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WEEKLY DISPATCH

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

The DSU launched a voter registration drive on Feb 14th that will run through to May 1st

We know that Students love this city and we want to make sure that they get to have their say in how it treated and how it is run!

Our goal is to get students and members of the greater Dalhousie Community to register now to ensure they are eligible to vote in the municipal election next October. We want to help ensure that student issues are election issues.

How we will help ensure that you are registered:

- 1) Anyone can pick up registration forms at the information desk or campus copy in the SUB. You can also find them online at ElectionsNovaScotia.ca/VoterInfo.asp
- 2) Anyone can have the required identification photocopied FREE at campus copy.
- 3) Completed forms can be dropped off at the information desk or campus copy.
- 4) We will ensure that Elections Nova Scotia receives your completed form!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Said the Whale, live at the Grawood Wednesday, April 4

Our final Grawood new music concert of the year will finish the semester in style.

Featuring 2011 winner of the Juno Award for Best New Group, and featured group on Rockstar Weekly's list of the "Top 12 RockStars to Watch in 2012".

All the way from Vancouver to help kick-off their national tour, SAID THE WHALE!

Tickets \$10.00 advance (DSU Info Desk)/ \$12.00 at the door

Wet/dry (must have Dal ID if under 19)
Open to Dal students and their guests

The Grawood Presents Last Class Bash Thursday, April 5

Last Class Bash featuring SIGNAL HILL, need we say more.....

This event is 19+ and open to all Dal students, faculty, staff, alumni and their guests.

Job Opportunities

The DSU is now hiring for council and part time staff positions!!
Please go to www.DalStudentJobs.ca for a list of opportunities!

*The DSU Executive would like to wish everyone
the best of luck on exams. We hope you
have a safe and happy summer!*

Stay connected with the DSU through Facebook & Twitter

Facebook: Group and Page – Dalhousie Student Union

Twitter: www.twitter.com/dalstudentunion

March 30 - May 1, 2012 •

The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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the fine print

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its our last issue of the year—see you again in september!

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The Dalhousie Gazette from the editor

from
the editor

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Dylan Matthias Editor-in-Chief



In celebration of awkward moments: And why they're always worth it

Dylan Matthias
Editor-in-Chief

There is a time for sappy, nostalgic editorials and this is it. It's the end of four years at *The Dalhousie Gazette* for me. So I feel a little like I've earned this space to say something to the whole Dalhousie community. And oh, terrific—now I freeze? Now I stare at a blank page, not knowing what to write? Of course I do. This is how this paper works—I've learned that by now.

Let there be an awkward moment. Why not?

Ah, what the hell. Every editor-in-chief does this, so let's get it over with.

I've learned more at the *Gazette* than I could possibly imagine. Most days, I hear something or other about how awful student media is. I knew pretty much from the day I stepped through the door that this was very wrong indeed.

I started awkwardly. The first contributor's meetings of any year are busy—it's worth seeing it every Sep-

tember just to see so many people and so much pizza packed into so small a space. Being 6'5", I couldn't actually reach the news desk on my first trip. Sports is near the door. I stuck. Other sports contributors will know what I mean.

I initially came running from the big, bad, soul-destroying journalism school—other J-Schoolers will know what I mean. And while there were valuable lessons about inverted pyramids and news values there, I wanted to experiment and learn in other ways.

This is the wonder of student journalism. It has everything. There are some very fine reporters here. My predecessor, Joel Tichinoff, to whom I owe a lot, including friendship, was fond of pointing out famous figures who wrote for student papers. Names like Barack Obama, Hunter Thompson, Lucy Maud Montgomery and Joe Clark appear. In turn, I met a few great people, myself: Katie May, Josh Boyter, Nick Khattar, Bethany Horne, Hilary Beaumont, Paul Balite—the list goes on. I've learned more from

those fine people and everyone else than I have from J-School. And it's not close.

My first *Gazette* interview was with the coach of the lacrosse team, who helped me watch a sport I didn't understand. For the first time, I'd had fun writing journalism. I was proud of what came out each week with mine and others' names on it. This is something that cannot be replaced by school assignments or professional training. Other *Gazette* editors over the years will know what I mean, having more than a few times disregarded those assignments, leading to some awkward conversations with profs. Fortunately, most of them understand—they probably wrote for their campus papers, too.

I like to think there's room on our office couches for anyone—they really are quite wide (more thanks to Joel and Paul, who were responsible for buying them). In high school I wrote arts and opinions, and some news. At the *Gazette* I've done sports and editing. I rant often now about the need for expanding readership to science

students, and now we have a science podcast and column. There are recipes, fashion, sex, investigations and breaking news stories every week in campus papers. I think I have seen just about everything in the *Gazette* in four years.

Some of that work has been of excellent quality, some not so much. But it doesn't matter—it's all an experience, and absolutely worth it. It can be awkward reading comma splices and the same misspellings all the time, as our tireless copy editor Erica Eades does each week, snagging most all of them. Student media might not teach you how to be a "proper journalist," but it will teach you how to work with others, meet deadlines (oh, deadlines...), have vision, run a small business, budget, and a lot of new curse words. And a lot of "proper journalists" have been through campus media, too, along with future bloggers, researchers, PR people, analysts, politicians, businesspeople, programmers, photographers, editors, authors, and so on. It's all experience, and it's all valuable. You meet

people you wouldn't otherwise meet, and they talk to you and make you feel at home.

It all begins with an awkward moment, usually followed by a rushed introduction as a hand points you in the direction of the pizza. For four years that hand has often been mine. I'm going to miss walking into the office and tripping over the piles of papers, old layout tables, and the sports desk. I won't forget that view of the overflowing office on my first day, nor will I forget any of the things I've learned here, no matter where I end up.

So there's a space opening up in the office. Actually, there's always been space, even if it's awkwardly small at first. It's waiting for you to take it. It's been a pleasure talking to you, Dal. See you again some time.

Regards, and my best to the wonderful colleagues and friends who make this rag happen

It's been a blast. ☺

—Dylan Matthias,
Editor-in-chief, 2011-12

LETTER

re: All aboard
the King's Express

I am writing to comment as well as state my opinion on Laura Hubbard's article "All aboard the King's Express" published on March 9, 2012.

I recently read a study conducted by Will Toor and Spenser W. Havlick on transportation and sustainable campus initiatives that stated, "The daily movement of people to campus in cars burning fossil fuels is the largest impact a university has on the planet." After reading this study I worried about the fossil fuels emitted by airplanes by traveling students who fly into Halifax from out of province.

Although the article is about King's involvement on the issue, this is an issue that Dalhousie should worry about since 44.4 per cent of its students are from other provinces.

In the article it was mentioned that a student at King's is concerned about the communication side of the project, and I am too. Although the article mentioned that \$99 might be expensive coming out of a student's pocket, it is still probably the cheapest option for most considering that it is rare to find a one-way plane ticket for that much. Another worry was getting the word out, since it is only the first year of the project.

I am sure that more students would be open to the option if they realize more students are open to the idea, and more so if Via Rail will provide discounts.

Although I understand the inconvenience of traveling by train for some students who live in farther places in Canada, there are a lot of students from the Maritime Provinces, as well as Quebec and Ontario, who can benefit from this service.

Thanks for creating awareness of this project and for reading my letter. Sincerely,

—Ezgi Gokce
Dalhousie Student

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Here's My Plan.

My internship in the post-grad **Sports Journalism** program is giving me work experience—great for my resume along with my Psychology degree. The Loyalist faculty and advisory board members are active in the industry so I'm already building a network.

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Shawn

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Katrina Pyne News Editor

JUST A DAY TO GET DRUNK?
TWO SIDES TO ST. PATRICK’S DAY



Olivia Schneider
News Contributor

On St. Patrick’s Day, it seems every-
one is a little Irish—or wants to be.
It’s a day to boast of Irish heri-
tage, no matter how remote or imagi-
nary that ancestry may be. Enter any
establishment, especially one with a
liquor license, on March 17 and more
than one patron’s shirt, hat or button

will probably say, “Kiss me, I’m Irish.”
In Canada, that might not be a lie.
The 2006 Statistics Canada census
cited Irish as the fourth most com-
mon ethnic group in Canada, and the
third most common in Nova Scotia.
Caitriona Ni Chonchuir is work-
ing as a language teaching assistant
in the Irish studies program at Saint
Mary’s University until May, when
she returns to her home in Ireland.

Despite the holiday’s reputation as a
day to get drunk, she thinks there are
positive aspects of St. Patrick’s Day as
it’s observed here in Canada.
“I feel that it is a very important
day, particularly for Irish people who
live away from home and for people
with Irish roots,” she says.
She says Ireland places a greater
emphasis on celebrating Irish culture
and language on St. Patrick’s Day,

compared with North America.
Overall, Chonchuir is positive
about the celebrations, but she also
notes there is a drinking culture asso-
ciated with the day, both here and in
Ireland.
Melissa Nacke, a third-year Dal-
housie student, celebrated St. Pat-
rick’s Day at the Grawood and the
Halifax Alehouse. She says from her
experience it’s a fun day, but the early
start to many celebrations clearly
results in overdrinking.
“I definitely witnessed some behav-
iour at 4 p.m. you wouldn’t ordinari-
ly see without the theatrics of St. Pat-
rick’s Day,” she says.
This is not surprising, considering
some people start celebrating before
noon. The general manager at the
Old Triangle, Joël Chiasson, says peo-
ple began lining up outside before 5
a.m. in order to get a table.
“I saw one girl cross Oxford Street
in the early afternoon and she nar-
rowly missed getting hit by a car. A
bus driver lay on his horn, and the car
swerved at the last minute,” Nacke
says.
“The worst part was that the girl
didn’t even notice any of this was
going on.”
Nacke says she also saw some peo-
ple being asked to leave pubs and
bars before 5 p.m. because they were
too drunk. “It really worries me that
girls are leaving bars alone and obvi-
ously too drunk to properly function.”
Halifax Regional Police Const.
Brian Palmeter says the two most
common problems on St. Patrick’s
Day are noise complaints and alco-
hol-related incidents. He says the
most common issues with alcohol are
underage drinking, public intoxica-
tion and illegal possession of alcohol.
“It doesn’t even matter what day of
the week it is,” he says, “people will
skip class and line up downtown or

go to their parties anyway.”
The Halifax police seek to limit
rowdiness on St. Patrick’s Day
through higher visibility and quick
response.
“Some officers who would normally
be in plain clothes dress in uniform,”
says Palmeter, “and we also try to nip
things in the bud by shutting down
parties early.”
Palmeter says that this year there
were three large keggers within a few
blocks of each other, which increased
the number of incidents in that spe-
cific area around campus.
“But it’s never hard to find the big
parties,” he says. “They’re the ones
written in chalk outside the SUB.”
This year, Guinness moved to offi-
cially proclaim St. Patrick’s Day “the
friendliest day of the year,” and they
might not be too far off.
Despite the shenanigans, most
agree that the overall attitude toward
St. Patrick’s Day is a positive one.
“Everyone is happy and the vibe is
wicked,” Chiasson says. “There are
people that have been coming here
for years and sit in the same seats
they’ve had every year.”
Chonchuir says St. Patrick’s Day is
an opportunity to celebrate all things
Irish.
“This year I attended a St. Patrick’s
Day parade in Halifax, and I attended
a dinner. When I was younger, I took
part the local parade in my village
and the day was celebrated with Irish
music and dance,” she says, noting
the parades in Canada and Ireland
are quite similar.
It seems for most people it’s good
to be Irish—even if it’s only for one
day a year. ☘

Melissa Nacke.
••• Photo by Olivia Schneider

Appeals enter final stage: *Await Judicial Board decision*



Kristie Smith
Staff Contributor
On Feb. 19, Jamie Arron and Aaron
Beale brought their case to the Judi-
cial Board to determine their sta-
tus in the Dalhousie Student Union
(DSU) for next year.
The Judicial Board has yet to make
their decision public, but will have
their answers written and presented
to the candidates involved, the chair
of the DSU and union president
Chris Saulnier within one month of
the hearing.
The Board is made of Dal law stu-
dents, and their decision is final.
The two candidates are appealing
the decision made earlier this semes-
ter by the DSU elections committee
to disqualify them as president and
vice-president (academic and exter-
nal), respectively.
Arron won the presidency with a
58.3 per cent majority but amassed
\$120 in fines, for post-campaign
Facebook posts and alleged use of
DSU footage in a campaign video,
among other claims. The position
passed to Sarah Bouchard, pending
the result of the appeals.

Each fine accrued was valued at
\$20, so only one charge needed to
be dropped in order for Arron to be
declared the winner.
Beale won VP (academic and exter-
nal) with a 61.2 per cent majority, the
largest majority a candidate earned
when competing for a position, but
was disqualified for an amassed total
of \$205 in fines. Richard Clark, the
runner-up, was therefore declared
the winner pending the appeal
results.
The majority of Beale’s fines were
\$5 for each handbill handed out after
campaigning was officially closed
Monday night, contributing to \$145
of his total.
The DSU elections committee took
three days to consider both candi-
dates’ appeals but rejected them both.
Arron has since set up a webpage,
titled Jamie’s Appeals, which says the
following:
“These fines were issued by the
Elections Committee (EC) and Chief
Returning Officer (CRO) without
having access to all information and
without first corresponding with me
to gather necessary details. I do not
blame the EC or CRO for this as

they were bound to a flawed process
instructed by the DSU Constitution.
Although only one fine needs to be
repealed in order for me to be rein-
stated as President-Elect, I’m con-
fident that the EC will see it fit to
reverse all/most fines based on the
evidence provided in my appeals.”
Beale had found the student who
had caused the majority of his post-
campaigning fines but even with that
knowledge, the election committee
denied the appeal, stating:
“The candidate was aware of the
risks of distributing campaign mate-
rials, and of the penalties for post-
campaigning. However, he failed to
take reasonable steps to mitigate the
potential that his materials would be
misused.”
That student, Matthew Glynn,
spoke in Beale’s favour at the Judicial
Board hearing. Students were free to
file a request to speak for or against
either of the candidates. ☘

David Taylor is the chair of the
Judicial Board, which will decide
the fates of the two candidates.
••• Photo by Calum Agnew



NSGEU strike averted

Administration and union ratify agreement

Calum Agnew
Staff Contributor

On March 21 the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) Local 77 ratified a new contract with Dalhousie University administration, averting a strike and bringing months of contract negotiations to a close.

NSGEU Local 77 represents over 800 library, Information Technology and administrative staff at Dal. Ninety-two per cent of the members who voted approved of the contract. The union ended conciliation with Dal on Feb. 21.

Local 77 has been without a new contract since June 2010. Joan Jessome, president of NSGEU, says it's been a very strange round of bargaining for the Local.

"They've been bargaining, technically, for a year and a half," she says.

Jessome says the final monetary offer was comparable to the one made by the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA). The members will receive a one per cent pay increase for 2011, a 3.5 per cent increase on July 1, 2012 and a 1.75 per cent increase in 2013. In addition, the union members were given a \$300 signing bonus and a \$300 one-time contribution to their Health Spending Accounts.

"The university was bailed out."

The administration and the various bargaining groups are currently winding down from months of negotiations. The administration has shut down its negotiations blog, and the

DFA moved back into their South Street office on March 23.

As with the DFA, the provincial government's last-minute change to pension regulations earlier this month paved the way to a deal for the NSGEU.

"Having the pension issue resolved through solvency relief was a very good move by the employer and the government," says Jessome.

"The pension discussions will continue," says university spokesperson Charles Crosby. This agreement, he says, was "a really key thing to help move things along."

Laura Boylen, a second-year student at Dal, puts it differently.

"The university was bailed out," she says. "They were saved. The administration didn't deal with it well at all."

The DFA and NSGEU have both committed to addressing pension governance issues before the next round of contract negotiations. Joan Jessome says these meetings "may amount to nothing."

Damaging the relationships between the administration and the university's faculty and staff is always a concern, says Crosby. But he says Dal is ready to "move forward together."

Some students are unhappy with the way the strike was handled by the administration and the various bargaining groups.

"The information they were giving to students was not that helpful. It was very frustrating," says Duncan Baker, a second-year student at Dal.

Alvaro Ortiz, a fourth-year geology student, says the interests of the students were considered by the administration. "The labour dispute was handled pretty well," he says.

For many students, the most important thing is that they will be able to finish the term on time. Kelly Barber, in his third year of a double major in political science and international development studies, agrees.

"It seems like it was handled pretty well—I mean, they averted it," he says.

Both the DFA and NSGEU collective agreements will expire on July 1, 2014.

Dal this month is strike free.
••• Photo by Calum Agnew



Occupy: six months later

What's happening now

Daniel Boltinsky
Staff Contributor

Spring is here, and so is the end of the school year (and Mayor Kelly's mayoral career), but one thing appears to be missing: Occupy Nova Scotia. Where is the movement that was so strong last fall?

Occupy Nova Scotia participants have been meeting on a weekly basis to make sure the movement does not just fizzle out. These meetings are called General Assemblies (GA). Anyone can attend, vote on proposals and pitch their own ideas.

"It's lovingly known as the anti-Occupy law."

So far, there have been no successful proposals to launch a full-scale, long-term occupation of a public space, like the one Haligonians saw in October. Since their eviction from Grand Parade in November, Occupy has been involved with supporting other events and demonstrations, such as the Student Day of Action.

On March 24, all six participants who were present at a Direct Action Meeting held at Saint Mary's University's Loyola Building voted to initiate a new stage of the movement they called "Preoccupation."

Rather than going into a public space full force, the hope is that this strategy will gauge the reaction that Occupy would get on different levels as it becomes more active. This involves other ways to get partici-

pants out on the streets, including food servings and shorter, temporary occupations.

The participants, however, have new problems to face. At the GA on March 20, it became evident that some people believe the police are using the new strategy to discourage protesting.

Rather than making arrests and releasing protesters within a few days, charges are now being laid. Even if a suspect is not found guilty, the time from being charged and going to court, and everything involved between that, is punishment.

In the United States, legislation has already been passed that some Occupy participants believe is directed at them. According to its official summary, the Trespass Bill or H.R. 347, imposes "criminal penalties on anyone who knowingly enters any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority."

"It's lovingly known as the anti-Occupy law," says Kelly Dawn, an active participant with Occupy Nova Scotia.

"Their challenges are finding loopholes in the newer laws specifically designed to hinder the Occupy process, whereas here in Canada it's a bit different. It is taking a lot longer than anticipated on the government's side for the legislation to actually pass."

Occupy Nova Scotia may not come out of hibernation running, and nothing is certain for this summer. However, the direction the movement will take is likely to become clearer as "Preoccupation" begins.

Kelly Dawn says new government strategies are targeting Occupy.
••• Photo by Calum Agnew

HAVE YOUR SAY: DalGazette.com



Travel cuts

If you can't find employment at home, it may be time to say goodbye to Canada for a while

Samantha Elmsley
Staff Contributor

So the Canadian economy has nothing (OK, very little) to offer recent graduates, eh? No problem. Strap on your backpacks, kids. Let's head overseas.

On March 9, *The Globe and Mail* reported a 14.7 per cent jobless rate among young Canadians, typically 16- to 24 year-olds. Moreover, they claim that since older workers are staying in the workforce longer, youth who are favoured with employment after graduation find themselves competing for rank with more experienced applicants. The article lamented the consequences for our generation: huge debt levels, stalled careers, minimal buying power, and not least of all, angst.

This is all very unfortunate. But there is a solution: leave.

Poke around the country for a couple months after graduation, drop off some résumés with a cheery but hopeless smile. When it all fails, which it very well may, hop on a plane. If our country has nothing to offer, go somewhere else.

Granted, the rest of the world doesn't seem to be faring a lot better, particularly Britain, where you

can only hope to become one in a million (literally) of unemployed youth. "A good job is hard to find for Britain's young unemployed," wrote *The Guardian* earlier this March.

But broadening one's job search to an international level seems likely to raise one's prospects based on probability alone. Besides, even if a career job is not immediately forthcoming, a barista job in France still looks better on a Canadian résumé than the same job in your hometown.

Also, traveling is fun. It can be scary and is rarely a perfect experience, but hey, neither is life. Heading out into the world is a great way to make contacts, gain experience and become an expert in the alcohol culture of various countries.

Of course, the potential for risk seems elevated when operating on an international scale—the country, the people, the customs, perhaps even the language is unfamiliar, and it can appear safer to restrict oneself to the job-hoarding devil you know. Even in thriving economic times, I would maintain that the life experience gained from such a leap compensates entirely for the fear of the unknown. But in this economic climate, I can also argue that it may actually be riskier to restrict one's search to Canada,

if that means staying in an entry-level job for an extended period of time. Why stall your career in your Canadian hometown, when you could be teaching English in Tokyo?

I understand that not everyone strains against the restrictive atmosphere of his or her tiny town. Some people enjoy it, and that's fine. But according to these economic reports, the choice to job-hunt solely in one's town, province, or country comes with consequences for which Canada's youth must be prepared. To my mind, an employable, relatively commitment-free youth has no right to cry foul if they are unable to find work while refusing to budge from the place they grew up.

For some, this may sound harsh. It's not meant to be—it's realistic. We can expect reasonable treatment from life, but we cannot have everything we want, exactly the way we want it all the time.

Concessions must be made, and if spending a couple years near a beach in Australia is what I must do for the future of my career, then I must be willing to make that sacrifice. ☹

If you want change, travel abroad
••• Photo by Angela Gzowski



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

Bixi

I am still afraid of speed
(Except that, secretly, I find it kind
of fun)

It was in our hometown,
Last summer double-riding,
he stopped so suddenly and
it made me laugh
I held on tight to his back

In a different city,
We biked tandem in the spring
Cycling aside, not quite in stride
We held hands at a red light

A couple, you and I were
And then, he and I were, too

I have to privilege one memory
And I just cannot choose

Because you are here
Is all over my map.
This city expels you,
Compels me to you
And there's no way
I can stay here
With you/ without you.

The bus drivers just stopped striking.
But maybe it's time
I started biking again.

—Andrea Benson

Nightlight

She stops in the middle of the dark,
empty, street to listen. To a buzz –
electric maybe, she doesn't quite
know. Flanked on all sides by tele-
phone poles, she looks up, tracing
the sound along the rubber-covered
wires. She is framed in a square from
above, a certain dream catcher, Cat's
Cradle, connect the dots from when
she was younger, a four-corner con-
stellation. She can't quite make out
the stars, though – that pinky-orange
glow from the streetlamps outshines
them. She sighs, and walks on home.

—Andrea Benson

Illiteracy in Canada

Funding is needed to make sure
Canadians reach their potential

Frances Dorenbaum
Staff Contributor

The phone rings one afternoon and on the other end of the receiver is the voice of desperation.

A husband who has immigrated to Canada in the hopes of creating a better life for his family begs for his wife to get started with one of Frontier College's literacy programs. He says she cries everyday and feels she can't leave the house because she is afraid she lacks the basic literacy skills and comprehension of the English language needed for tasks such as grocery shopping or speaking to a doctor. Her kids go to school, and he is out job searching during the day, leaving her alone and mute in Canadian society.

This is just one of the many cases that Ramona Clarke of Frontier College has encountered during her time as a community coordinator for the Halifax branch of this national non-profit organization.

Adult literacy is still a huge problem in Canada.

According to the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL), 48 per cent of adults (those 16 and over) have low literacy, meaning they are below level 3 on the literacy scale. The majority of these people are from particular demographics, such as seniors, immigrants and Aboriginals.

Literacy is measured on a scale of five levels—one being the lowest and five the highest. Level 1 means the person cannot do tasks as simple as reading the correct amount of medication on a label. Level 3 is approximately the level needed to complete high school.

CCL has reported that even though by 2031 the proportion of adults with low literacy will remain virtually the same (47 per cent), population growth and demographic shifts will result in an increase of 25 per cent more adults entering that low literacy group, totaling approximately 15 million adults.

Further still, while the amount of immigrants with high literacy skills will increase, so will the amount of immigrants with low literacy skills. This increase of 61 per cent will amount to 5.7 million immigrants with low-level literacy.

Organizations such as Frontier College are working to improve the literacy problem in Canada.

Clarke, who has been my supervisor throughout my time volunteering with the organization, told me the story of the wife's struggles because she was so moved by the change in this woman's life after she gained some basic literacy skills.

Now this woman attends Frontier College's English language learning program once a week. She has developed the skills to accomplish her everyday needs. She has made friends with people from her program, some even from her country of origin. She no longer spends her days in Canada in silence.

"It is so rewarding to meet people, at a later stage in their life in particu-

lar, that have been through hell and back and are coming over here for opportunity and are still struggling," says Clarke. "Yet, if you ask them if they like being in Canada, they say, 'Absolutely, we love it here.' It is so much better than being somewhere else."

Another woman in the same program has emigrated from the Middle East. She is in the midst of studying for her citizenship test. On top of being overwhelmed with a new language, trying to improve her literacy skills and learning the entire political and historical background of Canada for her citizenship test, she also fears for her family back home in a warfaring country. The weight of her family's struggles often causes her to arrive to the program in tears, but she still puts her whole heart into the session because she wants to pass the test.

**"These people
must not fall
through the
cracks."**

"You have no idea how much it means to these people to improve their English," says Clarke. "A lot of times they don't even want to use their real name—the name that their parents blessed them with—on a resume, because they won't get an interview. Some of them will change their name just so there's more opportunity."

The continuation of programs like those of Frontier College is essential in order to fully welcome these adult immigrants into our society. But organizations like these are facing funding obstacles hindering their support for these people.

Over the last couple of years, Frontier College has been trying to become more sustainable by applying for funding within each individual province. But funding from the government often comes with restrictions limiting the amount of non-permanent residents in each program. This puts those who want to become permanent residents in a difficult place because they must fulfill certain requirements to get that status—such as getting a job or functioning in English—yet they have no resources or support to meet these requirements.

And even when funding is secured, it can run out, leaving those in a literacy program back at square one with no more or very little support.

Although eliminating low literacy is a complicated process because of factors such as conditional funding, limited resources and restricting health issues, these people must not fall through the cracks. ☹

Get involved! FrontierCollege.ca

Frances Dorenbaum is a volunteer
with Frontier College.

PARTY TIME

Celebrating foreign festivals is an important part of living abroad



Karin Murray-Bergquist
Travel Columnist

.....

An integral part of studying abroad is the education outside the classroom, including trips to other parts of the country, impromptu language lessons at the local market and, of course, learning how the locals party.

In Iceland, most parties take the form of late-night excursions to the many bars and clubs around the

city, but beyond that, there are many uniquely Icelandic festivals through the year.

When I heard the word Thorrablot, I assumed it was based on an ancient and sacred tradition in which one would make offerings—*blot* is the Old Norse word for sacrifice—to the god Thor. In truth, the festival was invented in the 19th century as a part of the nationalism and interest in reviving ancient traditions that characterized the Romantic movement. It is allegedly based on feasts that took place during the month of Thorri, which ran from late January to late February, but the Thorrablot as it is known today is a product of the 19th and 20th centuries.

When it was first conceived, Thor-

rablot was celebrated by the reciting of poems and songs in the old Nordic style, in an attempt to recall what was considered a golden age. Nowadays, it primarily involves the consumption of traditional Icelandic food, and this, as my fellow exchange students and I suspect, is a way of testing the toughness of newcomers to the country. Celebrating one's first Thorrablot is one thing, but surviving its culinary offerings is the real rite of passage. It serves such foods as sour whale, fermented shark, sheep head, blood sausage and ram's testicles, as well as copious quantities of the local alcohol, brennevin, fittingly nicknamed "Black Death." Our exchange group had the good fortune to try these foods at the same time and get them

over with, so to speak; the primary entertainment of the evening was seeing the mass reactions to the food that was served.

The month of Thorri is one of rel-
.....

“Of particular interest to students is Beer Day.”
.....

ative darkness and cold here and was once—that is, before the time of imported foods—a time of hunger. The foods that are now so renowned

and feared by foreigners were once some of the only ones that could keep through the winter. Today, they are considered a major part of Icelandic heritage and prized as such, though their origin is in famine.

Thorri begins with Husbands' Day, which celebrates Icelandic husbands, originally only farmers. The first day of the next month is Wives' Day. Aside from the feasts held in the middle of the darkest period of winter, these celebrations begin and end the month of Thorri with gifts between couples. They are less public holidays due to their specific nature, but widely celebrated in the country.

Carnival or Ash Day is the next major festival, this one linked to Christian tradition. This celebration begins the period of Lent and as such it is also deeply connected to food. Curiously, it combines the European-style Carnival with American trick-or-treating. Children go to shops throughout the day and sing for candy, while in the evening older students and adults tend to take this opportunity for drunken revelry. Of course, costumes are a major part of the day. The blend of traditions present in this festival is interesting and a little disorienting for a foreigner. (The mainland Europeans I asked about the subject confirmed that they had not seen Ash Day trick-or-treating before, and it appears to be uniquely Icelandic.) The customs vary somewhat between cities; Akureyri, considered the Ash Day capital, has the tradition of making a large piñata and hoisting it in the town square. Other cities enjoy a mix of celebratory methods, most of them involving a great deal of candy.

The traditional food for this festival is much more palatable: cream-filled and chocolate-topped buns, sometimes made with strawberries. Every bakery in Reykjavik had them made up a few days before the event itself, and the smell is heavenly.

Of particular interest to students is Beer Day, which is celebrated March 1. This marks the end of prohibition in Iceland. Beer prices, normally rather high, drop for the benefit of those wishing to partake in the festivities.

Iceland's summer festivals are apparently similarly colourful, though I have not experienced them in person. Some of the more particular ones include Seafarers' Day, in June, Midsummer, and National Day, June 17.

With all these festivals in mind, you'll never miss a day of partying while traveling abroad. ☺

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Study spaces during crunch time

Studying at the Killam has its pros and cons

Michaela Cavanagh
Opinions Contributor

Surprise! It's the most wonderful time of the year: exam period is upon us once again. Every December and every April it's like the nightmare of all the assignments, papers and exams is happening for the first time, and every semester we feel traumatized anew by the time it's all over.

These days most of us are substituting Friday nights fuelled by gin and tonics and the will to make it to pizza corner at the end of the night with Friday nights fuelled by energy drinks and the will to make it to X number of words.

But our study space of choice in this time of need speaks as much about us as what we study, and choosing the Killam over a café can be a seriously divisive issue between study buddies.

When asked about their study habits, I got every answer in the book—one Killam night owl, Sammy Newman, says studying at the Killam every night "is like going to work every day. It's a routine." Others find being surrounded by other students distracting, preferring to get their schoolwork done anywhere but Dal's campus.

Personally, I'm partial to that big ol' windowless cube where nobody knows your name. As a fourth-year student with papers galore to write,

I spend a lot of time there. The Killam has got it all—proximity to caffeine, plenty of outlets for my ancient battery-dead laptop, good people-watching areas, wireless that works more often than not, and the most accommodating hours on campus. What more could a late-night kind of gal like myself ask for?

That being said, my relationship with the Killam is equal parts love and hate; sometimes I don't want to smell like Subway when I study, you know? And we obviously know that from parking to classrooms, space is a serious issue on Dal campus, and study spots are no exception.

Especially during the exam period, it's a fight to the death for a good table (none of that middle table business). If you don't claim one early in the day (especially on the weekends), you're relegated to the stacks where the Internet is spotty and the walls are painted orange.

Since we're on the topic, if all my library wishes could come true, having access to coffee later than 10 p.m. would be a great bonus—not to mention the much debated issue of having a 24-hour study space. Once upon a time, the Computer Science building offered 24-hour access to students, but these days the Killam's 3 a.m. closing time is the closest Dal comes to a round-the-clock study spot.

While the Killam may be the larg-

est, it is by no means the most popular place to hit the books on campus. One of my frequent study pals recommends switching up the scenery to keep your eyes fresh and your soul in tact as you pound out the pages.

If you're tired of staring at your bedroom wall and want to rid yourself of the library doldrums, look no further. Want to listen to some sweet crooning while you study? Try the special collections room on the fifth floor of the Killam—you can check out records, strap on a set of headphones and position yourself at a listening station while you work. There's even natural sunlight!

Or if you're tired of the typical undergrad tomfoolery, the Law Library is only a few blocks away. If all else fails, the King's library is full of natural light, rich mahogany and cozy reading chairs.

Though, let's be honest—these days the best place to study seems to be outside in the sun, wherever you can find it. The best advice I can give? No matter where you choose to study, just make sure you don't forget the snacks. ☺

When this place is full, you know you're screwed. ••• Photo by Christopher Parent

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- 4:50pm – Gather in Marian Hall for the Blessing Procession with Palms to St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral
- 5:00pm – Palm Sunday Liturgy with Archbishop Mancini
St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral

Sunday, April 1, 2012

le dimanche 1 avril 2012

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Halifax, Nova Scotia**

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(Saint Mary's Cathedral Hall)
- 4:50pm – Blessing and Procession With Palms
(From Hall to Saint Mary's Cathedral)
- 5:00pm – Palm Sunday Liturgy with Archbishop Mancini
(Saint Mary's Cathedral)
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STREETEER

How do you PARTY?

by Jonathan Rotsztain & Pau Balite



"See as many awesome live concerts as I can get in"
Reegan Connor
2nd-year management



"With animals and lots of booze"
Alex Hebb
3rd-year economics



"I drink a few beers and go downtown"
Gabor Gitye
2nd-year arts



"Play Call of Duty or flip cup, drink and go downtown"
Kevin Horan
2nd-year commerce



"At bars and clubs downtown"
Karina Scoggins
3rd-year nursing



"I don't party very often"
Shelley Yang
2nd-year commerce



"Sleeping"
Michael Cestnik
masters of public administration



"With firends, drinks and boardgames at a lakehouse"
Keaton Cunningham
3rd-year history



"In residence"
Emma Halupka
1st-year science



"Invite friends and classmates for a home cooked meal"
Fanny Wu
4th-year economics

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went beyond the lens of a camera or the retina in an eye. That was why she watched the building being knocked down. That was why she had not been reading *The Economist*, and she likely never would.



TemperTemper's
big break

Dal music students
release debut album



"I almost think of us as an organ."

Frances Dorenbaum
Staff Contributor

His jaw dropped in awe. The first time Thomas Hoy, the lead singer of Halifax's TemperTemper, saw the Dirty Projectors in concert he was instantly overtaken with amazement by the group's intricate harmonies. "They are an extraordinarily virtuosic band," he says. "Lead vocalist) David Longstreth's musical ideas are very interesting and difficult, and there they were pulling them off." Remnants of those complicated but gorgeous harmonies he so admired are present on TemperTemper's newly released self-titled debut album. "They're doing a similar thing to what I want to do. It's extremely interesting music that doesn't stop being fun when it starts being interesting," says Hoy. TemperTemper is definitely interesting. The track "Magnets in Love" is catchy, electric, kind of minor and has a quickening tempo. "Boyzn-gurlz" is youthful and cartoon-ish, while "Fail" is almost futuristic. With contrasting male and female voices, all the vocal layers, shifts in rhythms

within songs and a variety of mellow and upbeat tracks, Hoy has achieved his goal of releasing a fun album that still reveals the group's ability to create elaborate compositions. Rehearsals have helped the detail-oriented band perfect their own harmonies. Their techniques include slowing the songs down to a quarter of the usual tempo or playing in the dark, which allows the band to listen and stay in tune with one another. "I almost think of us as an organ," says Hoy. "I really want it to function as though it's one person playing an instrument." The band, which formed in early 2011, is made up of Leah Collins Lipsett, Jeremy Dutcher, Thomas Hoy and Ben Shaw—all current music students at Dalhousie. But aside from Hoy's classes over the last two years at Dal, he was never formally trained in music. Always a fan, Hoy grew up listening to The Beatles and loving pop. The first CD he purchased was the soundtrack for *The Night at the Roxbury*. But one day, he realized music meant something more to him. "I had this moment one night when I was lying in bed and I put the Bloc

Party record *Silent Alarm* on, and I was listening to it like I'd never heard music before. I was like 'Oh my God, there is a band, in my bedroom with me, playing amazing songs to me, this is so awesome,'" says Hoy with a smile. During his high school years, he experimented with the guitar for hours in his basement. Then, his time at the University of King's College cemented his choice to apply to the music program at Dal. And the classical training is paying off. "Coming to music school and formalizing that training has made me able to hear more quickly what I want and come up with more inventive things. As I continue to write for TemperTemper, I'm really seeing the music take the shape that I've always imagined for it as my musical understanding grows." As TemperTemper celebrates its new album at the Bus Stop Theatre on March 31, they are sure to leave listeners in a state of pleasant awe.

TemperTemper's debut album is free online through Facebook and at TemperTemperBand.com



tunes review

The Odd Future Tape Vol. 2



Matthew Ritchie
Opinions Editor

These days it's kind of hard to ignore unorthodox rap collective Odd Future (a.k.a OFWGKTA). Whether it's inciting riots in public, selling out shows across the globe, or having their music videos become viral sensations, Odd Future is here to stay. Not since the Wu-Tang Clan has a rap crew been so charismatic and engrossing (although the band has admitted in interviews to have no strong feelings for RZA and co.). After a string of independent releases, some good (Frank Ocean's debut), some bad (Domo Genisis's *Rolling Papers*), the whole crew comes

in full force for their second mixtape release and first official studio album as a rap crew. *The Odd Future Tape Vol. 2* is a powerful album for a group whose members are mostly under the age of 21. And although this probably isn't one of the strongest rap albums you've heard, the strength in *The OF Tape Vol. 2* comes from glimpses of what's to come. Compared to 2008's *Odd Future Mixtape*, the beats are a lot more polished this time around. The bass is felt rather than heard, laying low in the mix to propel certain instrumental tracks along. The drums have a grainy RZA-esque quality to them, giving songs a harder edge, while spicing it up with more soulful tracks,

like "Ya Know". The highlight of the album comes from album closer "Oldie," a 10-minute plus grand opus that has the whole crew laying down verses amongst Tyler, the Creator's bookend segues. At times it is pretty obvious that some members of the group have a lot left to learn, with rhymes being a little too simplistic against Earl's abrasive flow, Left Brain's baritone and Hodgy Beats' cough syrup drawl. But that all being said, it's still pretty obvious that there is strength in numbers with this crew. Don't expect these guys to be disappearing anytime soon.

sudoku

	3	8	6		1			9
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						7	1	8
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				8		6		
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					7	9	6	
4		9						

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The final chapter

A Coles Notes of how to live DIY

Rachel Eades
DIY Columnist

The end of the year is almost here, and for many of you, that means convocation and the transition to the non-student variety of adult life. So, congratulations! If you've been reading my column throughout the year, you may have picked up a few tips and tricks along the way on the topics of DIY, self-sufficiency and budget-friendly living, but just in case you need a refresher, I wanted to give you a quick and easy summary of the basic things you should know in order to function as an independent adult.

1. How to balance a budget:

In my very first post as the DIY columnist, I talked about financial advice for the newly independent. If you want an in-depth refresher, I'd recommend re-reading that. However, if you want the abridged version, the most important skill for money management is the ability to balance a budget—the rest comes later. Modern technology can handle a lot of the labour involved in this for you. Mint.com is an online financial management database that is incredibly user-friendly, and probably the best (did I mention free?) system out there for getting your finances organized. Even better, they now have a Canadian version of Mint. You can link Mint to all of your bank accounts, credit cards, loans, etc, and it will track all of your spending for you. You can then create a budget, and it will track that for you as well, even giving you the option of receiving an email or text notification if you overspend in one of your budget categories. I highly recommend a system like this for keeping your finances in order.

2. How to cook:

I talk about cooking a lot in my columns, and that's because as far as DIY and self-sufficiency goes, the ability to cook ranks pretty high on the list of necessary skills. You don't need to be a master chef, but everyone should have at least four or five affordable, reliable meals that they know how to make from scratch, and ideally at least one fancier meal for impressing guests, dates, parents, etc. Some good options to have in your arsenal include some sort of recipe involving beans and rice, a good vegetarian or meat-based sauce that you can whip up and serve with pasta, one reliable

slow cooker recipe that makes a large quantity of food for very little money (such as chili, pulled pork, or stew), and something involving eggs that can pass as an acceptable meal at any time of the day (like a veggie-heavy omelette). That will at least get you started, until you decide to become a tad more adventurous.

“As far as DIY and self-sufficiency goes, the ability to cook ranks pretty high on the list of necessary skills.”

3. How to do basic repairs:

You don't need to be a master seamstress, carpenter, or plumber in order to handle the basic repairs that inevitably pop up in day-to-day life. Some basic skills you should be able to handle on your own include sewing on a button (or related simple sewing projects such as fixing a small hole on a seam), stabilizing a wobbly table or chair, unclogging a blocked toilet or drain, and cleaning stains out of clothing, carpets and furniture. These very basic skills will extend the life of the things you own, and save you a lot of money that you'd otherwise be shelling out to professionals. Plus, you don't have to worry about the tailor laughing at you behind your back as you pay them \$10 to fix something you could have done yourself in about three minutes.

There's obviously a multitude of other life skills that are handy to have when entering the adult world—far more than I could ever touch on in a short column. But these basics should be enough to keep you functioning independently and relatively on track financially. That's all anyone can ask of the newly independent, and you'll pick up all kinds of fun new skills and abilities through trial and error as you manoeuvre through adulthood. Have fun with it!

Get creative!

Photo by Angela Gzowski





DAL TIGERS: WINTER 2012 SEMESTER IN REVIEW

By Ian Froese Sports Editor, Tim Vanderweide, Henry Whitfield, Arfa Ayub, Andrew Johnson, Jason Savoury, Graeme Benjamin and Armaan Ahluwalia, Staff Contributors

It was a semester of met expectations. Dalhousie's varsity teams performed exactly how the crystal ball envisioned. I'll admit, it's not the most exciting of outcomes, but that's what we got.

Dal's swimming and track teams surprised nobody when they won even more AUS banners; the same can be said about men's volleyball, too. As expected, women's volleyball proved they are now among their loop's finest. On the court, our basketball teams squeaked into the play-

offs. Over on the ice, women's hockey got the final playoff seed, and men's hockey wasn't so lucky. Again, no one was surprised.

While the scorelines weren't a shock, it was still another thrilling semester of campus sport to rave and rant about. That's where we come in. Back by popular athlete demand—which is a helluva lie—here is our second ever 'Semester in Review' feature. We promise only a few jokes about the men's hockey team. —IF

Winter Teams in Review

Best

Men's volleyball: They weren't as talented as last year's conference finalists, but the difference with this season's group was that they got the job done. The Tigers proved that last season was only a fluke, reclaiming the league crown from the team that dethroned them a year ago, UNB. They did so with two convincing 3 - 1 victories in the championship series where Dal's superiority was never in doubt. —IF

“As expected, Dal was once again triumphant on the track.”

Women's volleyball: Easily one of the most fun teams to watch on campus, women's volleyball enjoyed a great season, finishing runners-up in season play along with the playoffs. Led by fourth-year Louise Facca and rookie Maggie Li, the girls finished the season strong on a seven-game winning streak, including an impressive 3 - 1 upset victory over the Saint Mary's Huskies, the nation's second best team. Dal has prospered since the appointment of coach Rick Scott and we should only expect good things in their future. —TV

Swimming: Highlighted by David Sharpe winning a gold and two bronze medals at the CIS championships, the men's and women's teams once again dominated the AUS. The Tigers also swept all but one individual conference award, including both the men's and women's swimmer of the meet awards. —HW

Track & field: As expected, Dal was once again triumphant on the track. Their list of accomplishments are vast, so we'll keep it short. The men ran away from the competition with their 11th consecutive AUS banner, while the women continued to set the conference pace, claiming their 22nd—yes, their 22nd—straight nod. The men added to Dal's success at nationals with Simon Watts, Robert McCulloch and Seth London hauling back four medals between them. —IF

Not Best

Men's hockey: As you have probably read in this space before, the Tigers did not fail to disappoint this year—although a mid-season turnaround nearly salvaged their season. The end result, however, was not a pretty one. The Tigers finished seven points out of the playoffs, just two points ahead of the last place St. Thomas Tommies. At the end of the day, it was still business as usual for the men's hockey program at Dal. —Arfa

Women's hockey: This team is perhaps the best of the not best category. Yes, they were never at the top of the standings, but they had a respectable record and were usually able to hold their own against the best in the league. Who could forget when Jocelyn Leblanc set the Tigers' all-time scoring record earlier this season? You have to feel bad for them, though, seeing as their last game was a victory over the eventual champion UPEI Panthers yet it wasn't enough to advance them to the title game. With only three graduating players leaving their roster, Dal's future at wherever they play next season looks bright. —GB

Men's basketball: This season was more erratic than Snooki on a bender (and at some points, less attractive, as well). Oh, and they're losing arguably their best player in graduating senior Robert Nortmann. On the bright side of a turbulent 9 - 11 campaign, coach John Campbell found at least three new blood vessels in his forehead while yelling at the referees. But as long as that fire is there and the blood is still pumping, this team will be in good hands. We're already excited for next year. —JS

Women's basketball: After a surprising playoff run for the sixth-ranked team, the Tigers should have high spirits entering next year. Losing only two seniors, the young squad's only fear should be the inevitable day when rookie Tessa Stammberger beats coach (and Mom) Anna Stammberger in a one-on-one matchup. Hell hath no fury like a woman posterized by her own daughter. —JS

ABOVE: We watched a better men's hockey team this semester.
••• Photo by Martina Marien
BELOW: Hilary Sears and Kirstie Shepherd post a successful block.
••• Photo by Rob Grandy



Best of the Dal Tigers



Best Game Face: Benjamin Breault, men's hockey

Thanks for being a good sport, Ben. ••• Photo by Martina Marien

Best Game: Dal gives Saint Mary's its only women's volleyball defeat this season Jan. 29

Honourable mentions: Women's hockey beats UPEI in overtime to end season Mar. 2, and men's basketball beats Saint Mary's 78 - 76 Jan. 25.

At the moment, Dal was on a three-game winning streak and quickly closing the gap on the league-leading Huskies. Saint Mary's, meanwhile, was undefeated, and Dal needed a win to make a push for first place. In what proved to be a statement to the rest of the league, the Tigers put in a top-class performance to defeat the CIS No. 2 ranked Huskies 3 - 1, handing the eventual champs their first and only loss of the season. —TV

Best Coach: Rick Scott, women's volleyball

Honourable mentions: David Fry, swimming, and Chris Donnelly, men's hockey

A deserving award for a coach that is as competitive, supportive and successful as they come. In his fourth season as leader of the women's volleyball team, Scott led his group to an AUS final and a 14 - 3 record in the regular season. The feat is even more impressive when you consider where the team was during Scott's first season in 2009, trying to recover from their third consecutive year outside the playoffs. Since then, the Tigers have steadily improved. Hats off to Scott for all the hard work he has put into the program. —GB

Best Ass-Kicking: Dal's AUS dominance of swimming & track and field

Honourable mention: Women's basketball beats St. FX 71 - 42 Jan. 29

If you're a budding university swimmer or track star and you're looking at schools on the east coast, you recognize Dalhousie as the best of the bunch. That's something to take pride in, folks. All four teams have won consecutive AUS banners for at least the past 11 years. Bravo. —IF

Best Fan Support: Men's basketball

While it's no ACC, the home of the NBA Raptors, fans did a good job packing the Dalplex stands for all of the men's team's games this season. The sometimes rowdy crowd gave the Tigers an edge throughout the season, including during a gutsy late January victory over nationally ranked St. FX. —Armaan

Best Atmosphere: Residence Charity Face-off

In its seventh year, the residence game was bigger than ever and the fans were unbelievable, singing and cheering the entire night while dancing to the music. At the same time, the event raised over \$31,500 and broke the total 100k fundraising mark in the past five years. —HW

Best Potential: Women's soccer

Sure, it's a fall sport, but we can't help but look forward to this September at Wickwire. Arguably one of Dalhousie's best teams, the Tigers are built on second- and third-year talent. But the team also has a strong crop of promising first-years and is led by one of the best midfielders in the AUS, Rieka Santilli. With the potential for the entire team to return, they will surely claim the top spot in the AUS once again. —AJ

Best Player: David Sharpe, men's swimming

Honourable mentions: Robert McCulloch, men's track and field, and Ashley Ryer, women's track and field

After winning gold at the league championship in February, Sharpe blew that achievement away at nationals, setting a new AUS 200m butterfly record on the way to his third career gold medal performance at the CIS championships two weekends later. The third-year has quickly become the gold standard for Dalhousie Athletics. —HW

David Sharpe sports a gold medal after winning the 200m butterfly at nationals.

••• Photo by James Hajjar via jhphotosportive.com



Best Upset: Dal's men's hockey beats UNB at home Feb. 4

Honourable mention: Men's basketball beats nationally ranked St. FX at home Jan. 29.

Considering the Tigers' on-ice struggles, particularly early in the campaign, a win against the CIS No. 2 ranked UNB did not seem very likely. Things did not look promising for Dal when they fell behind 2 - 0 to start this game, but in a match they basically had to win to stay in the playoff race, the Tigers notched things up at two apiece. Some strong defensive play, a rare accomplishment for the Tigers, led to a shoot-out in which Dal scored the winner. The victory meant the Tigers would remain just one point out of a playoff spot with a week left on the schedule, making what was seemingly impossible when they were in the midst of an 11-game losing streak, suddenly possible. —Arfa

Best Individual Performance: Robyn Nicholson's three-goal performance in the final two minutes to win women's hockey game 3 - 2 Feb. 18

Honourable mention: Simon Watts winning gold at CIS track and field championship. Dal's first ever.

Down two goals with less than two minutes remaining against the country's fifth-ranked team in Moncton, the Tigers looked destined for their 16th loss of the season. That is, until Robyn Nicholson turned in a performance for the ages. In under two minutes Nicholson posted a natural hat trick, igniting a packed arena and giving the Tigers their biggest win of the season. —HW

Best Turnaround: Men's hockey

For a team that finished with a 2-11-1 record (those 11 losses coming in a row) before the holiday break, their second half was a miraculous

recovery. Not only did they play better, but the statistics speak for themselves. With a revamped 5-7-2 record to end their year, the Tigers had a much improved goals against average of 3.36 per game, allowing only 47 goals. This is compared to an unimpressive 5.57 GAA during the first half of the season in which an alarming 78 goals were given up. —Arfa

Best Rookie: Maggie Li, women's volleyball

Honourable mentions: Katie Webster, women's swimming, Wendell Vye, men's hockey, Ritchie Kanza, men's basketball, Sarah Robichaud, women's hockey

“Stomp, tromp, kaboom! That was Earth-shaking, maybe even jaw-dropping!” The words of Dal's MC Adam Hotchkiss pretty much sums up Li's performance this season. A constant presence in the Tigers' front line, while helping her new team become one of the conference's top contenders, Li's attacking prowess was evident all season. As anybody who watched her this season can tell you, this girl can hit the ball! Look out for her next year—she'll be a Tiger to watch. —TV

Best Graduating Player: Jocelyn LeBlanc, women's hockey

Honourable mentions: Ashley Ryer, women's track and field, and Graeme Higgins, men's volleyball

The perennial Tigers superstar closed her career with another stellar season, cementing her place as the team's all-time leading scorer with 156 points and as one of the best to don the black and gold. LeBlanc scored 90 goals in her time as a Tiger, the third highest total in AUS history. —HW

Best Improvement: Robert Nortmann, men's basketball

Honourable mention: Connor

Maessen, men's volleyball

Robert Nortmann's career was building to this season. The fifth-year player had a minimum role in previous years but was thrust into the spotlight this season, now with the responsibility of holding the torch from last year's AUS champion team that was heavy in graduating seniors. A hard worker, night in and night out, Rob helped his team earn a playoff berth to the league championships, while averaging 14.6 points a game. —Armaan

Best Moment: “Go Tigers Go!” chant at final men's hockey game

Honourable mention: Robyn Nicholson's three-goal comeback performance in front of the team's obviously very excited mothers during mother/daughter weekend.

It's tough to write the appropriate words to bring this moment to life, but it was definitely the most emotional moment I've witnessed as a sports fan. It was really something listening to all the fans—which was minimal due to lack of promotion, mind you—give the men's hockey team a final hoorah as the clock ticked away. Pride and sorrow were mixed in one as the Memorial Arena chapter for the men's hockey team came to its likely closure. —TV

Best Lifetime Achievement: David Fry, swimming

This is our version of that award at the Oscars where everybody stands up for a heartwarming standing ovation. Nobody deserves this more than swimming head coach David Fry, who announced his retirement earlier this month after a successful 30-year run with the program, and the last 16 as head coach. In fact, he has led the men's and women's squads to 30 of a potential 32 AUS titles—a nearly impeccable record if we've ever seen one. —IF

Best Dud: Dal/UNB men's volleyball rivalry
Honourable mention: The Big Horns' performance in the residence hockey game

What I once stood on a limb for and hailed as Dalhousie's most competitive sports rivalry fell far short of expectations this season. It's a shame, really, considering how thrilling the point-for-point matches between Dal and UNB usually are. It's not to say the bouts weren't close this year, but Dal was always in control. The webcast commentators probably said it best in the championship-ending set in Fredericton when they simply ran out of ideas for how UNB could attempt a comeback. By year's end, Dal bested their rivals 5 - 1 when season and playoff play is considered. —*IF*

Dal's Kenneth Rauwerda hopes to power the ball past the UNB block.
••• Photo by Martina Marien



HOT & LON

Trojans	Big Horns
Dal's performance in sports that don't get much recognition (swimming, track and field)	Dal's performance in sports that get more recognition (hockey, basketball)
Men's hockey almost making the playoffs	Men's hockey on an 11-game losing streak
Our eligible bachelor/bachelorette feature of Tigers athletes	Some of the athletes weren't single. Not cool.
General AUS fan support	Dal's fan support
SMU Athletics not allowed into Dal residences to advertise	Dal Athletics not allowed into Dal residences to advertise
The women's volleyball team's continued improvement under head coach Rick Scott	The swimming team having to compete without David Fry after 16 years as head coach
Men's volleyball winning the AUS title	Two players quitting the team at mid-season
Women's basketball upsetting rival SMU in AUS quarterfinals	Women's volleyball losing to rival SMU in AUS final
No strike at Dalhousie	No hockey rink at Dalhousie
Memorial Arena	Halifax Forum
Hosting the AUS women's hockey championships	Women's hockey having to cab to the Metro Centre next season
Halifax making the AUS Final 6 men's basketball tournament into a money-maker	Halifax loses CIS Final 8 men's basketball tournament for two years, perhaps forever
Carleton men's basketball wins eighth national title in 10 years. We love dynasties.	Carleton men's basketball wins eighth national title in 10 years. We hate dynasties.
Our first ever Dal Tigers semester in review feature in November	Some athletes' opinion of it

Best Surprise: Women's basketball's quarterfinal upset

If we based the result on what the stats say, the sixth-seeded Tigers had no right to overthrow No. 3 Saint Mary's in the AUS quarterfinals. But, of course, anything can happen on the court. Even though Dal was unable to beat their cross-town rivals in two regular season contests, that didn't stop them from running over the Huskies with an authoritative 80 - 53 victory to advance to the semifinals. All good stories must end, however, and a berth to the title game was not in the cards. —*IF*

Second-year guard Courtney Thompson had 10 points in Dal's quarterfinal victory. She was the Tigers' player of the game in the semifinal. ••• Photo by Erica Roberts via St. FX Athletics

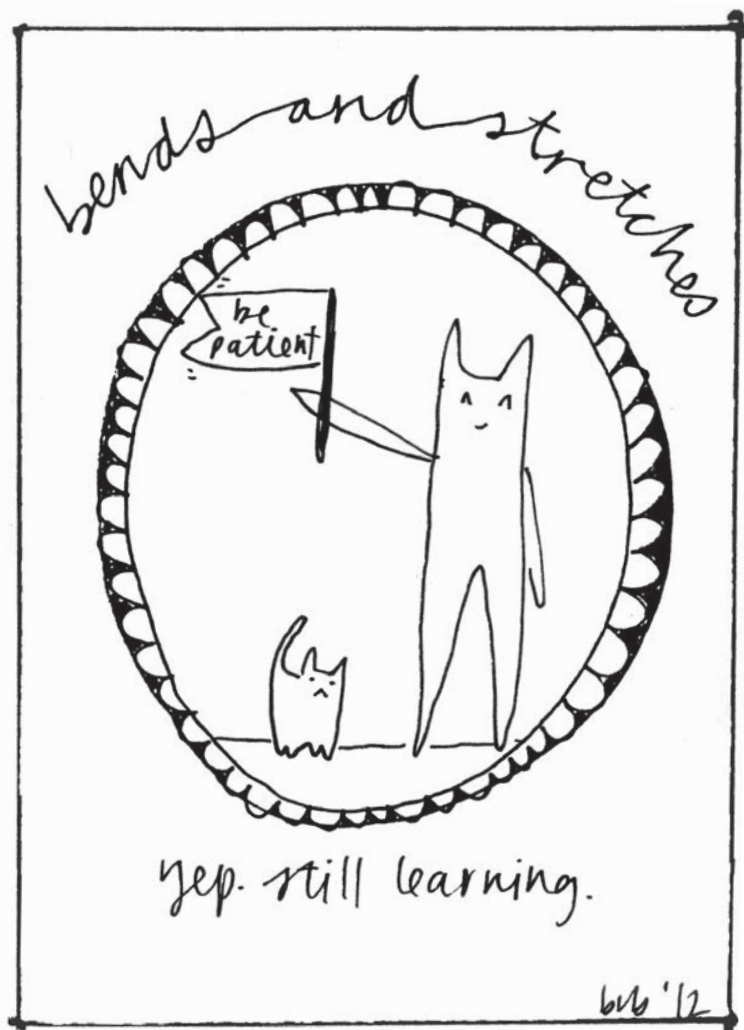


Worst Decision: Tearing down Memorial Arena, although it's not a guarantee

We're making a 'Worst of' category just for this one. In an announcement that surprised nearly everyone, the Board of Governors decided last November that Memo-

rial Arena would be torn down at the end of the year due to the roof repair an increased snow-load from the new mixed-use facility would cause. In what was easily the BoG's most controversial decision of the year, an uproar ensued. Numerous complaints from neighbours, however, has caused the Board to reex-

amine its decision, and they'll look into the matter further in April. So, in other words, the demolition is not a sure thing anymore, although it is likely. Whatever decision is made, it's definite the DMA will not be functioning next year. —*TV*
••• Photo by Christopher Parent



TIGER TONING SUPPLEMENTS: ARE THEY RIGHT FOR YOU?

Colin Hebb
Health Columnist

“Recently some friends of mine have been using glutamine after high-intensity workouts. How does it benefit weightlifters and does it have any known side effects?”

—GlutaWha?

Along with discussing the well-known supplement glutamine, I’m going to take this opportunity to touch on bodybuilding supplements in general and some of the highlights curious folks like yourself might be interested in. After all, many of us question what’s so special about those massive jars in the gym bags of the most committed fitness-goers. But, before I begin, I must address a huge disclaimer: I know almost nothing about supplements. In fact, that’s an exaggeration—I know nothing about supplements.

However, do not fret. This is what we students do best: research. Digging into the subject, this is what I found.

Firstly, glutamine is not foreign to our bodies. It is the most abundant amino acid (building block) created by our bodies and, therefore, isn’t ‘required’ from our food; I put air quotations around ‘required’ because there are times when your body may need a dose of glutamine.

For example, post-surgery or illness may allow the body to benefit from an extra helping of glutamine as the need for it significantly increases when you need to recover.

What about exercise, you ask? Research shows there may be a benefit from glutamine supplement-

ation in situations where the body has undergone great stress from demanding exercise. This means that if you are living a normal, only moderately active lifestyle, you probably aren’t going to see any benefit from extra glutamine.

However, if you are an athlete or

“This may not be a wise investment.”

someone who engages in regular bouts of intense physical activity like our weightlifting friends mentioned in the question, glutamine could be assisting with muscle recovery, prevention of muscle tissue breakdown and it may even aid in immune function. To put it simply, you are giving your body what it would otherwise breakdown muscle to get. In the process, you preserve the body’s normal functions and help it recover more effectively.

Now, be careful. Research on glutamine is fairly scant and more work is needed to determine whether or not it is a worthwhile expenditure for those seeking to improve their progress and overall fitness.

The good news is that where glutamine is a naturally occurring substance in the body, you are not introducing something foreign to the body that may be harmful. That being said, like anything, large amounts could be toxic. Evidence suggests that you need to take a whole lot of glutamine before reaching these levels, but it is still a good idea to be cautious.

Essentially, if you are an intense

exerciser with specific muscular strength goals, you may benefit from taking glutamine in moderate doses. If you are only a casual exerciser with little high-intensity work in your regime, this may not be a wise investment.

Supplements, in general, can make people somewhat uncomfortable as there is not an abundance of research on many of the products some exercisers take. Retailers can certainly discuss the benefits as they are currently understood, but it may be worthwhile to do your own background research before you pay the big bucks for buckets of expensive supplements. A little digging on your part could alert you to any red flags or possible concerns around specific products.

I should also clarify that supplements are very different than the performance enhancing substances that are often banned in professional sports. Those drugs usually involve the introduction of hormones into the body that can greatly alter function and compromise your health. If a friend is offering you something to help your workout, get the facts first before consuming it. Plus, nobody likes a juicer. ☹

Editor's Note: A special thanks to Colin for helping us make sense all year of the often confusing, potentially intimidating and occasionally lonely fitness world. For a year's worth of Tiger Toning columns, please visit DalGazette.com.

Supplements will cost you a fair chunk of change. ••• Photo by Rob Grandy

DalGazette.com Website Top 5

1. DSU election appeals rejected

Daniel Boltinsky, News

2. Will the DSU opt for a self-op food model?

Kat Pyne, News

3. Hann Solo—Matt Ritchie, Arts

4. Wonder women of Halifax

Torey Ellis, News

5. Go with the flow

CarolAnne Black, Opinions





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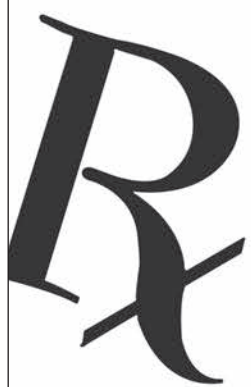
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THE SEXTANT

Editor in Chief:
Ben Wedge

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

March 30th, 2012
Page 1 of 1

Dalhousie brings home the gold at the Canadian Engineering Competition

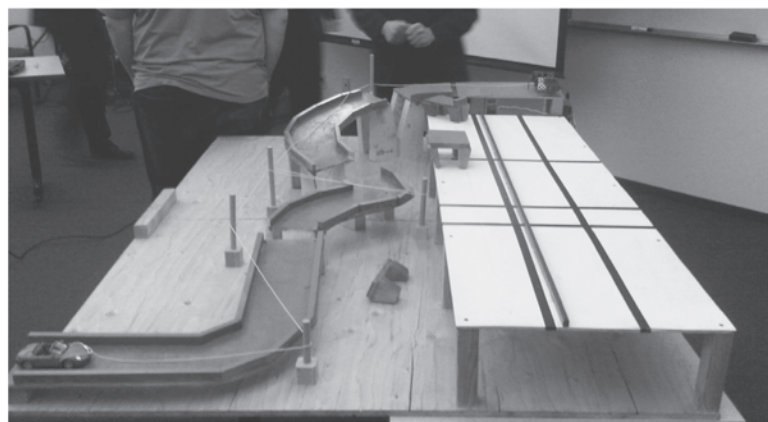
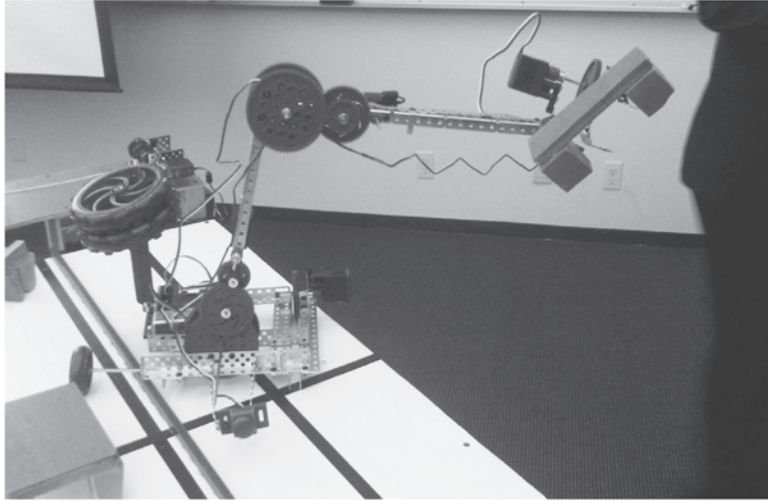
Senior design team adds to a productive year for Dal Engineering.



Ben Wedge
Editor in Chief
Industrial '13

The Dalhousie Faculty of Engineering and its predecessors have long been participants in the Canadian Engineering Competition, but this year's edition is one that a group of fourth year students won't soon forget. Having come in second place to Université de Moncton at the Atlantic Engineering Competition in Halifax, Nick Drover (Civil '13), Ryan Robertson, Brandon Haws, and Blair Douglas (all Mechanical '13) were selected to compete against seven other schools in Vancouver. Their quest for gold started before their plane left the ground.

In the middle of midterms, the team was provided with a kit including a Graphical User Interface (GUI) called SimpleC, as well as parts to build a basic robot. SimpleC is a drag-and-drop C program used to power robots. They did not get the chance to open their kit before heading to the airport on March 8th. Once at the airport, they discovered that due to a mechanical issue their plane would be delayed by 12 hours. They claimed a food voucher for the airport and returned to Robertson's house in Cole Harbour to finally learn how



to program their robot - a stroke of good luck which no doubt gave them the edge.

Once in Vancouver, the team was tasked with building a robot which would repair modules on a mockup of the Sea to Sky Highway which runs from Vancouver to the Rockies. The robot would be guided by a track in the highway, and should pick up the modules and put them back in place. Theirs was the only one which

would ultimately lift a module. The team was not given a budget, but received bonus points for being the second cheapest robot to build, by one dollar. They received a score of 1.94/2 for the budget, meaning their score would be multiplied by 1.94 when complete.

Having only eight hours to design, build, and test the robot, the team was in a mad dash to assemble components and maintain focus. In their down time (after

the build) they were able to take in some sights, including the famous Stanley Park Aquarium. They returned to the competition site for a nearly hour-long grilling, consisting of a 15 minute presentation, 5 minute demonstration of the robot, and 30 minutes of questions. Their ability to pick up a module earned them extra credit here, and ultimately they bested Moncton to take first place. The win means the team receives a plaque, bragging rights, and \$5,000 to fight over.

In addition to the Design Team, Neil McPherson (Electrical '12) represented Dal in the Engineering Communications competition. This competition required students to describe a complex engineering problem in layman's terms. This competition could be done individually or in pairs, and McPherson was one of a few students who competed alone. Official results were not released, but he did not place in the top 3.

The team was required to finance the expedition themselves, however, contributions from the Dean, Shell, and Scotia Insurance helped make the expedition possible. Robertson, Haws, and Douglas are eligible to compete again in 2013.

Information about the CEC was provided by the team.

The Sexton Sauna returns



Alex Gosselin
Contributor
Mechanical '12

Anonymous sources have confirmed that sexton campus will continue to offer sauna engineering, resuming the seasonal service in the late spring. Participating rooms are confirmed B311 and B227, with others throughout the campus likely to sign on as the

season progresses. Some have compared the practice to a form of "hot yoga of education" where students can learn about thermodynamics and experience them at the same time. Registration comes at a premium however, as tuition is no longer frozen by the NS government. Dalhousie University pledges to continue the service regardless, citing that the biologically heated climate is low-maintenance and environmentally sustainable. One proponent of the practice

states "It's a bit like the film The Matrix, where human body heat powers the system, except here we don't enslave your mind."

Despite these benefits the saunas are not without opposition. Some claim that the hot and humid environment is harmful to learning, as many students find the relaxing environment more suitable to sleeping. Others have even attempted to sabotage the carefully created climate by opening windows, but security has risen to the challenge by removing the window cranks to thwart such efforts.

When asked how far he was willing to go to protect the sexton sauna from those who would oppose it, the chief of security famously replied: "Just watch me".

As a promotional event, selected courses on-campus will experience sauna engineering free of charge for the remainder of winter term. After the trial period, interested students can register for summer or fall courses to continue the subscription - this little-known service is a unique and special part of the sexton campus experience.

News briefs

- The Sextant is pleased to announce Ben Wedge (Ind. '13), Richard Wile (Civil

'14), and Nikheel Premasagar (Mech '14) as Editor, Assistant Editor, and Treasurer respectively for 2012/2013.

- DUES is running a quality of

life survey to find out about your experience at Dal. The survey is available on the DUES website, www.daleng.ca.

- Discipline shirts are now

available for purchase in the Design Commons for \$10. They feature the DalEng logo and a cog on the side.



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100-200 words = \$15

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CO-OP CORNER

Round II is underway until May 4.
Offers can be received at any time.



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

foursquare.com/dalsextant

Sexton Events

Friday, March 30th

1:30PM - Engineering in the DC
9 PM - Trivia at the T-Room

Wednesday, April 4th

1 pm - Pork roast on the quad.
Other options will be available.
This is an Engineering, Architecture, and Planning event, so come out and meet other members of the campus community.



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.

Editor-In-Chief: Ben Wedge
Assistant Editor: Damon Surgenor
Treasurer: Sebastian Manchester

Questions, Comments and to Contribute sextant@dal.ca



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HOLY WEEK

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Palm Sunday, April 1 • 11 AM

Procession of Palms with Donkey & Choral Communion

Holy Monday & Tuesday, April 2 & 3 • 5 PM

Reading of Passion, Holy Communion

Holy Wednesday, April 4 • 5 PM

Reading of Passion, Holy Communion

And at 8:30 PM Tenebrae: A service of candles and psalms for Maundy Thursday Eve

The Paschal Triduum

Maundy Thursday, April 5 • 7 PM

Washing of Feet, Solemn Eucharist,
All-night Vigil

Good Friday, April 6 • 10 AM

Veneration of the Cross


Holy Saturday, April 7 • 11 PM

Great Vigil of Easter, First Eucharist
of Easter and Resurrection Party

Easter Sunday, April 8 • 11 AM

Choral Communion



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