

# THE GAZETTE

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## Live music threatened at Blues Corner

BY JOSEPH LAMBERT

Live music at the Blues Corner may be dead, thanks to threats from a new apartment building across the street.

A motion brought by the Halifax Liquor Licences and Gaming Control Commission on behalf of the Barrington Gate Apartment building has put the bar's entertainment license up for debate, in the form of a public hearing.

The licence regulates a bar's ability to provide live music.

Reading from a prepared statement, Blues Corner co-owner Paul Monahan said, "patrons and musicians rely on our ability to operate."

"[The Blues Corner] filled the

void created by the loss of Birdland [as a] response to the needs of the public."

John Campbell, a local musician, agreed.

"I've got a wife and mortgage...the Blues Corner is one of the only places I can work [and have] my family in the same [city]. I need the Blues Corner to make a living," he said.

Barrington Gate apartment building was built last year. Blues Corner supporters raised questions about the feasibility of an apartment in the central business district.

Building an apartment in the downtown core showed "very little insight" said Susan Flemming, a concerned patron.

"[The] nature of music involves noise."

David Perlmutter, a Halifax lawyer at the hearing, concurred.

"Property built [after a bar is established] should have...some sound proofing...applied before hand, or in retrofit," he said.

One audience member shouted in frustration "did the management do anything structurally to avoid the problem?"

The building plans were unavailable at the hearing.

Barrington Gate tenants talked of their inability to "enjoy the quiet peace of their homes", and, in a letter of complaint, one tenant was "shocked and appalled by the noise".

Jennifer Corcoran, a full-time student, lived on the building's fifth floor facing the Blues

Corner. She said she and her husband "had to raise our voices to hear each other".

Her husband said he didn't necessarily want to close down the bar, but asked "is there any limit to what are acceptable [noise levels]?" "If I touched the window I could hear it vibrating."

A bar has existed on the corner of Argyle and Blowers for the last

fifteen years.

The Blues Corner was a venue for the Halifax On Music festival last month, and is slated to be a major stage for the next East Coast Music Awards. Monahan says the bar is at the height of its popularity.

Jane Campbell, another bar supporter said Barrington Gate residents are trying to "gag and sterilize this part of town".

**"[They] are trying to gag and sterilize this part of town"**

## Grad House hanging on

BY LILLI JU

Shock has been followed by calls to keep the Grad House open since the release of the Graduate House Assessment by the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students last week.

The proposal sited a number of future options for the Grad House including its closure. Patrons of the popular lunch spot have responded with outrage.

"Have they taken clear leave of their senses?" said Lola Doucet, a law student who is a regular client of the Grad House.

"Everybody hearing about [the potential Grad House closure] agrees that they should keep it open. Nobody has said otherwise," said Steve Kolodziejczyk, a bartender at the Grad House who regularly chats with customers. Kolodziejczyk is planning to start a petition in support of keeping the Grad House opened.

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) council was presented four options concerning the future of the Grad House on Oct. 21. There are a number of financial and political issues that need to be worked out.

An emergency general meeting has been scheduled for 8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Theatre A, in

the Sir Charles Tupper Building Link. DAGS is also holding a speakers' forum on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the same location.

"DAGS has been working very closely with the people who are being affected by this issue," said Naomi Andjelic, President of DAGS.

"We're doing as much as possible to get the information out. Our [assessment] report is available at the Grad House and on the web, and we've e-mailed all our societies and department heads." The DAGS web

page is located at <http://is2.dal.ca/~dags>.

DAGS is also seeking and accepting proposals from interested students and groups until 9 p.m., Nov. 6. These proposals will also be made available before the Nov. 18 meeting.

"We want to ensure a fully democratic process. This is not a decision we can make on our own," said Andjelic, "but we have to acknowledge that things can't remain the way they are."



"Finnegan, if you don't stop pissing me off I'm gonna lock you in the trunk for good." Mr. Dressup visited Dal Campus last Monday. See story, page 14.

## Students not trusted with cash

BY DANIEL CLARK

The Ontario Student Assistance Program has reformed its distribution procedure, and in doing so has been showered with claims of profiteering.

The director of the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), Helmut Zisser, violently denies that this year's reform is in fact a way to increase funds to the Ontario Government.

"That is absolutely not the case. We made these changes to fall in line with the disbursement

programs of every other province in Canada," Zisser said.

"In fact, this is exactly what the Canada student loan program has been repeatedly asking us to do," he said.

Student loans in Canada are a two part agreement between the federal and provincial governments. Each loan consists of a portion from the Canada Student Loan (CSL) program and the Provincial Student Loan (PSL) program. The loans are interest free until the student ends

their studies, at which time they must begin repaying the loan.

Student loans are distributed in two lump sums in September and January. Starting this year, OSAP will distribute the loans in a 60-40 split — already the procedure used by the rest of the country. Before this year, only 20 per cent of the funds were disbursed in the second term, with the first 80 per cent provided at the beginning of the Academic year.

It has been argued that OSAP wants to keep the 20 per cent for

an extra three months to earn interest on the money. At a very conservative 2 per cent rate of interest, OSAP could earn an additional \$4-million in just three months.

OSAP strongly denies these claims

"Any money that would be earned in interest will just be funnelled back into the loan program. The amount of money which the Ontario Government spends in student loans increases

*continued on page 5...*

### Pre-packaged ponderance

**"You can't ever get enough of what you didn't really want in the first place."**  
— Sam Keen

### NATIONAL NEWS

Student Union at Brock University is trying to raise sex awareness through their new penis mascot, page 7.

Movement for the legalization of marijuana gaining momentum in Quebec, page 7.

### FOCUS

Part Two on Russia's struggling economy: Corruption and organized crime rule, page 10.

### SPORTS

All the AUAA information you can shake a stick at, page 18.

### ARTS & CULTURE

Canadian underground comic artists Seth and Chester Brown talk with the Gazette, page 15.

Dal Art Gallery host photo exhibit based on the trials of the worker, page 17.

CD reviews for Mary Coughlan, The Veas and Matt Molloy, page 15.

### SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Documentary film exposes possible links of breast cancer with environmental maladies, page 10.