



the Journal

Saint Mary's University - Halifax - Nova Scotia

Volume 69 - Number 20 - March 10th, 2004



Photo by Eric Boudreau/ THE JOURNAL

Brooke Miller made her second recent appearance at SMU on Monday, playing at the Second Annual International Women's Day Gala.

In memoriam

University community pays respects to "Donnie"

by Jeffrey Warford

More than one hundred SMU staff, students, and administration members turned out for a memorial service for Donald Robinson, held at the Canadian Martyr's Church on Inglis street last Wednesday. But even as Robinson's spirit was laid to rest, questions and rumors regarding his tragic and sudden death continued to swirl through the halls of the university.

Two versions of the day in question continue to circulate.

In one version, Robinson left his Fairview home on Thursday morning and walked to the nearest bus stop. But since the buses weren't running that morning, Robinson continued to walk the rest of the way to Saint

Mary's, covering nearly eight kilometers that were buried under increasingly heavy snow. Upon arrival, however, he was reportedly told to go home because the university had decided to postpone the decision to open until noon. In this version, Robinson never made it. Security staff found his body Friday evening - almost a day and a half later - where he had collapsed in the snow outside of the Burke Education Centre, apparently due to an epileptic seizure.

The other version had Robinson making the trip home on Thursday safe and sound, and he allegedly even returned to the school the following morning, presumably to help out with clean-up efforts even though

the university was closed for an administrative holiday. The cause of death was the same in this version: sometime during the day, Robinson suffered an epileptic seizure and collapsed in the snow bank.

The ultimate cause of Robinson's death in both versions is generally accepted to be suffocation, due to a combination of the seizure and falling face-first into the snow. However, this was never verified, as Robinson's family requested that an autopsy not be performed.

The only official document dealing with Robinson's death was the coroner's report. The coroner concluded that Robinson's body could not

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Sweatshops and SMU

by Stuart Neatby

The idea seems simple: A University adopts a buying policy to its many suppliers stating that it has no interest in buying from companies who mistreat their workers in their overseas factories. The suppliers are then pressured to show that they are taking some action against "sweatshop" labour conditions. This policy is referred to as a "No Sweat" Code of Conduct.

The difficulty lies in the details. Although a number of Universities across Canada have adopted Codes of Conduct in hopes of pressuring companies to improve their working conditions at home and abroad, the difficulty of determining which suppliers are abiding by basic labour standards is an incredibly

complex task. It was for this reason that, when members of the Saint Mary's administration, faculty, and bookstore staff came together last year to form a "No Sweat" Code of Conduct at SMU, they initially opted to have the University join the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC), a US-based non-profit organization which monitors and enforces Codes of Conduct. Under a WRC Code of Conduct, suppliers to SMU would need to identify the exact factory in which SMU apparel was produced, and this information would be available to all on the WRC website. The WRC would also, wherever possible, conduct a third party investigation of complaints of mistreatment of workers,

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IN THE SKY

WEDNESDAY -		1 to -9
THURSDAY -		3 to -6
FRIDAY -		0 to -5
SATURDAY -		0 to -4
SUNDAY -		0 to -4

SOURCE: THE WEATHER NETWORK

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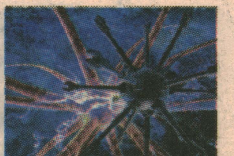
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Deadline for 2004 - 2005 academic year applications is March 16th at 5:00pm. For more information please visit us on the 5th floor of the Students' Centre or go to www.smusa.ca.

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Caribanza 2004 Presents

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March 10
Wednesday

**OPEN MIC
NIGHT**

March 11
Thursday

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March 12
Friday

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March 15
Monday

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Editorial

the Journal

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The opinions expressed in The Journal are those of the authors and not necessarily of The Journal or Saint Mary's University.

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The Journal is printed on recycled paper. All unread copies of The Journal are recycled and the proceeds from recycling are donated to the Special Olympics.

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I think I may have been a little tough on teachers in last week's issue. The teaching profession is challenging and I do admire those who do it everyday. The part that frustrates me the most is the almighty contract between the school board and the teacher's union. I honestly do not like many unions because they jump at any opportunity to bash the employer of their union members. Union/employer battles always interest me because I enjoy mediation and arbitration, so I try to pay attention when there is union news of any kind going on in the city.

From my experience working in various environments that employ unionized workers I have often felt a sense of resentment from the workers towards their employer. They make sure they get every minute of

their break time and do not seem to care if they take more time than they should. I have also worked with many unionized workers who have the attitude that they will not do one ounce of work that is not stated in their contract. What a horrible attitude to have. I imagine that if people have that type of attitude about their work, they probably have the same type of attitude about every other aspect of their lives. There seems to be no give and take relationship that works out in everyone's favour.

Perhaps my past experiences with unionized workers has made me biased when I look at the teachers across the street from my home, but I truly believe that they take advantage of the education system. Why are teachers not forced to stay at work for seven and one half

hours a day, like employees in other professions? Why is it that teachers get one full period off from teaching a day to catch up on their work? I do not see any other profession where someone can shut their office door, leave the phone of the hook and devote that time to work.

I have been working in the schools in HRM for the past few months facilitating bully awareness workshops to students and it seems that the students are crying out for more teachers who simply give a damn. The students that I work with are typically good students and often seen as leaders in their schools. They are generally concerned about the quality of education they and their peers are receiving, so when they are concerned about the teachers they deal with day to day, I believe them.

The school board and the teacher's union need to work together and work out a

contract that makes the teachers more responsible for their job. These people are teaching the future, they will someday teach our children. Without improvement in the education system, I am afraid of what is to come.

I just wanted to clarify my opinions last week as I do respect a lot of teachers and it is often a few bad seeds that spoil a crop. I will leave you this week with a quote from Gabriela Mistral, a Nobel-Prize-Winning Poet from Chile.

"We are guilty of many errors, and many faults, but our worse crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the foundation of life. Many of the things we need, can wait. The children cannot. Right now is the time their bones are being made and their senses are being developed. To them we cannot answer 'Tomorrow'. Their name is 'Today'."

LMN

The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Journal or its staff.

Canadian athlete of the year a joke?

Looking back at the year that Mike Weir had brings into question why he was chosen over the two other Canadian athletes that should have had a decent shot at winning the title of the Canadian athlete of the year. In third place with barely any votes was race car driver in the C.A.R.T. racing series Paul Tracy, who started the season not only winning the first race of the year, but the first three races, this isn't something that happens every year. Tracy went on to win more races after that, and eventually ended up winning the entire series, on top of this he also won the most popular driver award.

Even better than the great year that Paul Tracy had was the year of relief pitcher Eric Gagne. He won the national league Cy Young award as a relief pitcher. How did he win this as a reliever? Gagne pitched in 55 games in the season, and saved all of them. Eric Gagne did what no other man has ever done in major league baseball and pitched a perfect season. Although his team did not win the World Series, Gagne consistently over an entire season came to the mound with his "A" game and contributed 55 saves to his team.

So with the amazing efforts of Tracy and Gagne, Weir must have almost won every tournament, and won the season (determined by the money list). Did he do this? Sadly for Weir he is not the next Tiger Woods. So what made his year better than the accomplishments of the other two? Weir won "The Masters"

tournament, one of biggest tournaments on the tour. Weir in a play-off won the green jacket, being the only Canadian to ever win the Masters. A great accomplishment for Weir, but what did the rest of his year have in store for him? Weir was unable to win any other major tournament, the few other weekends he did win were no name events where many of the elite players did not even show up. Weir finished the year fifth on the money list, and did not win the best golfer award.

This is the problem. Weir did win the masters, but is that a better accomplishment to win one weekend over the ability of Paul Tracy and Eric Gagne to consistently win and finish the year at the top of their league? How can winning one weekend beat Paul Tracy winning three in a row in his respective sport? Or Gagne winning every single game?

There are two reasons why Weir won over the other two, and they have nothing to do with athletic ability. The first one being that golf is seen by many Canadians as a more prestigious sport (although some will argue that golf is not a sport at all), certainly more than baseball, and definitely more than C.A.R.T. (Heaven forbid it's not F1). Golf is a rich man's sport; it's expensive to play and has the "Gentleman's club" feel to it. Hell, the word "golf" could be taken as an acronym for "Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbidden". Secondly, Canadians like nothing more than beating Americans, and the PGA is dominated by

them; they even have one tournament where all the Americans take on the world. The contest for Canadian athlete of the year was over once Canadians not only beat an elite field of Americans, but also watched as the defending champion American Tiger Woods, put the green jacket on the shoulders of Canadian Mike Weir.

Mike Weir's victory in the

masters could be said to be a bigger accomplishment than one day of work for Paul or Gagne, but it's not the size of the boat, but the motion in the ocean. Weir's one success is a ripple to the wave Paul Tracy and the monsoon of Gagne. It should have gone to Gagne, second going to Tracy, and Weir bringing up the rear.

Jamie Kidd

Letter to the Editor

In response to the letter "Why are we protesting tuition?" by Jamie Kidd in last week's journal:

Why protest tuition? Why raise your voice just because Nova Scotia has the highest average tuition in the country? Why insist that a government put more money into social programs like education and healthcare rather than offering a flat taxcut which would benefit mostly those of higher incomes? Why fret over the pesky fact that youth of today will become the most indebted generation in Canadian history (casa.ca)? Well, maybe because some of us think that a university education should not be something that's reserved for the rich. Study after study (CAUT, Stats Canada, HRDC...) indicates that the rising cost of tuition is the biggest barrier to enrollment for low-income Canadians. It's not a question of "stop grumbling and pay" for students from lower income backgrounds. A University education is increasingly

becoming something that is simply out of reach.

In terms of taxes, both the provincial and federal governments

have been busy voraciously cutting taxes for the past ten years, which has yielded a disproportionate benefit for the already wealthy. As for the demonstration, it garnered tons of local, as well as some national, media coverage over issues of post-secondary education. Aside from doing something illegal, that's about all you can do to keep governments from ignoring you. The march occupied the front page of the

Chronicle Herald the next day, and was the top story on CBC news 7 hours before it even happened! The march happened during the afternoon classes so we could allow high school students to take part, many of whom did. In addition, thousands signed petitions to the Hamm government.

Stuart Neatby

News

"Singing with Bono, dancing with Bush" Halifax MP speaks about women, peace, security and Paul Martin

by Jeffrey Warford

Alexa McDonough, Member of Parliament for Halifax and former leader of the federal New Democratic Party, made an appearance at SMU on International Women's Day to give a talk on the role of women in global politics.

"Very often it is women who feel most shut out from formal negotiation and decision-making processes. Women are still severely under-represented in decision-making roles in public office."

McDonough is happy to see a woman running for the leadership of the Conservative Party, even if she doesn't agree with very many of Belinda Stronach's plans - including her vow to inject \$10 billion into Canada's military. McDonough says despite the current focus world governments have placed on military and territorial security, she still senses an immense insecurity in communities across the country.

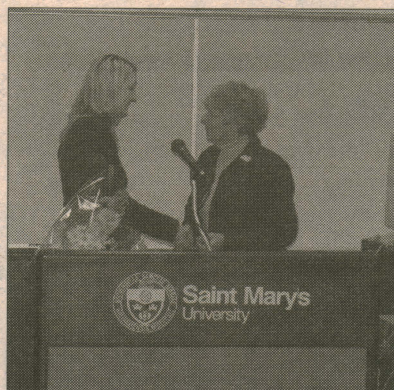
"Security doesn't just pertain to military might. It pertains to things as gut-wrenching and as fundamental as being able to earn a living while knowing that your children are cared for safely and are having enriching experiences," she said. McDonough pointed to recent or imminent closures of several Halifax day care centers to illustrate her line of reasoning.

Women should also have a unique role to play with regards to the establishment of peace in the modern world.

"The people of the world were really handed a golden opportunity with the end of the cold war to build a culture that could begin to actually plan for a world without wars," said McDonough. She also expressed frustration at the Liberal government's refusal to take a firm stance on the Bush administration's missile defence plans.

"Every time one asks a question to the Prime Minister

or the Foreign Minister in the House of Commons about missile defence, they just lie," said McDonough. "There's no other way to say it." There is an overwhelming amount of evidence that suggests deployment of an American missile defence system would be a precursor to the proliferation of space-based weaponry, she said.



McDonough took the opportunity to publicly criticize several of the Martin government's policies and decisions in the months since the former Finance Minister came to power. From homelessness to foreign aid, from Canada's response to the AIDS crisis to the appointment of cabinet ministers, McDonough expressed dismay at the path Martin appears to be steering the country toward.

"In 1993, Martin wrote scathing attacks in the Liberals' 'Red Book' against the Mulroney government's cuts to social housing policy," she said. "But in his 1995 budget, Martin eliminated that program completely." McDonough also pointed out that during the first ten years of Martin's watch, Canada has systematically reduced its contribution to international development from 0.7% of gross national product to 0.27%.

McDonough later reflected upon the irony in one of Martin's leadership race stunts, when he invited U2 star Bono to attend a rally in support of his bid. Martin had no problem allowing the famously outspoken left-wing

pop star to perform at his event, but McDonough takes every opportunity she can to point out that Martin is "singing with Bono, but dancing with Bush."

"The appointment of [Defence Minister] David Pratt was very significant. David Pratt was quite prepared to say publicly that he would have plunged us all into the Bush administration's war with Iraq," she said.

In closing, McDonough had a simple message for Canadian youth - a segment of the population that chronically suffers from extreme voter apathy.

"This is your future that other people are determining," she said. "If you don't participate in the political life of your nation, then you may not much like what others choose on your account."

Continued from cover

Donnie

have been outside for very long after he died, only two or three hours at the most. That time range would seem to corroborate the second version of the story, since Robinson's shift always ended at 3:00pm and he wasn't discovered until 6:00pm on Friday.

What both main versions of the story have in common, however, is the insistence of the university's administration that things would be "business as usual" on Thursday, regardless of the weather. Saint Mary's has become notorious in Halifax for opening on days where virtually everything else in the region is closed.

"The usual reason the administration gives for opening in bad weather is that there are so many residence students, it would be a waste of class time not to open," said one staff member, who asked not to be identified. "But since it was Reading Week, you have to wonder what the real motivation was."

Partly to blame for the

university's decision was a complete lack of a specific storm policy, even after the university was forced to close for a week in late September in the aftermath of Hurricane Juan. But there are signs that this will soon change.

"The staff is working through it, slowly," said staff union representative Pat Connors. "The university waited until the memorial service was over before they started talking about changes, out of respect for the family."

The policy changes will be hammered out through a task force currently being assembled by the President's office. Early indications are that the task force will include representatives from employee and faculty unions, students, and the Occupational Health and Safety board.

"Some of us worked with Donnie for over 30 years," said Connors. "He never missed a day. He almost made you feel guilty for missing a day yourself, because he was so dedicated."

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Only selected applicants will be notified for interviews.

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St. Mary's student paper 5.9" x 6.75"
Placed by Dawn Morrison: 494.3085
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Continued from cover

No Sweat

which could be brought forward by these workers themselves. Strangely, the "No Sweat" committee has since decided against joining the WRC, or any other group that would provide any enforcement to this code, opting instead to adopt a "voluntary" code.

As it stands now, it seems quite likely that many of the SMU-crested clothing sported by students has been produced using some form of exploitative labour. Several weeks ago, myself and a group of students obtained permission to make a detailed list of information on all clothing on sale at the SMU bookstore. This list was then sent off to a Canadian NGO which works extensively on Sweatshop issues in order to find out what they could tell us about the working conditions behind this clothing. Although we have yet to hear back from them, we found that some of the articles were produced in China, Mexico, and Myanmar. According to the Maquila Solidarity Network, in Mexican states like Coahuila and Tehuacan, workers in maquilas (factories which produce entirely for export) make approximately \$4.50 per day, and work 9-12 hours per day. Women tend to face "consistent sexual

harassment" and are forced by the management to take pregnancy tests periodically. Women who become pregnant are frequently fired due to the belief that it lowers their productivity. In Tehuacan, child labour is described as being "endemic to the industry." Workers who attempt to form unions often face violence and intimidation, and are frequently fired.

Don Harper, manager of the SMU bookstore, is aware of this and believes that some of the lesser-known brand names which the University buys from are "often the worst offenders." He has been involved in setting up the SMU code of conduct, which would prohibit, for example, harassment or abuse of workers as well as maintaining unsafe working conditions. He concedes, however, that it is a difficult task "for an administrator to take the time to find out about delinquent vendors."

Cathy Lewis, manager of Institutional Analysis and Planning with the University, believes that "we're in a fact-finding mission at this stage." She explains that, once the code is officially adopted, it will be circulated to all of SMU's apparel and clothing suppliers. These suppliers will then be required to give an indication that their factories are in compliance with the

labour standards set out by the code. However, this would mean that all information with regards to these labour conditions is controlled by the suppliers.

Teresa Heffernan of the faculty union, who has also been involved with the formation of the SMU code, describes its current state as a "feel good code." She believes that without any measure of enforcement of the No Sweat code, it will amount to very little. She explains that this was the reason why the faculty union initially suggested that the University become a member of the WRC. Although this idea was originally agreed upon by members of the No Sweat committee, members of the administration have since decided to scale back this aspect, fearing the liability issues it would raise, as well as the commitment of personnel required for the WRC. Heffernan believes that she has addressed both of these issues.

"The university can determine its level of involvement," she explains. "Liability is not an issue: if a supplier misleads us, after agreeing to our code, about the conditions in the factories it uses, the WRC will investigate; there are no legal implications for the university."

Still, at the present time,

the code seems set to be implemented without any method of enforcement or third party monitoring. These issues could determine whether the code applies serious pressure to suppliers. In reality this detail seems to be the one that would matter the most to the woman sewing jerseys for 13 hours a day in China, or the union organizer

facing death threats in Mexico.

Want to know if SMU will adopt an effective Sweatshop Code of Conduct? Contact SMU President Colin Dodds to find out:

colin.dodds@smu.ca. For more information about Sweatshops and SMUdents, contact flatulentelm@hotmail.com

Attention:

Would the person or persons who assisted a woman who fell outside the Burke Building on Thursday, February 5, 2004 at approximately 11:30am please contact Jennifer at the Journal by either telephoning 496-8205 and leaving a message, or sending an email to journal.ae@smu.ca. It would be extremely appreciated.

National Nutrition Month

by Andrea Dean & Carla Tobin

During the month of March two Mount Saint Vincent University nutrition students, Carla Tobin and Andrea Dean, will be located in the SMU Dockside Dining Hall. They will be setting up a Nutritional Health & Exercise Education booth for anyone with questions concerning proper nutrition or exercise tips. They will be on-campus throughout the month of March, focusing on such topics as: low-fat diets, vegetarianism, proper physical fitness, and osteoporosis.

If you have any questions or concerns then come on out to the Dockside Dining Hall and these girls will be more than happy to help. Please note, any direct diet-related questions will be referred to ARAMARK's on-campus dietitian, Cheryl Robertson (494-1665 or dietitian@dal.ca).

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Business

Business blunders

by Ian Burns

Every year business magazine Business 2.0 (www.business2.com) puts out its list of the "101 dumbest moments in business." This year is the websites fourth installment of 101 and for the first time there is a tie for the top spot. The first place medal goes to New York stock exchange CEO Dick Grasso and his more than generous salary and pension and Strong Financial founder Dick Strong for his unethical stock trades that netted him a small fortune. Both of these Dicks eventually resigned.

The Business 2.0 list also includes some lesser known, but equally dumb moments in business. The list includes fast-food chains, media organizations, airlines, retail businesses, automobile manufacturers, and many others.

The following is the cream of the crop as far as dumb business moments are concerned. These are the top ten dumbest moments in business for 2003 according to Business 2.0.

1. The New York stock exchange decides to pay CEO Dick Grasso \$139.5 million pension up front. After a huge public outcry, Grasso agrees not to take another \$48 million he has coming to him. Grasso resigned shortly after and claimed that he was fired and is entitled to an additional \$58 million.

2. An investigation into the mutual fund industry reveals that Dick Strong, founder of Strong Financial, made more than \$600,000 by making market-timed trades despite being in violation of his own companies policies. Strong was later forced to resign.

3. Urban Outfitters makes a knockoff of the classic Monopoly game called Ghettopoly. In the "Ghetto" themed game, pieces such as the top hat, car and wheelbarrow are replaced with a machine gun, marijuana leaf and crack cocaine. Urban Outfitters quickly discontinued the game in response to a strong public outcry.

4. A dairy Queen Franchisee is successfully

sued by a customer after an employee slides into her booth, pulls down her sweater, bites on her breast and screams, "I am like Dracula."

5. The CEO of Clear Channel Radio desperately tried to perform damage control after disc jockeys on three of the company's radio stations urged listeners to violently attack bicyclists.

6. Nielsen/Netratings, a company that rates the quality and content of websites, accidentally issued a report stating that a website called Blunt Truth was. "An educational resource for marijuana."

7. Evite, a free site designed to help people organize social events, apologized to it's users after referring to the holiday Yom Kippur (the Jewish day of atonement) as a good, "reason to party"

8. Shortly after General Motors released it's new Buick LaCrosse in Canada, executives were forced to rename the automobile after discovering that crosse was a slang word meaning masturbation in Quebec.

9. Ikea removes a new children's bunk bed called Gutvik from it's catalogue after customers in Germany pointed out that the name sounded very similar to the German phrase for "Good f**k."

10. Chrysler announces that it will be sponsoring a halftime event called the Lingerie Bowl where scantily clad women play football. After the company comes under fire for the events sexist nature, Chrysler proposes that the event organizer change the outfits to sports bras and volleyball shorts. Chrysler later pulled out of the sponsorship all together.

It may seem almost amazing that from year to year the world's top companies continue to screw up and land on the list. Since Business 2.0 started the list, there have been more than 400 blunders that have been recognized by the magazine. Business 2.0 editor Josh Quittner says, "The seemingly endless supply of corporate goofs and business errors

Tax filing follies

by Ian Burns

No one likes paying taxes, and some people will try almost anything to keep their hard earned money from falling in the hands of government tax collectors. Over the years there have been a number of schemes to bend the truth or stretch the boundaries of the laws. Here are just a few schemes that have been tried over the years.

One of the most often-used tax tricks is stretching the truth a little when claiming an item as a business expense. Some example of this are the actor who wrote off a pair of dentures because he needed them to speak without hissing, or the executive who wrote off a mink coat because it was important that she always look her best.

But the business write-off that surely takes the cake is the case of the stripper who tried to write off her new breast implants.

Chesty Morgan, a stripper from Detroit, attempted to claim her breast implants as a medical expense. A tax court judge put a stop to Chesty's claim, but did her a bigger favor by allowing her to write of the operation as a business expense.

never ceases to amaze our editors and readers, this year was no exception." If you want to read more about the other 90-some dumbest moments, just hit up the website www.business2.com

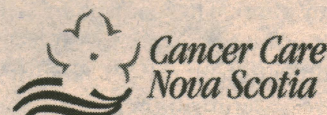
In the rather dry world of taxes, it wasn't long before this became a hot topic and tax professionals everywhere were eager to put in their two cents.

Another unusual case involves two state troopers from Minnesota who went to court in the early 70's to argue that they should be allowed to deduct the cost of their lunches as a business expense. Because the troopers were required to eat at a specific time of day at a specific restaurant, and the officers were not allowed to brown-bag their lunch, an exception was made to allow the troopers to write-off their lunches as a business expense.

For years, it was common for parents and legal guardians to over-state the number of dependants under their care when they filed their taxes. But in the mid 80s the

IRS made a new rule requiring parents to provide the social security numbers of all children claimed as dependants. The effects of this rule were seen almost immediately, the same year the social security number was required, the number of dependants claimed by taxpayers dropped by nearly 7 million.

However, if you can't make money off of your kids, you still have an opportunity to save a buck or two. One case allowed by the IRS, was a filer who claimed the cost of moving his dog as a legitimate moving expense. A scrap-yard owner was allowed to claim cat food as a business expense because he used it to attract wild cats that would deter snakes and other wild animals from his yard.



Cross Cultural Summer Studentship

Cancer Care Nova Scotia (CCNS) is offering a summer studentship to a graduate or undergraduate student attending a Nova Scotia University. The studentship is intended to foster an interest in the field of oncology (cancer) among students from diverse cultures. Due to the nature of the project, the student must have an in-depth understanding of the African Nova Scotia community.

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Applications are available by contacting Donna Smith, Community Liaison at Cancer Care Nova Scotia by phone at (902) 473-7268 or by email at donnam2.smith@ccns.nshealth.ca

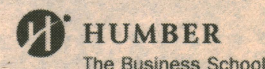


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New cash crop

by Ian Burns

It's no secret that marijuana has found its place in today's society, and it's no surprise considering that for \$10 you can roll up a joint and be just like 50 Cent. But the one major flaw with smoking, or even possessing, marijuana is that it has been illegal for the better part of a century. But this has not done much to stop marijuana from becoming a multi-billion dollar industry in Canada.

Because it is illegal in Canada, it is hard to get accurate figures on the value of Canada's marijuana crop, but estimates put it at somewhere between \$4 billion and \$7 billion annually. This is an amazing figure considering that Canada's cattle industry yields approximately \$5.63 billion annually, wheat \$1.73 billion, forestry and logging \$4.3 billion. Marijuana is beaten only by Canada's oil and gas extraction, which is estimated at \$15.8 billion annually.

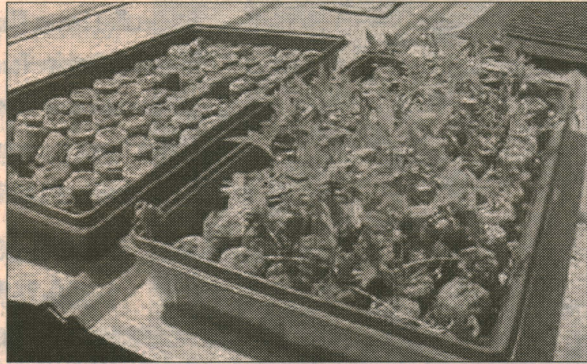
Legally operated farms in Canada have net margins of about 5.5%, and economists from Simon Fraser university

marijuana is not a new industry; marijuana has been used for fiber since 8000 B.C. and used as a drug since 2000 B.C.

Marijuana is not only used for its intoxicating effects, the fibers from marijuana are often used to make rope, clothing and canvas. The word canvas is actually derived from the word cannabis and many of history's great paintings are painted on canvas made from marijuana fibers. Marijuana can also be used to produce a wide number of products such as, soap, fuel, paper, building materials, medicine, liquor, and the flour found in seeds can be used to make noodles.

Most recently marijuana has been praised by for its medical applications. In

purposes. However this is a highly debated topic, and many medical professionals hesitate to recommend marijuana as a treatment because of its intoxicating effects.



Growing and distributing marijuana is not the only way people are making millions off this booming underground industry. Advanced Nutrients, a B.C. based company, specializes in making nutrients to grow bigger and more potent marijuana plants. Advanced Nutrients makes more than 86 products, has 8 labs, and employs 65 people including a number of scientists holding PhD's in horticulture. Advanced Nutrients grossed more than \$12 million in 2003 and expects that number to grow to more than \$20 million in 2004.

Advanced Nutrients supplies products to more than 380 stores in Canada and the US as well as 260 stores in Australia. A starter kit from Advanced Nutrients will set you back about \$375.

But the bottom line is that marijuana is illegal and just possessing the drug can land you in hot water. Michael

Straumietis, a part owner of Advanced Nutrients, started his company after he fled from America to escape marijuana related drug charges.



estimate that pot producers have an annual return of 72% after costs of labor, theft, and arrests. But growing

Canada, a few hundred people have been given special permission to grow marijuana for medical

Small tech gets big money

by Ian burns

In 2004 alone, the U.S. government has plans to put \$1 billion into nanotechnology and another \$3.7 billion between 2005 and 2008. This announcement was made at Nano Science and Technology Institute's Nanotech 2004 trade show.

Nanotech 2004 is a venue for various scientists and business to discuss nanotechnology and show off new developments in this relatively new science. Nanotechnology involves working at the atomic or molecular level to understand, create and control new devices. Because of the extremely small sizes of these new structures, they carry very peculiar properties and may be used in the future to improve such devices as solar panels and microchips.

Of the United States \$197 billion research and development budget, about \$961 million will be going towards nanotechnology research. This is not a huge figure, but it represents a 107 percent increase in funding for nanotechnologies from 2001.

Japan and the European Union are making similar investment. The European Union plans to put more than \$30 million into new chip manufacturing processes enhanced by nanotechnologies. This, combined with ongoing support of nanotechnology by various corporations, represents a huge increase in interest.

Both governments and corporations are eager to reap the economic, national defense and health benefits of nanotechnology. Nanotechnology could


boost computers by providing new materials that could be used to create faster processors or new methods of storing information that are not currently available. All of these possibilities have application in retail, manufacturing and other industries by allowing for faster communication and making it easier to meet the needs of customers.

Currently chipmakers can produce chips measuring a mere 100 nanometers. However Intel and other chip manufacturers are looking for ways to incorporate futuristic materials with unique properties. Nanowires and other new materials may be in common use sometime between 2013 and 2019.

Nanosys, a California based company, is currently working on licensing its version of nanowires, small single atom strings of silicone. These nanowires could be used in processors as transistors, or in medical testing equipment designed to identify when certain types of cancer are present in a person's body.

Another promising nanostructure are nanotubes, made from a lattice of carbon atoms. IBM has already used nanotubes as transistors in some chip experiments. Nanotubes and nanowires have both successfully been used to emit light.

There is still a long way to go before nanotechnology leaves the lab and makes it to the production line. Some of the grants provided by the U.S. government will go to purely research, while other grant money will go to putting nanotechnology into practice.



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Arts & Entertainment

Improved Marquee takes off

by Bill Hughes

Although renovation plans did not include a runway, Toronto's quartet Pilate touched down in Halifax this past Saturday night to christen the opening of the newly renovated Marquee Club. The show marked Pilate's second appearance in Halifax as they wrapped up the tail end of their Atlantic Canadian tour.

Since their initial performance in October, the hype surrounding Pilate's debut LP caught by the window has raised their stock from opening act to headliner and their growing fan base has responded. Beyond their popularity as exemplified by sold out shows in Toronto, Pilate, is beginning to forge their place among Canada's elite musical acts.

Along for the ride in hopes of drafting in Pilate's tailwind were MapleMusic labelmates

touring in promotion of their recently released disc *Coma Kid*, which is their second full-length album in ten years as a band.

Due to the expansive renovations to the Marquee over the past month, the

music staple with a new look is now 1000 square feet larger. The club is also now equipped with a ventilated smoking lounge, a revamped stage, and a layout that owners hope will reduce wasted space and in turn create a more inviting atmosphere.

After a one-month hiatus, Halifax music fans welcomed the reopening of the city's finest music venue with open arms, and headliner Pilate did



Photo by Ryan Quillan/THE

He then praised the Marquee staff for their efforts in turning what was an absolute mess in mid afternoon into the ready to go club for the evening show.

Clark donned his trademark hat while he and his mates succeeded in getting the packed house hyped-up, as his stage presence is improved and much more noticeable at the now bigger venue. Pilate got the crowd going with a variety of low key tunes and then slapped them with a wake up call as they belted out their hit single "Into Your Hideout" for the climax of the show. The band carried that momentum through an encore and left a pleased crowd with a simple "thank you".

The Miniatures were rumored to have put on an excellent opening act with a collection of their alternative rock tunes that got the audience hyped for what was to come. Unfortunately due to an extended stay at Appleton Estates, I was unable to catch their performance.

everything possible to make what lead singer Todd Clark called "a night to remember".



Photo by Ryan Quillan/THE JOURNAL

The Miniatures, yet another Ontario export from Kitchener. The Minis are

The Club is Dread-ful

by Wes Wrightson

It has been over three years since the film *Super Troopers* came out, and that laugh fest was brought to fruition by the minds of the week's new release, *Club Dread*-Broken Lizard. If any of you haven't yet seen *Super Troopers*, it is highly recommended, and follows the low-brow antics of Vermont's finest. Think *Meatballs* meets *Police Academy* with a twist of *Animal House*.

Club Dread isn't anything like I've seen before, and not in a good way. I mean, I laughed my ass off at certain parts, but overall, it seemed like *Scream* poking fun at *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*. If you are a fan of sight gags and boob jokes, then this is definitely for you. The film is directed by Jay Chandreskar, who primarily worked on shows like "Arrested Development" and "Undeclared," in addition to the aforementioned *Super Troopers*. It also stars Bill Paxton, Brittany Daniel, Jordan Ladd, Kevin Heffernan, and Paul Soter. The guys from Broken Lizard all work together, so there is an on-screen chemistry that is shared by them, and Jay plays off of that well. While Jay was good as the smart and smarmy Thorny in *Troopers*, he mostly bumbles around bad dialogue as a tennis-pro here in *Dread*. While Heffernan was legendary as Rod Farva in *Troopers*, he is mostly absent

here as an island masseuse. The rest of the Broken Lizard gang gets to have some admittedly quirky and fun scenes here, as they push the rated-R button with the drugs and general mayhem.

The film's basic plotline runs like any other recent slasher movie. The film takes place on a small island in Central America, where Coconut Pete (Bill Paxton doing a dead-on Jimmy Buffet in Margaritaville impression) is still plugging away at his insignificant music career that thrived back in the 70's. Coconut Pete has set up a resort on this island dedicated to partying the night (and day) away. One by one, however, the staff and its vacationers start turning up dead. Is this the work of a maniac? Is this the monster they all got spooked about around the campfire? This is the type of generic film wherein everyone turns up a suspect.

The characters all seem to be having a good fun time at what they are doing. The film also doesn't try to be something it's not. It's not a true blue slasher film, and it isn't an all-out comedy. *Super Troopers* didn't really catch onto the public eye until home video and cable and I feel that this film will do the same. Even though I really enjoyed most of the laughs and the irreverent humour, I still left wanting more.

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Potential Fog on the Horizon

by Bill Hughes

To say that much has been written in the post 9/11 world on the subject of American foreign policy or meddling (depending on your opinion) would be a frivolous understatement. Those that use the print media as their canvas for illustrating the issues and their concerns are often marred by accusations of partisanship and few are painted with the respect that comes with the title "unbiased." Generally those that have earned the trust of their readership are branded as folk heroes, because they have moral backbone and the ability to sort through the spinning, lies and propaganda to bring reality to light and toss the remained on the waste pile along with everything that is CNN.

The difference between the mentioned artists and "The Fog of War" is that creator and director Errol Morris gets on the inside, and speaks with one of the kingpins of American meddling of yesteryear. Morris uses the big screen to present, through a documentary movie format, the permanent film that war leaves on a nation and its people. Morris' "inside look" was conceived after editing over twenty hours of interviews with former American Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, who served with the American Armed Forces for seven years in this role during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

McNamara uses this picture to express his regret for the atrocities that were committed during his tenure, of those included are landmark historical moments in American history such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and most notably the Vietnam War.

Through the exploration of what McNamara calls his "Eleven Lessons of War" he takes the viewers on a journey into the past through the eyes of those people who were both

responsible for, and then implicated in, the decisions that ultimately led to the obliteration of a country and the deaths of approximately fifty-eight thousand American soldiers and countless Vietnamese civilians on the front lines in Southern Vietnam.

Although it is never expressly mentioned, the suggested parallels to today's use of American military intervention are clear, but McNamara intentionally skirts those issues, yet at the same time agrees with sentiments expressed by both



the aforementioned Moore and Chomsky in saying that if America continues to disregard global well-being and further its push for hegemony, that it will only be a matter of time before other countries decide to collectively 'push the bully back', which in today's military climate would inevitably conclude in global destruction.

McNamara's motivation is to admit that it is his belief that the U.S. may in fact have been wrong in committing to war in Vietnam and goes as far as admitting that he and his colleagues are likely guilty of war crimes, the shame of what he refers to as "human beings killing other human beings." He reminds how close another war was to bringing the world to its knees by saying its nuclear nature was avoided only because they "lucked out

of it." He then implies that the onus be placed firmly on current wartime officials to evaluate in order to try to avoid committing those same mistakes.

Moreover, McNamara denounces the belief of many that he had gone mad during this tenure, but does understand, without implying that it is an excuse, how the pressure of war time circumstance did and can cloud or fog the judgement of

officials asked to make rapid and significant assessment.

Morris uses a face to face interview style look into the eighty-eight year old, Harvard Business school grad, former World Bank president, decorated Freedom Medal Solder and grips his audience with the 'horses mouth' account of the American Military for the entire ninety-five minutes. Morris' abilities shine through as he captivates

and educates the audience with his Academy Award nominated performance.

Morris' demonstrates through McNamara that our world is reaching a critical juncture when military decisions must be conscious that a potential disaster is on the horizon, but that this time very few people may survive to endure what McNamara calls the resultant "Fog of War."

Look for the must-see "The Fog of War" upcoming in theatres in Halifax, or later on DVD.

The hymen chronicles

by Anna Boudreau

anna_boudreau@mail.com

Dear Anna,

My whole life I have been perceived as a "good girl". I have always gone to church, done well in school, have been polite and sweet, and I try not to argue with people. I do not mind being a good girl, but I have a hidden secret. I really enjoy pleasuring myself. The problem I am having is that after I have pleased myself, I feel guilty—like I did something wrong. Is pleasuring yourself something that good girls don't do? Or am I overreacting?

Good Girl

Dear Good Girl,

Society has deemed masturbation as a naughty thing for many years and sadly the stigma just doesn't want to go away. Sigmund Freud once said, "The only thing to be ashamed about masturbation is doing it poorly." This is a quote I truly believe in. You should spend some time thinking about the reasons you are feeling guilty. Does your religion frown on the behaviour? Has your environment made you believe it is a negative thing? Until you understand where the guilt is coming from, you won't be able to cope with it. When you have this sorted out, you have to ask yourself if you believe that it is a negative thing. If not, go and

have fun. If so, you will have to deal with your beliefs. There is no right or wrong answer. Your opinion on masturbation is all that should matter to you.

Since we are on the topic let's have some fun with it. From my experiences and discussions with friends on this topic, men and women see masturbation differently. Of the men I have talked to, they see it as more of a routine. There isn't anything special to doing it—they just take care of the situation. Women seem to take things with a little more passion. Perhaps a trashy romance novel is the instigator or simply the urge is overwhelming. Whatever the initiation, there appears to be a process, unique to every woman, to satisfy their needs. Perhaps this is because women are fantasizing. I believe that for a woman to orgasm, she must be in the right state of mind along with all the right physical components. Men seem to be able to orgasm in any frame of mind. This is only my understanding from experience, as without a penis I really have no clue what men experience during masturbation.

Women may need a little more help to relax their mind for pleasure and there are ways this can be done. A hot bubble bath and a good bottle

of wine are great ways to start. Don't forget the trashy romance novel with that perfect male specimen they describe with such detail. Lingerie is always a good way to make a women feel good. If you look sexy, you will feel sexy and then the engine is started. Aromatherapy is great to help you relax and focus on yourself.

Now that the mood is set, you don't have to just take care of business. There is a gel in the Karma Sutra product line called Pleasure Balm. This green gel is typically used on the penis to prolong an erection, but ladies, you can use this too. Placing a dab on your clitoris is the best wake up call you can supply. You will instantly feel your blood flowing in all the right areas and this will give you a kick start to a great time.

Finally, to finish the job, a vibrator is wonderful for those who don't really want to get down and dirty. There are numerous vibrators on the market at varying prices and they all get the job done. If you are interested in a vibrator, stroll down to Venus Envy on Barrington Street to see their selection of pleasure toys.

Well this has been a lot of fun for me and I hope that the ladies of SMU will have a lot more fun with their private time.

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Moneen Madness

by Suzanne Van Maurik

They have come a long way from jamming in their parents' basements. Now Moneen is one of Canada's fastest rising bands, and have not only been touring all of Canada, but crossed the border to tour all over America. The band has already conquered European stages, and they are planning to return to England again this summer to jam up a storm. Despite all the craziness, the

guys still had time for a chat. Kenny Bridges, the band's lead singer was the first one to face the barrage of questions I had prepared. He was on his way over to a recording studio however, since the band had only just returned from one of their many road-trips. Peter Krpan was next on the list, and he seemed more than willing to talk. He even composed a song for me by using the

beeps on the phone. I somehow get the feeling that this masterpiece won't make it to the band's next release though. After we were both done laughing, we got down to business.

Despite the band's relatively rapid rise to fame, Moneen's background is very down to earth. "It basically all started four or five years ago, while we were jamming in the basement of Kenny's pad, back in Brampton, Ontario." From these humble beginnings, the band just went with the flow. "We kind of just got scooped up," Peter tells me. With the popularity of pop-like emo punk bands on the rise, Moneen appears to be at the right time, and at the right place.

But it wasn't all that easy though. Peter mentions the fact that he left college to pursue his music—which is quite a gamble in a society where practically whole collections of diplomas are a

prerequisite even for flipping burgers. According to Peter, "We could never have done this without the help of our parents." Since then the guys have done a lot of growing up. From the song lyrics proclaiming the difficulties teens face when hit with the realization that sometimes things just don't work out between a boy and a girl, the band has moved on to tackling even bigger themes. Many Moneen tracks, including "With this Song I Will Destroy Myself", and "I Have Never Done Anything for Anyone", now deal with matters of life and death. The inspiration for these tracks came from events such as the recent passing of a close family member of Kenny's, who together with Chris Hughes write all the lyrics for the band. Moving beyond the teenage years, these poetic tales of losing someone you love strikes a chord with anyone listening to the tracks. "We write about what we know," Peter explains, and it's obvious that they pour their own emotions into each song and each

performance. Moneen finds poetry, and perhaps comfort, in the events of their lives. It is no wonder that with the abundance of pop-like emo bands sweeping the nation, this band stands out. The instrumentals that are used only enhance the emotionally charged voices, until it's almost painful to listen to. But these guys aren't out to just push some buttons. "We are doing what we love to do, and I can't imagine doing anything else. This is all I ever wanted when I was younger," says Peter. The band takes their success in stride. They still have a sense of humor, as is evident in the name of the band. The name Moneen was taken from a girl from Montreal they knew, and "whose identity we were going to steal through the band". More info on the band can be found on their website, www.moneen.com. In the meantime, check out their newest release *Are We Really Happy With Who We Are Right Now?* Moneen will be performing at the Attic on March 12

A throwback to the 70s

by Wes Wrightson

If you haven't yet heard of the name Todd Phillips, then you will either after you see this film, or after this weekend when it makes a butt-load of money. Phillips is now a big-time and big-name director responsible for comedic *tours des forces* as *Old School* and *Road Trip* (if you don't already own the DVD's of each— I highly suggest buying them).

I can only hope that Phillips continues to be friends with the likes of Will Ferrell, Owen Wilson, and Ben Stiller for the rest of his career, as he has landed on a goldmine with his most recent effort, *Starsky & Hutch*. I can only hope that the aforementioned actors, with the additions of Vince Vaughn and Snoop Dogg, are contractually obliged to every film that Phillips pushes out in the next few years. If you enjoy irreverent impromptu cameos by really famous comedians then you're in for a treat—especially Will Ferrell's cameo as a prisoner.

This is a film that is based on the 1970s TV show starring David Soul and Paul Glaser, and it captures the decade's fashion sense and demonstrates that this is a show that is ripe for parody because it encapsulates so many ideals from that time period. Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson have paired up in five films previous to this, so they really play off of each other pretty well and chemistry is already given. Both Stiller and Wilson play the lead roles with aplomb and swagger,

while all the while being careful so as to not insult the machismo of the character that they are parodying.

The film itself is set up like a prequel to the what the television show offered in the 1970s, it sets up the first pairing of the two on a case in which they are to investigate the illegal goings-on of a seedy drug dealer trying in vain to peddle a new form of cocaine on the street; a more sweet form of the drug. Owen Wilson plays a much laid back Ken Hutchinson. By laid-back, I really mean that he is a dirty cop who isn't afraid to take the money while robbing bookies, and claims his deeds are done in the name of undercover work. Ben Stiller plays a straight-laced David Starsky who is prone to mild judgement lapses when in pursuit of criminals. Their boss (wonderfully played by Fred Williamson) views the two of them as having their last chances at being on the force. He pairs the two together when a dead body is found in the San Francisco Bay.

The seedy drug dealer is a Jewish philanderer named Reese Feldman (Vaughn), who is importing a brand of cocaine that can go undetected by police dogs or crime labs. Helping both of their cases is Huggy Bear (Snoop Dogg), who shares some truly legendary and racially motivated sequences with Feldman on a golf course. All in all a real fun trip down memory lane—the 70s are back and in a big way.

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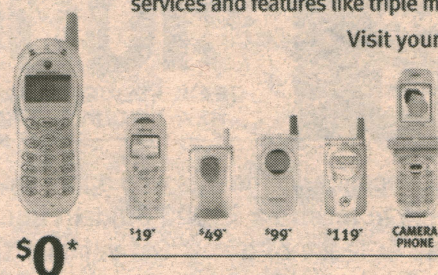
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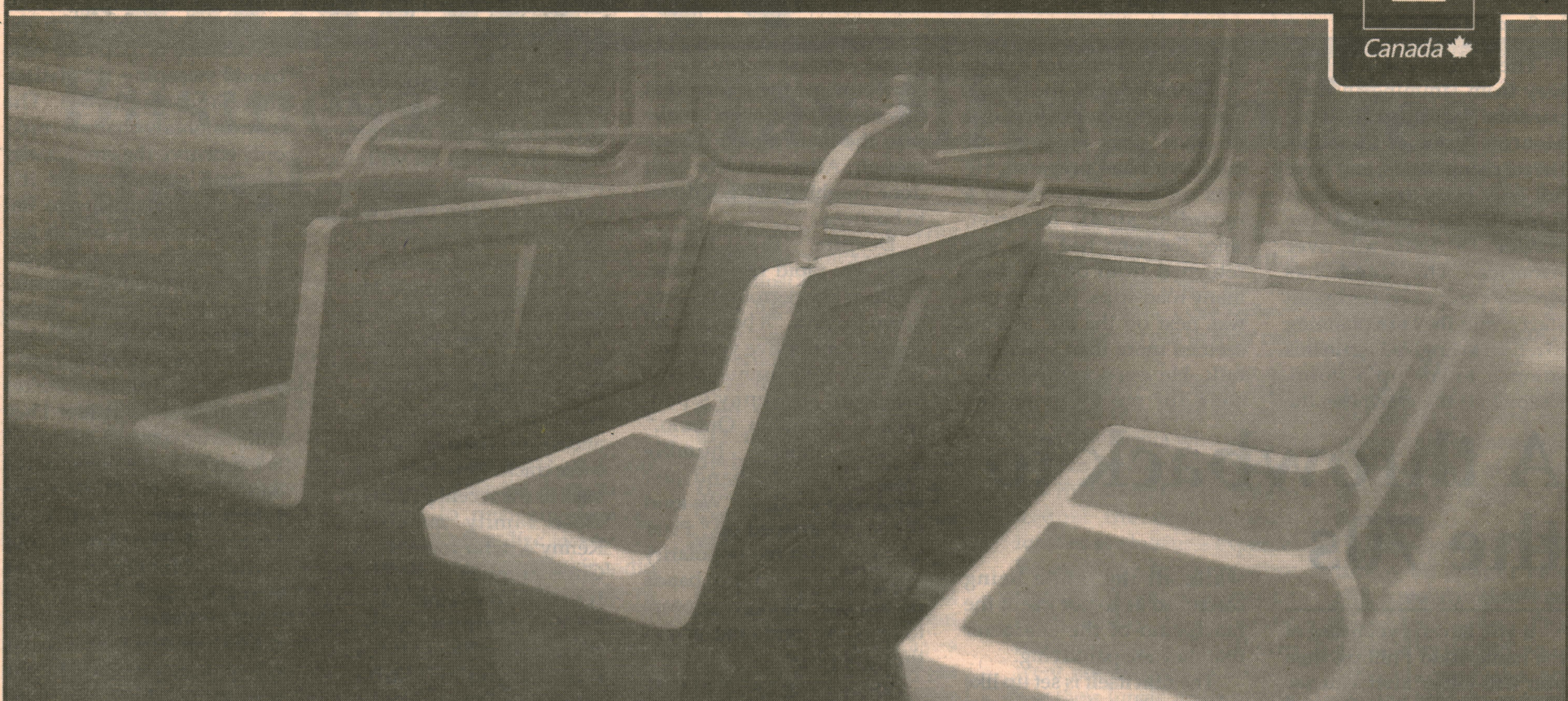
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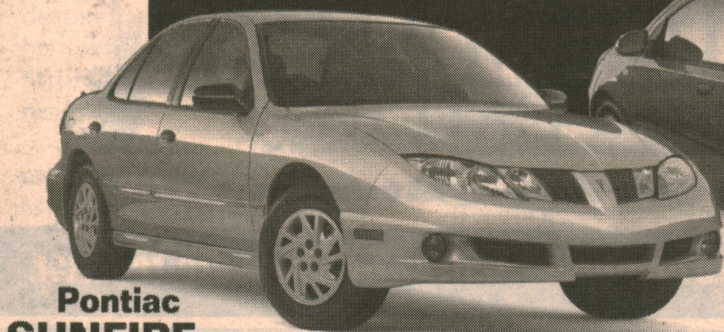
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A passionate defense

The following opinions do not necessarily represent the views of the Journal staff

by Jonathon LeLievre

I just read Stuart Neatby's review of Mel Gibson's "The Passion" and the first thing I thought was, "What an idiot." First off, I don't go to church and, to me, organized religion is a dangerous thing (you don't need to go to church to be spiritual). However, I was raised Catholic and I am pretty familiar with the crucifixion story. To me, Stuart totally misses the point in his review in that he doesn't say if the movie accomplishes what the film maker set out to do. I got the impression that he was extremely offended by the violence which is stupid because of the following points: 1.) Mel Gibson

basically tells a story about the final 12 hours of Jesus' life which ends with him being crucified...and most importantly...2) Crucifixion is a violent thing. So, for everyone who reads this who has half a brain here's a more realistic review....The Passion is an extremely powerful film by a great storyteller (ever see Braveheart?). It recaps the final 12 hours of a man's life who had some pretty revolutionary ideas. Hence, to the establishment, he was a trouble maker. It is not anti-semitic. There are scenes where the Jewish high priests call emphatically for Christ's death but this was only

because he was a threat to them, not because all Jews are evil (imagine if a guy had the same following Jesus did in today's society...Priests, Ministers and Rabbi's all would feel threatened). Christ was Jewish, all his followers were Jewish, the guy that helps him carry the cross was Jewish...end of story. The movie is one of the most violent I have ever seen. If you are sensitive to violence don't go. However, saying that a movie about a crucifixion is too violent is like saying a movie about World War II is too violent (Saving Private Ryan was great). In conclusion, don't take Stuart's advice and see "Jesus Christ Superstar" as a replacement for "The Passion". "The Passion" is a good movie...see it for yourself instead of taking the advice of a moron.

Fix Bill C-9

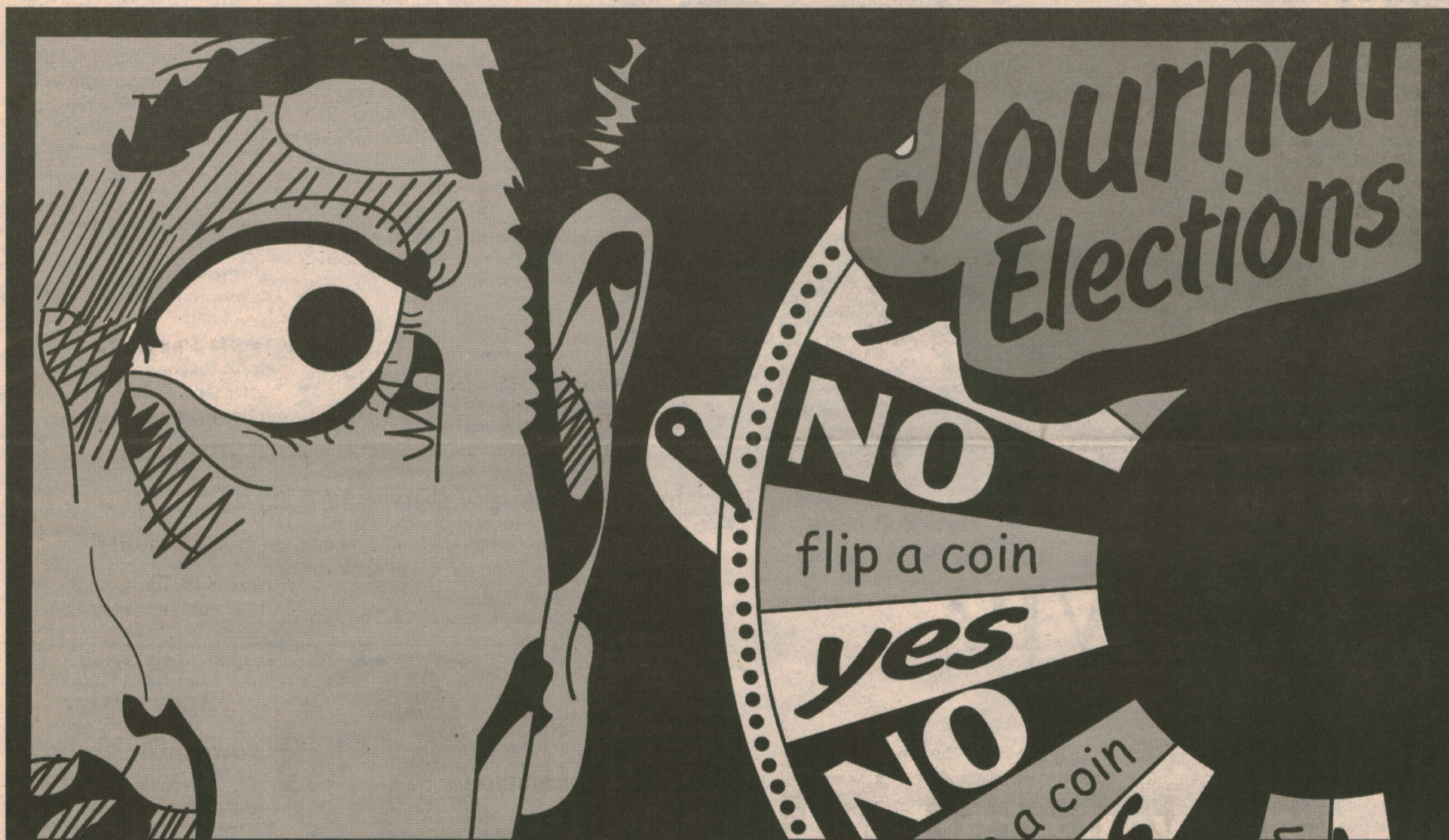
March 8 - 12

The letter writing campaign we are running here on the campus of Saint Mary's University is very exciting. This is an extremely important time for AIDS activism in Canada. It is great that we have such a clear-cut issue to mobilize around. This campaign is taking place at multiple universities across the country - at all of the SAGA (Students Against Global AIDS) chapters.

Please make your voice count, to save lives in the developing countries by just signing and sending a letter to Prime Minister Paul Martin pertaining bill C-9. A pre-written letter and an information sheet on bill C-9 is available.

All we need is your signature and address; we will handle the rest of the work. Copies are available at the SUB Info Desk and the Switchboard. There will be a table in Loyola by Tim Hortons this Wednesday and Friday between 1 and 5 PM.

P.S. For more information go to: www.treatthepeople.com
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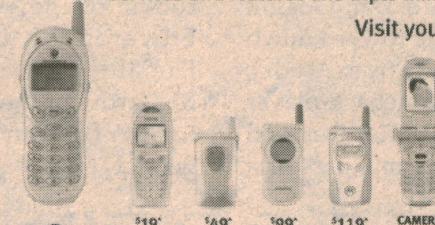
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Sports

Down to the wire

Galipeau named to all-star team

by Steve Clow

The Saint Mary's Huskies women's basketball squad battled down to the wire at the AUS Championships this past weekend in Antigonish, coming up just short in their bid to make it to the finals. Late last week Julie Galipeau was selected to her fifth straight all conference team. The girls opened up the Final Six tournament in fine fashion, as they effortlessly disposed of the Dalhousie Tigers 67-47 in the quarter final round on Friday. The Huskies used a balanced scoring attack to pound the Tigers early and often, enabling them to cruise to the twenty-point victory. Forward Jaime Walker, continued her fine play, by pacing the Huskies with a 21 point effort. Both starting posts, Julie Galipeau and Laura McPherson added eleven points apiece as the Huskies advanced to the AUS semi-finals for the second straight season. The victory set the Huskies up against the defending champion Memorial Seahawks in the round of four. Saint Mary's

took the Seahawks to the limit but couldn't hit the big shot in the final minutes as Memorial squeaked out a 67-61 victory. Five time all-star Julie Galipeau polished off her career with a hard fought 16 point, 13 rebound double-double. SMU took pride in their effort over the weekend and will look to build on some late season success next year. The Seahawks looked banged up against the UCCB Capers in the Final on Sunday as the year long nationally ranked Seahawks failed to repeat as champions losing 67-61. The Capers, with their first ever AUS Championship in tow, will now travel to Winnipeg where

they will represent the AUS in the Final Eight National Championships March 12-14.

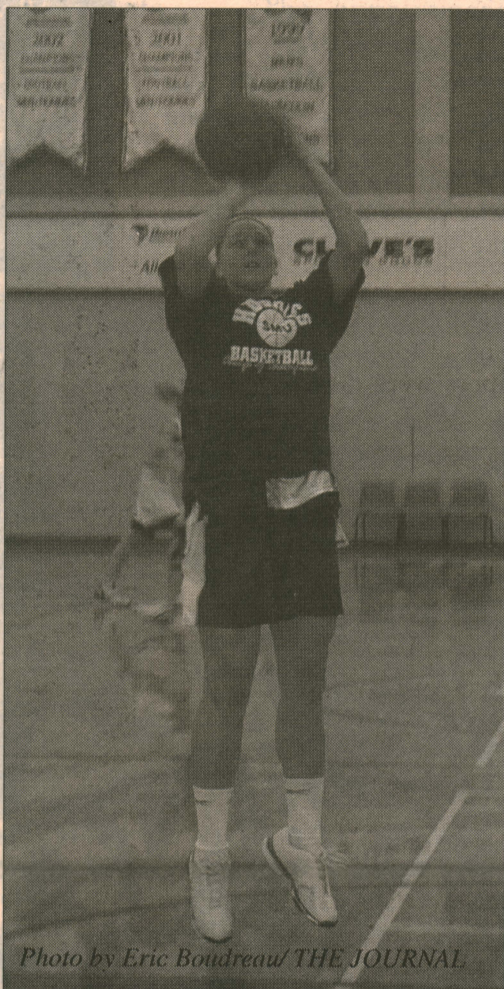


Photo by Eric Boudreau/THE JOURNAL

Huskies get served

by Bill Hughes

The Atlantic Champion Saint Mary's Huskies were well rested after a ten day layoff before travelling to Saskatchewan to take on the nations best women's volleyball teams hosted by the University of Saskatchewan. The AUS champs would try to do what very few Atlantic teams have been able to do in the past, which is prove that the AUS belongs and is not inferior to any other conference in the country.

The Huskies sailed through December, January, and February undefeated and captured the AUS crown. But this month their march to a CIS national championship was derailed by a pair of Quebecois schools.

In the first meeting between SMU and Laval since the Quebec school dashed SMU's hopes of a third straight Vanier Cup football championship, the Rouge et Or got the upper hand again as they relegated the Huskies to the consolation portion of the national tournament after having handed SMU a 3-0, straight sets loss. If the first game of the tournament was any indication, the Huskies were a bit outgunned on this weekend as Laval took the game with scores of 25-10, 18-25, 25-10, and 25-18. The third

seeded Rouge et Or came out strong, while the sixth seeded Huskies could not compete as they were as flat as the host provinces prairie landscape.

The tournaments do or die bracket system loss all but eliminated the Huskies, but they carried on to take on the University of Montreal Carabins. Little was on the line with the exception of pride as the Carabins downed the Huskies 3-1 by scores of 25-17, 25-9, and 25-23.

Their losses are tough to swallow for a club that finishes the season with a 16-4 record, but such is often the case in short tournaments, especially when some clubs are required to embark on a lengthy road trip. This trip marked the end of an excellent season for the Huskies, but unfortunately they were unable to turn their local domination into a championship at the national level.

The University of Calgary took the banner on Sunday afternoon as they defeated the University of Alberta 3-1. Scores in Sunday's final were 25-18, 25-17, 19-25, and 25-22. The win marked the Dinos first national championship in ten years, and avenges their loss to the very same Alberta school in the Canada West final only one week ago.

AUS MVP?

by Steve Clow

AUS organizers will have a tough time choosing this season's AUS MVP when they hand out their annual awards prior to the Final Six tournament this weekend. There is just no clear cut winner in this year's race. The conference's top team, St. FX (16-4), lacks a standout player as they rely on a well balanced attack, evident from the inclusion of five X-Men in the top twenty of conference scoring. Jonathon Bell leads the X-Men in scoring and leads the entire conference in steals, but falls short in rebounding and assists, two vital statistical categories. That leads us to the conference's best all-round player in SMU forward Gabe Goree. Goree is a sure-fire pick as a first team all-star and is first in the conference in scoring, second in rebounding

as well as finishing in the top ten in assists, assists/turnover ratio, blocks, and steals. Goree also leads his team in five statistical categories. Without a doubt, Goree is the most valuable player to his team, but his team failed to make the playoffs. League officials may reward UCCB for winning the Nelson Division by selecting Caper swingman Anthony Breland as this year's MVP. Breland finished third in conference scoring, the only Caper to crack the top 20. The talented Breland appears in the top fifteen across the conference in five categories, which should help him garner some consideration. Throw in standout guard Dan Goggin from UNB, the tower known as Walter Moyses from Acadia, and UPEI's comeback player of the year Mike Keistead and you've got the makings of a

very tight race in the voting for this year's award.

This year's rookie of the year award should go to St. FX forward Garry Gallimore, while the Capers Jim Charters should be rewarded for pulling his team out of nowhere to win the Nelson Division, with the coach of the year. The first team all-stars will likely include Goree of SMU, Breland of UCCB, and Moyses of Acadia in the frontcourt, with a backcourt tandem of UNB's Dan Goggin, and UPEI's Tyler Wood. This year's edition of the second team all-stars should include Bell and Gallimore of St.FX, last years rookie of the year Sherone Edwards of UPEI, Nick Donald of Dal and Ben McCarthy of the Huskies. As for MVP? Your guess is as good as mine.



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Huskies do their part

Goree wins scoring title

by Steve Clow

For the first time since the 1994-95 season, the Saint Mary's Huskies men's basketball team is being forced to watch the Conference Championships from the sidelines. In a conference where six teams move on to play in the Championship tournament, the Huskies finished with the fifth best record at 11-9, but were a victim of a poorly balanced divisional system. This means that both Acadia at 6-14 and Memorial at 5-15 will be playing a meaningful game this coming Friday at the Metro Center.

Last week was an up and down week for the Huskies as they held up their end of the bargain by giving it their all to beat the third ranked St. FX

X-Men 67-64 last Wednesday. The Huskies avenged an earlier season home loss to the X-Men by winning their third straight must win contest. Perennial all-star Gabe Goree went out in fine fashion, using a 29-point, 8 rebound performance to lead the Huskies and win the conference scoring title. Reserve post Ibraheim Muhammed was the biggest helper in the victory as he scored 13 points and got a hold of 15 rebounds after starting center Ben McCarthy fouled out with just less than ten minutes remaining in the game. The win kept the Huskies slim playoff hopes alive for another couple of days, but it also put their fate into the hands of the UNB

Varsity Reds and Memorial Seahawks. Neither the aforementioned teams could handle their opponents in game one of a weekend double header on Saturday, as both the UPEI Panthers and the UCCB Capers won their games handily, officially eliminating the Huskies from the post season. All that remained to be decided was first place in the highly competitive Nelson division, and rightfully so; it went down to the final day of action. The Capers managed to sweep the Seahawks in Saint John's, while the Varsity Reds dominated the Panthers on Sunday. Both the Capers and Reds finished with identical 13-7 records, but the Capers were given the first


round bye due to the tiebreaker. UPEI rounds out the Nelson division standings, finishing with a 12-8 record.

All this means that both St.FX and UCCB will receive byes into Saturday's semi-finals, while the second place Varsity Reds will crossover to play the third place Memorial

Seahawks and the defending champion Panthers will open up against the Acadia Axemen. The tournament starts Friday evening and runs all weekend at the Metro Center culminating in the Championship Sunday at 2pm.

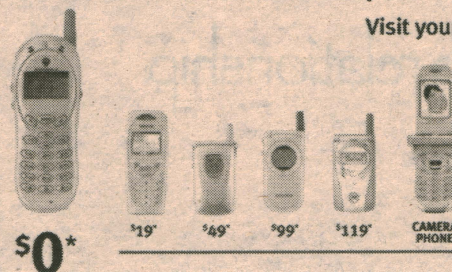
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