

# THE DALHOUSIE MACKEREL

DALHOUSIE'S SATIRICAL NEWSPAPER

EST. 2021

## Dalhousie Birding Society Releases Comprehensive List of Bird Courses Native to Dalhousie

BY SAM CREIGHTON



A CYANOCITTA CRISTATA (BLUE JAY) SPOTTED ON DALHOUSIE CAMPUS (PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY SCOTT ON PEXELS)

HALIFAX, NS — Looking to soar through your next semester? Dalhousie's birding society can help with that. This year they have spotted notable bird courses native to Dalhousie, so grab your binoculars and your trail mix, because here are four of Dal's best birds.

### Human Sexuality

Follow the bizarre mating rituals of a non-feathered species with this course. Most watchers may find they are already acquainted with the mating habits discussed here, although some of the subject matter has been historically elusive for computer science students.

### thics and Law for Journalists

This species is a natural predator of *Mackerel*. It is commonly confused for other media vultures, however this bird is distinguishable by its existent code of ethics.

### History of Rock and Roll

While many ornithologists claim this species died out in the late seventies, others claim it can still be found in pocketed communities. There have been alleged sightings of this particular bird at dingey North End bars, and on the Spotify playlists of King's students.

### Bachelor of Commerce

While not a species, this family of birds is one of the most common here at Dalhousie and gains points for recognition. Members of the commerce bird family are well known for migrating between Halifax and Ontario, as well as for their distinct calls that resemble a mansplained definition of cryptocurrency.

## Study Finds Dalhousie Students Consuming Fake News Now More Than Ever

A half-assed goodbye from *Mackerel* founder Sam Cutcliffe

*The Dalhousie Mackerel* published its first satirical story on April 1st 2021 — nearly two years ago to the day that you, dear reader, may be reading this. It all began with two idiots tired of online school, and seeing nothing but absurdities in the world around them. Over the past two years, *The Mackerel* has grown immensely, now operating with a team of 9 writers, and publishing print editions bi-weekly, with the *Dalhousie Gazette* on our back 19 pages. I can assure you that *The Mackerel* team works tirelessly to ensure that the Dalhousie community remains met with just as much satirical news as painfully real disinformation — and I am confident it will continue long after I am gone. I won't bore you with much more of a sappy goodbye — instead I would like to bring you back to some

of my all time favorite headlines that we at *The Mackerel* have produced over the years:

**Commerce Student Oblivious To Online School, Has Completed Past Five Semesters Without In-Person Attendance**

**University Of King's College Introduces Intramural Poetry Reading**

**Heart Warming: Local Man Touched That He Is Considered 'Close' Contact Of Someone He Thought Was Just An Acquaintance**

**Seven Children Injured As Halifax Police Raid Point Pleasant Snow Forts In Fear Of Public Land Being Used For Shelter**

**Halifax Council Passes Motion To Provide An HRP Office To Hold Wayne Mason's Hand When He Walks By Dalhousie Campus**

**Dalhousie Loses Power As TAs On Stationary Bikes Hooked Up To Power Grid Stop Pedaling**

**Dalhousie Student Hits Rock Bottom: Expands Tinder Radius To Include SMU**

**Student Forcefully Sworn In As President Of Dalhousie Outdoors Society After Purchasing 2004 Subaru Outback**

Goodbye to *The Mackerel*. Thank you for everything — keep on laughing, and for the love of God, don't let Dalhousie take itself too seriously.

## Sign Of The Times: Students Resorting To Attending Office Hours, Asking Questions, In Order To Cope With End Of Year Workload

BY DEREK BARTLETT

HALIFAX, NS — Exam season, beloved universally by Dalhousie students, is approaching quickly. It is now common to spot crowds skipping and holding hands on their way to the Killam library, and lecture halls filled with those praying in silence for peace on earth. This is what most people think of when picturing exam season at Dalhousie, but for a very small minority, the reality is far from peaceful. Life for these students is fraught with perilous stress over deadlines and immeasurable confusion over their course material, driving them to unspeakable alternatives.

"I've heard rumours of my next door neighbour attending a professor's office hour — I can't imagine having to resort to such measures," explained Chuck Ponscomp, a third-year biology major. "I attended my first class of the semester last

week, and I thought that was extreme enough," he continued. "If you ever feel unsure about something and think you need help, just know that you're super weird, and nobody else has ever needed help before," added commerce major Greg Auld'or.

Some students are feeling like attending office hours and asking questions in class is all but necessary, considering the dire circumstances in which they find themselves. "I sent an email to my professor the other day — I promise it was the first time, and hopefully the last. I'm ashamed of the lengths I've had to go to trying to learn the entire course content over two weeks — but I feel like there's nothing else I could have done," explained a first-year student in an e-mail to *The Mackerel*. The anonymous sender, [nkrampton@dal.ca](mailto:nkrampton@dal.ca), also requested

to have their name omitted from the article.

Billy Ketch, another affected student, spoke to *The Mackerel* through tears, explaining "I was five semesters clean from asking questions — FIVE WHOLE SEMESTERS! I just can't believe this year has to end on such a low."

Despite the deep polarization the issue has created, many professors have expressed delight at seeing certain students' faces for the very first time. "I honestly thought I was teaching a class of eight until my inbox was flooded with questions from over fifty different students," explained Dr. Doug Purn.

*The Mackerel* wishes everyone all the relaxation that comes with exam season, and offers our sincere wishes that you do not find yourself needing to take such unthinkable actions.



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## Journalism School Finds Journalism To Be “Crucial Now More Than Ever” For Seventh Year In Row

BY GRACE BROWN



KING'S JOURNALISM STUDENT, AND LOCAL HERO, JERRY JERGEN (PHOTO COURTESY OF AUSTIN DISTEL ON UNSPLASH).

HALIFAX, NS — This week *The Mackerel* met with Dr. Dwight Herbert, professor at the University of King's College School of Journalism, for an annual interview about the role of journalism in the world today. *The Mackerel* has conducted this interview for the past seven years in order to understand the shifting cultural landscape in our rapidly evolving world. In our 2016 interview, in the midst of a worsening war in Syria, the controversial American presidential election, and Brexit, Dr. Herbert proclaimed, “The vocation of journalism is currently essential to the world in a way it has never been before,” echoing a sentiment in much of the news media at the time.

Two years, and two interviews later, Dr. Herbert urged the public to throw their support behind journalists after the brutal 2018 assassination of American journalist Jamal Khashoggi. “It is absolutely necessary that journalists feel supported, and defended by the public right now, because we need journalism. In all honesty? I would say the job

of the journalist is the most important to society, now more than ever,” Herbert explained.

Herbert told *The Mackerel* in our 2020 interview that “We live in a world in which the President of the United States attacks journalists simply for reporting on a global pandemic. I think we need to realize that in these unprecedented times, there has never been a greater need for journalism. Students of the King's Journalism School are signing up for a lifetime of some of the most important work in the world — and quite frankly — they are heroes.”

Again in 2021, 2022, and now recently in 2023, Herbert has come forward yet again on behalf of the King's Journalism School to state that journalism is “crucial, now more than ever”.

Dr. Herbert's message certainly ought to make the reader think, and maybe even pause to consider what we owe to journalists — particularly in a world where the term ‘unprecedented’ is used with unprecedented frequency.

## ‘Just Gonna Sneak Right Past Ya’: Renowned Criminal Once Again Evades Capture By HRP

BY KENT RICHARDS

HALIFAX, NS — Late Monday evening a heinous crime took place under the watchful eye of a seasoned Halifax Regional Police Officer. Clark Coleman, 43, was standing guard at his usual post — Quinpool Superstore's meat aisle — when he heard those chilling words, “Just gonna sneak right past ya.” A shiver ran down his spine. He turned, gun drawn, but it was already too late. The thief had made off with a family-sized package of chicken breasts, believed to be worth more than a cashier's daily wage.

This was merely the latest in a string of high-profile crimes committed by the ‘Sneaky Bandit’ in recent months, often taking place right under the nose of the Halifax Regional Police.

On the condition of anonymity, *The Mackerel* was able to conduct an exclusive interview with the man, who, speaking through a voice changer, explained he was inspired to a life of crime by Loblaw's President Galen Weston. “No one takes more from innocent people than Mr. Weston,” he told our reporter. “He's like a modern day Robin

Hood, if Robin Hood took from the poor and gave to the rich.”

Asked how hard it is to get the HRP off his trail, he said: “All it takes is a light jog, or for them to see a homeless shelter they could be tearing down instead.”

These repeated failures have led many in the community to question HRP's bloated budget, and the wisdom of having armed police guard groceries. We wrote in asking for comment, but our message has gone unanswered, allegedly due to literacy issues the organization is struggling to remedy.



THE SNEAKY BANDIT, PICTURED INSIDE A LOCAL GROCERY STORE (IMAGE BY SAM CUTLIFFE).



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