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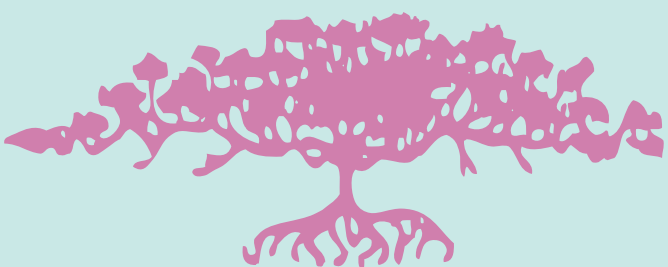


The Balhousie Gazette

America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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DSU ABSORBS FORMER NSAC STUDENT UNION, PG. 4



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Over the course of the 2.5 days, students will build relationships, learn facilitation skills, share stories of success and failure, and deepen their understanding of the issues. Ultimately, the intention will be to develop their own personal calls to action, working in solidarity with a community of peers from around the province.

This event will be hosted at Mount Saint Vincent University. Spaces are limited and are expected to fill up fast. Students from out-of-town can be billeted for free with student hosts in Halifax.

For questions, or if interested in registering, contact BeckyRichter22@dal.ca

We look forward to meeting you.

Much Love,

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Stay connected with the DSU through Facebook & Twitter

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October 5 - October 11, 2012 •

The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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the fine print

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

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DalGazette.com Website Top 5

- 1) Sustainability at Dal—Robin Tress, Opinions
- 2) Q&A: Wayne Mason—Kristie Smith, News
- 3) Brunswick St. stars in Film Festival—Samantha Alexander, Arts
- 4) Cafeteria blues—Adele van Wyk, Opinions
- 5) Tigers trample Mounties—Graeme Benjamin, Sports

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Turkey's and chickadees

Fighting the paralyzing fear in all of us

Katrina Pyne
Editor-in-Chief

As Thanksgiving approaches and turkeys everywhere tiptoe nervously through the brush, I can't help but think about fears.

To be clear, it's not the thought of eating myself into a coma that I am wary of, it's the way I will be celebrating this particular day of thanks: a hunting trip into the backwoods of Fredericton, N.B. to catch our turkey day meal.

And if you can put aside your own personal grievances about hunting, let me introduce one of mine. I am terrified—no, horrified—no, petrified of birds.

It is perhaps the most irrational thing about me.

I can't walk down the sidewalk without staring down each pigeon as it boldly edges closer and closer to my heel. Garbage cans in the park make me nervous because I dread the day when a warbler will fly out of one. I keep one eye open for seagulls when I relax at the beach and outdoor picnics are always accompanied by me not-so-subtly jumping up to stretch my legs every time a duck comes too close.

Perhaps this could be a rational fear if I had some excuse for being afraid of birds, if a vicious seagull had attacked me as a child or if watching Hitchcock's *The Birds* had been my bedtime routine.

But no, according to my parents one day I just announced that I was afraid of birds.

For 20 years I never held a chickadee.

I've seen the same built-up fear in a lot of people lately. Whether it's avoiding an assignment because they are afraid of failure or ending a relationship early because they are afraid of commitment, everyone has some sort of irrational fear-driven behaviour.

Now I'm not saying that all fears can be overcome with a plucky can-do attitude, but maybe the first step in facing your fears is to face up to your own pride and stubbornness. Step back from the situation and recognize your fear. Then, let yourself be vulnerable. Ask for help if you need it.

My own test of vulnerability was humbling to say the least.

I went to a popular bird-feeding place deep in the February woods. Of course, my mom came with me for moral support.



What's your paralyzing fear?

• • • Image via Hitchcock's *The Birds*

When the first winged creature swooped near me, I threw up the seeds and ducked.

My mom snorted and tossed me a pair of ski mitts.

Evidently, she knew this wouldn't be easy for me.

So, donning my new protective gear, with my arm outstretched holding the seeds and my head turned away as if not to look at the horror that would take place, I waited.

When the second bird swooped down low, I was ready.

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Daniel Boltinsky News Editor

DSU absorbs NSAC student union

NEW 'STUDENT ASSOCIATION' FOR TRURO CAMPUS



Jamie Arron, president of the DSU, in Halifax. ••• Photo by Chris Parent

Katherine McKenna
News Contributor

Students of the faculty of agriculture, which was the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) until it merged with Dalhousie last spring, are now newly-minted constituents of the Dal Student Union (DSU).

The two schools merged at the advice of the government-commissioned O'Neill Report, which suggested the approach as a cost-cutting measure. Since then, the campus in Truro has been integrating its student government into Dal's.

When Dal created a seventh student seat on Senate specifically for a faculty of agriculture representative, the Senate would only recognize one official student union. Over the summer, reps from the Truro campus worked with the Dal Student Union (DSU) to hammer out administrative changes.

Jamie Arron, president of the DSU, says that collaborating with the NSAC student union was an opportunity, not a challenge.

"Our approach is to give them as much autonomy as possible," says Arron. "We don't want to be involved in their day to day operations."

"It's more about social connection and working together for student reform."

The NSAC student union was never incorporated, making the legalities of merging the two unions much simpler.

Faculty of agriculture students are now recognized as a 'student association,' allowing them a seat on senate and lobbying opportunities while recognizing their autonomy over the Truro campus.

"We do a lot more than a society," said president of Dalhousie Agricultural Students' Association Paul Manning. "We run our own bar, we have all of our own big events, we do our own orientation. We're bigger in scale and we're so far away that we just thought that we didn't want to go as society because we wanted to imply something bigger."

The Technical University of Nova Scotia, now known as Sexton campus, also amalgamated with Dalhousie in 1985. Since merging with the DSU the engineering society has conceded some autonomy, but stayed unique in other ways.

"Overall I'd say the current DSU executive is very understanding of us being 'different', which means we get to do our own thing while also being a part of the greater Dal community," said Elizabeth Croteau, president of the engineering society, "and I'm glad to know someone has my back if I need the help rather than having

sole liability"

Students on the Truro campus won't pay into the DSU's health plan until theirs expires in 2014, nor will they pay for Halifax-campus related expenses, says Arron.

Instead, the focus has been involving the two campuses socially. About 200 Truro students bussed to this year's Dalfest, and Dal students are encouraged to attend 'College Royale,' a traditional event hosted by the agriculture college that highlights students' work with animal training.

Manning says he hopes that the two campuses can become closer in years to come.

"We host some unique events at the college and we're hoping that Dal students will come up and see what we're about. We had a great time at Dalfest," he says. "It was a real hoot."

More events like that would be great."

But as with any change in administration, there have been challenges. Manning says that balancing usual commitments on top of the new demands can be difficult.

"It's a change. Everyone's been great to help us through things but it's never easy to adjust," he says. "But it's nothing that we can't work around." (9)

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Q&A: Sue Uteck

Kristie Smith
Staff Contributor

Sue Uteck is the incumbent councillor for district seven, and the third candidate we've interviewed. Check out our coverage of the debates on Monday and Tuesday online at dalgazette.com

Q: You've been on council for 13 years now—why are you running again?

Sue Uteck: I think that, with the new expanded territory and new leadership at the top, that Halifax is in it's biggest booming growth since 1949 and I want to be a part of it.

Q: Council doesn't stop because the elections are coming up; what are you doing now?

SU: My big project was the Central Library, as chair of the library board, to bring council into that one. There are no, in October, specific goals for me. I prepare for the upcoming budget, so for example I had a meeting on Friday seeing what streets are being done, what parks are being done, where are we at on the Oakland wharf project, where are we here. So, my October homework has been to get ready for the budget.

Q: You're known by many for your work on tax reform. Can you explain that?

SU: There's an increasing disparity everywhere, starting with the commercial taxes. If you own a business in the downtown area, you might be paying \$70 per square foot: a perfect example of this is King's Palace on Quinpool Road, \$70 per square foot in business taxes. But, if that same

place was in a suburban area, they might be paying as much as \$14 per square foot, like Walmart, who is only paying \$14 per square foot out on Bayers Lake.

There's a real disincentive to be located in the downtown and what I've seen increasingly with those empty lots is what we call the "doughnut effect," where people are vacating and it spreads all around them. Think of it like the rotten core of an apple; the whole thing starts to rot.

Then there's residential taxes. So for you, if you're an apartment dweller, your landlord—if he has anything over eight units—doesn't get what we call the provincial cap assessment. So what happens is their assessed value might go up a couple hundred thousand every year and it's passed onto you, the renter. So that's why you'll see big jumps in rent increases, between water, power, and assessment. You, the renter, are paying more each and every year.

Q: You're also known for trying to make council more transparent. How will you maintain that with a new council if re-elected?

SU: I think that's where I bring the experience, but first of all it'll be a new council so we'll establish those good working relationships right away. I know the big three mayoral candidates—Fred Connors, Tom Martin, and Mike Savage. I've worked with Mike Savage before, so I know I'll have a good working relationship with any one of them. That's one thing that each candidate has promised, and I'll hold them to it.

Sue Uteck on mayor Peter Kelly:

SU: First of all, I have nothing against him personally, but I disagreed with

him politically. The things that you, the public, see now and know about him are the things that I saw behind the scenes. When I would complain, it was always 'Oh, Uteck's picking on Kelly,' but it wasn't that. I think the taxpayer ought to be aware that this bullshit's happening behind the scenes. But it's hard, when you have this machine and the top administrative branch is afraid of him (Kelly). It's like David and Goliath.

Q: Many people are saying district seven will be one of the closest races; who do you see as your main competition?

SU: I think they're all pretty close, I don't have any thoughts about any of them. One of my incumbents, Gerry Walsh, is deliberately lining his signs up next to Mike Savage's, so it looks like if Mike Savage is your future mayor, he's endorsing this candidate. It's just dirty pool.

But I think there's credibility in Wayne Mason. I think Mike MacDonnell, a young university student, is probably coming in too late in the game because I've been out campaigning since June. My goal still is to knock on each and every door, so I think he's just a little late in the game right now.

And the Dawgfather. Jerry (Reddick) brings credibility but he hasn't shown up anywhere, he hasn't shown up to any debates, he hasn't filled out surveys, so I think that within the periphery of Dal he's well known but to the larger community he's not.

Q: So who would you say is your main demographic?

SU: I think whether you vote or not, I'm still your employee because you're in my constituency. I don't really have



Council veteran Sue Uteck speaks to the Gazette about taxes, SMU, and her District 7 rivals, among other things. • • • Photo by Adele van Wyk

a big demographic, I would say it's spread out. I've always been accused of swinging the student vote because my late husband was the athletic director and football coach at Saint Mary's (University), so the name Uteck is synonymous with Saint Mary's but the knock against me is that the only reason I win is because of students coming out and voting. I also have a great working relationship here with Dal. So it's total, either you like me or don't: there's no gray about Sue Uteck.

Q: Now that students will be able to vote in larger numbers, will they affect the vote much?

SU: This is like the urban myth that's come out: students have always been able to vote, all you had to do was present your oil bill, present your I.D., swear an affidavit that you've lived at that address for three months and you've always been allowed to vote. I think this time around we're just putting that push on and to be frank, it scares some residents. Some of them are scared students are going to put a nut in office but I don't think so. Those who want to vote, whether you're a student or not, will come out and vote. **Q**

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Kickin' it Rowe school *School of business renamed in honour of Ken Rowe*

John James
Aaron Merchant
News Contributors

The name 'Rowe' is familiar to all the students in the commerce and management faculties at Dalhousie—the faculties' building is named after him. But on Friday, Rowe's reputation as a key figure at Dal's business school was further cemented with the renaming of the business school in his honour.

Much of the funding and many of the resources that the students in the school of management use on a day-to-day basis are owed to his generous donations. Last October Rowe donated \$15 million to the school, one of the largest donations Dal has ever received.

Hundreds of paper airplanes fell from the tiers of the atrium as students celebrated the renaming of the school. It is a day the students and faculty are unlikely to forget, and that many hope will mark a new era for the business school.

Rowe's reputation at the school comes not only from his financial contributions. Rowe has served on the Dal Board of Governors, as well as multiple advisory committees.

Students seem to be equally enthusiastic about Rowe's contribution. Thomas Li, a first-year student at the Rowe School, said "it seems like his interest in Dalhousie is not just superficial or a publicity stunt. He has a real interest in the university and its school of business."

Rowe is member of the Order of Canada and the Canadian Business Hall of Fame, and is widely regarded as one of the country's top business



Ken Rowe signs the first Rowe school hoodies. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha

people. In an era where big business is often seen to be unsustainable and relentless in its pursuit of profit, Rowe's commitment to conducting business ethically and fostering economic growth in Nova Scotia make him stand out.

Such sentiments were shared by Dalhousie president Tom Traves who voiced his support of Rowe's contributions on Friday, saying that Ken

"has worked steadily, vigorously, to support and encourage the development of our school of business."

Speaking to the students at the ceremony on Friday, Rowe's enthusiasm for the school was apparent. "I only wish I could trade places with you, and relive some of the energy and excitement that I see in this room," said Rowe. After the ceremony on Friday, he met with students from the

commerce, management and MBA programs.

Both students and faculty at the school see Rowe as a role model. "He's a good example of the idea that you can come from anywhere in the world, become a success and most importantly, give back to your community and share your wealth," says Li.

Peggy Cunningham, dean of the

faculty of management, speaking at the ceremony of Friday, said that the university is "binding the name of our business school to Dalhousie's most steadfast supporter. Ken is a person who truly embodies values-based management."

Rowe founded the Industrial Marine Products (IMP) in 1967. He currently serves as IMP's Executive Chairman. **Q**

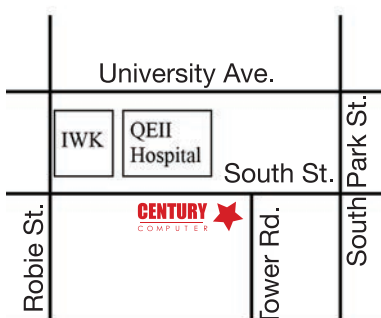
A camel caravan is organized before departure.

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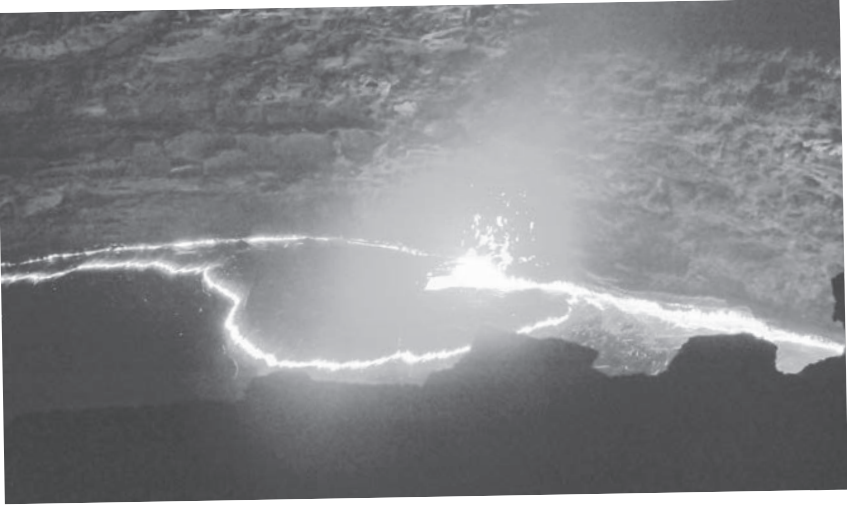
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*To hell and back again
continues next page...*



The Erta Ale volcano bubbles with lava. • • • Photo by Bryn Karcha



Dirt roads and dusty villages eventually gave way to sandy expanses broken by ridges of jagged volcanic rock. We were deep in the depression, and could already feel the effect of the heat. The car was sweltering, and our supply of water was rapidly heating to the point of being undrinkable. The sun was beginning to affect us all, particularly Mikias.

We reached base camp by midafternoon. Like every other settlement we encountered, the car was immediately surrounded by curious locals. But unlike the excited and friendly smiles we normally received, the Afar were reserved and guarded.

We took shelter from the desert sun under the tin roof of a cinder-block hut while Mikias negotiated passage with the chief. Slowly the villagers overcame their mistrust and came to sit with us, playing with my camera and happily posing for photos with our sunglasses on. After a couple hours we set off again, driving across the cracked earth towards the hazy outlines of distant mountains.

Within five minutes one jeep had become mired in mud. The drivers demanded that we return to base camp. If we wanted to make it to the volcano, it would be by camel in the evening when the sun had set. We spent the next several hours waiting for the camel herders to bring their animals in from the desert. As the sun dipped below the horizon, we embarked on what we were told was a three-hour trek to the volcano.

Six hours later the situation had rapidly deteriorated. Mikias' health had worsened to the point of delirium, and he had turned back almost immediately with part of the caravan. The four of us, along with five camels and the eight remaining Afar carried on. We had six herders and guides, as well as two armed police officers for escorts, and not one of them spoke a word of English.

Our water supply was also being rapidly exhausted. We all were beginning to suffer from heat exhaustion, and calculated that we would not have enough water to make it back to camp, even in the relatively cool 30

degrees of the night.

With no plan B, and no way of contacting the outside world, we decided to carry on.

We reached an abandoned village at the base of the volcano. We spent another four hours slowly climbing to the top, crossing a surreal, moonlit expanse reminiscent of an alien world. The unending slope finally gave way to the lip of the mountain. Gareth led the final charge and we crested the peak.

The basin we encountered glowed a forbidding orange tinged with gently curling smoke. We climbed down towards the lava pool, walking on papery volcanic rock that frequently collapsed under our weight. We were met at the edge by a blast of heat and nauseous fumes from the bubbling crater. Standing as close as we dared, we tossed in the few items we had brought: a can of deodorant, a dreadlock and a gold ring.

We only spent ten minutes at the volcano. The sun was rising quickly, and we needed to make it to the abandoned village to take shelter from the midday heat. The mood was triumphant but muted on the descent, our accomplishment tempered by severe dehydration and uncertainty. We had been walking for more than 12 hours on what was supposed to be a three-hour hike. We had only a few litres of water each, and everyone was desperate for anything cold.

Finding the land rovers waiting for us at the bottom of the mountain was indescribable. Having recovered somewhat, Mikias had found a way through the mud to pick us up half-way back. It had been 16 hours, and we were exhausted. Above all, we needed to cool down.

A few hours later we found ourselves in a large village halfway back to Mek'ele. We stopped at a small café for lunch. Sitting on tiny goat-skin stools in the squalid confines of the mud structure, our hostess ladled water over several bottle of lukewarm Coke before serving us. ☹



TOP: From Left: Gareth Coombes, Graham Litman and Ellen Richmond standing next to a hut at base camp.
INSERT LEFT: Richmond holding a police officers AK-47. Local police provided security for the trip.
INSERT RIGHT: Litman aboard a camel for a long journey.
BELOW: Afar Villager sporting Bryn Karcha's shades. • • • Photos by Bryn Karcha

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The annual march raises awareness of sexual violence in our communities. ••• Photo by Michael Cestnik

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Halifax community marches to defend women's rights

Melissa Shaw
News Contributor

Signs reading 'Respect my rights to walk alone' and 'no more silence no more violence' were held in Victoria Park on Sept. 28 for Take Back the Night.

The annual march was organized by the Dalhousie Women's Centre and raises awareness of sexual violence in the community.

In 2011 one sexual assault was reported to Halifax police every day, according to statistics from the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre. There were 393 cases reported that year.

Take Back the Night began in Philadelphia in October of 1975. It was a reaction to the stabbing of a young woman who was walking home at night. Since then, similar events have been held around the world.

Daphne Goodwin is a board member for the Dalhousie Women's Centre and was part of the organizing committee for the event. She says Take Back the Night is an opportunity to get people involved with the groups around them.

"Touch them. Tell them what you think. Make friends with them and let them know who you are and as they get to know you, what your values are, they will communicate your values that they resonate with. That's how cultural change is made."

Take Back the Night brings together a diverse group that included men, members of the LGBTQ community, and women of colour.

Sam Krawec was at the march. "I'm against violence against women. I think it's important for allies to meet and to show their visibility and to show their solidarity with women's rights."

The first guest speaker at the rally was Rebecca Faria, the local director of Hollaback! Halifax. Hollaback! is a movement to end street harassment and has a network of activists around the world.

"Harassers are people who behave

as if your safety, your comfort, and your consent are not important and relevant and they are wrong and we are going to hold them accountable," says Faria.

Spoken word artist El Jones, who teaches at Dal, presented a poem about Shana Carter. Carter, a former Halifax resident, was missing for almost two years before her remains were found just days before Take Back the Night.

"THAT'S HOW CULTURAL CHANGE IS MADE."


"She had children. She was a mother. She had people that loved her and she just disappeared and there was really no effort to find her outside of the people that loved her and now she's dead. Which happens all the time to women," Jones says.

The man Carter was living with at the time, Christopher Lee Sharples, has been charged with first-degree murder.

"I think we have to put more value on the lives of women and girls, particularly women and girls of colour," said Jones.

Laurel Walsh is also on the board of directors at the DWC. She says her women's studies teacher in university changed her perspective and always praised Take Back the Night. She has attended marches in Ottawa and in Halifax.

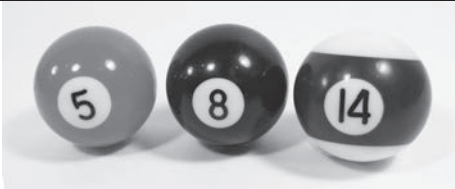
"I really like the spirit that we have at ours and I think this year was especially strong," she says.

The crowd marched towards the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre chanting, "claim our bodies, claim our rights, take a stand, take back the night." People passing by on the street stopped to watch or shout their support. 

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Noise, crowds and dried out chewing gum assault the senses on the long walk down this central Halifax artery. ••• Photo by Bryn Karcha

Walking down Spring Garden Road (I HATE IT)

Luke Orrell
Opinions Contributor

I hate walking down Spring Garden Road. If Halifax had a Worst Street Contest, I would first question why this contest existed, and then I would choose Spring Garden. Unfortunately, many students must traverse it at some point in the week. Since we don't have teleportation yet, here are a few tips for the road.

The smell of Spring Garden is disgusting. It does not even come close to smelling like spring or a garden. I usually recite a prayer to my nostrils before entering the street. Are people urinating on hot garbage somewhere? To avoid this smell, I advise covering your mouth and nose in duct tape. Breathing is overrated and this precaution won't even make you the weirdest person on the street. I myself have the Bane mask from *The Dark Knight Rises*. It really doesn't eliminate the smell, but the combined effect of my English accent and bulging "muscles" strikes fear into any civilian.

There is also an abundance of people asking for money. I have nothing against this action. But one time, I didn't give money and the person yelled a curse at me. Not a bad word, a curse, like magic. Seriously, I am a student, I don't have unlimited disposable income. Plus, once I finish school, I will most likely be joining you. To avoid a like scenario, I advise


duct taping your hands to your hips and your cell phone about an inch and a half away from your face. This way, no one will be able to hand you anything, and you can avoid seeing the lady from *Drag Me to Hell* by the cell phone light blinding your retinas.


For some reason, people driving down Spring Garden morph into Vin Diesel. I can't count the number of times I have almost been hit by a neon car with racing stripes. And they are consistently blaring bad music when this happens. Why can't I almost get hit by a BMW playing The Rolling Stones? No, it's always the souped-up Civic playing Pit Bull. My advice: make sure to check there isn't a car turning, especially when the "walk" sign is showing. If a car is turning, throw duct tape at them. This will almost definitely get them to stop. If it doesn't work and they do run you down in their car, that is a very lucrative lawsuit for you.

Spring Garden is like a mine field, and with these proper tips you will avoid getting blown apart. I can't promise that these tips will make your stroll more pleasant, but Spring Garden can't promise that you'll leave alive, either.

Actually, Spring Garden can't promise jack. Because it's a street. ☹

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ADVICE FOR STUDENTS Willie Stratton Musicians

Wait for the corn to dry before sweeping
the floor and fuck it dawg life's a risk.



—Andrea Flockheart



—Kathryn Johnson

REACTIONS

Dal in Bible Hill/Truro

LEARNING ABOUT COW RECTUMS 🐾

BACK TO THE LAND FANTASIES REALIZED 🐾 🐾

PROXIMITY TO STANFIELD'S FACTORY OUTLET 🐾 🐾 🐾

GROWING BETTER WEED 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

SEXTON CAMPUS DOESN'T SEEM SO FAR AWAY 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

EAST COAST

Mt. A dorm stickers

Part 2 of 2

This summer, *The Other Gazette* had a great time at Sappy Fest in Sackville, N.B. A stay at Mount Allison University dormitories engendered a deep fondness for their instructional stickers...



the other

SCHOOLS DAL WILL TAKE
OVER IS all of them



POETRY

Instructions on Attaining Permission



Go into the back yard.
Select a single object.
Using the eye of your mind
paint it into absence.
For instance the toy truck
for instance the shed door
is now a hole of nothing.
Return to wherever is
warmest
with your new painting
and hang it there
as if you are now licensed
to perform a rare and
delicate
surgery

—Yoko Tamagachi

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MYSTERY
OR CODE



IMPORTANT INFORMATION Dal Homecoming

LOSING FOOTBALL
TO WORST RIVAL



LOBSTER TAILGATE
INSIDE

OLD ALUM CRUISING
CAMPUS

TIGER SUIT
OUT AGAIN

FREE BURGERS
AND BEER PATIO

EXCITING

POETRY

Moonwort

Black folds into fog into
black folds. She is
back breathing night
with the

sleepless
plucking
ferns
by the moon
before
they
unfurl
unshoe the
coming
horses.

—Nanci Lee

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QUESTION,
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spend time with those you love.

—Bethany Riordan-Butterworth

4/16 '12

**STREET
INTERVIEW**

Say something about Truro



"Flat"
Matt Gynn
Graduated Biology/
Sustainability Wednesday



"I've only ever been there one
night, against my free will"
Anne England
3rd-year history & French



"It's between Halifax
and Fredricton"
Sajjad Dholasania
Electronic commerce masters



"It looks good from the highway"
Madelaine Cleric
2nd-year commerce



"I've never stopped
other than for pizza"
Sarah Sullivan-Smith
2nd-year management



"It has a nice trail"
Anna Bishop
3rd-year environmental
science & CSP



"I've seen the sign
on the highway"
Hussein Savji
2nd-year economics



"I know nothing about Truro"
Thomas Grand
2nd-year commerce

by Daniel Boltinsky and Chris Parent

TRURO THOUGHTS?

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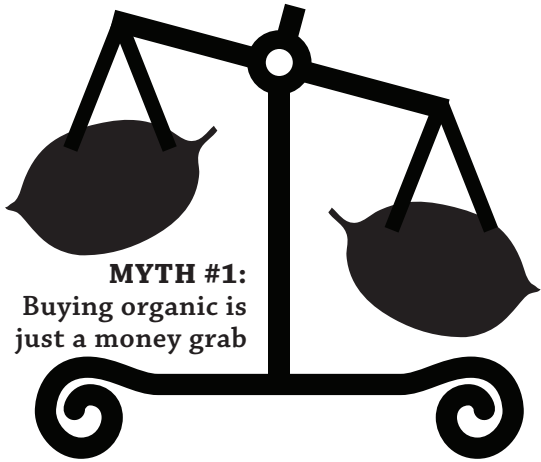
A balanced diet

Demystifying the organic food section

Shelby Rutledge
Opinions Contributor

Organic, or non-organic—what should you trust as a buyer? Opinions contributor Shelby Rutledge explores myths and facts of organic and non-organic eating, as well as the health benefits and drawbacks from both.

—Samantha Elmsley



MYTH #1:
Buying organic is just a money grab

FACT

Organic products generally cost more than non-organic: depending on the store you could be paying 40 to 50 per cent more. Contrary to popular belief, this price markup is not just a money grab. When you pay for certified organic products you are paying for guaranteed eco-friendly processing with minimal or no use of chemicals, which means the produce must be grown in smaller crop sizes. This process is both eco-friendly and more costly, which registers on the grocery store price tag.



MYTH #2:
Organic foods are always healthier for you

FACT

Yes and no. Pop will always be pop, and chips will always be chips, organic or not. Any processed foods are still going to contain chemicals and additives. The health benefits of organic foods are more evident in fresh produce and livestock products. These are grown and raised at least 95 per cent chemical- and pesticide-free, in accordance with Canada Organic standards. In non-organic meat products, farmers feed their cows extra growth hormones, antibiotics, androgen trenbolone acetate, flunixin, testosterone and other chemicals in their food. This means when the meat is processed for consumption individuals will ingest the same chemicals, disturbing your health and the natural hormonal balance in your body. Some negative health effects can include increased likelihood of breast cancer, early puberty and intestinal illness.



MYTH #3:
Organic is just marketing feature

FACT

The key here is to understand the different types of labels and what they mean. A ‘made with organic ingredients’ label indicates that at minimum 75 per cent of the ingredients of the product are organic. An ‘organic’ certificate is usually small and is associated with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic, Canada Organic or Certified Organic. Their logos signify that at least 95 per cent of the ingredients in the product are organic. There is no doubt that companies use the o- word to draw attention to their products and to compete with other companies. However, labeling standards are strict and can be trusted. Companies are fined at least \$10,000 if certificates are used without government certification.

Although non-organic food products are cheaper to buy, organic products are the way to go. If you want to start buying organically, start locally: look up health stores like the Planet Organic Market and support Halifax by going to the Halifax Seaport Farmer’s Market (a great place to try new foods and to meet new people).

Buy organic, buy local, and buy fresh—‘cause at the end of the day, you are what you eat. ☺

GOTTA WATCH ‘EM ALL

Downloading movies is easy—and wrong



Why pay for expensive cable options when you can download for free? • • • Photo by Chris Parent

Thoshlae Smith
Opinions Contributor

Online movies are fast, convenient, free—and illegal. Having been back to school for a little less than three weeks, I’ve noticed a growing tendency to download movies instead of buying them, which I find shocking in its casual acceptability. It’s become the norm for many students I’ve spoken to, and that irks the hell out of me.

At first glance, the issue seemed to be fuelled by the costs of bundle prices offered by Bell Aliant, Eastlink and other cable providers around Halifax. After all, who’s going to pay \$79.95 a month to EastLink when they can watch the same shows for free?

Ayla Kohler, a third year management student at Dalhousie, says she wouldn’t pay that price.

“The most I’d maybe pay is \$30 a month,” says Kohler.

Kohler has only downloaded illegally once in her life—so she’s not too worried about getting caught. Cases like these are typically not pursued, according to Constable Brian Palmer, Public Information Officer for the Halifax Regional Police.

“It’s copyright law, not civil law,” Palmer says. “Illegal downloading happens but it’s not on our radar.”

I bet that’s great news to all the students who choose the illegal path to an episode of *The Office*. You can watch all the movies you want online for free. You won’t get arrested, because the fact of the matter is, police have bigger crimes to solve.

Unfortunately, for many people lack of police interference is not news.

“I don’t think police have a way to monitor how much people watch movies online,” said Jose De la Torre, a third-year student at Mount Saint

Vincent University. He says there’s no chance he’ll pay for cable anytime soon.

“The only thing I’d like to watch would be the History or Discovery channels—but all of those things I can find online,” says De La Torre, who’s an international student from Mexico.

Pirating movies, similar to illegal downloading, is an ongoing issue in his home country.

“In Mexico most places that sell counterfeit movies are owned by gangsters. All of those businesses are illegal and if you go and buy movies from people who sell them you are supporting them. Whereas if you go online there are quite a few websites that are created by one person or a few people which allow [everyday people] to upload movies,” says De La Torre.

One illegal activity should not be more acceptable than another, but sadly, a lack of police involvement encourages the downloading tendency. Why wouldn’t people continue doing it if they almost never get punished?

I can think of a few good reasons not to watch illegal movies online.

On a personal level, you’ll miss out on that exciting thrill of ripping the plastic off your new movie. On a larger scale, if you pay for cable you’re contributing to the economy, which means you’re creating jobs. You can look forward to being home at a certain time to watch your favourite TV series. If you’re single, you’re passing up the opportunity of running into a hottie while standing in the checkout line.

Paying for movies and TV may not be the most convenient choice, but it has one thing going for it that illegal downloading never will: it’s honest. It will always be the right thing to do. ☺



Presenters get creative with Japanese format. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

Pechu Whatcha?

A NIGHT OF CHIT CHAT AND CULTURE

Melissa Shaw
Arts Contributor

Pecha Kucha means 'chit chat' in Japanese. That meaning is translated into an event where speakers show 20 slides, and have 20 seconds to speak for each. The first event was hosted in by a Tokyo architecture firm in 2003 and the format has quickly spread, with over 500 cities now hosting Pecha Kucha Nights.

Halifax's latest Pechu Kucha was at The Canadian Museum of Immigration, a.k.a Pier 21, on Sept. 20. Museum coordinator Philippa Gunn says the night is "a way for creative people to share ideas in a really quick format."

Gunn says Pecha Kucha fits well with the current photo exhibit at the museum: Naomi Harris' Canada-wide images of cultural diversity. Gunn says she wants Pecha Kucha, "to get people thinking about what cultural landscapes are in Canada and how diversity and immigration enriches (...) our way of life."

The host for the night was Bob Mann, who introduced the presenters. The night started with a passion for community. Dean Casavechia traveled to rural Newfoundland photographing the lives of the locals and their festivals. Images of girls in 4H clubs with their rabbits and ox pull competitions flashed across the projector screen.

Sarah Filmore spoke about the women behind the creation and the art of Nocturne; Ross Soward talked about the Switch Open Street Sunday project, which closed the street to cars and allowed the community travel on foot or by bicycle.

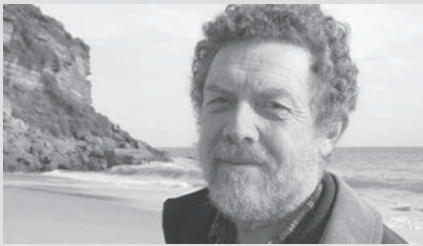
Work was a source of stories. Jorge Loza documented his life working as a musician on a cruise ship for six years and Ben Stone detailed his life with the Zuppa Theatre cast. Adam Conter shared his experiences in home renovation and included photos of friends breaking his old bathroom tiles with a hammer. Sean Drohan spoke about teaching yoga and the spiritual landscape of the Kalapa Valley in Cape Breton against a picturesque background.

Several of the presentations were about interactions with those closest to us. Soulafa Al-Abassi paid tribute to the life of her cat and the lessons pets can teach us and Jasmine Oore remembered growing up with her father. She explored the awkwardness that can come from generational and cultural clashes through photos of a Dad wearing embarrassingly short shorts. Oore says, "I think that what we avoid and what makes us uncomfortable is also a reflection of our culture."

The 12th Pecha Kucha Night in Halifax ended with loud applause and a lot of ideas to for everyone to chit chat about. ☺

Attention all aspiring Creative Writers

The Department of English and the College of Sustainability are pleased to host poet, journalist, and environmentalist Harry Thurston.



During his residency Harry will be available for individual consultation. He is also offering a biweekly non-credit workshop for those wishing to pursue creative writing.

If you're a closet writer—or just curious—come and explore ways of kick-starting the creative-writing process in four informal, bi-weekly workshops, October 16 and 30 and November 13 and 27.

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Tuesday November 27, 5:30-7:00pm

The workshops will meet in McCain room 1116 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Enrolment is limited to 12 per workshop. The deadline to apply is October 12. Register by email: carole.poirier@dal.ca or telephone at 494-3387.

FUNNY GIRLS

Local lady comedians show the boys how it's done



As irreverent as she is innocent-looking.. ••• Photo by Angela Gzowski

Hilary Stamper

Arts Contributor

They say it takes a lot of balls to stand in front of a crowd of people and try to convince them you're funny. Considering there wasn't a single ball in the line-up for It's That Time of the Month last Monday, it may be time to rethink exactly what it does take to be a stand-up comedian.

"Courage and depression," says Megan MacKay, half-joking. "You have to be kind of crazy but also sad."

MacKay says she has been doing stand-up comedy for a little over a year. Last week she was able to share a stage with lady comedians such as Andie Bulman, Emma Cooper, Catherine Robertson and Picnicface's Cheryl Hann.

With respect to what it takes to do stand-up, Cheryl Hann says: "You have to just get over your fear of getting up and going on stage. After that it's sort of anything goes—whatever you think is funny, you should just do it."

According to Cooper, stand-up requires "observing the world and being comfortable with your own version of the observations, and then rewriting and rewriting and rewriting and rewriting."

Since all these women were able to get on stage and make the audience laugh and truly appreciate the comedians for sharing their craft, one has to conclude that it takes a lot more than having balls to be a stand-up

comedian.

Andie Bulman originally came up with the idea for an all-female comedy show. A relative newcomer to the stand-up scene, Bulman wanted to respond to the growing number of female comedians in Halifax.

"I noticed that comedy in this city was really strong and there were a lot of women doing it. It's really encouraging and I thought we should do something to celebrate this community." Bulman hopes the show can gain enough momentum for there to be touring possibilities in the future.

"It's pretty awesome to not be the only girl in town and that we actually have enough [female comedians] to have a whole show together" says Catherine Robertson, who has been a stand-up comedian for six years. "When I started out it would just be me with two smelly guys going around in a van."

Was 'It's that Time of the Month' worth staying up past 9 p.m. on a Monday? Flashbacks to Hann passionately twirling to Alanis Morissette and then barfing on stage, or MacKay's demonstration of being a Cougar, *Man vs. Wild* style, come to mind, and the answer is implicit. If you notice a show that features any of these women—Emma Cooper, Megan MacKay, Andie Bulman, Sandi Rankaduwa, Catherine Robertson and Cheryl Hann—you may want to stay up on a school night. ☹

Lilah Kemp: the hero version

The reading series exposes artistic talent in Halifax

Kristen Reid
Kathleen Stairs

Arts Contributors

Picture this: a small black room strewn with artistic patrons holding mason jars full of wine and a distinct feeling of ripe, undiscovered genius. The Bus Stop Theatre presented the 17th episode of the Lilah Kemp Reading Series on Sept. 26.

The aura of the space and low lighting were dramatic; it would not be a causal showcase. The night started early, with the sound check. Corey Mombourquette, Lilah Kemp founder, casually joked with the performers and crew while fixing last minute details in the low stage-light. The Lilah Kemp series was birthed from the Allan Street Reading series, which inspired Mombourquette to read his own work, and encouraged amateur artists to pursue and share their talents in a comfortable atmosphere. Mombourquette started Lilah Kemp in Feb. 2011, with the help of a friend and patron of the arts.

The theme for last Wednesday's episode, the second of the season, was heroes. Artists were encouraged to express love for personal heroes or explore preconceived concepts of the theme.

Mombourquette stepped onstage to introduce the series to the audience and the first reader, Cody Hawes, a Dalhousie graduate. It has been few years since her last reading, but Hawes was one of the first writers to read her work with the encouragement of Mombourquette. Hawes's piece, beautifully written and expertly delivered, was about a teacher from her high school who challenged her into pursuing her love of words.

After the event, Hawes said that writing for Lilah Kemp is a creative workout, and that the "do it yourself" attitude of Halifax encourages and deeply supports the artists and their



Cody Hawes is a Lilah Kemp original. ••• Photo by Kristen Reid

imaginative enterprises.

The night continued with a reading by poet Matthew Tierney, followed by a bit of music from local band Panos Giannoulis. After a brief intermission, performance artist Brian Riley presented a piece complete with signs and capes, perfectly appropriate for the evening's theme.

The event was topped off by a highly amusing prose reading from

Josh Tibbets and the heartfelt poetry of touring writer, Matthew Henderson.

Hawes, among other amateur artists, is excited to be reading for the next episode, which will be held Oct. 24 at the Bus Stop Theatre. ☹

For more information visit:
www.LilahKempReading.blogspot.ca

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A Novel Review

GONE GIRL

BY GILLIAN FLYNN

Samantha Alexander
Arts Contributor


.....

Gone Girl exploded on the pop culture stratosphere this summer. It seemed to top every summer must-read and critics' pick list, but was Gillian Flynn's latest installment into the sinister murder/suspense genre she is quickly mastering worth the hype?

The book begins on the fifth wedding anniversary of Nick and Amy Dunne, two upstate New Yorkers whose marriage seems as picture-perfect as the husband-and-wife ornaments that sit atop frosted wedding cakes. On this day, however, Nick comes home to the prototypical CSI scene of struggle: shattered glass, an overturned ottoman and a missing wife. Nick is the prime suspect, and his small town, convinced of his guilt, turns their backs on him. But unlike a wedding cake ornament, there is

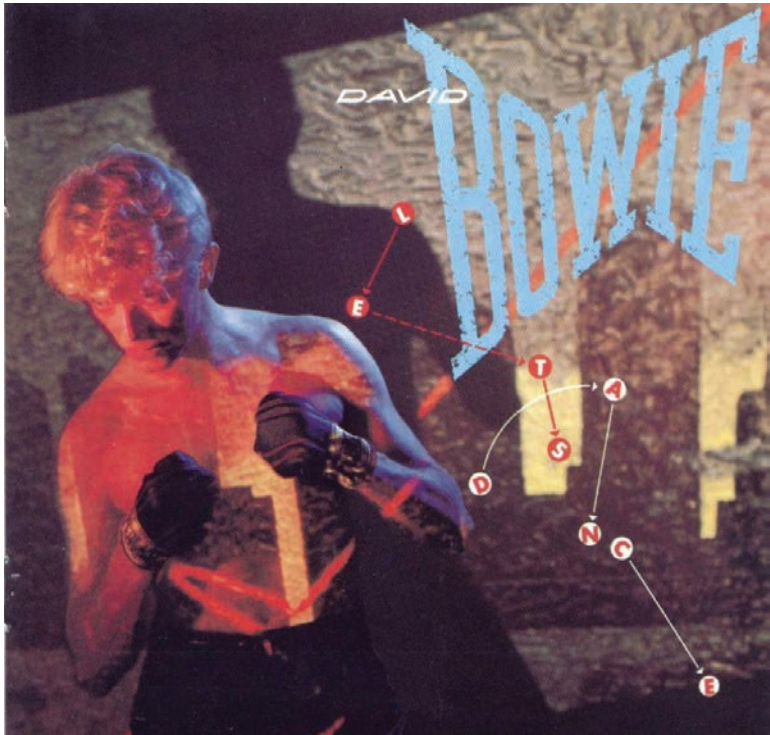
something far darker lurking behind Nick and Amy's marriage, behind the plastic veneer and plastered smiles.

Flynn takes the unreliable-narrator storyline to the next level, with a deliciously wicked plot twist that transcends the beach-read exterior. The narration is not exactly sophisticated—it sometimes reads like a trashy romance novel—but that's part of what makes *Gone Girl* such an irresistible indulgence. In any case, this novel is sure to keep you up at night whether you're racing through each page or haunted by the portrait Flynn paints of one of the most manic psychopaths in recent fiction.

There is an inherent creepiness in knowing a person so well you're able to predict their every move. But in *Gone Girl*, you learn that the creepiest part about all doomed relationships is when you don't know that person at all. 



Gillian Flynn, what is your formula? Supplied photo by Heidi Jo Brady



Take a glance at

Bowie's *Let's Dance*

Jonathan Bruce
Arts Contributor

.....

As the 1970s wore down, Bowie retired his stage personas of Ziggy Stardust, Aladdin Sane, and the Thin White Duke, and opted for new-wave music on 1983's *Let's Dance*. Despite being filled with upbeat rhythms, *Let's Dance* is a dark, introspective album which focuses on prejudice, racism, man versus God, and human nature. The title track "Let's

Dance" concerns Australian Aboriginals unsuccessfully resisting Western culture and watching their way of life disappear. The song "China Girl" alludes to an interracial relationship, and "Modern Love" depicts a man struggling in his relationship with God. However, the biggest surprise on the album is a reworked version of "Cat People," a gothic-inspired track showcasing Bowie's vocal range. 



Bob Dylan channels Gollum on new record. Supplied photo by Chris Pizello Associated Press

ADHD review



Rana Encol
Arts Contributor

.....

ADHD sing distorted anthems for the post-modern era, gossamer vocals weave among dark washes of distortion quoting Black Sabbath and Bloody Valentine. On "Blak Led" a swaggering lass croons, "I want your money to buy some bread / Give me your money, I'll go to the store" over jaded Iron Man riffs. 


Immortal Tempest

Andrew Mills
Arts Editor

.....

On *Tempest's* first single Bob Dylan channels Gollum over some repetitive, juke-boxey swing tune about a whistle. It's the type of song that, after a fifth listen or fifth rye, might switch on a psychotic hairpin from irritating to brilliant. It's hard to imagine

a being who relishes elder-bluesman Dylan, outside your usual perverse misanthrope blasting late-career Bob to enjoy the void between his cultural unimpeachability and the actual music. And yes, like on the Christmas album, Dylan still sounds like a whiskey-sunk wretch, debauching hymns over that unfathomably persistent snare waltz. I didn't say it wasn't fun.

Rolling Stone's Will Hermes calls this Dylan's darkest record, and I think I know what he means. Maybe Dylan's still fucking with us, on some meta-physical crusade against good taste, but I sense he's sincere as hell, and like the titular whistle, won't be stopping—ever. 



Greg Brown was dialed in during Holland College's 23-13 victory. • • • Photo by Pau Balite

Tigers football cannot claw back

DAL FOOTBALL SHOWS ENCOURAGING SIGNS IN FOURTH QUARTER

Ian Froese
Sports Editor

Home has not been too kind for the Dalhousie Football Club.

The Tigers lost their second home match this season, again struggling to move the chains in front of their fans Sept. 29, only getting on the scoreboard in the fourth quarter when two late touchdowns brought the Tigers to within striking distance. Dal, whose sole victory has come on the road, is now 1-2 on the season following their 23-13 defeat against the 2-1 Holland College Hurricanes.

Despite the homecoming loss, Tigers coach Stuart MacLean is at least happy knowing their fourth quarter comeback bodes well for a more competitive rematch in Charlottetown on Thanksgiving weekend.

"We've got to stop making mistakes, we've got to know our assignments and play a better football game next week to beat them," says MacLean. "They're a good team."

Dal's offensive struggles were punctuated in a first half in which the Tigers may not have completed a single pass. The Tigers chose to rely more heavily on their running game

and although they had more success, they could not get the points they needed.

Holland College had better luck offensively, however. Alex Fitzpatrick ran in a blocked punt at the end of the opening frame for their first touchdown. In the second quarter, the Hurricanes collected two additional points from a safety and Robbie Tufts caught a 40-yard or so pass off a brilliant lateral play that confounded Dal's defenders, making it 16-0.

"WE SCORED 13 POINTS, THEY SCORED 23 POINTS."

MacLean says the first half put his squad at an early disadvantage.

"If it wasn't for the [blocked punt] and a trick play, the score would be really different. We scored 13 points, they scored 23 points, it's only a 10-point differential," he says.

The deficit for the Tigers was more

pronounced in the fourth quarter, with a 23-0 climb for the Hurricanes to surmount. As the home crowd began to clear out, Dal gave their remaining fans something to cheer about. Quarterback Michael Tassone punched in their first touchdown only yards from the end zone and Sam Labenski did the same with about two minutes remaining in the match.

It was a memorable six points for Labenski, whose name wasn't even on the game program. He decided just a week earlier to strap on the pads after a four-year hiatus from competitive football and he now has a touchdown to show for himself.

"I didn't really expect it," he says of contributing offensively. "I was doing more blocking for the receivers and such, which I'm glad to do, but when they gave it to me, called my number, I was pretty happy."

With about a minute remaining in the first half, the match was suspended when some lights shining over Wickwire Field malfunctioned. The game's officials decided to call an early intermission and an extra minute was added to the next half when the lights turned back on. Ⓜ

AFL STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS	WPCT
UNB Fredericton	3	3	0	0	6	1.000
Holland College	3	2	1	0	4	.667
Dalhousie	3	1	2	0	2	.333
UNB Saint John	3	0	3	0	0	.000

DAL'S UPCOMING GAMES

- SATURDAY, OCT. 6**
Dalhousie at Holland College, 1 p.m.
- SATURDAY, OCT. 13**
UNB Saint John at Dalhousie, 6 p.m.
Oktoberfest promotion before the game
- SATURDAY, OCT. 20**
Dalhousie at UNB Fredericton, 1 p.m.
- SATURDAY, OCT. 27**
League semi-final (all AFL teams qualify)

Women’s soccer coach frustrated despite win

Uninspired, still clinch three points

Graeme Benjamin
Assistant Sports Editor

With seven games under their belt, the Dalhousie women’s soccer team is among the top three teams in the AUS. But that’s not enough for head coach Jack Hutchison.

Although the Tigers beat Acadia 2-1 on Sept. 29, Hutchison was not pleased with his squad’s effort at all.

“THE GIRLS GOT TO FIND A LITTLE HEART, PLAY WITH A LITTLE PASSION.”

“I think two things need to change for me. One, the girls got to find a little heart, play with a little passion, and number two: they just can’t keep making mental mistakes,” he says.

Hutchison gathered his team after the game and loudly criticized them, causing fans at the opposite side of Wickwire Field to take notice. Dal’s coach knows if something doesn’t change quick with his squad, it will be an uphill battle for them to defend their league crowd.

“Today we almost lost to a team that, I’ll give them credit, worked very hard,” he says. “But quite honestly that shouldn’t have been a match.”

Dal’s Rieka Santilli agrees.

“We need to be sharper,” says the fifth-year veteran. “We weren’t [playing] our best even though we did pull off the win.”

The Tigers struggled to get anything going offensively throughout the game. Midway through the second half, it looked like the result would be a split decision. That is, until Doriana Homerski clinched the victory, firing the game-winner with 11 minutes remaining.

The Tigers have a week and a half break until they head to Saint Mary’s to take on the Huskies. The last time the cross-town rivals met up earlier this season, the game was a scoreless draw.

Dal then takes on the UPEI Panthers Oct. 13 at home, a team that is tied with Cape Breton at the top of the conference table.

Hutchison is skeptical of how his team will perform with six games left on the schedule.

“How we’re going to go forward is a matter of them doing what they have to do. A few practices where we discipline the mental mistakes and try to get them to maybe look better organized,” he says, “but I really don’t know.”



Striker Bianca Jakisa helped the Tigers narrowly surpass Acadia 2-1. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

Men’s soccer outclassed

Tigers cannot recover from three-goal barrage in first half



Dal’s James Nearing tries to get a foot on the ball as his opponent breaks for it. • • • Photo by Chris Parent

Ian Froese
Sports Editor

Inconsistency has marred the first half of this campaign for the Dalhousie men’s soccer team.

The Tigers knew scoring would be a question mark entering this season, but they had more to worry about than solely their offensive production Sept. 29 at Wickwire Field. The Tigers were outplayed in most facets of the game, ceding three goals in the opening half to drop a 3-2 decision against the Acadia Axemen.

The defeat leaves Dal in a battle for the sixth and final playoff spot in the AUS, tying them with the eight points of St. Francis Xavier and Cape Breton University. The Tigers have not missed the postseason in the 10-team conference since 2007.

Third-year striker Tyler Lewars knows as much as anybody that his team needs to be better.

“This was our only game this weekend so we figured we’d leave everything on the pitch,” says Lewars, “but, I don’t know, I don’t think that really happened for us.”

In what was at times a rain-drenched affair, the Tigers found themselves behind by two goals midway through the opening frame. Dal keeper Jason Ross could not make the second stop on an Axemen attack, surrendering an open net for Acadia’s Cochrane Noseworthy to make it 1-0 in the 28th minute. Then, less than a minute later, Noseworthy got on the board again, booting a screamer from about 35 feet away over Ross’ outstretched arms to take the 2-0 advantage.

After the Axemen took a 3-1 edge on another rebound chance Dal could not clear, Lewars would be the only scorer in the second half. The

inspired comeback attempt that followed, however, did not produce the equalizer the Tigers needed.

Dal coach Pat Nearing says his side had opportunities to change the outcome of this match.

“WE FIGURED WE’D LEAVE EVERYTHING ON THE PITCH, BUT I DON’T THINK THAT REALLY HAPPENED.”

“I mean, we had a penalty saved against us. We need to finish all of those chances,” says Nearing. “With that penalty, it’s a 3-3 tie and at least there’s some dignity in that.”

The Tigers were without two of their standouts. Defender Mark Hagen left the pitch during the match after he took an unfortunate knee to the back. He will likely be out for at least a week due to a pinched or inflamed nerve. Meanwhile, striker Julian Perrotta was conspicuously absent from the game. Nearing said he missed too many training sessions this week and was told to sit this one out.

Dal has six games left on their schedule. Their next match is Oct. 10 at Saint Mary’s.

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—Jessica Perrie

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2. Mo Kenney - Mo Kenney
3. Erin Costello - We Can Get Over
4. Canailles - Manger Du Bois
5. The Wilderness Of Manitoba - Island
6. Dance Movie - Interlopers
7. Mick Ferris & His Feelings - S/T
8. Tim Chaisson - The Other Side
9. Whitehorse - The Fate of the World
10. Grizzly Bear - Shields

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Looper

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THE SEXTANT

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DUES AGM shows relations remain strained

Funding arrangements between DUES, DES, and the Dean debated



Ben Wedge
Editor in Chief
Industrial '13

Last Thursday's general meeting of the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society (DUES) showed that financial relations between the society, the Dean of Engineering, and the Diploma of Engineering Society (DES) are less than ideal. Several questions were brought up concerning the amount of money that is transferred between DUES, the parent society, and DES, the Department Society for first and second year students.

There were a number of policy changes passed, including a requirement to submit grants to the DSU before asking DUES for funding, and a narrowing of the rules around conference funding. Several proposed changes were tabled as the President, Beth Croteau (Industrial '13) was absent and could not speak to the motions. Chief among these was the formation of a Conference Committee to select delegates to major Canadian Federation of Engineering Students conferences, as a recent conference was attended only by graduating seniors. The committee is an attempt to ensure future conferences have balanced attendance, and will be voted on at the next DUES Council meeting.

The grant application policy generated a fair bit of discussion and ques-



The DUES Executive and Chair Riccardo Ciccirelli (Civil '13) sit in advance of the start of the Fall General Meeting..

tions, with student concerns including a lack of control over whether both the DSU and DUES would provide funding to the same event, the additional paperwork required, and concern over the merit of the proposal. VP External Michael Matthews (Mechanical '13) answered most of the questions, stating that it is an attempt to ease pressure on the grants budget so that funding can be returned to other campus events. In a moment of pressure, the best response he could muster to a question about the paperwork required to submit to

"DON'T BE SCARED OFF BY THE WORD PACKAGE!"

—VP External Michael Matthews

applications was "Don't be scared off by the word package!" which elicited many chuckles from the crowd.

When VP Finance Justin Cooke (Chemical '14) brought up funding, the meeting instantly became lively. The DES reps objected to the fact that they paid \$1,500 for Orientation and Fall Fest while DUES paid only \$500. Cooke's defence was that the events came in under budget and the Dean agreed to contribute more than he was asked. After some back and forth they agreed to drop the issue and discuss it later. Cooke also noted that the Dean has yet to provide \$15,000 in funding which he promised for tutoring, fall fest/orientation, the CFES Presidents' Meeting, and some smaller events. After the meeting, Cooke was clear that there is sufficient money to continue regular operations of the Society in the interim. The Dean could not be reached for comment. Despite the disagreement with DES, the budget was passed unanimously.

In a curious procedural moment,

the nomination of the VP Finance (Winter) was initially tabled, then resurrected when Matthews recalled a request for nomination from Nikheel Premasagar (Industrial '14) who is away on a work term. The question was put and failed, so the position remains open for any engineering student who will be in class this winter and does not currently sit on one of the Department level societies. Contact president@daleng.ca for more information.

With a number of voices participating and most of the Executive's objectives for the meeting achieved students left the meeting appearing mostly satisfied with the state of the society, as evidenced by the lack of opposition to all but one proposal.

This article has been condensed from the online version. -Ed

Holgate misses the mark on Quebec student strikes



Martin Miller
Contributor
Mechanical '13

Note: While I am a member of the Dalhousie Student Union Council, the views expressed in this article are my own, and not that of the DSU or any other body of which I am a member.

I think it is commendable to see a student's article providing a critical analysis of the events of Quebec's "Maple Spring" however, there are several major flaws in Alex Holgate's analysis of this year's events. In this space I will attempt to clarify some of the issues at play.

Quebec students do pay the lowest tuition in Canada, but this has a significant effect on their tax burden.

Quebec income tax rates start at 16%, the highest in the country. Nova Scotia's tax rates start at 8.79%. Quebec also receives the second lowest amount of transfer payments per resident – the "7 billion dollars" figure simply ignores the fact that Quebec has over 25% of Canada's population. Quebec receives \$900 in transfer payments per resident – in contrast, Nova Scotia receives \$1,409, the third highest in Canada. Tuition payments, contrary to popular belief, were not the only issue affecting Quebec at the time; extensive corruption in the construction industry (French) and the sale of profitable petroleum territories to private companies by Hydro-Quebec were just some of the other issues that led people to take to the streets.

Holgate also asserts that many students are able to graduate debt free.

The average student debt in Canada is \$20,000 - in Nova Scotia, over \$35,000. According to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, fewer Nova Scotian students are going to university, both inside and outside the province. A university education is quickly becoming a prerequisite for stable employment, with over 70% of jobs requiring post-secondary education. Industries such as forestry and tourism that hired large numbers of college and high-school educated students are now dependent on government subsidies, such as "forgivable loans" that only need to be repaid if the company leaves the province. While the trades remain a viable option, waitlists for many courses are approximately 2 years at the Nova Scotia Community College.

While it can be argued that there

are currently many more liberal arts students than the market will support, the student strike also had support from Quebec engineering institutions such as l'Ecole de Technologie Supérieure, Ecole Polytechnique, and Université de Sherbrooke. Quebec itself has a proud engineering tradition (not just snowmobiles!) – for example, the 735 kV power lines which allow for transmission of power from remote areas with minimal losses were invented by an EPM graduate.

In conclusion, the assertion that the Quebec student protests were simply a bunch of liberal arts students who whined until they got their way is a dangerous oversimplification of the facts, and ignores several issues that are not only relevant to Quebec society, but to ours as well.



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