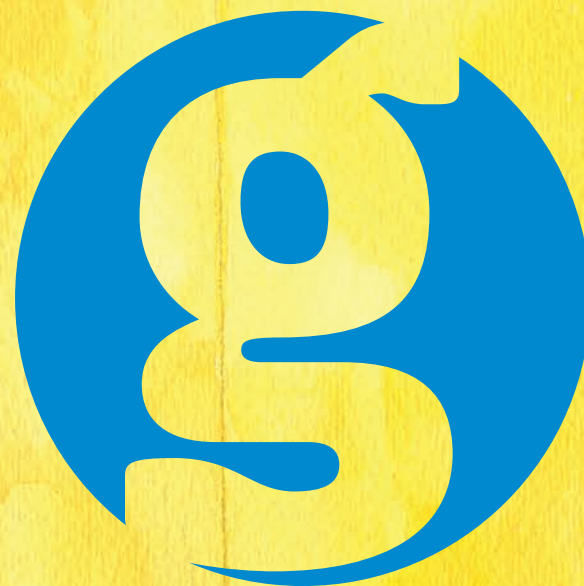


Accessing Accessibility

Inaccessible employment, pg 3

Students fight tuition rise, pg 7

All-access pass, pg 10



The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868



Illustration by Rebecca Roher



DAMAGE

DOIN' DAMAGE: RAP (NEW/CLUB/REMIXES/CLASSICS)

SATURDAY JANUARY 28TH
AT LA TRINIDADE (5171 SALTER)
DJ T-WOO & RYAN HEMSWORTH

\$5

SCAN ME 



DSU WEEKLY DISPATCH

Here is a list of upcoming events that you will want to mark your calendars for:

THIS YOU YOUR UNION – BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD



**DALHOUSIE
STUDENT
UNION**

**DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY, 8
6:30 PM / ROOM 303 OF THE SUB**

**ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE VERIFIED AS
DALHOUSIE STUDENTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO VOTE**

**ALL MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT LINDSAY DOWLING AT DSUPOLCY@DAL.CA BY
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012 TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO ATTEND**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
JONATHON VIA EMAIL AT DSUCHAIR@DAL.CA**

**PIZZA AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED!
WE WILL ALSO BE UPDATING STUDENTS ON THE STATUS OF DSU FOOD SERVICES**

Brains for Change

Saturday, January 28

What needs to be discussed? Join Dalhousie's doers and dreamers in a day long conversation in the Student Union Building. B4C is a program focused on the development of Dalhousie students, The Dalhousie campus and Halifax community. It is an opportunity to meet community members bringing big ideas to light in Halifax and to discuss current student issues with university faculty and staff. What's on your mind? B4C will help incubate a variety of interdisciplinary, student-led projects and provide continual support and communication for these projects to flourish. For more information, contact Jamie Arron at DSUVPSL@Dal.ca or check out the B4C website at BrainsForChange.ca

Society Audits

Levied society books for Fall 2011 audit are due on January 31st, 2012, at 4:00 pm. They can be dropped off to Evan Price in room 222A of the SUB.

The funds will be available for distribution after January 15th, following a successful audit.

Any questions should be addressed to Evan at DSUVPFO@Dal.ca

January 27 - February 2, 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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RUN YOUR PAPER
Have your say on all things
Dalhousie Gazette
Feb. 15, 2012 @ 7 p.m. in Room 307, the SUB

**There will be pizza. There may be
ballots. You had better be there.**



Katrina Pyne News Editor

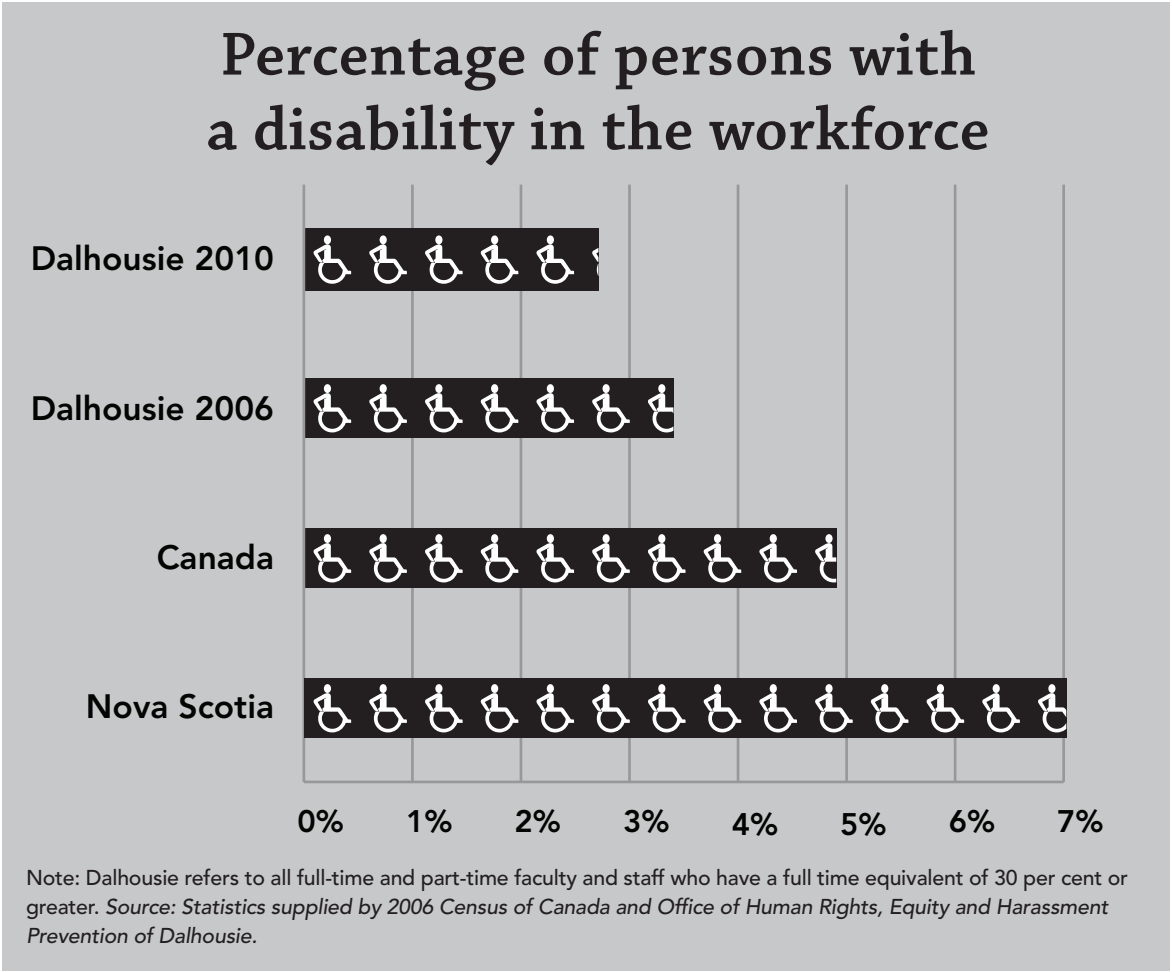
The not-so-level playing field
Employment equity practices in Halifax



Katrina Pyne
News Editor
As she checks off the "disabled" box on yet another job application, Stephanie Berry wonders what her honesty will cost her.
After four months of handing out what seems to be an endless stream of resumés and cover letters, Berry, 25, has yet to receive a call for an interview.
And with her Employment Insurance about to expire, her time is running out. She knows it's a difficult time for anyone to get a job, she says, so she hesitates to point the finger to discrimination.
Berry has been visually impaired since she was a toddler. Now her degenerative condition has left her with only two per cent of her vision and three degrees of peripheral vision out of a possible 150.
Ironically, she studied employment equity practices throughout her master's degree in education counseling psychology. But the reality of unfair hiring practices is hitting home as she once again hands out a batch of resumés.
"Some employers worry about hiring someone who has a severe visual impairment like myself. They worry about how their clients will react and how it will affect their business," she says.
"I don't think a lot of those employment equity policies are really being

followed the way that they were meant to be followed. Companies just have one because it's the politically correct thing to do."
Since her graduation from the University of New Brunswick, Berry has applied to jobs at the provincial department of community services, the IWK, Capital Health, the non-profit sector, banks and endless businesses. She's even applied to a few research assistant positions at Dalhousie, but with no luck.
At Dal she was fortunate enough to get an informational interview with the human resources department. She says the best advice she got there was to "continue to look at the website for job opportunities."
She was told that while human resources was keen to accommodate for her disability once she was hired, it was really the departments themselves that would be doing the hiring.
Lindie Colp-Rutley is the equity analyst at the Office of Human Rights, Equity and Harassment Prevention at Dal. She makes sure the university is in full compliance with the federal Employment Equity Act, in order to receive federal grants.
However, she says that several groups, such as visible minorities, aboriginal and disabled persons are still underrepresented at Dal. Her statistics come from a census that requires staff and faculty to self-identify.
"We have lots of activities from recruitment through to promotion in the workplace to not only encourage hiring of those groups so we are more representative of the workforce, but to have them fully participate at Dalhousie," says Colp-Rutley.
Berry says she is actually a speedy typist and can use a computer better than most. Through a screen reader program called JAWS, her computer will read out to her whatever is on the webpage. JAWS can be adapted to most computer programs, but the employer must take the initiative to look for compatibility.
Websites pose a challenge to the program, though. They can be fully or partially accessible, or not at all.
Berry, who faces this frustration every day, says she would love to see laws in place that require websites to be accessible in the same way that public buildings are required to be accessible.
For now though, she is still looking for jobs in Halifax.
"If I can qualify for social assistance, then I might go on that for a month or two while I keep frantically applying for jobs," she says. But she has already begun to apply for jobs outside the city.
"I really want to make Halifax my home, though."
Lindie Colp-Rutley, equity analyst at the Office of Human Rights, Equity and Harassment Prevention.
Photo by Rob Grandy

"They worry about how their clients will react and how it will affect their business."



NSPIRG Winter Opt Out
Monday February 6th to Friday February 10th
11am to 3pm
NSPIRG Office, Room 314 Dal SUB
(See below for alternate locations)
Please bring Dalhousie Student ID
When Dalhousie students democratically voted to fund NSPIRG through a levy, they also mandated NSPIRG to offer a refund of this levy to students who do not wish to support this organization.
Alternate Opt Out Locations
Tables will be set up during these dates and time at alternate locations to make the opt-out more successful.
Carleton Campus, Tupper Building, Monday February 6th 11am-3pm
Sexton Campus, Wednesday February 8th 11 am-3pm
If you are unable to come by the office or the alternate locations during the opt-out period due to extenuating circumstances please contact us in advance to discuss the possibility of making alternate arrangements. No Opt-outs by proxy, and no Opt-outs will be accepted after February 10th.
Who we are:
The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG-Dal) was established in 1990 at by the students of Dalhousie University. Our mandate is to link research with action for social and environmental justice. We are a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization committed to engaging students and the broader community to work for progressive change within an anti-oppression framework. Like other C level societies NSPIRG is funded by a direct levy from students. The current levy is two dollars per academic term.
If you would like more information about NSPIRG in order to make your decision, or are interested in getting involved please come by our office (SUB 314) or contact us at info@nspirg.org or 494-6662

Dal student for mayor

And he's not worried about vote-splitting



Matthew Worona. ••• Photo by Adele Van Wyk

Theresa Ketterling
News Contributor

Matthew Worona's mayoral campaign is an oddity, and not just

because of his youth. The second-year Dalhousie student says he will not be accepting donations from unions or corporations to fund his campaign. In making that decision he sets

himself up against current HRM Mayor Peter Kelly, who received hundreds of donations adding up to \$68,359 in his 2008 campaign. Some of the highest donors were development companies such as APL Properties and Cresco Developments. City councillor Sue Uteck says she supports Worona's bid for mayor. "Anyone who steps up to the challenge of public office is to be commended," she says. But she says candidates usually spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on campaigns, and it isn't realistic not to accept donations. Worona's platform will also be unusual. He decided to create an online, interactive video platform, but he doesn't know for sure what the content will be. Participants will be able to vote on parts of the platform by choosing from a drop-down list of "If I were mayor, I would..." options. He says no one but media ever really read written platforms, and he's hoping to stir up interest by putting his online. He wants to use his platform to "get the conversation started" and "get people interested in the voting process." The goal is to use it to come up with a coherent plan to run on. Worona says he's not sure it will work, but

hopes so. Uteck says she's worried that having so many candidates in the race will split the vote against Peter Kelly. "We really need a change in leadership," she says. Worona says he's encouraged by the vote-splitting buzz because it means people consider him a real candidate, but he's not worried about unintentionally splitting the vote against Kelly.
.....
"Mayors don't run the city. People run it."
.....
About 101,000 people, or 36 per cent of Halifax's eligible voters, showed up to vote four years ago. Kelly got about 53 per cent of those votes, Sheila Fougere got almost 46 per cent and what was left went to David Boyd. So roughly 18 per cent of Halifax voted for Kelly. Worona says he will be working to get more people interested in the mayoral race. His logic is that if more than 36 per cent of voters show up, Kelly supporters won't represent as much as 53 per cent of voters.

He says he won't be depending only on students' votes, since they only represent a small percentage of people in Halifax. He says he's not focused on any demographic in particular. Out-of-province students will be allowed to vote in the next election. Students make up only 10 per cent of Halifax's population, but considering voter turnout in 2008, 10 per cent could be a considerable chunk. Worona admits that a lot of media interest in his campaign is because of his age. He's 19, and has only lived here for a couple of years. But he dismisses critics who say he isn't experienced enough to run a city, or doesn't know enough about Halifax. "Mayors don't run the city. People run it." He says he wants to give more power to community councils. He's also planning on running on promises to be less secretive and improve public services. ☞

The cost of course readers

Access Copyright deal off the table



Calum Agnew
News Contributor

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Universities across Canada are in uncharted waters. Dalhousie is one of about 45 institutions who have not renewed deals with Access Copyright, the Canadian clearinghouse for copyright-protected texts, says Ian Colford, copyright officer at Dal. Universities across the country have dropped out of the licensing regime because of a proposal to change the fee structure of the service. Acting as a middleman between the university and publishers, the agreement with Access Copyright allowed the university to reproduce copyright-protected texts, and to sell course readers containing such texts to students through the Dal Print Centre. Without an agreement, instructors assigning course readers must use off-campus print shops, which have independent agreements with Access Copyright, or get permission to reproduce the works from the individual copyright holders. The library is training staff to help instructors abide by the regulations and is hiring an intellectual property officer to deal directly with publishers. Dal is also more diligent in the way copyright-protected materials are made available to students. Access Copyright enforces publishers' copyright. The agreement provided the university with protection from individual copyright violations. However, Access Copyright asked "invasive questions" regarding the university's activities, which resulted in unnecessary "administrative burden," says Colford. The library doesn't like "taking business away from the Print Centre," says Colford. But there are numerous

reasons for Dal not renewing its agreement. Under the old license, Dal paid a flat fee of \$3.38 per student, in addition to a \$0.10 fee per page of copyright material, generally passed on to the student upon purchasing their course packs. Access Copyright's proposal, submitted to the Copyright Board of Canada and currently under review, would require universities to pay a flat fee of \$45 per student while Dal's licensing fees would increase from \$55,000 to over \$600,000, says Colford. The general shift towards digital resources had also resulted in Dal licensing many texts twice—once through the umbrella agreement with Access Copyright, and once through subscriptions to digital databases such as JSTOR. The university was also "uncomfortable with definitions in the [proposed] contract," says Colford. For example, it would define links to electronic resources as "copies." The status of copyright in Canada is in a period of flux. Bill C-11, The Copyright Modernization Act currently working its way through parliament, may make any deal with Access Copyright redundant. In its present form, this bill says that making copies for the "purpose of research, private study, education, parody or satire" is the definition of "fair dealing," potentially allowing universities and students to reproduce a text without paying fees to Access Copyright, or obtaining permission from the copyright holder. ☞

Ian Colford, copyright officer at Dal.
••• Photo by Calum Agnew



Satellite campuses a trend of the future?

Dal Medical School is a model for future campuses

Daniel Boltinsky
News Contributor

Isaac Miao communicates with most of his class at the push of a button. He and his classmates are the first group of medical students to study at Dalhousie's Saint John campus. Their lectures are video-conferenced, and students from each campus must activate personal microphones when speaking so their voices can be heard on the other end. But other than that, they are one class. Due to improvements in technology, Miao says a Dal Medical School education feels entirely accessible from New Brunswick. In 2010, the government of New Brunswick funded the building of Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB). All Dal Med School seats for New Brunswick residents, 30 per year, are based at this campus. Stu-

dents study there for two years before progressing to their medical internships known as "clerkships." Miao's class is set to do theirs next semester. This, in itself, is nothing new; Dal students have done clerkships in New Brunswick before. However, DMNB students can only leave the province for this part of their studies if a Nova Scotia student fills their spot, almost like an exchange. Because that's not expected to happen often, there will likely be more future doctors spending more time in the province. "The main goal was to increase retention," says Miao, "so hopefully medical students, having spent four years in New Brunswick, will want to stay there when they graduate." There are other benefits to distributed programs as well. Some communities do not have the size to sustain a medical school. The North-

ern Ontario School of Medicine, for example, was founded in 2005 and has many small campuses and teaching centers throughout the expansive, yet scarcely populated northern Ontario region. New technology has made such satellite campuses possible. Inside Dal's lecture hall in Halifax, three high-definition screens show the lecturer, his/her PowerPoint presentation and the other campus' classroom. When a student at either location has a question, he or she presses a button at their desk, which notifies the lecturer via a screen built into the podium. A microphone in front of the person speaking is activated, and a camera automatically zooms into the student so that those in the other classroom can see and hear the question asked. If the lecturer paces, his respective screen shows a wide shot

of the room. Technicians coordinate these components from a control room next to the lecture hall. The system cost \$5 million, and the New Brunswick location has most of the same features. Thomas Marrie, the dean of Dal's faculty of medicine, says the idea of a satellite campus hovered many years before it was actually implemented. "The people of New Brunswick, or at least a small group of them, have for some time wanted to have a medical campus in New Brunswick," he says. In the 1950s, there was even consideration given to starting a medical school in the province. Marrie says the overall goal was always to have no differences in academic content if students study from a satellite campus. "Twenty years ago," he says, "it was probably not possible, but now it is." While Marrie is unaware of any

new major satellite campuses being planned, the success of DMNB leads him to believe this is a trend. Isaac agrees. He says the campus is not the first of its kind in Canada, and "definitely not the last." For him, the available technology makes all the difference in terms of accessibility. "You can see everything life-size right up front, and the sound quality is also really good; it sounds like the person is in the same room. From a lecture point of view, we're getting the exact same thing."

ABOVE: At the Dalhousie Medical School, one videoscreen streams the Saint John campus class; BELOW: The Dal Med School lecture hall control room operates the video-conferenced lectures. ••• Photos by Daniel Boltinsky





It's their turn to get graded

New senate policy brings new professor ratings

Nataschia Lypny
News Contributor

Tucked in the northeastern corner of the Killam Library main floor is an office students seldom enter.

It's here at the Centre for Learning and Teaching that instructors can polish their portfolios, engage in workshops and participate in discussion groups with their colleagues. And it's here the results of the Student Ratings of Instruction (SRI)—those bubble sheets students fill out at the end of the semester—are collected, interpreted and regurgitated for faculty.

But some students are skeptical of the SRI's value to the university.

"I think it's good that it's available," says fourth-year economics student Nicholas Gall. "I haven't really seen evidence of its effectiveness or the extent to which it's taken seriously."

The Centre hopes to change that.

This semester and last, the Centre's team has been overwhelmed by the adoption of new policy and procedures for the SRI. The policy, approved by the Dalhousie Senate

last June, is the first formal document of its kind at Dal. It hopes to install a university-wide standardization of the SRI forms and procedures for their use.

Fay Patel eagerly points to section 5.0, which details the individual responsibilities of students, instructors, deans, academic directors and department heads in ensuring the effective use of SRI and their results. As the Centre's associate director for curriculum and SRI, she believes "the onus of responsibility and accountability lies on everybody's shoulders."

And it begins with the students.

"It's really important for students to engage in this, to be part of that enhancement of their learning environment," says the faculty of arts and social sciences dean, Robert Summerby-Murray. "If they don't engage in it, then this ceases to be a useful instrument because the data are actually meaningless."

The low response rate for the SRI is a common complaint of Dal instructors, including associate professor of music and gender and women's studies Jacqueline Warwick. "The more

students there are in the class, the lower the response ratio is," says Warwick, whose classes cater to students from a wide assortment of programs.

Summerby-Murray says part of the problem with the SRI is they only provide a "snapshot" of teaching performance. To get a more comprehensive picture, some instructors conduct informal evaluations midway through the semester.

Karen Gross, a second-year contemporary studies and social anthropology student, has experienced this. "We could give whatever feedback we wanted," she says. "My professor actually talked about it the next class and said what she had gotten out of it."

But Warwick says polar opposite comments leave her at a loss on how to implement changes in her classroom.

For that reason, Patel has been running sessions with students and faculty about how to improve the learning experience. She says the meetings inevitably turn into discussions about the type of feedback students provide on the SRI.

"If you give feedback that is use-

ful, where teaching and learning processes can be improved or enhanced, we will take note of that," she says. "But if you give feedback that simply has general statements or profanities or emotive language, we're not sure what to do with that."

Fiona Martin, an assistant professor of sociology and social anthropology, says she has been grappling with the same comment year after year: "There's one question on the forms which would be typically the lowest result I would get, and it's the question that asks 'Does the professor notice when the student is confused or bored?'" She says she has addressed the issue with her students but has never received a straight answer on how to self-improve.

"The philosophy of our approach is one of collaboration and partnership," says the Centre's director, Lynn Taylor. She says a large part of the Centre's consulting business occurs one-on-one with professors who need help interpreting and applying the results of their SRI.


Martin and Warwick have yet to seek the Centre's advice. They say

junior faculty members are more in need of such help.

The new policy dictates that deans, academic directors and department heads are expected to "counsel and mentor instructors about their participation in the SRI process."

Currently, this responsibility seems to be undertaken with varying degrees. One chair says he breezes through the SRI once a year. Another says he schedules meetings with his faculty and occasionally visits classrooms to see their teaching in action.

Patel stresses that the SRI system is not meant to monitor instructors. She emphasizes the respect required on the part of all parties so the SRI results benefit both instructors and students.

Students can expect the new SRI forms to be hitting their classrooms by the end of this semester. The Centre's team hopes they take advantage of it. 

Lynn Taylor, Bruno Roy, Fay Patel and Lisa Parsons are part of the Centre's team dealing with SRI results.

••• Photo by Angela Gzowski

news briefs

CUP conference goes viral

Student journalists who attended the 74th Canadian University Press (CUP) national conference in Victoria, B.C. this month were unpleasantly greeted by the norovirus. The highly infectious virus took hold of an estimated 75 of the 360 attending delegates between Jan. 11 to 16.

That number continued to rise as more attendees confirmed symptoms on their trips home. CUP staff stayed in contact with the Vancouver Island Health Authority throughout the outbreak. Emma Godmere, CUP national bureau chief, issued a letter excusing any infected students from their classes. She has stated that the investigation is finally coming to a close.

SafeAssign making its mark

The new plagiarism-assessing program SafeAssign is proving to be an effective replacement for Turnitin. As of mid-fall, 81 class sections had used the program as a tool for students to submit their papers online.

Integrated Learning Online context manager Phil O'Hara says the use of SafeAssign is at about 60 per cent of the employment that was dedicated to Turnitin. "That's typical when a new product is introduced," he says.

O'Hara says he doesn't know who is using the program but hopes to have more information in the future.

Microsoft contract fails to launch

Dal is still involved in contract negotiations with Microsoft in hopes of supplying new emailing and calendar services to students and staff.

"It's a lengthy process," says chief information officer Dwight Fischer. "It requires us to ensure that Nova Scotia and university policies are addressed, and all adequate safeguards are in control."

Fischer says the negotiation process could take another month or more. "But there are no definites," he says. If negotiations go well, the conversion will most likely take place sometime during summer 2012.

Protective sleeves

Coburg Coffee is offering safety tips to go. According to *CBC News*, the heat-protective sleeves for take-out beverages will have one of three tips printed on them.

Halifax Regional Police and Dalhousie University are sharing the estimated \$2,000 cost of printing the 2,600 sleeves. Coburg Coffee, chosen because of its popularity and close proximity to Dal students, is currently the only shop providing safety tips with their daily perk. If the program shows promise, police say they may extend it to other coffee shops in the Halifax area.

Asbestos in the Tupper

An Instagram photo that appeared on Twitter last month has students

talking. The picture was taken on the third floor of the Tupper Building displaying caution tape and signs warning against the presence of asbestos.

Tupper building services manager Greg McNutt confirmed that insulation padding surrounding a number of pipes in the building did indeed contain asbestos.

McNutt says the procedure was a safe-work practice, and not an uncommon occurrence at Dal. He estimates the padding had been there for about 44 years, and it was removed as new pressure-reducing valves were placed on laboratory pipes throughout the building.

—Alesia Hebb
News Contributor



Democracy Day

Students take action, with or without their “union”

Students at last year's Day of Action. • • • Photo by Pau Balite

Aaron Beale
J.D. Hutton
Opinions Contributors

“All out Feb 1,” say signs and pamphlets across campus. “Reduce tuition fees!” say pins and stickers on busy students passing by.

Students across the country have been working hard to organize actions in demand of progress on student issues. Students at Dal have been organizing against the recent government cuts to university funding, deregulation of tuition fees, declining quality of education, increase in corporate control and undemocratic university practices.

These issues and the response from students are not unique. This assault on public universities is part of the broader trend of austerity seen around the world. Action is the accepted and practiced response. But while students organize teach-ins and rallies, doing class talks, handing out pamphlets and making art, where is the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) at such a critical time?

While students are getting screwed and a global movement is underway, our “union” continues to be known as the building on campus where everyone buys shitty food. Most people don't even know what the DSU does, and if they do know, they don't think

of it as the body representing the best interest of students. Our union has failed at engaging with us in any meaningful way, just as it has failed in representing us against the politicians saddling us with debt.

“Our “union” continues to be known as the building on campus where everyone buys shitty food.”

What can the DSU learn from the self-organizing of Dal students? Student action works! It scares our politicians into respecting our rights and provides an empowering and engaging avenue for the expression of student's grievances.

According to Valentina Latorre, a Chilean student organizer involved in the massive mobilizations in Chile last spring and summer, “We have to stand together with students from

around the world.” Latorre was flown in to the city to speak at a Halifax-wide teach-in and inspire students to take action. Her speech is truly inspiring.

“Around the world people are waking up. People are fighting against what they think is unfair,” she says.

A day of action in Chile brought 2 million people to the streets. Canadian students want to do the same.

Gabe Hoogers, the president of the Kings Student Union (KSU), introduced the teach-in by tracing the history of student action from the 1990s. He acknowledges, one after another, student action results in policy changes.

“This is all to say that we can make a difference,” Hoogers says. “We are not alone in this.”

When asked about the role of the KSU on these issues, he said: “Lobbying is important, but on the other hand activism is an important part of lobbying itself. We're reaching out to students and making sure that they have all the information that is necessary to combat what it going on.”

Micheal Walsh is the VP (external) at Memorial University in Newfoundland, where students pay just \$2,550 per year.

“It is important to use a diversity of tactics,” he says, as he tells me about the history of student action and the

Day of Action he is organizing.

The victories in Newfoundland and Labrador are cited as examples of the power of student action. Before 1999, the government laughed at students in Newfoundland and Labrador when they asked for lower tuition fees. Today, it is the students who are laughing.

Nova Scotia students already pay some of the highest fees in the country. Now the government is cutting funding and deregulating tuition fees. Dal's administration is complicit with this, raising our tuition fees and continuing to waste money on development projects and promotion. They don't have the debt, nor do they receive the education. Our university president has a salary bigger than Canada's prime minister at \$393,264.

How do students deal with this? When our professors are being screwed over, they go to the faculty union that represents them and their interests. But where is the DSU in all of this? While filled by caring, hard working people, the DSU is left standing alone with regressive tactics. Students are left unrepresented and unengaged. Their hiring of a city lobbyist implies a good attempt at tackling student issues, but it is missing a crucial point. Dal doesn't need more politicians; Dal students need a

union to represent our interests and help us support ourselves in the process.

On Feb. 1 masses of students will rally with music, puppets, placards, chants and high spirits. The Day of Action in Halifax will consist of speakers, spoken word, information proliferation and critical discussions.

Last year's rally drew over 2000 students and community members through a snow storm and was the largest rally Halifax had seen in 10 years. This year, organizers want to do the same.

When I asked Latorre what message she wanted to send to Dal students, she said: “That you stand and fight. Look all around the world and you see that students are taking control of what really matters.”

My guess is that on Feb 1. students will be out on mass, but that the DSU will continue to be thought of as just a building. ☹

Feeder rallies are scheduled for King's College at 11:30 a.m., Dal (in front of the Killam Library) at 12 p.m., and Victoria Park at 1 p.m., followed by a march to NSCAD after that.

Editor's Note: Aaron Beale and J.D. Hutton are part of the Dal Day of Action Organizing Committee

THE “R” WORD

Word choice shows societal prejudice

Samantha Elmsley
Opinions Contributor

I was sitting in the SUB last week, munching on a slice of pizza bigger than my face, when I overheard a conversation from some students a few feet away from me. “How was the party on Friday?” “Dude, it was retarded!”

First of all, I would like to know what that is even supposed to infer. Secondly, I would like to examine what that word invokes, besides vague associations with “off the hook” and perhaps “wild” in this context.

Originally a medical term used to diagnose people with cognitive impairments, the word “retarded” has morphed into a common slang term far more popular than it ought to be. Students throw it around as a catch-all phrase for anything interpreted as stupid, incomprehensible, ridiculous, etc.

The general resistance and eye rolling I encounter when I ask people to refrain from using this word usually stems from entrenched resentment against our society’s need for political correctness. Its use is excused by arguing that the intent has changed, it doesn’t refer to people with a disability when used as slang, blah, blah, blah.

Aside from any question of political correctness, one should question how it is that this word evolved from a medical term to a slang phrase used to designate something as stupid.

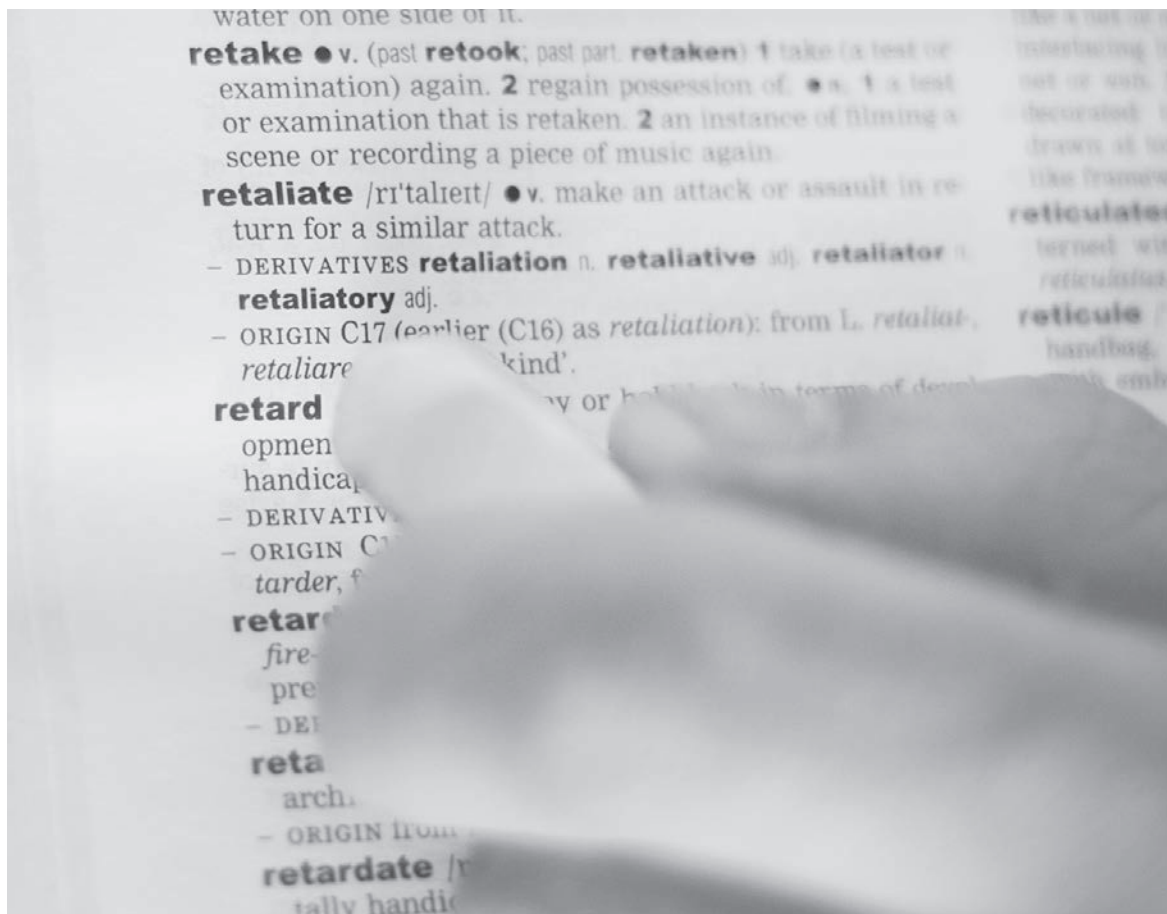
This evolution seems indicative of the long-held societal prejudice that people with disabilities are dangerous, unnatural and someone to be feared.

A current series of articles in *The Globe and Mail* is exploring the representation of people with mental health problems in society. Unsurprisingly, the article on Jan. 13, “Mentally ill and ‘out’ but not embraced”, a feature on King’s alum Michael Kimber, concluded that a large proportion of society still thinks of people with mental health issues as a threat to the safety of the general population. The article states that these people are in fact much more of a danger to themselves than to other individuals, and least of all to strangers.

From my own experience working with people with a disability, I believe that the same statement can be applied to this demographic. For the most part, there is absolutely nothing in these people that can be interpreted as a desire to harm. In my experience, when a person with a disability struck out, it was during an episode of extreme anxiety arising from a condition of their disability, which was far more painful to the individual than anyone else.

Therefore, the use of the word “retarded” as a primarily negative adjective seems to correspond to society’s negative attitude and fears towards people with a disability due to a lack of understanding.

There are still people alive today who, in their lifetime, have been



“While Dalhousie and King’s may have a lot of ramps, we still have a whole lot of prejudice still blocking the way.”

••• Photo by Angela Gzowski

medically diagnosed as “mentally retarded”. Although we largely have not yet found the means for this population to advocate for themselves, I am confident that they would not appreciate this expression of a link between the former phrasing of their

diagnosis and stupidity.

Words cannot only hurt, but they can ostracize, isolate and condemn whole demographics in a single catchphrase. Accessibility is not just a physical issue, a question of whether a building has enough ramps or ele-

vators; it is a social question as well.

While Dalhousie and King’s may have a lot of ramps, we still have a whole lot of prejudice blocking the way. ☹



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Tehran Spring

Assassinations could prompt uprising

Kevin Linklater
Opinions Contributor

With all the sabre rattling in the Middle East in recent weeks, Iran, the United States and its allies in the region appear to be playing a game of brinkmanship that is heightening tensions in a volatile region.

On Jan. 11, Mostafa Ahmadi-Roshan, a high-level Iranian nuclear scientist, was reportedly killed in the Iranian capital Tehran by a magnetic bomb attached to his car.

This is not the first such assassination of a high-level Iranian nuclear personnel. Nuclear physicists Masoud Ali Mohammadi and Majid Shahrari were both killed in bombings in 2010, as well as Darioush Rezaeinejad, a nuclear scientist who was shot dead in July 2011.

Perhaps more troubling for peace in the region is the revelation that Mossad, the Israeli secret service, was acting under the guise of CIA operatives to recruit Pakistani militants to carry out attacks in Iran.

I believe the Americans when they say they had nothing to do with the assassination of Ahmadi-Roshan. However, the same cannot be said of America’s allies in the region, notably Israel and Saudi Arabia, both bitter enemies of Iran.

Iran has come forward recently with “hard evidence” tying the CIA to the assassination, according to a report published by *Al Jazeera*. While I view with skepticism any claims by the Iranian authorities, the evidence does seem to point to foreign-backed terrorism being behind the assassination.

Israel and the United States have huge incentives to carry out such an attack and have done so in the past. Recent comments by Israeli chief of general staff, Lt.-Gen. Benny Gantz, the day after the most recent assassination, said that Iran should expect more “unnatural events” if it does not change course.

“The Iranian people may become restive and demand the sort of change that is happening elsewhere in the Middle East.”

America is not interested in a conflict with Iran, as it would only exacerbate existing conflicts from Afghanistan, to Iraq, to Syria (areas where Iran can play bull in the china shop if it so chooses).

I believe that the clerics who run Iran don’t want a war. Iran’s military is no match for the Saudis or the Israelis, let alone the massive American presence in the region. (Iran spends a pithy 1.8 per cent of its GDP on military expenditures, compared with 11.2 per cent for Saudi Arabia, according to the Stockholm Interna-

tional Peace Research Institute).

However, if faced with a restive population, a conflict with the hated Americans or Israelis could serve to rally support for the government, much in the way that Saddam Hussein’s invasion in 1980 served to galvanize support around the hardline clerics after the Iranian revolution of 1979.

The situation that will be most crucial to watch is not the military manoeuvres in the Gulf or the bellicose rhetoric coming from Tehran and Washington, but the domestic situation in Iran itself.

With international sanctions beginning to bite, the Iranian people may become restive and demand the sort of change that is happening elsewhere in the Middle East. If this happens, the Iranian leadership may be willing to engage in riskier and more desperate tactics to hold on to power—while the rest of us just try to hold on. ☹

Corrections

In Sam Vlessing’s piece “The country house and the city house,” the sentence that read, “Our contemporary globalized world is faced with many obstacles to overcome, all which increase the need for climate change,” should have ended with, “...which increase the need for climate change mitigation.” The *Gazette* regrets this editing error, and we have corrected the online version.

Going deep: *For our future, we must look beneath the sea*

CarolAnne Black
Science Columnist

The hull of your spacecraft is breeched as it drifts through the vacuum. The air around you and inside you rushes into the void. You have one chance to scream as your final breath escapes your lungs and the air around you accelerates your body toward the hole.

The vacuum of space makes space travel dangerous and difficult. But the pressures felt by a person exposed to the vacuum are minute when compared to those experienced by a person at the bottom of the world's oceans. The physical pressure of exploring the deep sea can be 400 times that of the vacuum of space, but that should not deter us. For our ultimate survival, we must overcome the difficulties of getting to the bottom of the oceans. We must go deep.

In our daily lives, the atmosphere weighs on us; at the surface, the pressure due to the air above us is called "one atmosphere". In space there is a vacuum and the pressure is null. The difference in pressure between your chair and space is one atmosphere.

Going underwater adds the weight of the (much heavier) water to that of the atmosphere. (That's why your ears hurt when you dive too deep—the weight of the atmosphere plus the weight of the water press on you). If you were to swan dive into the ocean

and swim straight down until you get to 10 meters deep (about the height of a three-storey building), you would have over top of you one atmosphere's worth of water.

For every 10 meters you descend into the ocean, what's known as hydrostatic pressure increases by one atmosphere. The average depth of the deep ocean is 3.7 km. If you dove Alvin—the manned submarine vehicle operated by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) that discovered the wreckage of the Titanic—to 3.7 km depth, the force of compression on Alvin would be 370 times the force of the vacuum in space.

Pressure is an obstacle that must be overcome when creating an environment in which humans can live while exploring these unknown worlds. While it is exciting for humans to venture into new territory, deep-sea exploration can be done much more effectively and efficiently using remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). Today, most exploration is done by ROVs (which collect data to send back to us), but getting these machines to work under the sea is at times a nearly insurmountable challenge.

Salt water is corrosive to many materials, not to mention conductive, which means it can carry a current. Electronics quickly short-circuit if not protected from the water.

Light doesn't have an easy time either because it is absorbed or reflected by molecules of water. The result is that we can only see a short distance in front of us.

There is also the problem of energy and data transmission. Satellite transmission only works in air, so without cables it is difficult to send information to, or receive information from, submarine instruments and ROVs. Project Neptune off the coast of British Columbia has made use of kilometers of cable running underwater, delivering power to, and returning data from, instruments measuring tectonic activity (movements in the Earth's crust, such as earthquakes), monitoring local ecosystems, measuring the properties of the water (temperature, how salty it is, etc.) and much more.

Learning about our oceans is not a simple task. It is a wonderful problem for humankind to tackle, if we choose to do so. Despite the difficulties of working underwater and at high pressures, the biggest obstacle to deep-sea exploration is ourselves.

Humans have a fascination with space that has led us to send manned craft to the moon. We dream of visiting creatures like us on other planets, in other galaxies. We even talk of moving to other planets as a solution to the environmental catastrophe we are pursuing on our planet. This is backward thinking. We need to pin

our hopes on our own planet, but there is much left to learn.

In the 1970s, "black smoker" hydrothermal vents were discovered near the Galapagos Islands by a team from WHOI using Alvin, where colonies of tube worms, clams and other treasures prosper. They exist, not by using energy from the sun—as all other known life—but by using energy from the centre of our planet. There is life beneath the waves of which we know nothing about.

In space, we learn more about our universe, but more importantly, we learn about our planet and ourselves. If we really want to learn about the Earth we should focus our energy on the oceans. They cover three quarters of the surface of the Earth and affect



almost all of the Earth's systems: carbon dioxide, global warming, food chains, storm events and much more. We need to become enthralled with the oceans the way we are with space. Into our own world, our oceans, we must go deep. ☞

••• Photo via Official U.S. Navy Imagery

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ALL-ACCESS PASS: *Should artists give their music away for free?*

Nick Laugher
Staff Contributor

Whether you blame Shawn Fanning and Sean Parker for creating Napster, the recording industry for jacking up their prices, journalists and media representatives who leak albums, or the blogs that publicize them, our society is deeply and irrevocably invested in the concept of free music. With anti-piracy bills SOPA and PIPA postponed indefinitely, it seems the recording industry is fighting a losing battle against our thirst for downloading the entire ACDC discography for free, putting it on our iPod and never listening to it.

“Musicians are utilizing the concept of free streaming media and downloads to their advantage, propagating their music and enticing people to give them a listen.”

Musicians over the last few years have become incredibly resilient in dealing with the stubborn expectations that the masses have developed towards how they consume music. Your album leaks a month before it's released? No problem: push up the iTunes release date, offer a free stream of it on your website and the listeners still flock to you. While MySpace may have gone the way of Geocities or Ask Jeeves, falling into a vortex of anachronistic uselessness, it set the standard for the distribution of music in the 21st century. More and more, musicians are utilizing the concept of free streaming media and downloads to their advantage, propagating their music and enticing people to give them a listen because, what can it hurt?

For Nova Scotian indie-folk siren Klarka Weinwurm, the answer is simple: "We have to roll with the times and just appreciate that our art can be displayed so instantly and accessibly," she says. "You want to give them trust without the pressure and hope that in return they will support you in other forms. Whether it's attending a live show, buying an album or telling their friends. It's not possible to go back to the days before the Internet. I don't expect anything from streaming my songs online for free. I mean, those songs aren't for everyone, but at least they're there to listen to."

The web is clogged with millions of bands who are accessible at any minute with the click of a few buttons. We're hit with a surge of dozens of band names on a daily basis. Do you really expect the listener to take

a \$20 chance on you? While it may sound callous, this train of thought has provided hundreds of independent artists with a sincere and dedicated fanbase, something they otherwise wouldn't have achieved if they had been reluctant to openly share their music. Offering free music, whether it's downloads or streaming, gives the listener a no-pressure foot in the door to an artist. By and large, the listener not only respects that the artist is willing to share their music for free, they'll most likely reciprocate by checking out a show, buying a shirt or a record, or even just passing it on to a friend.

"I like free things," says Jon McKiel, Nova Scotia's crowned king of gritty, harmony-laced sludge pop. "As a music consumer it's nice. I don't see how giving out free downloads of your stuff could hurt, and it helps people get to know you. But I also understand anyone's choice to not do that."

McKiel also believes that giving consumers a chance to listen for free makes them more inclined to eventually buy the physical product, citing the poor quality of Mp3s and the irrelevance of CDs as some of the many reasons music consumers are much more inclined towards buying vinyl records. "I think people still care about fidelity and having a more significant artifact," says McKiel. "MP3s just generally sound pretty bad. Sony has one plant left in the states making CDs, and I've heard that many major manufacturers are announcing this year that they are discontinuing them," notes McKiel, and he's certainly correct, with sales of vinyl climbing a belligerent 40 per cent in 2011.

While it's easy to get disheartened and lament the loss of the physical marketability of music, it may just be a blessing in disguise. Major labels and their archaic, artist-leeching lechery are on the outs, with indie labels and self-releasing actually become viable options.

Radiohead shook the industry with their "Pay What You Want," release of *In Rainbows*, resulting in sites like Bandcamp instituting a similar model and artists actually collecting money for their downloads, instead of people scoffing at paying for a CD and illegally downloading it. People like being given the choice. The collapse of the industry has put the power back into the hands of musicians, who now have the opportunity to be in control of how they release their art and what they get from it.

While this inevitably means that most bands will never get disgustingly rich, it does mean many smaller bands can make a living doing what they love. Artists who just want to share their music with whoever will listen, in hopes of continuing to do what they love are going to make out a hell of a lot better than any run-of-the-mill, auto-tuned, post-hardcore act who just wants to get signed by a major label, make a ton of cash and squander it all on frivolities. ☎

Local talent (L-R): Klarka Weinwurm, Aaron Mangle and Jon McKiel play Homegrown Skateboards in LaHave, Nova Scotia. ••• Photo by Adria Young



Jon McKiel goes acoustic for
In the Dead of Winter

Nick Laugher
Staff Contributor

An absolution in the form of thick and glossy harmonies spilling out of a cracked and crumbling wall of blissed-out, grungey guitar groans, Jon McKiel is constantly tight-rope-walking the line between serene and savage with a dry wit and a knowing smirk.

Having just returned from a successful string of dates in Western Canada that saw him sharing the stage with such treasured indie acts as Calgary's prolific psych-folk fiend Chad Vangaalen and Ontario's frantic pop foursome Hollerado, McKiel is ditching the sludge-coated guitars and wild, winding arrangements for a stripped down, sparse set at this year's In the Dead of Winter festival.

"This is my third time playing Dead of Winter, I think" says McKiel. "You know, I do like quiet music too," he laughs. Growing up on a steady diet of punk rock and dirty, nineties grunge, McKiel says it wasn't until later that he developed a taste for folk. "I guess punk and grunge were just the types of music I liked the most, so I played them," explains McKiel. "Eventually, I started getting really into folk, and when I started playing in Halifax, I found myself playing what I guess you'd call 'folk-rock,' but pretty soon I realized I hated the direct combination of those two genres. Or maybe I just wasn't doing it right, I don't

know," says McKiel, with a glint of humorous self-deprecation.

McKiel seems to be eagerly awaiting a quiet night of hushed guitar, following what seemed to be a perpetual tour in support of his melodically melancholy grimey opus *Tonka War Cloud*— which has just been pressed on beautiful translucent-brown vinyl—as well as countless other side projects ranging from backing his wife, Klarka Weinwurm, to being a Motown drummer.

"Well, of course I'm always playing in Klarka's band," says McKiel. "But lately I've been playing around in a couple of friends' bands...It's been really fun, but I'm just getting kind of burnt out. It's different, but it's pretty exhausting. It'll be nice to unwind a bit."

While McKiel may be dialing back the volume for his upcoming show, his mesmerizing, stripped down performances still retain the bold, lyrical poignancy and heart-stopping intensity he's lauded for. "Acoustically is how I write the songs anyway," says McKiel. "I sit down and play guitar or ukulele and just kick a kick drum along. Sometimes I bug Klarka to come in and sing or play a bass part."

Nothing if not versatile, McKiel's chameleon-like songs slide loosely around their structures, shrugging off a fixed form, choosing instead to constantly keep you on your toes. "It doesn't necessarily always sound true to the record, but that would

be boring and a technical and financial nightmare to do live," he says. "I think the songs have enough space and life on their own to add or subtract any number of elements and still sound like they should."

Although he probably won't be rhythmically dropping giant chains like on his critically acclaimed LP, channeling the subversive and sparse glare of quieter album tracks like "Violent Hawaii" and "Holy Ghost" will certainly make for a spine-tingling time.

Following his Dead of Winter appearance, McKiel will be joining Weinwurm on a tour to support her forthcoming LP, embark on more dates in support of *Tonka War Cloud* and inevitably return to exhaustively dabbling in the art of drumming for a multitude of musicians. "Chad (VanGaal) and I also talked about doing some sort of something on cassette," he mentions. "But I have no idea when that'll come through the pipeline. We're focusing on Klarka's thing a lot right now, getting it ready. It's already shaping up to be a pretty exhausting year." ☎

To catch Jon McKiel before his impending onslaught of occupations gets the better of him, and to pick up his beautiful record, you can pop into 2035 Gottingen on Jan. 28 to get a glimpse of the multifaceted man in action.

For more In the Dead of Winter content, visit DalGazette.com



Other Worlds

Or why you should visit your university art gallery more often

Andrew Mills
Arts Contributor

Descending the stairs to the basement of the Rebecca Cohn, you glimpse a whale through glass; suddenly you're peering into an alien ocean through a ship's porthole window. Even before you enter the Dalhousie Art Gallery for Douglas Walker's *Other Worlds* exhibit, he's already transforming your perception.

When you arrive, firmly footed inside the gallery doors, you now gaze up at the same, yet suddenly celestial, whale; a complex, amoebic moon beams in your peripheral vision. For Walker's exhibit you have to absorb the uncanny weirdness first hand. But, stare too long, and you might have trouble distinguishing ceramic from paper, subaqueous from empyreal, microscopic from telescopic or Moby Dick from Philip K. Dick.

Douglas Walker has an outsider's eye for genre cross-pollination. The Toronto-based visual artist's work doesn't feel so much fantastical as hyper-real; so familiar are the cellular and celestial objects (whales, moons, bridges, people) that evocative, hallucinatory landscapes seem intimate. This is cosmos in a petri dish with consciousness as microscope.

On one wall, the empty contour of a human figure is surrounded by what could be cerebral matter. The emptiness becomes a man-shaped window to the stars. It's suggestive of Buddhist totality, or Christian Kenosis—whatever your slant, Walker's void is less dead cipher than bleak desert, where, though surrounded by a vacuum of sand or space, strange flowers still threaten to bloom at the slightest precipitation. In Walker's exhibit, hugeness is flattened under the petri pane, time stuck in frozen panels and

life caught between breaths like a cell about to split, or star soon to implode.

During my visit, the gallery is quiet; a few scarved individuals peer inchoately at the beautiful, singular blue of Walker's portraits. I marvel at how fitting this gallery space is for the exhibit; a harmony of spheres possible because Dalhousie Art Gallery curator Peter Dykhuis knows his grammar.

"The artist wanted the exhibit to have the feeling of discovering ancient-future ruins."

"I think of gallery layout much like a sentence. You have a noun over here, another noun there," he tells me, pointing towards works at opposite ends of the gallery. "A verb there, and connective syntax in between." During the exhibit's prep, Walker collaborated with Dykhuis, even scaling larger pieces to the galleries dimensions.

The texture of Walker's work makes a quick impression. The ceramic sheen suggests weight and permanence, but it's the rough-hewn result of treating paper, a technique Dykhuis describes as "using water based resists that protect the white paper from subsequent applications of blue paint." Walker's massive por-

traits are pieced together into a grid. Dykhuis says the artist wanted the exhibit to have the feeling of discovering ancient-future ruins, in which case the grid overlay could be the impassive, dissecting gaze of scientism, or compartmental thinking. Organic material is spliced into diagrams through which you sense an enormous ecosystem, vast, hidden and alive. Alien flowers, blooming on forgotten architecture, detail a breathing world accessible only to the most subtle scientific instruments, or creative imaginations.

While time-based, one-way mediums like film dominate the arts,

Dykhuis thinks galleries still have something valuable to offer. "A movie is in time; it can only be experienced in sequence from beginning to end. But in a gallery, you can see the story in reverse—you can walk in any direction and experience different resonances. Unlike a movie or any of the time-based arts, the viewer controls the duration and spatial framing of the visual experience."

Dykhuis warns against old-school modernist curators who subject viewers to "the authority of their reading of the work, which is evident in the way it's presented." He strives to adopt a space with room for "interweaving

perceptions; a place to negotiate the world of meanings between the creative author and creative reader."

I dare the uninitiated to descend into the belly of the Rebecca Cohn and encounter their art gallery through the immediate prettiness and haunting intelligence of Douglas Walker's *Other Worlds*.

Walker's work is heavy on monochromatic blues. ••• Photo by Rob Grandy

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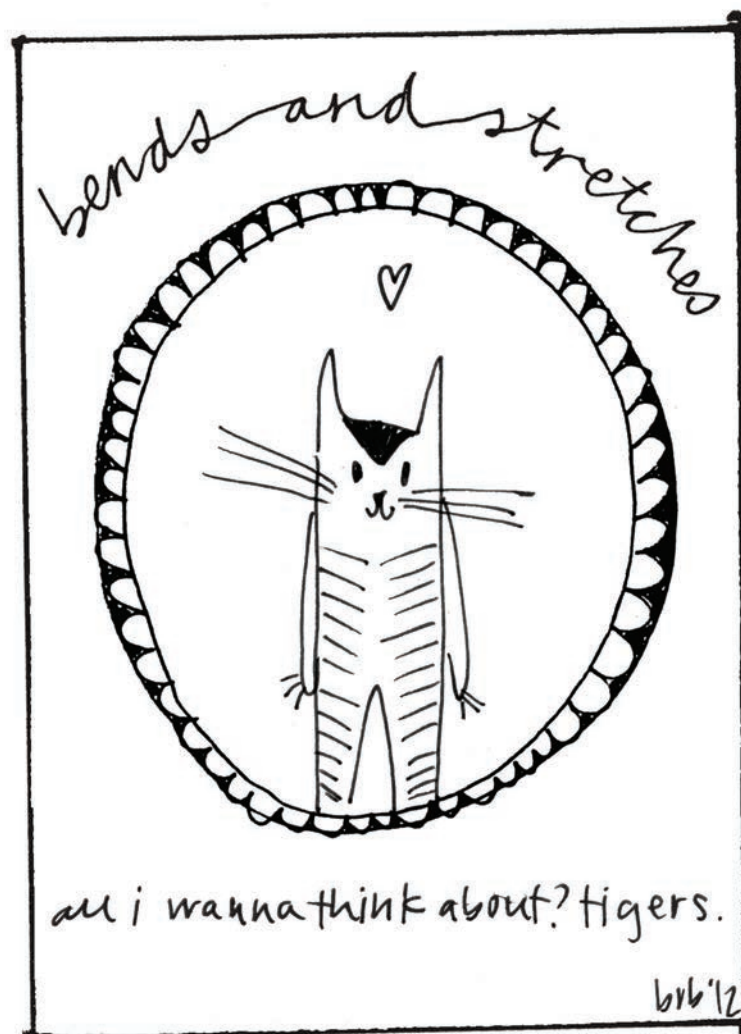
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Be entered to win a \$25 Sweet Pea gift card, and the opportunity to be featured in an upcoming Gazette fashion feature. • • • Photo by Alice Hebb

Fashion profile: Nothing is sweeter than Sweet Pea!

Rose Behar
Fashion Columnist

Though not yet five years old, Sweet Pea Boutique has already become a staple store for Halifax shopping. It's the place to go for dressy frocks, blouses and skirts at a reasonable price point for the average young lady. It's atmosphere is classy and upscale without being intimidating. In short, it's struck the perfect chord in Halifax's youthful shopping scene.

The reason for this may come down to one simple fact: owner Johanna Galipeau was 19 years old when she opened it. Safe to say, she knew the market.

When most girls would be in their second year of university, trying to decide what they want their major to be, or whether they'd like to move out of residence next year, Galipeau had already made the decision that she would leave school to pursue her dream of owning a successful boutique.

That dream became a reality, and then some. Not only was Sweet Pea a success, but Galipeau now owns two other trendy shops: Twisted Muse

and Sparrow Shoes, both located in the Mills shopping centre on Spring Garden Road.

How did she make this decision? And wasn't she even just a little bit afraid?

"Sometimes I do think 'Why was I so ballsy?'" Galipeau laughs. "But I think that's part of getting in to business. You can't second-guess yourself. You have to be a little naïve just to get yourself out there."

With the backing of her parents, both of whom had past experience in business ventures, Galipeau launched the shop in 2007, immediately after leaving her arts program at Saint Mary's University.

"The opportunity came with the space," Galipeau says in regard to the shop's prime real estate at 1542 Queen St., a well-known boutique area.

From there, she filled it with a wide array of well-designed "girly" clothes from brands such as B.B. Dakota, Peel, Grab, Lovely Girl and House of Spy.

Although the boutique's success speaks for itself, Galipeau dealt with her fair share of obstacles in the


beginning.

"It was hard at first. Because I was so young, people wouldn't take me as seriously," says Galipeau. "I knew I just had to hang in there. I just had to earn my way in."

And earn it she did. In July 2010, Galipeau opened Twisted Muse, which features a more casual, urban look, and in December of that year, she launched Sparrow Shoes. Galipeau is now a serious player in the Halifax retail industry.

"I grew up here," Galipeau sums up, looking proudly at her shop.

To celebrate the store that made it all happen, and that continues to make it happen for all young fashionistas searching for a darling dress, the *Gazette* and Sweet Pea have decided to partner up and offer the 'I heart Sweet Pea' contest.

Simply visit Sweet Pea's Facebook page, "like" the page, and post which brand at Sweet Pea is your favourite, along with your Dalhousie email address. You'll be entered to win a \$25 Sweet Pea gift card, and the opportunity to be featured in an upcoming *Gazette* fashion feature. 



Some advanced prep for Valentine’s Day

Chocolate doesn't care if you're single

Rachel Eades
DIY Columnist

Valentine’s Day is creeping up on us once again, and whether you’re a hardcore fan or violently opposed to this Hallmark holiday, it’s difficult to ignore the waves of pink stuffed animals and heart-shaped boxes of chocolate taking over storefronts all over the city.

Regardless of your feelings about Valentine’s Day, the chocolate component of it is one aspect most people can agree to support. And if you prefer your chocolate without those red ribbons and frilly velvet boxes, it’s pretty easy to make your own amazing chocolaty treats at home. Here are some options:

Chocolate Truffles
These are about as basic as you can get when it comes to truffles.

You’ll need:

- 12 oz of chopped bittersweet chocolate
- 1/3 cup heavy cream (whipping cream)
- 1 tsp of vanilla

In a medium sized pot over medium heat, stir together your chopped chocolate and heavy cream until well-blended and smooth. Once the chocolate is fully melted and the cream is blended in, remove from the heat and stir in your vanilla. Pour the mixture into a dish and refrigerate until set, but not solid. This should take between 1.5 and 2 hours (don’t forget about it! If it oversets you’ll have a hard time making your truffles). When your mixture is set, take it out and roll tablespoon sized scoops into small balls. You can then roll these in whatever toppings you’d like (suggestions include icing sugar, coconut, or sprinkles). And that’s it, you’re done!

Make sure to keep these in the fridge though, or else they’ll melt.

Chocolate Covered Strawberries
I’ll assume no explanation is needed for these.

You’ll need:

- 16 oz of milk chocolate chips
- 2 tbsp of shortening
- 1 lb of strawberries

In a double boiler (aka. a heatproof bowl set over a pot of boiling water), melt the chocolate and shortening, stirring occasionally until smooth. Turn off the heat, and use toothpicks (or a fork) to dip each strawberry into the chocolate mixture. Rotate the strawberries to get any excess chocolate off. Set the strawberries on a sheet of waxed paper, and put them in the fridge to set. Done!

Chocolate Fudge
Rich, creamy, and incredibly easy to make.

You’ll need:

- 3 cups of semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 (14 oz) can of sweetened condensed milk
- 1/4 cup butter

Mix together your chocolate chips, condensed milk, and butter in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on medium power for 3-5 minutes, stirring occasionally (every minute or so) until the chocolate chips are completely melted. Pour into a greased 8x8 pan, and refrigerate until set. That’s it!

Enjoy your chocolate! Whether or not you enjoy your Valentine’s Day. ☺

JOIN US!



Dal Gazette

CONTRIBUTORS' MEETINGS

MONDAYS, 5:30PM
ROOM 312, The SUB



Submit your Micro-Fiction, Poetry and Feedback to Creative@DalGazette.com

Hollerin’ o’er the Hill

You can call me Buddy. Last name’s not important, ‘least not for this story anyway. First off, I liked workin’ at Percy’s farm because o’ the nice weather, ‘n the cattle was always good ta me, whether I’s in a bad mood or not. Percy was a good man, ‘n I’s happier than a pig ‘n slop most o’ the time. Now, I didn’ like workin’ there fa three reasons: ol’ miss Duncan was a real pain in my ass, that damn dog that alwas followed me ‘round, and that ruckus o’er the hill that alwas caught ma ear in the night. I didn’ know what it was, an’ I didn’ wanna find out. All that hollerin’ and screamin’ and shoutin’ scared the livin’ daylights outta me.

The sun was shinin’ nicely and I was doin’ my chores like usual down at the barn. The hens got watah ‘n I gave that stupid dog half o’ my sandwich ta get it outta my sights ‘til I was done milkin’ the cows. Wasn’ a bad lot of eggs but I went an broke two when the dog kept circlin’ ‘round ma heels spittin’ spit everywhere. It was ma fault though, walkin’ too fast probably. I was on my way ta town for Percy ‘n I noticed his truck. There was a purty young girl ‘bout my age in the seat, ‘n I saw Percy go ‘n kiss her ‘n I wish I didn’.

I got back from town ‘bout seven and had to run miss Duncan’s ripped dress up to Glennie’s ‘fore he went to bed and she warned me if them chickens ever went ‘n ripped her dress ‘gain she was gonna shoot the whole lot o’ em. That’d jus’ give me less work ‘n I wasn’ gonna complain ‘bout that. I run fast up to Glennie’s so I could get home in time ta eat while ma food was warm.

I’s shovelin’ shit afta supper and I’d be lyin’ if I told you I didn’ hear that damn hollerin’ o’er the hill. I don’ usually leave the farm, but I did and I’m damn ashamed I did. I saw tha’ whole group o’ townsfolk, mistah Jackson in there too, all puttin’ tha rope ‘round that girl’s neck ‘nd her eyes all bulgin’ ‘n scared. Now, I didn’ go ‘n tell on Percy, ‘n it wasn’ my business seein’ nothin’ o’ the sort, but I wish I nevah went o’er the hill.

—Chad Durling

If Music Were...

If music were a doctor,
He would be relied by all
And of sadness a healer.
He can make them dance the lame,
Or even prolong your day,
But it would all be the same.

If music were president,
He would be adored by most
And be assigned by consent.
He would gasconade for change
And a life of love and peace,
But it would all be the same.

And if music were I,
He would still write the poems
And would live a normal life.
He can receive love or hate
And have friends and enemies,
But it would all be the same.

—Adrian Lacson


sudoku

8		3	7			9		
1			8		4	6		
						1		
			4	3	9			
6		2						
							3	8
	4		1	9	8		7	
	9			7				
5								6



DalGazette.com Website Top 5

1. World’s best triathletes—Beth Brown, Sports
2. Chilean student movement—Rob Sangster-Poole, News
3. Glamour Pig—Kathryn Johnson, Comics
4. Funding found for King's Chaplain—Olivia Schneider, News
5. Prof Talk: Dr. Stephen Snobelen—Samantha Chown, Arts





Goalie Wendell Vye denied 29 shots in Dal's win Jan. 20. ••• Photo by Martina Marien

Dal's surprising turnaround continues

Men's hockey suddenly playoff contenders

Arfa Ayub
Staff Contributor

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The Dalhousie Tigers men's hockey team wanted to send a message—a message that was heard loud and clear Jan. 21 at the Halifax Forum as the plucky Tigers refused to surrender.

After a shaky start against the rival Saint Mary's Huskies which saw the Tigers fall behind 5 - 1 midway through the match, a furious, but gutsy, comeback attempt fell just short. It's the type of effort that perhaps wasn't shown by the Tigers in the first half of the season.

"We showed character," said Dal defenseman Pascal Amyot after the 6 - 4 defeat. "We wanted to show that we are going to stand up for each other and keep playing hard no matter what the score is, and that's what we did."

It was the Tigers' second consecutive game this past weekend against the Huskies. They earned a 4 - 3 overtime win the previous night in the

home-and-home series.

Vye backstops Tigers to win

What began as a dismal first half in which the Tigers lost 11 games in a row has suddenly become a remarkable turnaround.

Following a long-awaited 1 - 0 triumph over St. Thomas Jan. 6, the squad has shown resiliency to contend for an AUS playoff spot. After this weekend's two games, Dal is sporting a much improved 4-2-1 record since the holiday break.

Stealing two points Jan. 20 thanks to Jordan Villeneuve-Gagne's overtime winner against a team which has fared much better than themselves this season only helps Dal's playoff hopes. The win closed the gap between Dal and St. FX, who currently sits in the sixth and final playoff spot by just one point.

"We came together as a team," said Dal captain and former Saint Mary's member David MacDonald. "We are looking at the second half as a new season. The guys are all playing well

and the coaching staff is doing a great job."

Despite blowing an early 2 - 0 lead, the Tigers managed to squeak out the win. A power play goal by Pierre-Alexandre Vandall early in the third period gave Dal their second lead of the game. The 3 - 2 advantage didn't last long, however, after Cory Tanaka of the Huskies fired a slap shot high glove side past goalie Wendell Vye to tie the game at three.

It was Vye's third straight start since No. 1 goalie Bobby Nadeau re-injured his groin. Nadeau is out for the remainder of the season.

"I just took it shot-by-shot," said Vye, who had 29 saves. He kept his team in the match as the Tigers struggled defensively for numerous stretches in the third frame.

Vye's most important save came late in the closing period.

"I knew I would probably have to make a save coming down the stretch in order for us to go to OT," said Vye. "For a second, when I saw the guy in the middle I thought he was going to

shoot. He ended up going back door. It was a desperation leg save, and I got a little lucky with it, but, you know, it's nice to be lucky every once in a while."

Dal loses physical affair

Luck, it would appear, was not on the Tigers' side the next evening. Adding insult to injury, the Tigers lost forward Shea Kewin. He was hit from behind by SMU forward Justin Wallingford.


"It's unfortunate that those still happen," said Tigers head coach Chris Donnelly. "I thought it was cheap shot. The guy leaves his feet and delivers an elbow to the back of the head. I am sure the league will have a look at that and will have to make a decision on it."

After digging themselves into a 6 - 2 hole to begin the third period, the Tigers fought back. Frustration levels were also high as both teams got into penalty trouble.

Dal responded to the adversity by capitalizing on their power play

opportunities, adding two more goals to pull themselves within a respectable margin. The Tigers, however, would not score any further, falling 6 - 4.

The road ahead is not an easy one for the Tigers. With seven games remaining, Dal faces off against a number of the league's best teams, including CIS-ranked UNB, the top team in the country.

"We have good opponents but we know we can beat them," said Amyot. "At the same time, we have to be careful because if we start thinking too big and forget about the little details that make the whole difference that could cost us as well. So, we just have to take it one period at a time and see what happens from there." 

The Tigers are in tough this weekend. They visit Charlottetown to battle fifth-place UPEI on Jan. 27 and then they head to Fredericton for a match against conference-leading UNB. Puck drop at both games is 7 p.m.

Women’s basketball beats up lowly Panthers

Tigers finally halt seven-game losing skid

Jason Savoury
Sports Contributor

They say the journey up a mountain starts with the first step. If that's the case, Dalhousie's women's basketball team took that first step out of the bottom of the league standings Jan. 21 with a resounding 73 - 58 win over the visiting UPEI Panthers.

The four point win raises the Tigers to a 3 - 7 record in the AUS, tied for sixth with St. FX. It is Dal's first win since Nov. 18, ending a seven-game losing skid for the Tigers. Meanwhile, the Panthers were now alone in the league basement with a record of 2 - 10.

Although some may be quick to dismiss a win over a last-place team, Tigers head coach Anna Stammberger is not among them, emphasizing that “all teams in the league are competitive.” She went on to compliment her girls on their aggressive defence.

It was that smothering defence that was the lynchpin for the Tigers, harassing the Panthers all match and forcing them to a dismal 30 per cent shooting from the field.

Nowhere was that defence more apparent than the second quarter. After a tight first frame which saw the two teams separated by a single point at 19 - 18, the Tigers shut out the Panthers for the first five minutes of the second quarter, opening an 11-point

edge the Tigers would not relinquish. After that, it was all over but the shouting, and there was plenty of that to be heard—often directed at the referees. The game seemed almost arbitrarily called at times, causing Panthers head coach Carly Clarke to receive a technical foul late in the final quarter after a defensive foul on her team. After the game, Dal coach Stammberger said the officiating had “inconsistencies,” and that it was hard for the players to find a line to stay within. The line the Tigers did find this game was straight to the hoop, shooting just over 40 per cent from the field. They were led by third-year guard and player of the game Anna von Maltzahn with 17 points. Von Maltzahn also added eight boards, a category in which she leads the AUS with an impressive 10.8 per game. She was backed up by third-year guard Keisha Brown, who shot aggressively all game, and wound up with 16 points. The Panthers' player of the game was second-year guard Amy Gough. She had 15 points. But with only one field goal, she scored the rest of her points thanks to a 13-for-14 shooting effort from the free throw line.

The Tigers return home after a Jan. 27 match on the road to welcome St. FX to the Dalplex on Jan. 29. Game time is 2 p.m.



The Tigers left the league basement by zoning in on UPEI's attackers all game. • • • Photo by Alice Hebb

Tigers tamed by league’s best

Men’s basketball drops second in a row

Jason Savoury
Sports Contributor

As Omar Little said on The Wire, "You come at the king, you best not miss."

There were two kings on the Dalplex court Jan. 21: The Dalhousie Tigers, reigning AUS champions, and the UPEI Panthers, currently ranked No. 1 in the league. Both teams had reason to be envious of the other, and both took their best shots. UPEI's jab was a little bit better, though, as they were able to stave off a fourth quarter rally by the Tigers, winning the game 85 - 74 in a match that was much closer than the final score suggested.

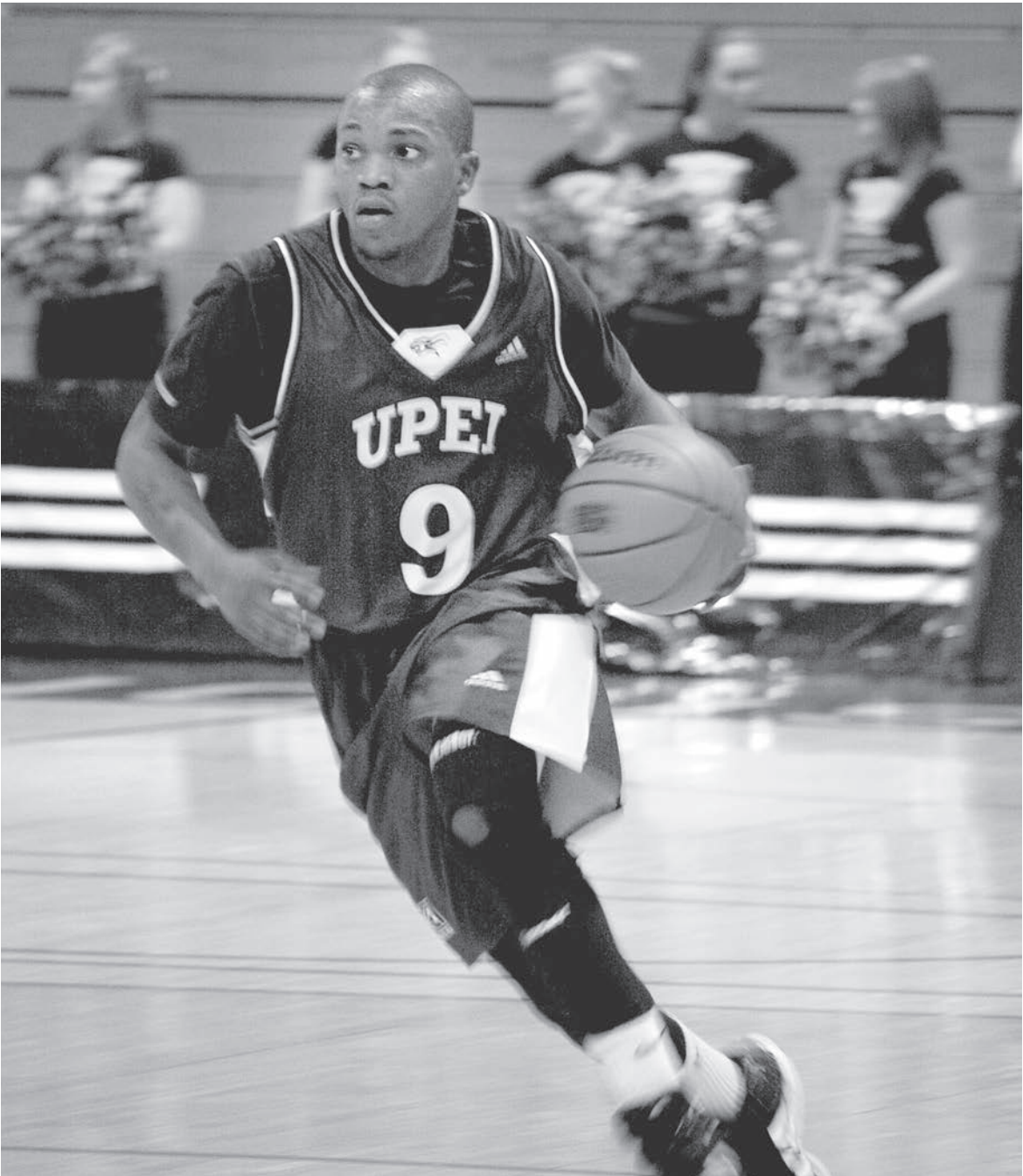
The win cemented the Panthers' position at the top of the league, 9 - 3, while Dal has now dropped two games in a row to fall to 4 - 6. The defeat is threatening to undo the Tigers' three-game winning streak that returned them back to .500 after a sluggish first half to the season.

In an odd coincidence, Dal actually managed to outscore the Panthers over the final three quarters, 57 - 55. Unfortunately for the home squad, that was not enough to overcome the offensive outburst UPEI put up in the first quarter, blowing the doors off with a blistering 30 points to Dal's 17. UPEI was led in that quarter by player of the game Terrance Brown, who scored 11 of his 13 points, including a perfect 3-for-3 from behind the arc. Indeed, three-point shooting was one of the cruxes of the Panthers' victory, outscoring the Tigers 24 - 12 from deep. This was highlighted by

UPEI's 54 per cent shooting percentage in the first half to Dal's diminutive 20 per cent. Even so, the Tigers never threw in the towel, fighting tooth and nail with their feline opponents. After battling the Panthers to a 63 - 50 deficit at the end of the third quarter, the Tigers came out like gangbusters in the fourth, causing UPEI to commit three fouls in the first minute of the last quarter. This foul trouble allowed Dal to penetrate to the basket, starting off the quarter on a 6 - 0 run. That streak blossomed into a 13 - 4 mini-rout that forced UPEI to call a timeout and threatened to turn the tide of the game as the Panthers' lead dwindled to just four points. The Tigers, however, would come no closer as a seven-point swing secured the Panthers' victory. Dal's player of the game was third-year guard Casey Fox, who scored 20 points, but their fourth quarter charge was led by fifth-year Robert Nortmann and his eight of 17 points in the quarter, penetrating time and time again as he attempted to will his team to victory. UPEI's scoring leaders were guards Jonathan Cooper and Donathan Moss. The duo each had 18 points.

Dal is in Acadia Jan. 27 and then hosts St. FX at home Jan. 29 at 3 p.m.

UPEI show the Tigers what's up. • • • Photo by Alice Hebb





TIGER TONING

OPTIMYZ EXPO HOME TO MORE THAN JUST GIMMICKS

Send your fitness-related questions to Sports@DalGazette.com and check back in the Gazette weekly to see if your question gets answered

Colin Hebb
Health Columnist

"I always see these ads for fitness expos. What's the deal? Are they just a vehicle for money-sucking faux fitness gimmicks or are they actually worth a visit?"

—Skeptical Health Nut

I decided to pay a visit this past weekend to the Optimyz Live Expo at Exhibition Park. It's the fourth year for the convention, which was part of a once-regional Nova Scotia startup magazine that has now gone national, Optimyz.

Fitness conventions can be positive or negative experiences depending on the gimmick-to-reality ratio found on the convention floor. Every event like this has some inevitable gimmicks, but, luckily, many of these

conventions are organized by people and organizations passionate about fitness and the health of our population, and they will ensure the quality of exhibitors is high. The Optimyz Expo was no exception.

I took a good tour of the show during my trip and was actually quite impressed by some of the displays of both new and existing products and services. I was also happy to see many health-based charities set up booths about their respective events and causes.

I can't recount the entire expo in this column, but I would like to share a few highlights that jumped out at me. In the spirit of awards season, I will present accolades to a few stand-out displays:

Most Innovative Product:
FitDeck Exercise Playing Cards
I'm a bit biased here because in the

past I have personally—and with clients—used regular playing cards in creating workouts. This venture takes that concept to a whole new level with so many decks for so many different purposes.

Essentially, FitDecks allow you to craft a completely random workout toward a specific goal. The best part is, you don't need any equipment. (Although there are some decks you can get for specific equipment.) So, for example, you could grab the FitDeck Yoga cards or the FitDeck Body-weight pack and shuffle them up for a new and challenging workout each time. I will be getting myself a few of these decks. Check them out online at fitdeck.com.

Coolest Health-Related Charity Event: RBC Amazing Challenge for AIDS
There are some great upcoming char-

ities on display including Bust-A-Move and the Bluenose Marathon, among others. The Amazing Challenge race is one event I have heard only a bit about in the past, but having the opportunity to ask a bit more about it at the expo, I was hooked.


It's a bit of an *Amazing Race*-type event that has participants getting around the city, completing challenges and competing to come out on the winning end.

Charities such as these are a great way to set some fitness goals and have an actual target to work towards. Races like the Bluenose are a bit more measurable, but this event is a lot of fun and there's great motivation to get active and train.

Coolest Local Health-Related Business: Aerobics First
I love this store. Again, I'm probably biased because I have shopped there

in the past. However, they definitely brought their quality service to Optimyz Live and are very deserving of a shout-out.

If you are new to the fitness world or are experienced and looking for some gear better suited to your needs, this store is the place to go. Their staff is well-trained and help ensure you get exactly what you need to accomplish your fitness goals. Be it properly-sized shoes or other fitness-related equipment suited to what you need, this is the place to go.

Their display at Optimyz was basically a smaller version of their store, and they're local! It's great service, and you feel good about shopping there. 

Optimize your reading potential, and your workouts.

••• Photo by Angela Gzowski



TIGERS COMEBACK TO BEAT MONCTON

Dal prevails after first set hiccup

Graeme Benjamin
Sports Contributor

Following a midseason slump which saw the Tigers drop three straight, Dalhousie's women's volleyball team is back on track.

After losing the first set against the Aigles Bleus 25 - 21, the Tigers were able to rally back and win the next three sets for a 3 - 1 victory Jan. 22. The win, Dal's second in a row, temporarily moves the Tigers past Cape Breton into second place in the AUS standings.

Their win over Moncton was the Tigers' only game this past weekend. Their home game against Acadia two days before was cancelled due to inclement weather. The two combatants already completed their rescheduled match Jan. 25.

Conference first team all-star Louise Facca was named player of the game with 20 kills, 48 total attempts and a .208 hitting percentage.

"I think we were able to put our serves and serves received together and keep the energy high. We came together as a team," she said.

The comeback started with five strong serves from Raeesa Lalani in the second set. Dal continued to serve and pass well throughout the frame, and wound up winning 25 - 15 to tie the match.

Captain Kristie Shepherd provided the leadership, helping the team rally back in the last three sets. Shepherd said the Tigers simply had to follow their game plan.

"We wanted to serve and pass consistently, to close blocks and slow down their fast offence," she said.

The women were down 14 - 7 at

one point in the fourth set but rallied for a six-point streak to narrow the gap. They pulled off an impressive 25 - 17 string to finish the match off in fashion.

Tigers head coach Rick Scott was pleased with his team's overall effort. "There was some good veteran leadership," said Scott. "We knew we didn't play our best set [in the first], but we just got back to doing what we needed to do to win through serving, passing and good defense."

Tarah-Lynn Truant was on the floor late in the fourth set to help the

Tigers complete the comeback, a contribution that didn't go unnoticed.

"It's not an easy thing to do to come off the bench and play the way that she did," Scott said.

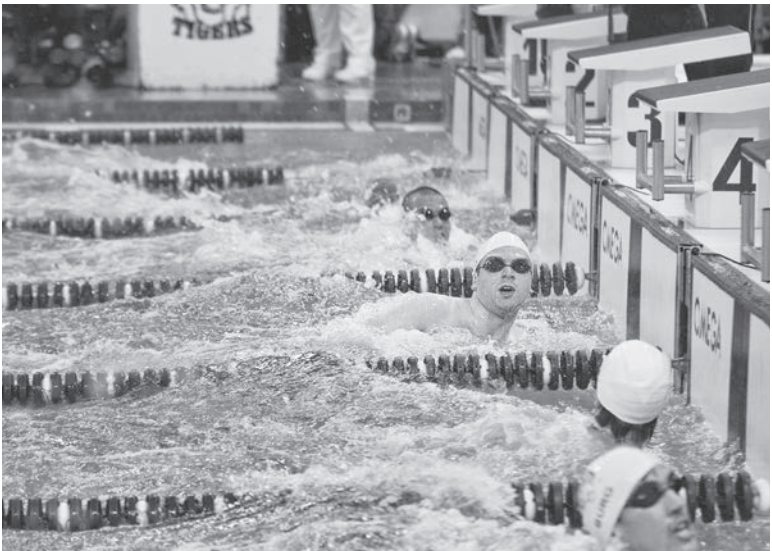
This was the Tigers' second win over the now 3 - 9 Aigles Bleus this season. Dal is on the road this weekend as they head to The Tower to play the league-leading Saint Mary's Jan. 29 at 2 p.m.

Player of the game Louise Facca punches the ball past Moncton's blockers.

••• Photo by Pau Balite

Tigers make a splash at final AUS meet

Relay disqualification a minor blemish on weekend



The Tigers were a force in the pool. Archived photo Nov. 20. ••• Photo by Pau Balite

Paula Sanderson
Staff Contributor

The Dal Tigers dominated the podium at the UPEI invitational swim meet Jan. 20-21. The women's team won every event but one and the men's team finished top three in each event aside from the 400 metre free relay in which Dal was disqualified.

Coach David Fry says a strong result in Charlottetown puts his team in good position ahead of the AUS and CIS championships.

He says swimmers Paige Crowell, Rachel Shin, Molly Wedge and Keishia Mills swam particularly well.

Mills broke the AUS record in the 200 metre breaststroke.

"We've been training really hard in practice," says Mills. "I tried to focus; I knew it was going to be something great."

At the end of her race, she looked at the clock and saw her record-breaking time.

"It was really exciting," says Mills.

Mills had been working hard all season towards this goal.

"Hers was one we could see coming," says Fry. "She's been within a couple tenths of a second under it twice before so we knew she was going to get under it."

The men's team saw strong swims from Kyle Watson, Kit Moran and Dmitry Shulga, but had a disappointing 400 metre freestyle relay.

"One of the swimmers left a little bit early, by little I mean the smallest possible margin. It was one-one-hundredth of a second that they left early," says Fry. "It wasn't a blatant false start, but enough to make it illegal."

Bryan Fumerton was on that relay

team.

"It was the third guy that left early," says Fumerton. "It doesn't make you feel good, especially when it is someone else's fault."

"The way we look at it it's better you learn those things now because it's not our conference meet or nationals," says Fry. "So you learn them and learn from them."

Fumerton says overall it was a good meet, as he explained his team's domination.

"If you're in a race with no other people from Dal, you'll destroy the heat," Fumerton says. "There is always the odd guy from the other team, but for the longer events I think it's mostly our team racing each other."

Dal hosts the AUS championships for both men and women on the weekend of Feb. 10-12.

sports briefs

Athletic director out at Dal

Dalhousie's stint with athletic director John MacDonald will be remembered as a short one.

In a surprising internal memo sent to university staff in the late afternoon Jan. 23, it was announced that after holding the athletic director position for shortly over two years, MacDonald was stepping down effective immediately. The email said MacDonald will be exploring other career opportunities.

Karen Moore, the associate director of athletics at the school since 1990, will take on new responsibilities as Director, Varsity Athletics.

Moore comes to her new position with a long history of involvement with athletics at Dal. A former Tigers volleyball athlete and 1984 Olympian, Moore was inducted twice into the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame. She was also head coach of Dal's women's volleyball team from 1986 to 1990.

Under MacDonald's tenure, the campus' varsity program witnessed continued success with AUS championships in cross country, swimming and track and field, and an unexpected banner for women's soccer. MacDonald also watched over the decision to not renew the contract of women's hockey bench boss Lesley Jordan, and a five-year contract extension to men's hockey head coach Pete Belliveau. The hockey team recently saw a shake-up of responsibilities as Belliveau was replaced in December behind the bench by assistant Chris Donnelly.

MacDonald was appointed athletic director on Dec. 17, 2009.

For the extended story, check our updated article at DalGazette.com.

Women's hockey splits weekend

It's a win and a loss for Dal's fifth place women's hockey team this past weekend, posting a 1 - 1 record on the road.

The Tigers dropped a close 4 - 3 decision to Moncton, one of the best teams in the loop, and then followed up the next day with a 3 - 2 beating of the outfit they are chasing in the league standings, St. Thomas.

Volleyball 2 - 1 against Quebec

The third and final men's volleyball interlock of the season came to a close in Fredericton over the weekend, and the Tigers wound up leaving the court with minimal scars against their RSEQ rivals.

After losing a straight set affair Jan. 20 to Laval, the Tigers erased those memories the next day, beating both Sherbrooke and Montreal 3 - 1.

Graeme Higgins claimed Dal's male athlete of the week honours with a total of 51.5 points and 45 kills during the three-game span.

Fierce Tigers in track and field

Notable Tigers at last Saturday's Athletics Nova Scotia Open include a top three in triple jump awash in black and gold thanks to Simon Watts, Caleb Patton and Nathan Comeau, respectively. Also, Anthony Bernard was top in long jump, and Justin Blades crossed the finish line first in the 600 metre run.

In the women's category, Meryl Macdougall took the crown in the 60 metre dash, while Lesley D'Apollonia did the same in the 300 metre.

—Ian Froese
Sports Editor

Former athletic director John MacDonald outside his office in early 2010. ••• Photo by Pau Balite



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FRIDAY January 27

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SATURDAY January 28



Hit the slopes with Dalplex on Munro Day!
Only \$42 for ski/snowboard rental, transportation to Ski Martock and lift ticket! Are you registered yet? Space is limited so call 494-3372 today to book your seat on the bus.

SUNDAY January 29

Shoot to WIN your Tuition!
W/M Basketball vs. StFX @ 1/3pm

W Hockey vs. SMU @ 2pm

Free for Dal students!



MONDAY January 30

Get in the groove with our **Groove Fit**, taught by Ryan Cairns! **Dance + aerobics + strength training = A FUN WORKOUT!**

Free for Dal Students, tonight at 7:45pm in the fieldhouse



TUESDAY January 31

New Year's resolution cardio **deal!** Add it to your membership for **3 months for only \$49!**



WEDNESDAY February 1




Stretch it out in a Yogaflex class!
4:30pm in the fieldhouse today and best of all, it's **FREE** for Dal students!

THURSDAY February 2

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
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Women's Hockey vs SMU, 2pm


A successful weekend for Tigers in pink!
At the annual Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation -
Atlantic Region hockey and basketball fundraising
games on January 13 and January 14, approximately
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THE SEXTANT

Editor in Chief:
Ben Wedge

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

January 27, 2012
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Dalhousie defeats Waterloo

Dalhousie welcomed 300 Industrial Engineering students to town this past weekend.
Staff

With over 300 participants, the 2012 edition of the Institute of Industrial Engineers conference was a success. Students from across Canada spent three days competing, networking, and listening to presentations about the state of the industry. Dalhousie's contingent came home with the second prize in the simulation competition, and a third place finish in the case study competition.

In the simulation competition, teams of four were tasked with modelling an imaginary hospital and improving its patient flow. For the case study competition, participants went to the Garrison Brewing Company and suggested improvements to the layout of the bottling line. Participants also had the choice of participat-



The Dalhousie delegation poses for a photo at the end of the conference. ~Megan Barteaux (Industrial '12)

ing in a theoretical examination or a technical paper presentation.

The coveted GoldenI trophy is awarded to the top school at the conference, based on participation and placement in the four competitions. This year, first time at-

tendee Waterloo came home with the coveted prize. When all was said and done, however, the most important competition began.

On Saturday night, the rookies from Waterloo bravely challenged Dalhousie to a best 2 of 3

flip cup game. The tense match appeared to fall apart quickly for the Dalhousie squad, when in the first game, third Luke Carmichael was unable to invert his cup in fewer than 15 attempts. Undeterred, the team regrouped for the second and third games.

The second game was a close race, with Dalhousie narrowly edging out Waterloo. The third game was no contest, with lead Ben Wedge and second Sarah Macdonald both succeeding on the first try. While Dalhousie may have missed the mark for the GoldenI, they made up for it where it counts and struck Waterloo right in the heart.

Our editorial from last week warned students about some of the dangers lurking at conferences. Luckily, no one participating in this week's event was struck down by the Norwalk virus or any other viral infections.

Editor's note: The Sextant encourages responsible consumption of alcohol. Be safe while having fun.



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Comic, Abstract = \$20

CO-OP CORNER

Round 1 open now, ends February 13th.



Follow us on our new Foursquare page to discover tips about Sexton Campus!

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What do you want from your student union?

DSU Election nominations are now open



Ben Wedge
Editor in Chief
Industrial '13

For two years, Dalhousie students have been content to have been governed by an engineering major. Chris Saulnier (Computer '12) wraps up his second term at the helm of the Dalhousie Student Union in April. Now it's time for someone else to rise to the occasion. While a full-time job with the student union may not be for everyone, there are other options too.

Students are able to run for a variety of positions, such as my former role as Senator, sitting on the body which makes all academic decisions at this university. Another option is to sit on the Board of Governors, the trustees of the University, in charge of all financial matters. A third option is to sit

as a councillor, representing engineers, students at large, graduate students, international students, the LGBTQ community, the Black Students Association, Aboriginal/First Nations/Inuit students, or the Dal Women's Centre. Finally, the DSU has a Board of Operations, responsible for advising Council on financial matters. Nominations for some of these positions are open now, and details are at www.dsu.ca

The five executives of the Dalhousie Student Union are paid approximately \$30,000 for their year of service. While this salary may not entice engineering students, the leadership experience is considered by many to be invaluable. There are also a number of networking opportunities, from meeting members of the Board of Governors (many business leaders sit on this board), attending conferences for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, and

representing the students of Dalhousie at various events in the city.

The important question, however, is what we want from our student union. There has long been a degree of tension between Sexton and Studley, with an "us vs. them" mentality being around since before the two Universities were merged in 1997. Sexton students need to attend the debate on Feb-

Punditry is ... "run by a cabal of ruthless current and former DSU insiders."

ruary 9th at noon in the Alumni Lounge (beside Tim Horton's) and make their voices heard. Fair provision of services, more programming and entertainment, and better access to the executive and full time staff are three perennial issues on this campus. They will likely rear their heads again this year.

Swords have already been drawn for this year's campaign, with de-

bate underway at www.punditry.ca, the #1 news source for DSU elections, run by a cabal of ruthless current and former DSU insiders. The pundits aren't know for pulling their punches, and they analyse each proposal line by line, providing criticism which could help candidates turn the tide of an election.

The likely winners have no doubt already planned their campaigns in intricate detail, but that's not to say an upstart couldn't break through the clique that can be the DSU. Throw your name in, and make a crack at re-shaping our campus. Nominations close on February 1st.

The DSU uses an online voting platform, which means you can vote from any internet-capable device once polls open on February 14th.

Editor's note: Ben Wedge is a former DSU insider and a frequent contributor to Punditry's public comment section.

News briefs

- DUES is seeking a Chief Returning Officer. Email president@daleng.ca for more information
- DUES is having an AGM at 5:45 on Thursday, February 2nd.

- Free pizza for all attendees.
- DUES is seeking volunteers to help run the Atlantic Engineering Competition on February 3rd and 4th. Contact them if you can help.

- Pulling for the Kids will be on March 3rd from 8am — 8pm. Teams will pull cars around the loop in the Sexton entrance road to raise money for the Halifax Region Children's Aid Foundation. Contact engineer@dal.ca for more

information on this event or to register your team of five.

- The Sextant is looking for articles, please email us if you have any ideas.

Sexton Events

Friday, January 27th:

1 pm: Engineering (Design Commons)

9:00pm: Trivia at the T-Room

Thursday, February 2nd:

Quaker Parents with Rob Loveless and friends. T-Room, 9PM.

Buy your Dalhousie Engineering Gear at the DSEUS office (just inside the Design Commons)



HALIFAX'S BEST TRIVIA!

Does your society have an event on Sexton Campus? Send an email to sextant@dal.ca and we'll post it here!

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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Questions, Comments and to Contribute sextant@dal.ca



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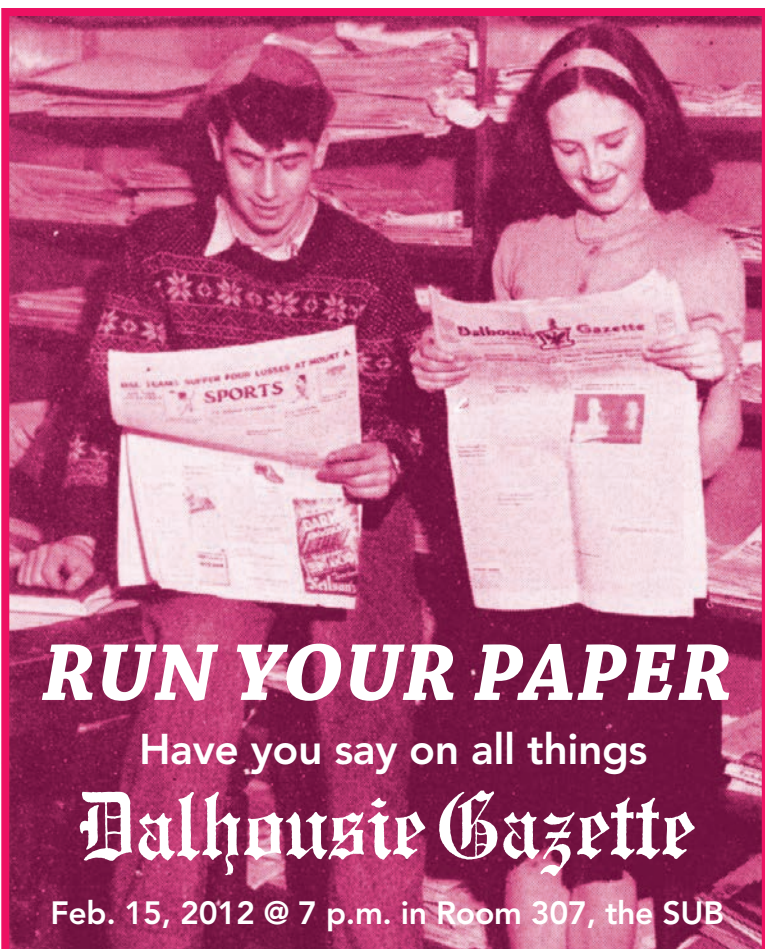
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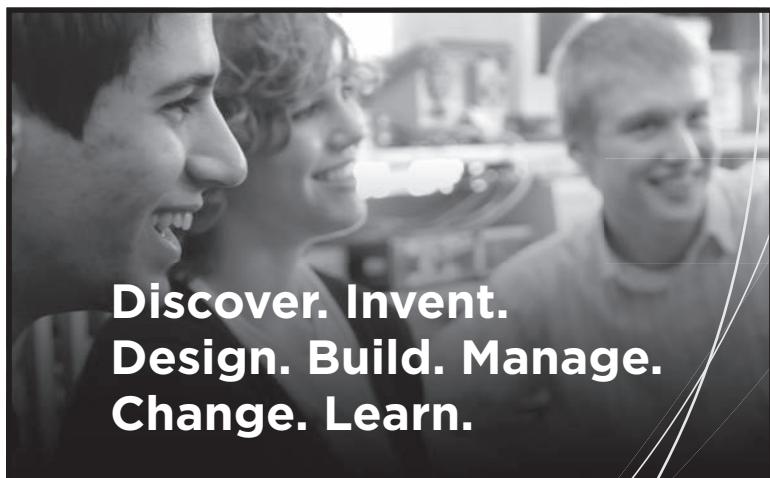
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Have your say on all things

Dalhousie Gazette

Feb. 15, 2012 @ 7 p.m. in Room 307, the SUB

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