would be in Empire Theatres I had visions of comfortable seats, large screen, and popcorn. In reality what we got as students was a room that was poorly set up, too dark, had little leg room, and no access to a stable writing surface. These all lead to uncomfortable lec-

tures and difficulty in keeping focused in the large rocking chairs.

To solve table issue of the lack of tables, plastic surfaces with cup holder inserts and Velcro straps were provided. Unsurprisingly, these only lasted for a few weeks before breaking due to their large floppy cantilevered design which made writing tests and notes nearly impossible. The romantically lit space cast odd shadows across notes, leading to blindly writing what you were nearly breaking your neck to see on the oversized screen.

In the past year, I have heard whispers of changes to the Empire Theatre lecture space but the underlying issue still exists, the need for more suitable lecture space is obvious. Until the new IDEA building or other alternatives come to fruition to make more lecture space available I suggest changes be made to the Empire Theatre space so it is more student friendly and useable as a lecture space. ☘

It's time for the Sextant's Annual General Meeting!

If you're interested in the following things, come on out:

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The meeting will be in room A-102 on March 7th at 5:30PM

The agenda will be posted at www.thesextant.ca in advance.

We are looking for editors for next year. Contact sextant@dal.ca for details.

See you there!



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Share your Sexton event by sending details to

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Stop laying blame on our "culture of alcohol"

Blaming alcohol is a convenient way to dismiss real issues



Ben Wedge
Editor in Chief
Industrial '13

It comes as a surprise to no one that Halifax has a culture of drinking. Breweries were amongst the first businesses in Halifax, though more recently the Dome's reputation for bloody brawls culminated in the imposition of minimum drink pricing, and every Monday paper published in this city has a section on barfights. The focus on drinking as the problem is simply window dressing used to avoid the deeper issues, but our most vocal politicians, police, and medical professionals seem to love assigning blame to the bottle. What if they sought proven solutions for reducing bar violence and over-consumption, without preventing patrons from attending bars and knocking a few drinks back?

Last weekend, John Wesley Chisholm wrote a post on facebook about a, in his words, violent encounter between a bouncer and a "Nova Scotia drunk." He described the drunk as "everyone's friend," happy, maybe too loud, bumping in to people, but not picking fights. The bouncer, on the other hand, was described as a brute, a meat-head looking for a skull to smash.

Chisholm's account of the event has been disputed, but why was it shared so widely?

The post tore at our heart strings, depicting a defenceless drunk man who was violently pushed out of the bar after "slobbering in a drink," without a chance to grab his coat or get his friends. The bouncer was accused of repeatedly hitting the drunk even though he was in a defensive position. Chisholm's post may have also resonated because we are accustomed to bouncers overreacting to a patron's actions. It is important to note that the incident occurred at the Carleton Bar and Grill, a popular spot for enjoying quiet live music, not a nightclub like the Dome or Palace, where patrons regularly jostle each other, dance, and openly seek mating opportunities.

Whatever the truth, the police and bar both blamed our "culture of alcohol" as they quickly tossed the issue aside and bragged about how great their response was. This incident will add fuel to the fire for those who want to limit bar hours, raise drink prices, and maybe even raise the drinking age. It's important to note that in Europe drink prices are lower, the drinking age is lower, and bars are open later. They certainly have a "culture of alcohol," with booze being

consumed in public parks, available in corner stores at all hours, and drunk patrons packing clubs from Lisbon to Prague, knocking back drink after drink. Oddly, they don't share our culture of violence.

What if the root of the problem was our prohibitionist authorities, our conservative culture, our tradition of forcing teens to drink in secret? University students know that no one drinks in a safe manner in their dorm rooms. Freshman get their hands on the cheapest liquor and consume it in vast quantities behind closed doors, often with fatal consequences. Most students seem to wizen up after a few years of hitting the bars. Wouldn't allowing freshmen to mix and mingle with seniors at pubs, concerts, and clubs help them learn how to be a bit more responsible? They say sunlight is the best disinfectant — after a few times of being the most drunk person in the room, most people cut back.

Another major issue is our glorification of violence. Drunk or not, everyone knows someone who brags about fights they've been in (or narrowly avoided.) The alcohol simply serves as a mechanism to encourage them to follow through on threats. We need to address this issue by dealing with violent patrons quickly and effectively. Here, the Patron Accountability Safety

and Service (PASS) program, a thinly veiled mechanism to protect bars & bouncers rather than patrons, is actually pretty effective at dealing with problem patrons. Pick a fight at one bar? Get banned from them all. So long as it's paired with a bouncer training and licensing program, and resources to help problem patrons better themselves, this could be an effective way to crack down on violence while allowing responsible people to continue to enjoy themselves.

If we empower youth to make responsible choices about alcohol, maybe they'll change their ways. If we focus on dealing with real problems, like licensing bouncers, and dealing with drunken assaults through the justice system, it will be possible to leave the bars open and safe for the vast majority of patrons who show they can play by the existing rules. Our "culture of alcohol" as a source for all of the problems is a misnomer at best. We have a culture of violence, of youth disenfranchisement, and of restricting things at the first sign of trouble. It's time to stop blaming the culture of alcohol and forcing booze underground, and start empowering people to consume responsibly by exposing them early to opportunities to enjoy drinking in a responsible way. ☘

T Room

HALIFAX'S BEST TRIVIA!

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

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Meet Lera.

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