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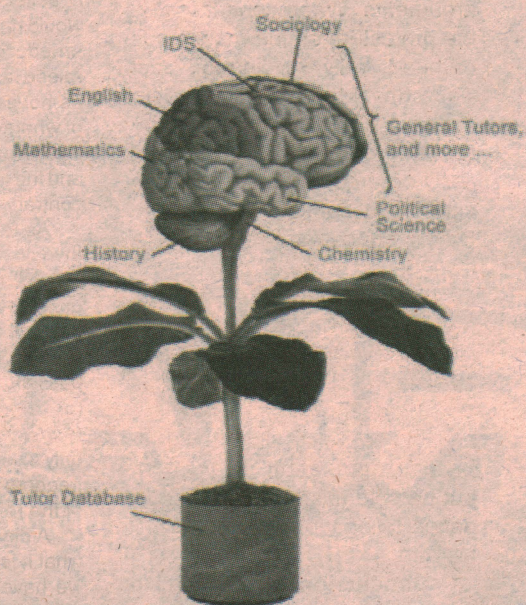


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# S.M.U.S.A. PAGE

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# OPINIONS

ARE LIKE ~~ASSHOLE~~ EVERYBODY HAS ONE - LET US KNOW YOURS! THEJOURNAL@GMAIL.COM

I am writing as a concerned student about the recent controversy about the Prophet Mohammed cartoons that has come to our campus. On Thursday 9th February I went over to Dr Peter March's office to ask what exactly Dr March was attempting to achieve by posting the controversial cartoons on his door. Unfortunately we did not have too much time to talk as he was on his way to teach however we did have some dialogue and this brief conversation left me even more infuriated and led me to believe that Dr March is an attention seeker who is keen to have his fifteen minutes of fame and does not realise that his antics have very serious implications both within Halifax and to Canadians in general.

My chief concern was that Dr March has put the safety of students and the entire University community at risk by perpetuating this controversy. He is fully aware as most people are that these cartoons have propagated violence worldwide however he sees fit to add fuel to the fire by provoking the issue further. When I asked Dr March why he would do such a thing that he knows would potentially threaten the safety of students and the entire university community Dr March responded by acknowledging that indeed there were safety concerns that he was aware of, however he went on to say that (I paraphrase) "in the pursuit of academia there have been lives lost for hundreds of years" I challenged him to explain that statement and to articulate whether or not that he was saying that my life or that of any person on campus would therefore be expendable he retorted that yes and that "I did not have to be here." I found this statement to be highly inappropriate I was extremely incensed by this remark.

This has led me to a number of questions about Dr March.

Indeed Dr March has the right to his opinions and yes indeed freedom of speech is enshrined in the Canadian Char-

ter of Rights and Freedoms however it is limited to whether or not that speech and or action infringes on the rights of others and in this case clearly he has infringed on the right to safety for students, faculty and the university community

Furthermore I believe that the actions of Dr March just further and augment the perception that Muslims are terrorists which it is not the case and the message that this sends to the Muslim world is that The West trivialises this religion and Arabs. I do concede that this may not have been his intention however is he endorsing these images which have been found to be deeply offensive by displaying them on his door? If indeed he was sincere about engaging in a debate about these he could simply have brought it up in his classes or spoken about it on various forums that are currently engaged in the conversation rather than to provoke a backlash on the issue.

One cannot ignore the fact that perhaps he will provoke the situation so much that when someone does eventually take unilateral action and something should happen to the Professor which I hope will not, he will now have the 'evidence' to portray himself as a victim in an issue that he started and perpetuated.

As an academic he is among an elite group of people that we as students look up to and believe that they possess good judgement and has brought unnecessary and negative attention to St Mary's University which is a diverse and tolerant campus. I believe that Dr March has displayed very poor judgement in this issue and I would go as far as to say that Dr Peter March is the personification the saying that "common sense is not common."

Monwabisi M Sobantu  
3rd Year student  
International Development Studies

Would you walk into a Synagogue with a swastika painted on your face? Would you walk up to the Pope and urinate on the New Testament? I'm sure there are very few people who would. But why then would anyone go through an international mass-media outlet to tell an entire culture that one of their most fundamental beliefs is ridiculous?

This very question can be seen in the controversy surrounding Saint Mary's professor Peter March leading many to call for his resignation or dismissal. Through close examination of this incident one can find a more fundamental reason for his dismissal, however, that will be presented to you in a style Peter March should be sure to understand.

Thesis Statement: Peter March should not be fired for his racial insensitivities. He should be fired because he is bad at philosophy.

**Premise One:** Peter March cannot follow a simple line of reasoning. The February 11 edition of the Chronicle Herald states that March "doesn't understand how the health and safety policy applies to the hallway outside his office" but this is an easy argument to follow.

It is one thing to bring up these cartoons in a class where students are free to opine, but no one can tell his office door what they think. This makes it much harder for the offended to reply than it was for the offender to attack, which can lead to frustration, and in extreme cases vandalism and violence.

**Premise Two:** Peter March's hypocrisy cannot hold a steady argument. A separate article in the same issue of the Chronicle Herald quotes March as saying "I respect the right of individuals to be religious," after which Peter Duffy paraphrases March by saying "Those same rights must be consistent with the rights of others."

One look at most of the cartoons in question reveals that they are attacking the Muslim ban on depiction of the sacred for no purpose other than to show that it does not apply to us post-Christian westerners. The rest of these cartoons are clear hate speech implying that the violence of a small minority of religious hijackers is imbedded within the Islamic faith itself.

Are religious rights then inferior to the western dogma of freedom of speech? it is possible because the Canadian Charter or Rights and Freedoms insists that each right "can be limited" but only "in

order to protect other rights." The Charter then states, "freedom of expression may be limited by laws against hate propaganda."

Since these cartoons can easily be seen as hateful towards an entire culture and were posted on his office door without allowing the offended as much of a chance to rebut, his 'right' to free speech is not "consistent with the [religious] rights of others."

**Premise Three:** Peter March fails to maintain his composure when confronted with counter-arguments. When confronted by the protesters on the main steps of the McNally Building this past Thursday March attempted to redirect some of the heat by reminding the protesters that SMU ordered him to remove the cartoons because of "Health and Safety concerns," adding "they think you're dangerous."

Despite the fact that I was in attendance when he said this it is not my place to say whether he was referring to the multi-racial protesters in specific as being violent, or the Muslim population in general, but he said this in an attempt to deflect allegations of racism on his part.

**Conclusion:** Peter March's actions do not coincide with his words. Many publications, students and observers have noted that his behaviour over the past week is due to a love of attention, not academic freedom, and therefore one cannot trust any motive he gives. His arguments are vague and contradictory, and his inability to stick to his own ideals when the necessity presents itself proves that he is failing real life philosophy and is therefore unfit to teach us.

At this point I must throw in the old cliché of "Actions speaking louder than words." This article was written because anyone out there can tell this man that he is wrong. It is in situations like this we must instead show him why he is wrong.

This may look pretentious for a Catholic white-boy to be writing about an insult to the Muslim population, but this is exactly the point. Hatred effects us all, it only takes one impetuous person to give an entire community a bad name, and it is up to us all to actually do the research, understand these cartoons, and not just blindly uphold any rights because this shows how they can contradict each other. We live in a dynamic that has no room for more negativity, or lousy professors.

To all the protestors at SMU Thursday afternoon:

As a bystander and current student at SMU, I saw a good portion of the protest on campus, and I felt the need to comment. I found it rather disturbing that a lot of protestors were holding signs that said something along the lines of "Religion is not to be criticized or mocked." I found it particularly jarring to see that most of the people holding these signs were female. I think it is necessary to point out that if religion had never been criticized, the women in that crowd would have no venue in which to express their views & beliefs, let alone to protest. They would not have the opportunity to gain an education, and would have been raised as vessels for breeding and as household servants, the property of whatever male was predominant in their lives. Their very right to protest, and the fact that they exercised it, runs contrary to their signage.

As for the men holding that view, I would also like to point out that the cellphones and cameras you were using to document your protest, and the cars and computers you regularly use in your daily life would also not be possible if religion was never criticized (or downright ignored). Our science (and therefore technological) base only exists because scientists had the freedom to formulate theories outside of the religious arena.

A big part of what makes Canada what it is today is the set of freedoms we have as human beings - one of those being the right to free speech. The protestors, at least from what I could see from the sidelines, were protesting Professor \*\*\*\*'s rights - ironically, demanding his (and others') rights to say what they want about whatever they choose (in this case, trying to open a discussion on how Islam is practiced in some areas of the world) be taken away, even as they USED that right themselves. It is that same right that allowed the crowd to protest, free from being shot at by the police or military, free from being charged with treason or disturbing the peace, or even worse. If the protestors get what they want, then they lose rights themselves - and so do we all.

It is one thing to object to an image of the Islamic prophet being displayed - it is altogether another to demand that basic rights be altered to suit a single theology. I would merely ask that those who object to the posting of the cartoons think about how NOT allowing their posting affects everyone, and how it is more than just a black and white issue.

As a final note, I want to express my disgust with the large number of students who were obviously "protesting" only because it's the "thing to do" when in university. Particularly the two girls I saw running by in the crowd, giggling and taking pictures with their cameraphones and waving tampons the air. Nice, girls - real classy. Did you even have a clue what the protest was about in the first place?

- Anonymous Canadian

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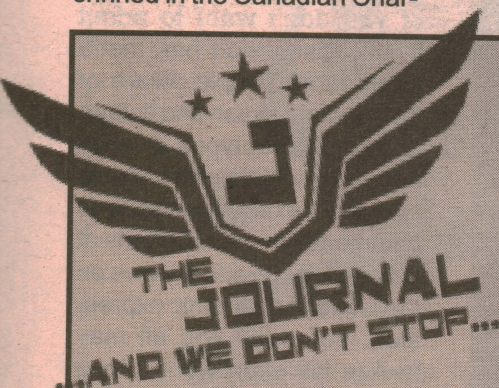
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## IN DEFENSE OF FREE SPEECH

BY CHRIS CLEMENTS

What Peter March did may have been offensive. It may have been in bad taste. It may have even been a publicity stunt. Certainly, with the allegations that he himself notified the media of the situation, it would seem that it was all a big publicity stunt. Maybe it was.

His stated goal through the ordeal was "to spark a debate." He definitely accomplished that goal. If he hadn't contacted the media, would his goal have been accomplished? Not likely. If he hadn't notified the media, most people would have no idea that the cartoons had been posted on his door in the first place.

So, the debate has been sparked and what is the result? Disturbingly enough, it seems that an overwhelming majority of people feel that Dr. March was in the wrong and that "freedom of speech should have limits."

People who claim that there should be limits on free speech

obviously do not understand the meaning of freedom. As George Orwell once said, "If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

Some say March was "wrong" to post the cartoons because the cartoons are offensive to Muslims. Yes, they are offensive, and yes, he may have been "wrong" to post them. What one has to remember though is that "wrong" is an ethical term.

The topic of ethics, like religion, is open for debate. Everyone has a different opinion of what is "right" and what is "wrong." Because ethics are so open to interpretation, they, like religion, are something that should not be imposed on others.

Imposing limits on free speech is tantamount to imposing ethics. Remember that it was at one time "right" to believe that the Earth was the centre of the universe and it

was "wrong" for women to vote. I'm not suggesting that March's actions are comparable to scientific advances or promoting suffrage, but if ethics had been imposed and free speech were limited, those cultural advances may never have taken place. Would you like to live in a society where these changes never occurred?

Free speech is perhaps the most important aspect of our society. It is what keeps innovations coming and helps to keep us moving forward. When someone does or says something that offends, debate them. Protest them. Offend them right back. Do whatever you have to do to make things right, but don't call for limitations on free speech.

Or do call for limitations on free speech; it is your right to do that. But as you call for limitations on free speech, remember that it is only because of free speech that you are able to call for the limitations.

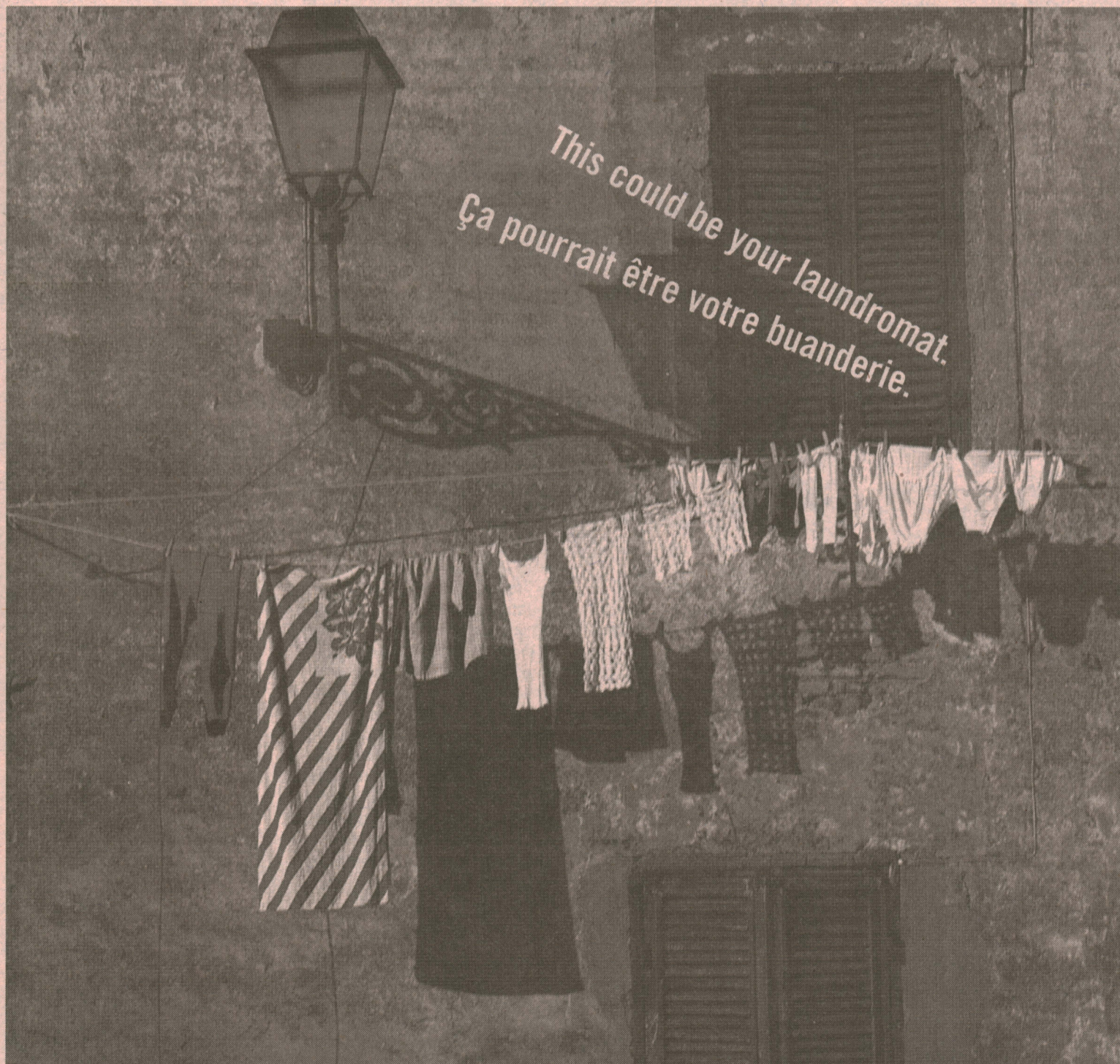
## This space was reserved for Dr. March

BY ADAM COSTELLO

This section was reserved for an explanation by Peter March regarding his actions being so aggressively discussed in all genres of the academic world. He sent me an e-mail at the deadline stating he wrote an article within the constraints of the allotted 500 word space we had saved for him but that it was no good and he was very, very sorry. Maybe 500 words wasn't enough or perhaps he's just tired of the fiasco he's created, but we at The Journal were very disappointed we could not publish a real account on what he was in fact trying to accomplish with his actions. We have received however, submission after submission on how people feel about what he did. By no means can I rationally justify his actions without input from Dr. March himself, nor is it my wish to do so. What I can defend howev-

er is his freedom of academic expression, along with all of yours as well. In one letter we received, someone says Peter should not be fired for his racial insensitivity, but because he is bad at Philosophy. Despite the grammatical error in this statement, it is this person's right to expression to have this view expressed, as we have allowed for in this section. Is this attack on Dr. March's lifelong profession any different than Peter's posting cartoons on his door? Although someone may hold religion to be more intrinsically valuable than a profession, it's all a matter of opinion and everybody has the right to express that opinion. The person also implies walking into a synagogue with a swastika painted on your face transcends along the same ground as a cartoon being posted on a door. Although this may be this person's opinion, there could be much discussion on how these instances vary incredibly.


I believe this discussion I'm speaking of here is the very goal in which Dr. March's actions were meant to produce a means to. Much to the disagreement of many of you, Peter is not "bad at Philosophy" in fact it would be nearly impossible for a man with a PhD from Oxford, who's had over 1000 pieces of work published to be so. Perhaps his actions were rash, perhaps they were harsh, but ultimately, they got all of you all thinking. All you hear around campus these days are discussions regarding whether or not academic freedom justified his actions, and this type of discussion is the number one means in philosophy from which people can reassess their values, beliefs and rights in a rational and positive way. The negative topic that Dr. March chose to get people having these discussions was probably the wrong one, but from an atheist's perspective, it is within his academic freedom to want a topic such as this discussed. It is also within the opposition's academic freedom to condemn him for such actions, something Peter was more than aware of when did them. Like him or hate him, the man is set in his ways and will continue to do whatever he deems necessary to get whatever he wants discussed, discussed. In fact, while many of you don't want to admit it, this discussion has made many more people aware of the Muslim religion and culture and the stereotypes a lot of people associate with it. While I wouldn't expect everyone to commend him on his efforts at cementing individual views on the issue of academic expression, someday you all may realize his effort went a long way in justifying your opinion on the matter.





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# Demand More, Keep Up

BY : ALEXANDRE P. GERVAIS

I demand that you let go of me, do I let go because I am squeezing too hard or simply because you have demanded that I let go and in turn you demanded due to your fear that I may just squeeze harder? I am writing this in response to an article written in The Journal Jan 18th 2006 titled, "The World after Oil" by Dan Doucette. Why is it that gas prices have for the last couple years, risen and fallen with the moon's tide? The answer I assure you does not find itself beside supply nor close to its side. References are made in Dan Doucette's article about "world oil supply" being "dangerously close to collapse", while also stating that "world oil demands continue to rise". Now this may easily fall into textbook functionality as a simple case of supply (oil supply is dropping thus demand for oil rises) and demand. However, not all scenarios fall into this category, so do not be so quick to assume that your pockets remain empty after paying at the pump due to this reason. Doucette, in his article refers to "Texas' wells" that "have been rusting for years". Well if oil supplies are "dangerously close to collapse" which by all means does not suggest that new oil sources are found each and everyday, but does suggest that most certainly the ones we have are the only ones left, then how do you explain the sudden price fluctuations? The price of petrol has not risen steadily since these wells "have been rusting for years" nor for the last couple of years or even months. Given that North American demand has definitely risen since "Texas' wells" have stopped production and that more and more people are born everyday to consume the oil which we have left in our reserves then how is it that prices have leveled off to present day 99.99 cents? The reason I shall give to you now and hope that you take it not with a grain of salt, is that people whom try not to "risk of being accused of fear-mongering" yet most certainly do with their writings, have in many years instilled fear into worldwide consumers. Economics lesson here, if supply is constantly on the rise, as well as demand and they are growing at a comparable rate yet demanders are fearful of dwindling supply then does not demand rise even though supply has not changed? It's articles such as "The World After Oil" which has consumers bringing 20litre cans to fill along with their gas tanks at the pump instead of continuing in their purchases as normal knowing that oil is secure at it's current production. Living

## Open letter to Dr. Dodds:

Usually I do not write reactions to the news, but since we have been considering Saint Mary's University as an education faculty for one of our daughters, I feel the need to let you know our feelings with respect to the conduct of Dr. Peter March, a Philosophy professor at Saint Mary's University.

We are not Muslims (we are a Catholic family), but I studied Islam as a part of my World Religions program at the University of British Columbia and feel that Dr. March's behaviour is provocative and insulting.

First of all, Dr. March, as a philosophy professor, must know that every world religion is treated as a philosophy. As such, it is there to be interpreted. There are many interpretations of all world religions, some of these interpretations were accepted as guidelines for world religions. The interpretations of philosophical works can only be made and published after long, proficient study. This brings me to my first point, that the cartoon of the Prophet Mohamed, displayed on the door of Mr. March's office, was not an educated or expert interpretation of Islam and did not make an advancement of the understanding of the Prophet's teachings.

Contrarily, it was intended to insult Muslim believers, and, as such, it should be condemned by all, moreover by the academic institutions whose primary task is intellectual development of future Canadians.

As a new Canadian, I know that the majority of people who choose Canada for their new home do so because of its tolerance and respect for all. Mr. March did not show tolerance or respect for the great percentages of Canadians who are followers of Islam.

I, too, condemn violence committed in the name of Islam. However, Islam, or more precisely the Holy Koran, does not teach violence. Let us not forget that men around the world throughout history used religion to start wars and to commit genocides. And if religious leaders disagreed with this, the violators started new religions, as such was the case with the Henry VIII, who has yet to be condemned by Canadians. If Dr. March wanted to make himself useful to his students, perhaps, he should have started a debate, or a study, about man's abuse and misinterpretation of the teachings of all Holly books. This would have had more positive results.

Furthermore, I believe that Dr. March has committed an offence under the Hate Propaganda" section of the Criminal Code of Canada (Section 318 & 319). By displaying the insulting drawing on his office door, he has instigated hate and violence and this should be investigated by authorities.

I appeal to you and to the Board of Directors at Saint Mary's University to condemn and reprimand Dr. March's behavior, which is dangerous and, if unchecked, can give the wrong signal to your students, and to Canadians in general, that we are not the tolerant society we prize ourselves to be. Dr. March's behaviour has shattered the good image that your University has enjoyed for many years and we no longer consider it as a possible education facility for our daughter.

Best regards,  
Katrina Pejakovic-Dukic, Ottawa

# What it means to be a Misanthrope.

BY: THE MISANTHROPE

Misanthropes are extraordinary individuals. Meaning that they are beyond the rabble that people usually inhabit. They are the rowdy ones that inhabit bars, opium dens and whore houses. Misanthropes have no gender marker whatsoever.

in a home with a father who has worked for ExxonMobil for over 30 years I assure you I do understand the current world oil "crisis" as it has been labeled. It is not deeply rooted in oil supply but more so in exponentially increasing demand which, is certainly not diminished with our fears hiking the demand up every time someone informs the general public about an issue that economists have foreseen for many years. Asians have for much time been riding their bikes and as their economy has grown and they are becoming more and more a world power each and everyday they too are hoping for their chance to drive their brand new sports car along the streets of the beautiful landscape in which they live. You try and deny them their rights; maybe then this "crisis" of "supply" will end.

They are heroic reminders of the banal and fighters of mediocrity. What makes them different, other than the steady stream of poisons running through their bloodstreams, is their enduring hatred of the common man (and for those that have not picked this up; that means women too. You see, in the English language we use the masculine for groups of mixed gender and those that are of unknown gender. No solid! Change the rule to it if you desire. This would make me happy because most of you barely make that classification), their own correctness, and their demands that the vapid with hollow rhetoric involving great imagined pathos to be treated without respect. This is true even when the odds are against them.

People owe much of their humour to misanthropes. They have used their wit to abuse subordinates since the dawn

# I wish you luck in your search for fame.

Cartoons depicting the prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) published in Denmark have brought a great deal of controversy all over the world and especially here in our Saint Mary's community. Despite the outrage in response to the cartoon, our very own Saint Mary's philosophy professor Peter March had posted these cartoons on the front door of his office in an attempt to express his freedom of speech and academic freedom.

Dr. March's actions not only made front-page covers of many newspapers, but they have also made the community even more aware of the issue. It is for this reason that I would like to thank him. As a result of Dr. March's actions, many people are becoming aware of what freedom of speech really means. Freedom of speech is: "the right to express information, ideas, and opinions free of government restrictions based on content and subject only to reasonable limitations" (Dictionary.com).

The controversial cartoon depicts prophet Mohammed (PBUH) wearing a turban in the shape of a bomb. In Islam, the Prophet Mohammed's image is not known, it is prohibited to draw him, and most importantly, he is a religious figure representing peace and equality. Dr. March's actions have opened the eyes of our community members, making them aware that what the

media portrays in not always the right story.

The cartoon depicts Muslims as terrorists, when in fact the action of one person does not represent the population as a whole. Dr. March's actions brought the community together, to stand up for the rights of their beliefs. On Thursday February 9 over 100 Muslim and non-Muslim students from Saint Mary's University and Dalhousie University protested in solidarity against hate crime.

Professor Peter March joined the students during the march in "support" of the students when in fact he was only there to provoke the students in reacting in violence, and action that was inexistence in all Halifax protests. Despite Professors March's attempt Muslim and non-Muslim student hurt by his action acted responsibly.

Canada has become a mosaic of numerous ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds. More than 200 ethnic origins have become part of Canada's diversity. Respecting each other today has become more important than ever before. It is our right and responsibility to become aware of the issues that surround us. Knowledge is power.

Professor Peter March, I wish luck in your search for fame.

A Devoted Muslim Student.

of man (see above parenthetical note). This makes others laugh because they seem to believe that the reference is not directed towards them. They have given humanity a gift of great measure, which bothers misanthropes to a certain degree, which is the gift to be able to tell the overly sensitive, vapid, and dull from those that are truly above such nonsense. They will always fight those that are empowered that have no rightful claim to that power.

Being a misanthrope means that you have transcended from the forces of the media, religion, and peer pressure. Actually you have transcended peers in general. This has given you a healthy hatred for those that surround you and the ability to produce venom in ink and even use it in creative ways. Congratulations, and no I do not want to meet you. Now, your new responsibilities entail identifying stupidity, hypocrisy, and those other common human activities. There is a problem though, you must be willing to look beyond gender, race, and religion because otherwise you have not transcended. As Martin Luther King Jr. said "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not

be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." It is important to understand these words and judge people based exclusively on their character or lack thereof. Misanthropes truly do believe that all men (check the first parenthesis again) are created equally defective.

Misanthropes have the courage to bravely fight even though they are always outnumbered by the trite. Misanthropes stand, when possible, for reality. Humanity has for too long indulged in a hyper-fantastic state. This brave group has been fighting this war for ages but the battles have recently intensified. With the forces of the politically correct growing on a daily basis, the outcome of each battle is looking more nightmarish. Yet they will still fight till the last man (if you are seriously still looking up at the first note you need to get your hands on some Ritalin) falls dead. These are true revolutionaries. If this war is lost, the reign of the mediocre will truly be mundane which is merely a horizontal move from death. Any individual that tirelessly fights for progress should be venerated and emulated; a few statues would be nice too.

# NEWS

## Looney Tunes

CARTOON RAISES QUESTIONS OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT SAINT MARY'S

BY KATHLEEN LEAMAN

Last Wednesday afternoon a disagreement erupted in the Philosophy department hallway between Professor Peter March and a group of Muslim students. The students were upset over a cartoon Dr. March had posted on his door which depicted the prophet Mohammed with a bomb as a Turban. They approached Dr. March in his office to ask him why he chose to post the cartoon.

"We just wanted to have a conversation" said student Ahmed Shat. He wanted to speak to Dr. March about the cartoon stating that "if he is going to post it he should know what it contains." Shat said that he was simply asking for an apology from Dr. March and felt March should apologize "even he thinks there are a lot of things wrong with Islam."

Professor March is known as a professor who enjoys creating controversy and for his stance on religious beliefs. He feels that "when a professor senses that they are being censored then it is wise for them to attempt to break the censorship." March believes that due to Academic Freedom professors should have the right to post cartoons such as this one and "the right to teach whatever they think is the truth." Saint Mary's ordered Dr. March to remove the cartoon from his door for reasons of health and safety. "The administration felt there was a sufficiently great likelihood of violence so I couldn't show the cartoon in the hallway" stated March. "You can't always speak the truth and promote a safe environment."

The cartoon which is a source of controversy was originally published in a Danish newspaper as part of a contest to find an illustrator for a children's book on Islam. The cartoon as published anonymously. It has been reprinted several times by newspapers as all over the world including ..... and... Muslims in Indonesia, Iran, Denmark and Canada among others have held protests, some peaceful, other which included the burning of the Danish Flag, to show their disapproval of the Cartoon.

Here at Saint Mary's Ahmed Shat stated that there would be a protest over the cartoon. Dr. March stated that the students are has ever right to protest if they chose to do so. When asked by a CBC reporter if he was upset over Dr. March's posting the cartoon, Shat replied "Of Course I am upset! You see what's happening all over the world because of these pictures! What is he thinking? What is he trying to accomplish?"

## March Marches in March against March

BY CHRIS CLEMENTS

At noon on Thursday, February 9th people started gathering outside the Dalhousie SUB in protest of Saint Mary's philosophy professor Peter March. The protesters were upset that Dr. March had posted on his office the cartoon depictions of the Islamic prophet Muhammad that have sparked violent protests around the world. March has been unapologetic about his actions, citing freedom of expression and sparking an academic debate as the reasons for his posting the cartoons.

March joined the protest at the Dalhousie SUB and was largely ignored by the protesters at first. Protesters were told to "ignore him" as he was just looking for publicity.

The protests didn't seem to hurt business for The Dogfather, a Muslim who runs a popular hot dog stand outside the Student Building. "I grew up here and I believe in freedom of speech," said The Dogfather, but he believes there should be limits on free speech, if for no other reason than to protect public safety. He went on to jokingly add that "students are a protest waiting to happen."

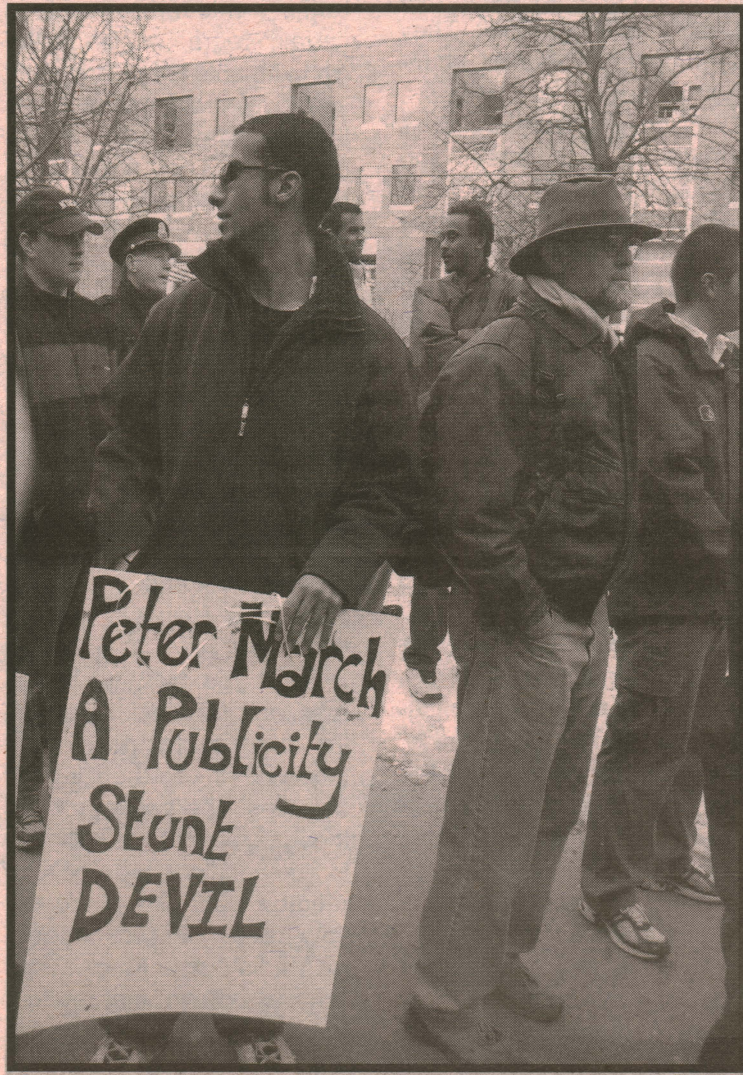
The roughly 100 protesters, along with Dr. March, made their way to the Saint Mary's campus rather uneventfully, with one exception. Near the intersection of Robie

and Inglis, a Saint Mary's student approached the group making obscene gestures and shouting "free speech". A group of about five protesters chased him and threw their backpacks at him. A nearby group of students blocked the protesters path until the police could intervene. The student who was chased by protesters later said he was simply using his right "to protest the protest."

The march finally made it to the Saint Mary's Student Centre around 1:30. The debate which was going on inside the Student Centre in support of the upcoming SMUSA elections was cut short when it became apparent that the interest in the protest exceeded the interest in the debate.

As he was leaving the protest, Dr. March asked one of the protesters how to say goodbye in Arabic, but he was instead told how to say "I'm sorry" which he then said to the crowd. This brought great cheers from the crowd. When March was informed what had happened, he said he wasn't sorry, "not in the least."

After the protest, March was unavailable for comment as he was sequestered in his office guarded by a phalanx of police protection.



## SMUSA SAYS: SMU Students Show True Character

The Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA) applauds the Saint Mary's University Palestine Solidarity Society for its peaceful, respectful, and thoughtful response to the public postings of caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad by Dr. Peter March, a Philosophy professor at the University.

"Our students showed a great level of tact today during their demonstration," said Zach Churchill, President of SMUSA. "They demonstrated calm restraint and respect that definitely stands in contrast to the approach of Dr. March on this issue."

SMUSA acknowledges the right to academic freedom, but trusts that academic freedom must entail open, thoughtful dialogue; critical thinking; and context, and that with this freedom must come a responsibility to respect the safety and human rights of other individuals.

"Sometimes freedom means you have the right not to do or not to say something. I also am reassured that the University Faculty Union has

decided that this was not an issue of academic freedom. Our students have shown the true heart of the University in their approach to dealing with controversy. A lesson many others could learn." concluded Mr. Churchill.

The Saint Mary's University Students' Association is a not-for-profit organization that provides the students of Saint Mary's with services, employment and volunteer opportunities, as well as student advocacy. SMUSA was incorporated in 1966 and has continued to play a vital role in the Saint Mary's community, representing over 8500 students.

For more information

contact:  
Zach Churchill

President, Saint Mary's University Student's Association (SMUSA)

Tel: (902) 496-8701

Email: president@smusa.ca

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# The Only Safe Sex Is To Save Sex. Or so Michael Horner would have you Believe.

BY CM CAMPBELL

Trinity Western University Professor Michael Horner spoke at St. Mary's on Tuesday the 7th of February. The evening's lecture was titled Love, Porn, Sex and Lies and was presented by the SMU chapter of The Campus Crusade for Christ. The power point presentation ran for an hour with a brief Q&A at the end. About 18 were in attendance.

Michael Horner, a philosophy professor at Trinity Western University in BC's Fraser Valley, has spoken at several universities throughout Canada and the US. The topics of his debates and lectures are commonly in relation to the existence of God and whether Jesus rose from the dead. Tuesday's lecture was guided toward those whom were already practicing Christians and centred on the reasons one should practice sex exclusively in a monogamous marriage. Professor Horner made the correlation between pornography, the sexual revolution and a loss of what Horner referred at one point as "...the only true, meaningful sex we can have."

Horner's presentation focused on what he argued were the risks of having premarital sex (what he described as physical contact from the chin down) as well as viewing pornography. He spoke in Chicken Soup for Soul terminology, using phrases like "Love Keys" and "Six Positive Benefits of Waiting" and referenced authors and sources directly linked with Christian Evangelical groups. Horner's list of negative consequences

included guilt and emotional pain. The apologist even sighted a source that stated young people engaged in premarital sex are more likely to suffer from mental illness. No specific mental illness was indicated. Horner also pointed to the relational and social consequences of viewing pornography, arguing that consumption of porn is linked to addiction, sexual aggression and child abuse. When asked by a young man in the audience if Horner believed that the majority of pornography consumers became sexual deviants Horner replied, "Not most, but many."

In the final five minutes of a lecture highlighted by negative consequences and extreme situations, Professor Horner stated "Hope is a better motivator than fear..." and again mentioned the benefits of abstaining and the higher quality of sex once in a marriage. Then the floor was opened to questions. The majority of questions asked were in relation to the nature of his sources and the subjectivity of terms such as "sexual revolution" and "promiscuous women". Soon thereafter a member of the Campus Crusade for Christ signified that they were out of time and Professor Horner had to be going. When asked by a CCFC member if the questions asked that night were typical, Horner remarked "...tonight's crowd was a little more -- sophisticated."

The Campus Crusade for Christ, a North American based Christian group found both on the University campus as well as schools and churches here and Europe.

# Dance for the Cure

BY JENNIFER CRAWFORD

The first ever Dance for the Cure event will be happening at the Gorsebrook, on March 4th, 2006. The volunteers have been working tirelessly, putting up posters, getting sponsorships, and most importantly -- getting the student population involved.

What exactly is Dance for the Cure? It is a dance-a-thon being organized by university students both at Saint Mary's University and Mount Saint Vincent University. Spearheaded by the tireless and passionate efforts of Shannon Rafuse, she is confident that this will be an annual event, which can engage post-secondary students all across our country. Her co-coordinator at Saint Mary's University is Leah Bilodeau, whose passionate efforts helped to make Breast Cancer Awareness Week (October 2005), a huge success.

Shannon's experience with breast cancer motivates her to bring awareness to the cause, to mobilize young people and make them aware that they can make positive change.

"My life was affected by Breast Cancer in 2004 when my mother was diagnosed with the disease," says Rafuse. "During this time, I found my-

self questioning the level of breast cancer awareness that actually existed on University campuses, and tried to think of ways to increase it."

Her hard work paid off -- in October of this year, she initiated a Breast Cancer Awareness Week at Saint Mary's University. With the help of the Women's Centre, the volunteerism, caring and enthusiasm of the Residence Assistants, and SMUSA, the week was a success. "Think Pink Thursday" generated over \$700 in funds for the Atlantic Chapter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Over 30 students from Saint Mary's, many of them Residence Assistants, took part in Run for the Cure at the end of Breast Cancer Awareness Week. Their fundraising total for the run itself exceeded \$2500.

There are several ways to be involved. You can be a volunteer to help organize the event, be a dancer and secure sponsorships (minimum of \$50), or a corporate sponsor of the event. For those who would like further info, please contact Shannon Rafuse, at (902) 483-8502.

# Students look forward to working with Minister Finley

(Ottawa, ON) Canadian students are looking forward to continuing a positive working relationship with the new Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Diane Finley. The Minister of HRSD presides over education initiatives of the federal government, and the Canada Student Loans Program.

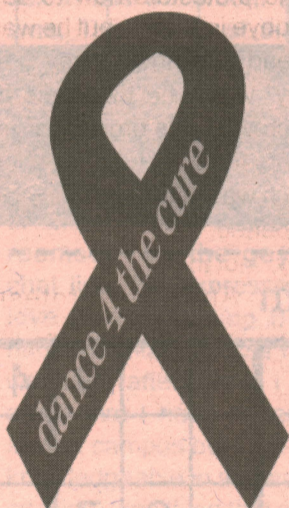
"During the last election, many commitments and ideas were discussed regarding post-secondary education issues. In the past, the greatest education reforms were accomplished by consulting students, and developing a working relationship based on the open exchange of ideas, we hope to maintain this relationship with the new Minister," said Phillippe Ouellette, National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA).

CASA believes that post-secondary education reform must be accomplished from a national perspective. Cooperation among Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments is essential to provide a post-secondary education system that is consistently accessible and affordable.

The Federal government must take a leadership role in education reform. This leadership role must begin by meeting education stakeholders, and developing the commitments made during the recent Federal Election. Namely, the implementation of a dedicated education transfer of funds to Canada's provinces for post-secondary education.

"Universities, colleges, and their students are calling for government leaders from across the country to work together and address one of our country's most serious social deficits, the first step is taking a leadership role by consulting stakeholders, and honouring commitments," added Mr. Ouellette.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is a not-for-profit national student organization, offering progressive education reform solutions. CASA is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a successful lobby group and represents post-secondary students from across the country.



## dance 4 the cure

march 4<sup>th</sup>

@ the Gorsebrook

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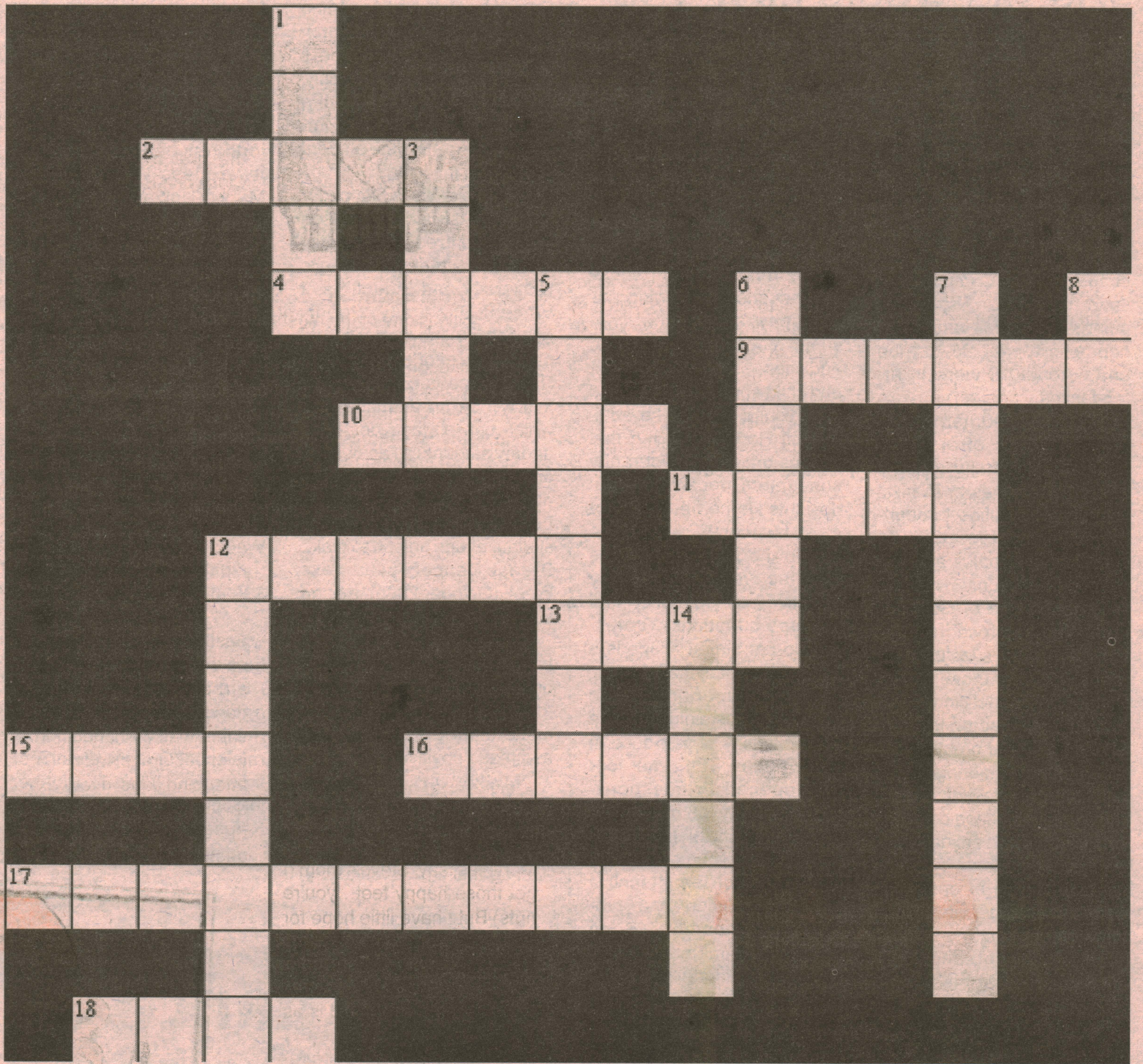
# ROCK, PAPER, SISSORS.

**Across**

- 2. Professor who started the cartoon controversy
- 4. Falling TVs kill more people than these beasts of the deep
- 9. Prestigious British university
- 10. Award winning Huskies goalie
- 11. Frog's friend
- 12. A punk's hairstyle
- 13. Proper name for a killer whale
- 15. Diamond mining capital of Sierra Leone
- 16. The part of the female anatomy that has its own monologue
- 17. One who hates or mistrusts humankind
- 18. Community radio station that's recently switched frequencies

**Down**

- 1. City where Eiffel Tower is located
- 3. One author of "The Rebel Sell"
- 5. Giant ape who falls off a building (2 words)
- 6. Campus building with the cruisiest washroom
- 7. 16th century physician and astrologer who predicted the future
- 8. The pill can't stop this STD
- 12. The new premier of Nova Scotia
- 14. Airline whose COO is a SMU Alum



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**One simple rule:**

"Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9."

**aww miss you already...**

enjoy your "reading week" just a reminder, we're taking next week off, so no need to rush out in search of a copy next week. please, try not to miss us.

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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## RADIO LOVE SONG

BY CHRIS CLEMENTS

This year in HRM, Valentine's Day was for lovers of radio. The city's largest community radio station, CKDU, implemented a massive increase in their broadcasting power, raising the station's output more than ten-fold.

CKDU has been saving at least \$5000 every year for over a decade in preparation for the move. "We've been saving for this since the early nineties," says Stephen Kelly, the station's broadcast techni-

cian. The station was awarded the high-power license in 2001, but the switch wasn't feasible until this year.

To accommodate the move, the station had to switch frequencies on the FM dial from 97.5 to 88.1. They are not afraid of losing listeners, but the classic station IDs are now out of date. To remedy this problem, there's been talk of overdubbing old IDs "as badly and as cheesily as possible" or even doing covers of some of the old IDs.

**Halifax, will you be our Valentine?**



at 7pm on february 14, we pitch woo with a radio full of ear candy and a high power hug. tune in at 88.1 fm.



Movie reviews

### Underworld: Evolution

This movie is one of the most visually stunning movies that has ever been scraped from the underbelly of Hollywood. The story plot characters are as mundane as barely recommended for the progression of brilliant imagery. An imagery completely devoid of all meaning, an endless hunger for dollars drives this blood filled mockery. I suppose in that way this film is quite like the vampires it portrays in that it has the endless hunger for blood money.

**Pro:** I like fighting, guns, and superhuman strength.

**Con:** This is a movie.

### Video rental of the week.

#### The Pink Panther

Ok I am as big a fan of Steve Martin as, say, Steve's mom (I got those happy feet...you're nuts) But I have little hope for his newest foray as Inspector Clouseau. The original Pink Panther is available at your local library for free and is as dry and hilarious as Fawlty Towers. While worthy of a remake, it deserves better than this campy slapstick version which is now being hocked on your T.V. screens. But hey, you be the judge.

**Pro:** Inane incompetent cops.

**Con:** This is a serious film to be taken seriously

## First Grad Class Event a Huge Success!

BY JASMINE RIVIERE

Saturday February 11th was the first event held by the Class of 2006. It was a Drinks Tasting Night in the Pub designed to raise both funds and awareness for the Grad Class and the Maroon & White Ball. The Maroon & White Ball is the Grad Class event to attend - our Legacy. It is a sophisticated, first class event that will have grads talking about it for years, and potential grads eagerly anticipating their turn. To make it official, we had to choose the signature Maroon & White Ball toasting drink, and this was the purpose of the party at the pub this Saturday. Two weeks before the party, Grads sent in their suggestions for the official drink of the Maroon & White Ball, and the entries were narrowed down to three choices. The event was well attended, with over 175 grads and non-grads attending, and over \$200.00 raised. Six lucky people won the chance to taste the suggestions for the M&W drink,

and the general consensus from these official "judges" and others who tasted, was that a combination of vodka, blue bols, sprite and grenadine was the winner. We have not christened our drink yet, but ideas like "The Maroon & White Mist" have been tossed around. There were some doubts about attendance at first because of the timing on a Saturday Night, but with three consecutive happy hours from 8 -11pm, and an amazing dj from 9:30pm to 1am, the dance floor was packed all night. In fact, we hear that it might have been one of the best turnouts for the pub on a Saturday Night! Yea Grad Class! We want to thank the Pub Staff for their assistance, and a special thank you to everyone who came to the event to support the Grad Class. The Maroon & White Ball will be held at the Westin Hotel on March 24th, so look out for advertisement of that and other Grad events coming up soon.



### Thread of the Week

Why Peter March is a Tool ('Anything, Everything' section)  
SMUSA encourages you to check out the fiery debate that has been taking place under this controversial thread. These lions never sleep.

[www.smusa.ca/forum](http://www.smusa.ca/forum)



D  
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M  
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# Greetings from Lorne the Lounge Lizard...

It was quite a busy week at the Gorsebrook this past week with a little something going on for everyone. Sunday of course got things started with Superbowl XL which ran along side our varsity night. Monday saw the incarnation of Monday Night Foosball sponsored by Jim Beam and Tuesday was Trivia Night hosted every second Tuesday by AIESEC Halifax. Wednesday was of course Open Mic with a little added bonus of

the Athletics' Department Date Auction which helped raise a lot of money for a good cause, Thursdays are starting to see a resurrection to the pub nights of old with this week's Western Night which was hosted by the Jim Beam Party Crew who had everyone covered in tattoos. On Friday the tattoos came out for real with the Rebirth of Punk hosted by Jagermeister with headliners Insubordination and openers Raygunomics

and Gunt. Andy Crosby helped to put together a wild night of hard rock, great prizes, good times, one crazy mosh pit and a lot of money raised towards "Make Poverty History". Saturday the grad Class of 2006 held a fundraiser and DJ Lindelle had the music bumping. Coming up this week we have Canadian Club hosting the Olympic Hockey as we will be televising the men's game on Thursday at 3 pm and coming up on Sunday the 26th is our welcome back party for one more night of debauchery before the break ends, hope to see you all in the pub!

# BLOOD, SWEAT, AND BEERS PUNK ROCK COMES TO THE GORSEBROOK

BY: TIM ANDRESEN

I, for one, would like to thank the Gorsebrook for tempting fate and truly rocking the face of punk rock here in Halifax. Talk to many or any downtown punks about their casual opinions of say sports teams, uniforms, the establishment or, more to the point, universities and your answer will probably amount to a pile of mucus on the sidewalk and a glib remark.

What else is punk rock for than for denying convention and being a step outside the mainstream? Which is why, I'm sure, the Gorsebrook had a few extra beefy fellows loitering around in the shadows. They looked sheepish and intoned such witticisms as, and I quote, "What the fuck is this shit?"

What it was was counter culture counting in three chord blitzkrieg punk generating a dance floor of spilled beer and gleeful aggression. A prism of life in leather, sweat stains, tattoos, Mohawks, garrisons

and a big fuck you.

Stomping moshpits ran until 20 minutes after the lights came on, driven by the relentless sets of hometown heroes Gunt, and soulless PEI invaders The Insubordination, nobody left without a bloody nose or a half pitcher in their guts.

Ah, I love the smell of mayhem in the evenings. A smell not so easily satisfied considering the local downtown bar closings or remodelings. Punk rock much like its followers is slowly becoming, in a metaphysical sense, homeless. Cold and alone with no place to go, the Gorsebrook opened its doors, the punks took complete advantage, and as a result both Punks and St. Mary's were opened up to a wider reality.

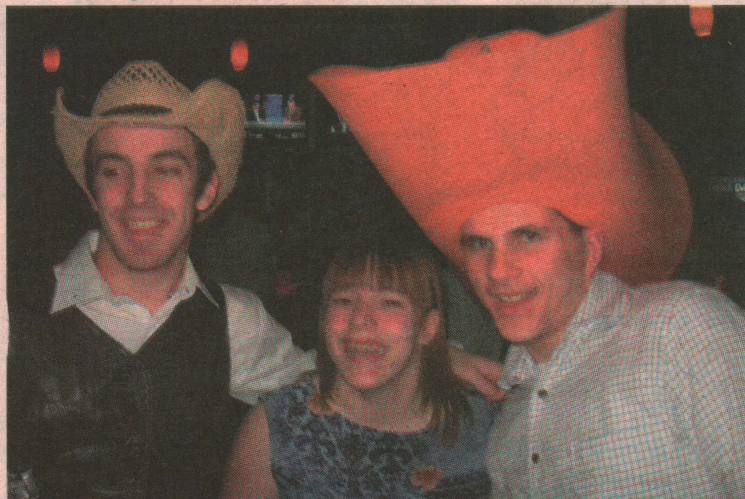
So, like I said before, thank you Gorsebrook. And to all who missed this show, next time around are "you getting your freak on or what?!"



The Gorsebrook Staff before Western Night turned into the wild west with a packed bar and dance floor.



As always we would like to thank the lovely ladies of Aramark for showing their support for their bar.



Some of our political candidates took a break from campaigning to come out and support the pub.



Some of the ladies take a second to thank Jim Beam rep Mike Morris who was on hand to make sure the night went off without a hitch.



Manager Lorne Caborn along side part of the Jim Beam Party Crew

The music was loud, the mohawks were high and good times were had by all, even the staff took in parts of the mosh pit with doorman Kevin Cooper receiving the brunt of the blows with a huge smile on his face.

The Rebirth of Punk was a huge success and Andy Crosby of Insubordination is hoping to put on another one near the end of the semester.



# The Many Prophetic Interpretations of Nostradamus

BY ADAM COSTELLO

I recently came across a published book on the great prophet, Michel Notredame. I have to admit I didn't know much about Nostradamus until I did a little research on him, and I was amazed at what I found out. His poetic yet cryptic quatrains are claimed by some to conceal information about future events and in the past, it seems this claim has held true on some levels. This truth however is subject to scrutiny, for his quatrains can be interpreted in either a sense that Nostradamus was even more insightful than imagined, or that the quatrains are so obscure, they can be interpreted to predict any occurrence. It is for this reason his predictions have been deciphered to predict anything from the first two world wars to the falling of the twin towers. To better formulate an opinion on his predictions, it must be understood who he in fact was.

During Nostradamus' lifetime the Black Death (today known as the bubonic plague) wiped out over a quarter of Europe. It cannot be denied that for this reason, a sense of apocalyptic terror fills his quatrains. Nostradamus can indisputably be said to have been ahead of his time, at least in terms of medical practice, for his treatment of the Black Death involved removal of the infected corpses, fresh air and unpolluted water for the healthy, a herbal preparation rich in Vitamin C, and (in contravention of contemporary medical practise) not bleeding his patients. All his methods proved successful in lessening the impact of the Black Death.

Nostradamus began to write his prophetic verses in 1554, saying he had visions which he later recorded in verse while staring into water or flame late at night, sometimes aided by herbal stimulants. The resulting quatrains (four line verses) are oblique and elliptical, and use puns, anagrams and allegorical imagery, some making no sense whatsoever. Some of them are chilling, literal descriptions of events, giving specific or near-specific names, geographic locations, astrological configurations, and sometimes actual dates. It is this quality of both vagueness and specificity which allows each new generation to reinterpret Nostradamus, as the

author of the book I recently came across does at his own discretion.

Nostradamus even predicted his own death, when his assistant wished him goodnight on July 1, 1566, Nostradamus reputedly pronounced, "You will not find me alive at sunrise." He was found dead on July 2, 1566.

To provide an example of one of the interpretations of what Nostradamus was trying to predict, upon deciphering some of his work, one person has inferred this statement to embody a prediction of a coming war to our world. This is what, in modernistic English terms, it is thought he implies in one of his quatrains.

"In the year of the new century and nine months, From the sky will come a great King of Terror... The sky will burn at forty-five degrees.

Fire approaches the great new city..."

"In the city of York there will be a great collapse,

2 twin brothers torn apart by chaos while the fortress falls the great leader will succumb a third big war will begin when the big city is burning"

It must be remembered that this is merely an interpretation of his work and although eerily accurate, this is merely the product of an in depth analysis by one individual on the original work by Nostradamus. People often read interpretations such as these and assume this is exactly what Nostradamus was implying. In reality however, his often ambiguous writing, which also is strewn with cloaked meanings and incorrect portions, seems to embody almost nothing the above passage discusses. Although a lot of his predictions have turned out to be duds, it is immensely interesting to read his original work. Seemingly incoherent at times, there are hidden jewels in his work that one can legitimately infer to have relation to previous events our world has been witness to. It is by this method of analysis that future possible predictions have been consistently interpreted throughout the centuries, with individuals around the globe constantly making claim to having deciphered the prophets' ramblings.

In May 2004, members of the Italian National Library in Rome made an amazing discovery, finding buried in their archives, an unknown manu-

script by the famed prophet. This manuscript was apparently handed down to the prophet's son and later donated by him to Pope Urban VIII. It did not surface again until now, almost four hundred years later. The book I mentioned in the first paragraph however, outlines implications that author Dr. Michael Rathford has deciphered Nostradamus' to be making in this newly found manuscript. He describes the world as we currently know it, to be thrown into utter chaos during the next 6 years and is terrifying to say the least. Although he has studied Nostradamus' predictions for over 20 years now, nobody should infer from his book that the atrocities he speaks of will actually happen. For interests sake however, I will outline what Dr. Rathford believes Nostradamus to be implying. Using cutting-edge data mining techniques, Dr. Michael Rathford claims he has sifted through this complex word puzzle searching for significant patterns and relationships. He claims he has come up with a predictive model when trying to decipher Nostradamus' work, which he calls The Nostradamus Code, which also happens to be the name of the book.

To sum up what Rathford's book envisions happening during the next 6 years, I will briefly insert implications that the book makes about the coming world. The first, is that the Pope will be secretly assassinated and the next and final pope will be treacherous and deceiving, paving the way for the demise of the Catholic Church. Manipulation of the IRA in Ireland by the underworld will lead to tragedy and a Wealthy U.S. businessman will turn out to be a closet revolutionary and Nazi. A great and rich power will be subject to serious natural disasters, particularly earthquakes and flooding, and rend the nation from end to end, causing enormous conflict, despair, and misery. The wealthy power will be bankrupted attempting to deal with its disasters. Three other great nations will send aid to help the citizens survive.

A very bright, previously unknown comet will appear and coincide with the time of great geological troubles, with earthquakes and volcanoes erupting and disrupting weather systems. This will cause widespread famines and droughts, and social upheavals in unexpected places. Nations that are considered prosperous and powerful, particularly western nations, will be weakened. They will be torn with civil strife and rioting as people migrate to areas that have water and can support crop-growing.



The social upheaval and weakening of political structures will help the 3rd Antichrist come to power (the first being Napoleon and Hitler).

The death of a world leader will coincide with the appearance of a comet. The comet will be clearly visible where the leader dies. The country is in the Middle East. The death of the leader and widespread crop failures and hunger in that year will provoke a revolt. Meanwhile, the presidents of the U.S., a supposedly free country, have been abusing their power to an increasingly greater extent. During a time of social unrest even more so than the period of Vietnam and Watergate, the Electoral College will be evenly split over the election of the new president. The process will stalemate, with many people clamouring for whichever candidate they voted for, causing enormous tension in the country. Internationally it will be a sensitive situation. Because of the split, and the extremely volatile and explosive social unrest, putting either candidate in office instead of the other could start a civil war or a revolution. After a long time of impassioned speeches invoking patriotism and the founding fathers, a compromise solution of holding another election will be taken, and a candidate will be installed without disaster.

During continuing unrest in the Middle East, one of the leaders will be able to get a hold of a nuclear bomb. He will go to the greatest lengths over the smallest things and will not hesitate to use the weapon because of his obsession with deadly warfare. The people he is warring against

retaliate with a nuclear weapon. The country has a coast on the Mediterranean. One of the bombs will land in the Mediterranean instead of the land, poisoning all the fish. The passages of trade in the region will be disrupted so that the people on the other coast of the Mediterranean will be desperate for food and will eat the fish anyway. The book says this will happen near the east coast of the Mediterranean in a region of dark coloured cliffs. The European Mediterranean coast, particularly that of Italy and France, will be almost uninhabitable, and Italy will get the brunt.

Getting into the brunt of the book, Rathford claims The Antichrist will establish a unified monetary system after the seizure of Asia through propagating an alliance, after which he will eradicate culture and embark on a European campaign. While the war between Europe and Asia takes place, Weather modulation devices go awry, and cause ice and hail storms world wide. Devastating accidental weaponry explosions out of Great Britain will rupture earth energy fields and cause meteorite storms, while agricultural problems resulting from the erratic weather leads to world-wide famine. Bacteriological warfare will strike New York and London as the Antichrist conquers Europe and invades Britain; the famines apparently will lead to insane cannibalism. Russia will manage to break free of the Antichrist's power and economic reliance, and a North Pole Alliance of North America, what's left of Europe, and Russia will be formed. The Antichrist's hunger for power will eventually get the best of him after double crossing countries in Asia from which his alliance with provides the means to which he establishes his continent wide power. Contact with aliens will pave the way for peace and the unity of religion and science. Or so he claims.

The book talks about much more than the few passages I've discussed here and to be honest, I find Rathford's interpretation of Nostradamus' writings to be ridiculous. "Cutting-edge data mining techniques" or not, he has obviously just written a science fiction novel, attached the famed prophet's name to it, and is waiting for the money to come rolling in. Although Nostradamus could have justifiably provided insight into what will happen in the future, taking his quatrains and coming up with this specific of an apocalyptic prediction would be impossible at best. Nostradamus more that likely did not intend anyone to be able to decipher his prophesies, regardless of whether or not somewhere hidden within them, a true account of the future can be found. I do admire Rathford's effort in trying to decipher Nostradamus' predictions into a coherent discourse on what our future holds, but trying to lead us to believe all this is a rather blatant attempt at being a prophet himself, when he is really nothing more than an extravagant story teller. Who knows, maybe some of the things he talks about have been deciphered correctly and maybe some will come true. It is my utmost hope however, that Rathford is just a poor old man, who seems delusional in thinking anyone could come up with a consistent code that provides an adequate means to decipher Nostradamus' insight. No human mind could decipher Nostradamus' work that specifically, except Nostradamus himself.

## AFRICAN NIGHT 2006

A PRESENTATION BY:  
Dalhousie African Students' Association (DASA)  
& Saint Mary's African Students' Society (SMASS)

*Celebrating Our History, Culture, and Heritage*

**Saturday, February 18th**

Venue: McInnes Room  
Dalhousie University (SUB Building)

Time: 5:45pm - 1:00am



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### AFRICAN NIGHT 2006

"African Night 2006" promises to be the most interesting, entertaining, educative, and inspirational experience for those who will attend. The theme chosen for the night is "Proud Africans Embracing Unity". The event will include African dance, drumming, fashion show, drama, other cultural performances, authentic African cuisine served buffet style, and a gala from 11:00pm to end the night.

The African Night is an annual event previously organised by the Dalhousie African Students' Association (DASA) to celebrate the unique and diverse African culture as well as to promote increased awareness about the social and political climate in Africa.

This year for the first time the event is being jointly organised by the Dalhousie African Students Association and the Saint Mary's African Students' Society (SMASS) and has been scheduled as part of the African History month celebrations in Nova Scotia.

#### ABOUT DASA and SMASS

DASA and SMASS are student run associations that serve as a voice for African students and friends of Africa at Dal and SMU respectively.

DASA and SMASS are composed of a dynamic group of mainly African students who undertake a number of different activities to promote awareness of the rich cultural diversity of Africa.

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# PAPER CUTS

## The Rebel Sell

BY SEAN ROY

This week's novel is "The Rebel Sell" (or, "why I should stop worrying about my image and start participating"), by Joseph Heath and Andrew Potter. In short, it's an explanation and a refutation of the idea of counterculture, why it's not an effective method of dealing with political and social problems and how it's only success has been to distract generations of people away from real issues.

In *The Rebel Sell*, Heath and Potter begin by examining the countercultural movement from its roots with the 1960's flower powered, "rebellion" of the hippies, to the gradual transition of the hippies into the yuppies, the refutation of hippie/yuppie ideology by the punk rockers (who made it their agenda to subvert yuppie principles), and to now, where writers like Naomi Klein and magazines like *Adbusters* propose a seemingly more concrete method for today's rebellious youth: "culture jamming" and "subverting the message" (which are far more practical than the old "stick it to the man" mantra).

Heath and Potter claim that the hippie progression to the "yuppie" was anything but hypocritical. The philosophy stayed the same and the hippies simply grew up, traded their Volkswagens for Ford Explorers, their communes for homes in suburbia and their passionate disrespect for authority for a relaxed alternative to hierarchy in the corporate sector ("silly tie Fridays" and "Hawaiian shirt Mondays").

In the beginning of the book, Heath and Potter draw attention to a new *Adbusters'* campaign. To subvert the "conformist" corporate branding of Nike and Reebok, *Adbusters'* created an alternative: subvert corporate hegemony by buying the *Adbusters'* patented running shoe. In this example, the hypocrisy becomes clear: how is creating an alternative within the system subverting it? Isn't that just a form of marketing?

This example taps into the core of the book. Heath and Potter argue that the countercultural movement and all the subversion of the mainstream don't actually eliminate the perceived threat of the system: it only diversifies the marketplace in relation to consumer's demand. In short, consumer capitalism co-opted counterculture a long time ago.

The book then takes this claim further and claims that the very political consciousness of the trendy-left has no real value, that instead of systematically dealing with the obvious issues (poverty, crime,

et cetera) the countercultural left won't settle for anything but a complete change (or "subversion") of the entire system. Their political foundation often consists of radical ideologies with no practical application. They don't realize that it's sometimes necessary to ignore one's deeper beliefs and focus on the obvious issues, like the old days. In the history of social movements, the most amazing advances have been made by people standing in solidarity and taking action in popular debates. In counterculture, the only people who listen to radicals are other radicals.

One of the main ideologies of the countercultural left (according to the authors), is that uniformity is imposed on majority by the hegemony of the marketplace. In fact, the demands of the consumer are what create uniformity. Production and distribution techniques have changed a lot in the last fifty years: people used to watch the same television shows and read the same books because production techniques limited selection. Now, we live in a five-hundred channel universe and people still watch the same shows and read the same books as one another. This isn't because they're all likeminded "sheep", it's because of the communal factor of shared experiences; Heath and Potter claim that "reality television" became popular not because of its content but because of its ability to invoke discussion ("I think so-and-so will be kicked off the Island"). This argument can be used for technology as well. The reason computers all have similar operating systems and input devices, is because standards and uniformity are sometimes essential for widespread functionality.

If every keyboard looked different, we wouldn't know how to type from one computer to the next and if every screw looked differently, we'd have to buy billions of screwdrivers. With this logic, the authors argue that individuality is more of a resource-intensive prospect than uniformity, that too much diversity is a needless (and sometimes wasteful) hassle and that this modern fixation with customization can be traced back to the 1960s countercultural "rebellion". The notion of herd-mentality, from this perspective, is illusory.

So given all this, how does one rebel? What does rebelling mean? If Naomi Klein's infamous "No Logo" is flawed in that the alternatives proposed do nothing more than diversify the marketplace and take attention away from the kind of

## The Best and Worst Films of 2005

BY MATT SULLIVAN

*Its Oscar season folks (not that that's suppose to mean anything), so here is what should and should not be taking home the Prizes.*

### The Best 3:

#### 3. King Kong

Many have stated their dislike of Peter Jackson's LOTR follow up movie, *King Kong*. Many people also listen to Nickelback. What can I say; the world is a funny place sometimes. This movie was well made in every traditional sense that a movie, nay, a film can be. Sure some characters and sub-plots went nowhere, but the two stars of the film were Kong and his lady. If you can honestly say you weren't a little choked up when the big monkey took the plunge at the end, then you're going to have to face the fact that you're a little bit of a soulless prick. For all of you who said "uuhhhh it was too long", I ask you; just what was it that bored you? Perhaps it was the endless amount of sweet stuff happening for the 3 hour duration? Yeah, what a drag. Man, I hate it when giant apes fight dinosaurs and break their jaws in half!

#### 2. The Devil's Rejects

Yeah I bet this comes as a bit of a surprise as one of my favorite films of the year. I imagine most people who have seen it likely found it just plain disgusting, with no redeeming qualities. Without getting into too much detail, I will simply state that if a film's main characters are a family of incestuous, homicidal, sexual-deviant outlaws, and if by the end of this film you find yourself rooting for

politics that actually matter, than what are we to do?

Unlike Klein's "No Logo" and other activist primers, *The Rebel Sell* actually offers a few solutions instead of pointing out the problems. Want to "subvert" the market place? Make less money (spend less money), and become self-sustaining. Want to draw attention to political issues? Take small steps: attack issues one at a time, collectively, in the public sphere (the party system isn't as deeply flawed as the countercultural left thinks it is, if one wants to "subvert" the system: one can do more damage from the inside).

In this sense the book is far more radical than one might think. It captures that nagging feeling you felt after reading Naomi Klein, watching Michael Moore and renting "Fight Club" (for the seventh time). It's the lens which clearly focuses the pop-leftist's intent. For the colour blind: no, this book isn't right wing. It's good old fashioned critical thinking.

If rebellion is action second and consciousness first, then the countercultural project has provided us with the consciousness and no where to direct it. There is hope, though. Maybe the false realities of the countercultural critique will end up fixing themselves: non-participation from the left put Bush in office. A lack of co-operation on the left in Canada gave us Harper. Hopefully these dramatic turns will be what the left needs to get its head screwed on straight.

these sick fucks, then that film has successfully drawn you into its world. The climax of the film is particularly note worthy, as it has all the components of a classic ending. Trust me, *Free Bird* by Lynard Skynyrd will be forever changed for you, when you see the end (not that I'm into that redneck band, I take Neil's side). For anyone who saw *Rob Zombies* last effort, *House of 1000 Corpses*, you can tell after watching *Rejects* that Mr. Zombie has come a hell of a long way from that piece of crap.

#### 1. Batman Begins

As if it should be any surprise that *Batman Begins* takes the top spot. The last time we saw Batman on screen he was sporting nipples and ice skates on his bat-suit, and had this little knob named Robin following him around (I fucking hate Robin). This time around Memento director, Christopher Nolan, and *Blade* writer, David Goyer, deliver a dark, dramatic and tangible Batman experience that even bests Burton's 1989 version. This is by far the best super-hero origin film ever made, but it is also a solid film, with a solid script, punctuated by solid performances. This movie made me want to be Batman, laugh all you want, but it's been quite sometime since a fictitious character has inspired me like that. The last time would have been when I dove into the snow banks in my red underwear pretending I was He-Man, a little over 5 years ago. I mean 15 years ago. Damn, I've said too much.

#### Honorable mentions:

**Hustle and Flow:** let it be known that I hate rap, gangster's, and pimps, yet I loved this movie about a rapping, gangster-pimp. Kudos!

**Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith:** Makes the list for not sucking as hard as the last two. This one gets a very liberal nod. Now you can go back to watching the kids, George.

**A History of Violence:** an amazing movie overall, but there were some awkward sex scenes. Now I'm not one to get weirded out about stuff like that, but the ones in this movie were just shocking, check it out (you know you're going to now).

#### The Worst 3:

#### 3. Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous

O.k. so it's like this; I haven't actually seen this movie, but come on! Last time somebody had me watch something that was so insultingly marketed exclusively to women, I got nailed with an episode of *Sex and the City*. Ever see that show? Holy-Hand-Grenade, I hated it so much I could hardly breathe. Now I'm not trying to insult an entire gender with these statements, just trying to pose you ladies a question: aren't you at all insulted by this? Do they really think they can play some trite Shania Twain song on the trailer and then you're all going to drag your reluctant boyfriends to obvious B.S such as this? The exact same question could be posed for such a film as *XXX: State of the Union* (nope, didn't see that either). Does whoever makes these insulting abominations think that they can just throw some explosions on screen, play some ACDC, and we're all just going to soak it up and give them our money? Well obviously many of you are, as both of these examples are sequels! SHAME ON YOU!!! You all know who you are.

#### 2. Fantastic Four

I am a big fan of the comic-to-film adaptations of my favorite superheroes. Clearly, *Batman Begins* stands as a shining example of how the transition from panel to screen is made. As movies like *Batman Begins* and *Spider-Man* prove, these films don't need to adhere to

every bit of geeky continuity from the comics, but one does expect for them to capture the tone of the comics. Indeed there are success stories of these cherished comic properties being justly presented on the big screen. As I have stated, the story of *Spider-Man* was well done, as was *Batman* and so even was the *Fantastic Four*, except the version I'm referring to came out last year and was called *The Incredibles*. Pixar's computer generated film (by far the studios best), quite liberally lifted a lot of its material from the *Fantastic Four* comics, predominantly the aspects of the families interaction. That was one of my favorite films from last year (yeah I read comics, bite me!), and I was therefore, anticipating seeing the real *Fantastic Four* kick ass in live action. Unfortunately, some idiot let some other idiot butcher a classic. Is it that hard to make a guy named Doctor Doom seem menacing? Instead of having the evil presence of say Darth Vader, Doctor Doom instead resembled that greasy dude who ends up distracting you in every porno movie you have ever seen. Sure the Thing and the Human Torch had their moments, but the rest of this film stunk. If you haven't seen it, don't bother. This isn't one of those films that is funny for how bad it is like, *Total Recall* (actually, I take it back, *Total Recall* rules), it just plain sucks. This movie was bad enough that it almost makes me embarrassed to admit that I read comics.

#### 1. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Tim Burtons 2005 re-imagining of Roald Dahl's classic offered a dazzling array of special effects, fantastical sets, and a cast and crew which seemed promising. This seemingly good idea however was subverted by one main component: the Oompaloompa songs. Every time one of these god-awful songs played it made me feel as though I had just been punched in the groin by a hyperactive child, who then proceeded to dance around me singing, while his irresponsible parents laughed and encouraged it. That's really the role Burton is playing in this film, the irresponsible parent who lets their child partake in what ever silly activity they might find amusing. So who then is Burton's child? Why it's none other than every neo-bohemian girl's dream boyfriend, Johnny Depp. Depp is normally a fantastic actor able to disappear into very interesting characters, but here he is simply annoying and even pretentious. If he thinks pulling crap like playing a character that has the charisma of Michael Jackson (Michael Jackson now, the 80's Mike was money) will stand, well I guess he's right, because plenty of you idiots supported this piece of trash with your precious dollars. You may be thinking that I'm a hypocrite; after all didn't I pay to see this movie? Hell no I didn't, did you even see the trailer? The stupid music showed up in those too. No, I have friends in high places in the movie renting circuit (thanks Jenny, thanks for nothing).

#### Honorable mentions:

**The Brothers Grimm:** What happened, Terry Gilliam? Didn't you direct *Brazil*, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, and *Twelve Monkeys*? Weren't they all sweet? What happened?

**Fever Pitch:** Didn't even see it and I'm insulted. Not only was this Adam Sandler's worst movie yet, but they actually took him out and replaced him with that idiot Jimmy Fallon!

**King's Ransom:** I was totally going to go see this one, but then I found out it wasn't a sequel to Mel Gibson's 1996 classic *Ransom*. "GIMMIE BACK MY SON!!!"

**You can watch all the Oscar action on TV hosted by Jon Stewart Sunday March 5th**

# THE G\*SPOT

JOURNAL.GSPOT@GMAIL.COM

## Q: Will I gain weight on the pill?

### Stephanie Foster:

The observation that a hormonal contraceptive has caused weight gain is one of the most conventional reasons that women give for wanting to change their method of birth control. This observation is very widespread among youth, scores of whom are experiencing unpredictable physical development apart from whatever contraceptive they happen to pick.

A bit of weight increase is indeed one of the potential side effects of the pill. This is because the drug is also a hunger stimulant. Not all women who choose hormonal contraceptives experience weight gain; if they do, it is usually minimal. Some women even lose weight. If weight gain is a concern, have a chat about it with your physician.

### Rick Wolfe:

Before I get to the question, just want to say "Happy Belated Valentine's Day" and I hope everything went "well" for everyone.

It really comes down to this: no, you will not gain weight because of the pill. You may experience some bloating within the first few months but when that bloating goes away,

you aren't left with a certain unexpected surprise to feed. I think it's worth it.

There are many myths that surround the pill, many of them are false but some are true. For example, acne and "unwanted hair growth" can actually be subsided by use of the pill, rather than enhanced by it, as a third of Canadians believe.

However, there are a lot of falsehoods surrounding the pill. For example, according to a survey, 4% of the population still believes that the pill is a suitable form of VD (STD) prevention. That is completely wrong; it offers no protection against diseases. You should always use at least two forms of birth control for protection anyway (and no, two condoms on top of each other don't count).

Of course, these facts are all averages, so be sure to check with your physicians before you change any medicinal treatment. For more information, go to <http://womhealth.org.au>, or ask a doctor for another reputable website.

And remember to keep those g-spot questions coming!

# Between the cracks:

An Expose of Gay Cruising on the SMU campus and abroad

RUBES LEIGH RUBIN



### BY: JOHNNY CRUISE

Students at Saint Mary's go about their daily business of going to classes, studying, and socializing without the knowledge that 10 meters away from them, some SMU jock or computer science student is getting blown in the nearest campus washroom facility. Of course if you've ever had the amazing privilege of visiting the downstairs Loyola washroom for an infamous #2 or an insecure #1 then you probably would be aware of the cruising situation. Gay, Bi, and Straight guys have sex in this washroom all the time. The cracks of the first stall of the Loyola first floor washroom are filled with email addresses, many owned by SMU students.

I recently had the privilege of chatting with "halifaxbathroomsex" on the gay.com chat line. He expressed his love for re-enacting Brokeback Mountain in stall #2 on weekend afternoons. I must admit that I have never had sex on campus but I am quite knowledgeable in the ways of cruising. One thing that all you straight guys worrying about gay guys checking you out should know is that gay guys will most of the time use 3 methods for checking/cruising

a potential "target".

**1. Peripherals Scan.** Now if you watched the "40 year old virgin" you should be familiar with this. By not looking directly at a target, guys can get a general idea of the shape and build of someone (for some guys body is ALL that matters, Faces can be imagined or a paper bag can be used, etc...)

**2. The Down and Up.** A majority of straight guys operate by checking out the goodies on a girl first and working their way down (then they might even look at the face if it is a tough sell). Cruisers often do the opposite because they do not want to draw attention to themselves. Legs first, then ass, then body and almost never the face except. . .

**3. The Glare (AKA 6th Sense).** The Glare is the method used by the most cunning and sexed cruisers. If two cruisers connect with a 3-10 second stare into each other's eyes whether it be while walking, sitting, in the washroom, on a plane, train, or bus then it's pretty much guaranteed that something nasty (definitions in my next edition) is going to be going on somewhere really quick.

There are some other famous signals too. For you washroom enthusiasts, the best way to signal to your stall buddies(s) is to tap your feet, whistle or knock on the side of the stall.

Right now SMU has the most coveted cruising washroom in Halifax. I also hear that the Killam 3rd floor washroom has some serious going ons. If you are looking for the ultimate cruising destination then I would recommend going to the top of Citadel Hill at night. The light side facing the harbor is the prostitute side (bring cash) while the dark side facing the commons and public gardens is free game. Have you ever heard ghost stories about soldiers walking around the Hill at night? Well, now you have a new perspective.

If you are looking for someplace warm to get laid, check out Seadogs on Gottingen St. It's just down from Halifax Backpackers and has a frosted door with 3 anchors on it. Mondays are Student's night so admission is free and the typical student rate is \$6 or \$8 depending on if you go during the week or weekend.



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So there's some information many of you didn't need to know, but if you want to know more just email some questions to [thejournal@gmail.com](mailto:thejournal@gmail.com) and I'll try to flesh it out for ya next time.

# BUSINESS

## GOSSEN FLYING HIGH WITH CANJET

BY ANDREW BREEN

Julie Gossen, Executive Vice-President and COO of CanJet, seemed very natural during her presentation to St. Mary's MBA students. Gossen mixes business facts, personal stories, and a few jokes during her hour-long presentation on the SMU campus.

Gossen earned her B.A. and Executive MBA from SMU, and has returned to speak about CanJet, the low-fare Canadian airline she has helped succeed.

CanJet is owned by IMP Group, one of Nova Scotia's biggest success stories. IMP Group was started by Ken Rowe, Julie's father, in 1967, selling fishing equipment in Halifax. IMP now generates over \$500 million in annual sales and has diversified into areas including hotels, aerospace, and medical supplies.

I had an opportunity to speak to Julie Gossen after her presentation to the MBA students. Her honesty was evident from the start.

"I wasn't really keen on coming to university," Gossen tells me. "I was anxious to go into work and get married." She started working for her father at IMP after finishing her B.A. in 1983.

"It can be challenging," Gossen says of working for her dad. "Sometimes it is difficult to separate family from business. Something might be said and you might take it more personally."

Despite some family disputes, Gossen has done well working at IMP. She started as an Assistant Manager in the aviation division, and has worked her way up through the ranks. By the late nineties, Gossen realized she would require more than her B.A. to reach upper-level positions.

"As years went by, I realized I needed proper credentials. If I wanted to compete for more tenured positions, I would need a stronger academic background. It's why I decided to get my EMBA"

She completed her Executive MBA in 1997, but it wasn't an easy task. During the speech Gossen commented that while her sons had survived her going back to school, her marriage hadn't. "The academic world in lots of cases is more demanding than the business world."

Gossen gave the MBA students an inside look at the airline industry and what CanJet does differently. Their employee-first culture has helped earned them a reputation of being a friendly, value-driven airline. Online reviewers remark about the "smiling and courteous" CanJet staff that greet them at the airport.

Gossen also covered the challenges facing CanJet. These include operating in a fiercely competitive market with no control over operating costs like fuel. Keeping employees motivated and customers happy is another challenge. "I read every customer comment card," Gossen says.

The commitment to customer satisfaction has worked for CanJet. They have grown to 460 employees, while servicing nine Canadian destinations and six American cities.

Running an airline is tough, especially when your father is your boss. But Julie Gossen is making it work by striking a balance of home and work.

"I believe in the philosophy of 8/8/8. A person should work eight hours, sleep eight hours, and play for eight hours. If you have that proper balance, you know you're doing everything well."

## THE ROCKEFELLER

**Q1. I've heard of a term called file-slurping/Pod-slurping. What does that mean?**

**A:** These terms are the newest form of potential espionage in the world of James Bond and Ethan Hunt. Basically what it means is that due to portable media holders like an iPod or USB keys becoming smaller while being able to carry more, there is now a great potential for someone with malicious intent to carry away data without being caught. As of right now I could not find a documented case of someone pod-slurping, although I do know that some more classified machines do not have USB ports in order to avoid this potential issue. This does not mean that everyone should suddenly remove all your USB ports on your computer, because USB does provide many good uses. However, it may make you think twice the next time you see someone pull out a USB key/iPod at work.

**Q2. I see these Scotiabank commercials regarding mutual fund packages. What is a mutual fund and what is a mutual fund package? How does it work?**

**A:** A mutual fund is a collective investment where many people pool their money together to invest in the market; you do this in order to reduce the costs that an individual broker would cost you. Most mutual funds can be lumped into 3 categories: income (ie: Mortgage Backed), balanced (ie: Canadian balanced) and equity (ie: Energy or Latin America). A mutual fund package is quite simply combining multiple types of mutual funds to create a new mutual fund. If you invest in one of these packages, Sco-

tiabank would then go out and buy other mutual funds on your behalf, which in turn would buy individual securities such as shares in Nortel or government bonds.

**Q3. What do MBA programs look for during the admissions process? How much does it vary from school to school?**

**A:** Most MBA programs look at two main things: your GPA and your GMAT scores. Your GPA score for most programs is required to be above 3.0 although some programs do allow a 2.5. The GMAT is the equivalent to a graduate level of the SATs to which you are often required at least a score of 550 (out of 800) before most schools will consider you. If this wasn't enough, most MBA programs also look at your work experience (often requiring at least two years since completing your undergrad). Obviously this can get more difficult if you wish to attend a top level MBA, where they will often look at your volunteer experience and some of the less quantifiable skills such as entrance essays or interview skills. If you have a low GPA (which happens a lot in Canada as profs tend to give out less A's than their US counterparts) you can still get in with a high GMAT score. In either case though you should apply in the 1st round as many universities tend to be a bit more flexible then during later rounds.

## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Got a crazy idea you think will work? The Saint Mary's University Self Employment Centre is giving Saint Mary's University students the chance to turn those ideas into cash.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? is back again for the 3rd annual campus wide business concept competition.

Since the launch, the competition brought hundreds of students together for an opportunity to formally present their business ideas. So far the competition gave out \$18,000 in cash prizes to 11 teams.

The competition enhances awareness of entrepreneurship and the career option of starting a business, helps to develop business planning skills among students and increases business start-ups within the Saint Mary's University Community.

All Saint Mary's University students will have the opportunity again this year to participate in this great competition and win cash prizes!!!!

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cont. on next page..

HAVE A BUSINESS QUESTION? WRITE THE ROCKEFELLER AT [THEROCKEFELLER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:therockefeller@gmail.com).



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(Go to International → International Learning → Funding & Awards)

# WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

cont. from previous page...

All you need to do is form a team of two or more Saint Mary's University students, complete a registration form, and prepare a 5 page business concept paper that describes all aspects of your business idea and submit it before the deadline. You can also submit the business concept of your existing business and be eligible also for the "Best Student Business Award."

During the competition, SMU Self Employment Centre will offer free counseling sessions, a series of workshops to assist the teams with the development of their plans, and will host networking events with Small Business Owners and business professionals.

This year we are launching What's the Big Idea? on Valentines Day: February 14, 2006 and awarding lunch will be on March 31, 2006.

**The deadline to register your ideas is Monday, March 13, 2006 at 4:30 pm. The final date for submission of the Business Proposals based on your ideas is Monday, March 27, 2006 at 4:30 pm.**

More information about workshops, competition rules, business proposal template is available:

- on-line at [www.whatsthebigidea.ca](http://www.whatsthebigidea.ca)
- SMU Self Employment Centre office on campus SB 227, tel.: 420-5026
- Display board in Sobey Building 2nd floor, by SB 255 and cork boards around the campus
- Tables set on campus in Loyola lounge (main floor)

# MISS BIZ

aka Jackie Howatt

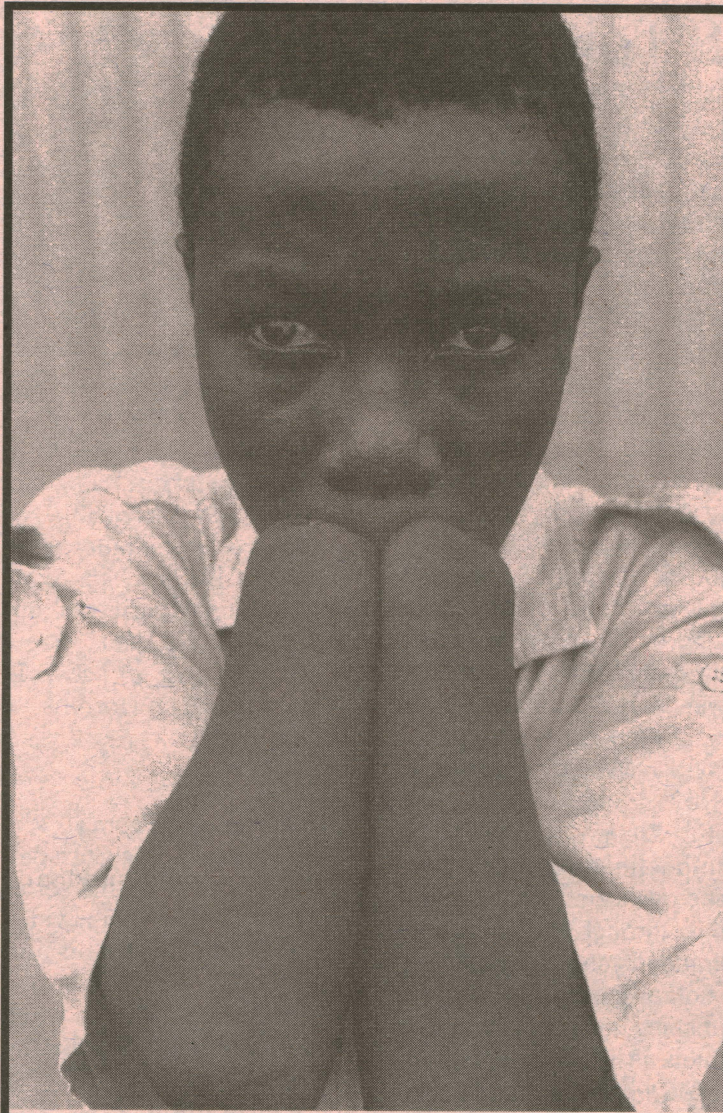
*"Little is known about Sierra Leone, and how they connect to the diamonds we own"*  
— Kanye West.

Diamonds are forever. That's what they tell us anyway. And ever since Kanye West came out with his hit single and music video, "Diamonds from Sierra Leone", many of you have probably wondered about the "diamond issue", and how can it be so big that Kanye's rapping about it?

Blood Diamonds (or, the more media friendly term, "conflict" diamonds) began to make a severe impact in history and the economy only a decade and a half ago, in the West African State of Sierra Leone in 1991. At this time, it is said that several hundred Liberian soldiers crossed over the border to Sierra Leone in search of diamonds. By 1992, the newly formed rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (R.U.F), captured the diamond mining capital of Sierra Leone, Kono. Among this "ruthless rebel group" were many teenage soldiers, forced into action by terrorists (worldpress.org).

Under the constant threat of the R.U.F, the newly elected Sierra Leone President, Ahmed Kabbah, agreed to allow the R.U.F to form a political party. Once the R.U.F had this political power, they partnered with the Sierra Leone Army to form the Armed Forces Ruling Council (A.F.R.C). The A.F.R.C's mission was to overthrow the Sierra Leone government in hopes of gaining all control of the diamond mines in Kono. They did accomplish this mission for a small period, but a West African military group (E.C.O.M.O.G) restored order and Kabbah was brought back into power. The R.U.F detested this because Kabbah's mission was in complete opposition to theirs. Kabbah pushed to drastically improve and legally control mining in Kono in order to bring a peaceful resolution to all in-

# Diamonds are For... What?



Amputating civilians is the signature of the R.U.F. Since 1991, they have cut off the limbs, lips, and ears of many Sierra Leone civilians with machetes and axes. This was their "grotesque campaign" in response to the Sierra Leone's President at the time (1996), Ahmed Kabbah, who desperately wanted citizens to, "join hands for peace". This 17-year-old is just one of thousands who lost his hands by R.U.F rebels.

volved (worldpress.org).

In 1999, Charles Taylor became President of Liberia. He was a major political powerhouse behind the illicit diamond mining, and he sought to gain control of the Sierra Leone mines. He "acted as a mentor, trainer, banker, and weapons supplier" for the R.U.F. So, why are they called Blood Diamonds you ask? Among other things, these diamonds are sold in order to purchase war paraphernalia. This war paraphernalia allows the R.U.F rebels to maintain and enforce control over the illegal mines, by threatening the Sierra Leone government, and by posing power over innocent civilians and miners. It should come as no surprise then, that the "heart of Sierra Leone, Kono, was ranked 173rd out of 173 on the United Nation's Quality of Life Index" (onesky.ca).

"It is reported that over 1,500 children work in these hellish conditions alongside grown men, both making approximately \$0.50 a day" (www.OneSky.ca).

A legitimate question by now would be, where is the United Nations during this ongoing civil war? Well, it took the U.N ten years (until 2002) to implement the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone where 17,000 troops went to

work to disarm and supervise the operations at the diamond mines. Due to the beyond disorganization in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea, it was difficult for the United Nations to come in and impose order. It was hard to pinpoint the people responsible in this situation because the problem runs so deep and it has gone on so long without any intervention. In one-way or another, so many families have been associated with the illicit mining, and in most cases it was not a matter of choice.

"The Anatomy of Resource Wars", a study released earlier this month by the Worldwatch Institute, found that local conflicts over control of diamonds, tropical hardwoods, and other natural resources have killed or uprooted more than 20 million people over the past decade, most of them in Africa" (www.allafrica.com).

What's being done about this mess you ask? Ever since the United Nations began intervening inside the corrupt borders of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea, the media has fostered a lot of awareness regarding the issue since the year 2000. Blood Diamonds are still a very raw issue, not only for the masses, but for government organizations alike. Some of the more notable recent efforts

in regulating diamond distribution (not only in Sierra Leone, but worldwide) include:

The Clean Diamonds Act (House of Representatives) — "...prohibits the import of diamonds into the United States unless the exporting country is implementing a system of controls on the export or import of rough diamonds..." (www.phusa.org).

The Kimberley Process — Implemented in January 2003, it's a "trading system that 49 countries have joined, including all the major diamond producing and consuming countries. Kimberley participants are required to use standardized, tamper-proof packaging and an official Kimberley certificate when transferring rough diamonds. And no participant in the system may import or export diamonds other than those from other participants..." (www.phusa.org). This process however, is easier in theory than in practice, and they are still having management and supervisory difficulties with it.

It's a little comforting to know that there are steps being taken to correct the illicit diamond mining in Sierra Leone, but don't kid yourself. Many businesses find ways around these very new policies, and absolutely do not take for granted that your local jeweler purchases conflict-free diamonds. Make sure that you do your research on where your jeweler purchases their diamonds from, and ask yourself, "Where was this diamond a few months ago? Did somebody's child lose his or her hands over it? Is it really worth it?"

"Illicit diamonds make fabulous profits for terrorists and corporations alike. The trade illustrates that along with the hard clarity of the gem itself, that no matter where human rights violations occur, the world ignores them at its peril" (www.amnestyusa.org).

The most frustrating part of this all is the knowledge that diamonds within themselves have absolutely no value, except for the connotations we have, over time, inflicted upon them (love, wealth, etc...). Just because your favourite pop star flashes their bling-bling around doesn't make it all right. It doesn't make them cool. It doesn't make them smart. Because in the real world, diamonds may be forever, but human lives are not.

**Much of this material has come from other sources. Please contact me if you would like to know more.**



# THE SOCIETY PAGE

## Lady Transfers Affections, OPTAMUS Told

(In a pathetic cry for help, a pregnant twenty-nine year old student, new to St. Mary's, contacted OPTAMUS, the campus society for mature students. As luck would have it, member A.L. Golding happened to be lounging by the phone at the time and was able to bring her special blend of sympathy and understanding to bear on the situation. The following transcript has been edited and the caller's name altered).

'Rhea': I had to transfer from Dalhousie—

A.L.: Tripped up with the old plagiarism, eh? They don't go in for that kind of thing, I gather. Still, so long as you've learned your lesson—

'Rhea': No, it's not that. I'm pregnant with twins—

A.L.: Goodness, my dear, how awful for you! I'm so sorry.

'Rhea': The point I'm trying to make is that I transferred because I was ordered by Student Accounts to cough up additional tuition fees to cover my unborn children!

A.L.: I'm shocked to hear this! You seem to expect that august institution to stand idly by while a pair of prenatal squalors freeload their way through a couple of terms. In my opinion, dear Rhea, you are being very unreasonable.

'Rhea': Whatever, but the Dean informed me by letter that I would be disqualified from sitting for my exams on account of faculty concerns that, in their view, I might be the beneficiary of surreptitious coaching from the womb!

A.L.: Again, dearie, I fail to see anything here to hang the lip at either. Any and all reasonable precautions to deter the compromising of scholarship should, in my estimation, be applauded. Granted, I would be lying if I did not admit that upon first hearing a while back of Dalhousie's Academic Integrity Week, it briefly crossed my mind to wonder what precisely they get up to for the other fifty-one weeks of the year, but I quickly banished the unworthy thought. As a fellow mature student, you too should know better than to indulge in such unproductive speculations.

'Rhea': But—

A.L.: If I might be so bold as to extract a moral, I believe what we can learn from your experience is the importance of setting aside considerations of personal inconvenience and instead keeping our focus on the Greater Good.

'Rhea': I don't know about that — anyways, I've transferred, so it's all water under the bridge—

A.L.: That's the spirit, Rhea!

Just let it float on by and out of sight.

'Rhea': What worries me now, especially since I'm barely keeping up with my class workload as it is, are the rumours I hear that women can get soft in the head after giving birth.

A.L.: Happily, I think I can set your mind at ease here as well. You have it the wrong way around: it's the soft in the head set, my dear, who choose to have children in the first place. If I were you, I'd worry more about what's going on down below. Have you read Lawrence Wright's *Twins and What They Tell Us About Who We Are*?

'Rhea': Would you believe — No?

A.L.: Do so, my dear, the things he documents are real eye-openers. Apparently, through the wonder of ultrasound, they have footage — actual footage! — of twins punching each other, and of triplets in which two are lip-locked while the third is cold-shouldered and looking none too happy about it. Fisticuffs, promiscuities of the most wanton varieties; when you think of the repugnant scenes playing out right under a proud mama-to-be's nose, well, it's enough to make you sick!

'Rhea': I'm sure mine aren't involved in anything like that!

A.L.: My dear, parents are always the last to know.

'Rhea': Well, somebody has to have children!

A.L.: Oh, don't bother to tell me, I've heard it so many times before: 'to heir is human,' blah, blah, blah, but as far as I'm concerned — and obstetrical science backs me up in this — children are confirmed degenerates before they've even popped out. Abominations, the lot. They should be strictly regulated, if not prohibited altogether.

'Rhea': What are you, some kind of freak?

A.L.: Not that I know of, dear, but I think you should be made aware of the fact that OPTAMUS does not discriminate based on degree of freakiness.

'Rhea': Anyone inclined to doubt that need only speak to you for a moment—

A.L.: It's kind of you to say so! As it happens, I'm often complimented for my ability to relieve others of their doubts—

'Rhea': At any rate, as a mature student, I would be interested in joining the OPTAMUS Society. Is there the remotest possibility you might be of assistance in this regard?

A.L.: Certainly, my dear, just let me go find a calendar...

## PAWS

Partnership for  
Animal Welfare Society  
1st General Meeting  
7:00, Wed., February 15  
Loyola 271

This is an open event to the entire SMU community. We welcome anyone who is interested in animal welfare in any way. See you there!!!

## SMUNAVIGATORS

Discussion Series:  
**Being Christian -  
What does it mean?**

Join us as we explore what 'being Christian' means today in relation to a variety of topics. (See below.)

Location: Rm 183 Loyola  
— right near Tim Hortons.  
Time: 2pm

## FIRE

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 14  
Part of our "Being Christian - What does it mean?" series we will watch a moving video on the nature of God and why FIRE seems to be such a central biblical theme when describing him and what he does.

## The Holy Spirit

Date: Wednesday, Mar. 3  
We'll examine what it means to have the Holy Spirit in your life. How does he get in, how do you know he's there and what difference does he make?

Now, when are you due?

'Rhea': What in hell has that got to do with anything?

A.L.: Well, you can't be bringing them things in here — OPTAMUS has a strictly enforced age minimum, so unless you can find some way of parking the little suckers out in the hallway, I'm afraid you'll have to wait until after your delivery.

'Rhea': I can't believe what I'm hearing — you're as bad as Dalhousie!

A.L.: Why, thank you dear... Hello?...Have we been disconnected?

(Does your complexion have the appearance of being heavily wrinkled when, in actuality, it's just your skin crawling from the thought of toddlers underfoot? Indifferent to the wee ones? How about Dalhousie's academic integrity initiative then? Would you like to see St. Mary's adopt similar campaigns? Or, do you consider Dal's public branding of its ten thousand plus consumers as congenital cheats one of the worst marketing strategies in recent corporate history? Either way, if you are twenty-four or older, you should join OPTAMUS and tell them what you think! The membership fee will be the best use you ever made of five bucks!)

## The Vagina Monologues

BY JEN CRAWFORD

The Saint Mary's University Women's Centre presented their production of *The Vagina Monologues* this weekend. It was a huge success, performing to a sold-out crowd on Saturday night. In total, the 2-night event raised over \$2000 for Halifax's Bryony House.

Much thanks is due to many individuals who made this a success. First and foremost, the numerous Women's Centre volunteers who so graciously volunteered their weekend to help with our event — Lisa, Julie, Osas, Bianca, Shawna, Johni, Kathleen, Tori, Alanna, Candace — the event wouldn't have happened without your help. Thank you for your help and enthusiasm.

Thank you to *The Journal*, for the lovely front cover last week, and for printing our essay contest winner's submission, as well as our article regarding the Monologues.

I'd like to extend much thanks to the voice of our campus, Paul Fitzgerald, who posted information regarding our event to the Saint Mary's University website. One of the most affirming and positive men

on campus, Mr. Fitzgerald always offers his help with enthusiasm. Thanks so much, it is always a pleasure working with you.


To Syl Pike and Christina Martin — thank you for offering your awesome musical stylings to our event. You set the mood, entertained, and made the Auditorium a beautiful place to be. It was so nice to have you; much thanks for volunteering your time and talent.

For Lenny, Georgia and Cory — without sound and lights, it would have been a pretty boring show! Thanks so much for making us both look good and sound good. Thank you for volunteering your time.

James Keller — thank you for taking the wonderful headshots of our cast.

The Dal Women's Centre — thank you for coming to sell your chocolate vaginas!

Finally, to our director Paula MacDonald, and the entire cast of *The Vagina Monologues* — we did it! Congratulations on the wonderful performances, the sold-out Saturday crowd, and for your efforts to stop violence against women in our Halifax community. You are wonderful, inspiring women.

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## Changing the guard in Ottawa and Nova Scotia

BY JAY SHAW

In a week of changes, the province of Nova Scotia has seen changing of the guard in both the provincial and federal levels.

Last Monday, Stephen Harper was sworn in as Canada's 22nd Prime Minister along with his 27 member cabinet at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Among those 27 members, Central Nova M.P. Peter MacKay, once touted as a potential leadership candidate for the leader of the provincial Progressive Conservative party was sworn in as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. If that was enough responsibility for Minister MacKay, Prime Minister Harper has also made him Minister responsible for Nova Scotia, and Minister responsible for Prince Edward Island, where the Conservatives currently do not hold a seat.

This past weekend Progressive Conservatives in the province of Nova Scotia also went to the polls to elect a new leader and subsequently Premier of the Province of Nova Scotia.

Premier John Hamm, an icon in the province of Nova Scotia announced this past fall that he would be leaving public office after over 10 years as leader of Nova Scotia's Progressive Conservative party and 6 years as Premier of the province.

Three candidates appeared to be ready to take on the leadership of the governing party. Former Finance Minister Neil LeBlanc, a political veteran in province house, Bill Black, former CEO of Maritime Life and a political neophyte, and current Tourism Minister Rodney McDonald all squared off against each other. One thing

ACE Campus Spotlight on:

## Matthew of Wiltshire

BY LAURA MACINTOSH

This weeks spotlight highlights one of Ace's own, Matt Bellefontaine, a 3rd year psychology student here at SMU. Matt is involved with the Society for Creative Anachronism, and his love for this can be seen in his work. Matt has a knack for the unusual, dealing in blacksmithing and weaponry among other talents.

**LM:** Tell us about your business, Matthew of Wiltshire; what do you do, when did you start, and why did you decide to get into this art?

**MB:** My business is the production and selling of Jewelry, Woodcrafts, Armor, Weapons, Chainmail Armor among other things.

I basically started two years ago making chainmail armor and jewelry, I then progressed to woodcraft and basic blacksmithing.

**LM:** How do you fund your business?

ness?

**MB:** I funded my business myself in the beginning and now I fund it off of the profits I make from selling my wares.

**LM:** Who is your target demographic?

**MB:** Anyone who likes jewelry, armor, or anything made of wood and metal. I mainly work within the Society for Creative Anachronism, which is a worldwide medieval recreation society.

**LM:** How do you find balancing school with running a business?

**MB:** It's pretty low maintenance. My work isn't very stressful and I enjoy doing it, so I balance it pretty well with school.

Want to know more about Matthew of Wiltshire? Just ask ACE, and we'll get you in contact with him. Email [laura.macintosh@gmail.com](mailto:laura.macintosh@gmail.com) for info.

Look out for info on ACE's newest project; our mentorship project, bringing current and future entrepreneurs together for the betterment of our community.

that all three candidates seemed to agree on was the legacy that Premier Hamm would leave behind and the shoes that they would have to fill as leader.

When all the dust had settled, it was the dark horse in the race, Rodney McDonald who was elected leader of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative party and Hamm's successor as Premier. The 34 year old now becomes the youngest Premier in Canada.

What will this mean for Nova Scotians, and more importantly, what will this mean for students in the province of Nova Scotia?

Currently Nova Scotians pay the highest tuition in Canada. Premier-Designate McDonald has pledged for closer ties with Ottawa and the new federal Conservative government. Yet, it remains to be seen how the events in the coming months will unfold. Certainly time will tell.

### Thread of the Week

Why Peter March is a Tool ('Anything, Everything' section)

SMUSA encourages you to check out the fiery debate that has been taking place under this controversial thread.

These lions never sleep.

[www.smusa.ca/forum](http://www.smusa.ca/forum)

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290

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2. Great Prizes! - One student will win a 30GB Ipod, others will win Bookstore or Aramark gift cards



More Questions? e-mail [libqual@smu.ca](mailto:libqual@smu.ca), phone 420-5198 or visit [www.libqual.com](http://www.libqual.com)

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Wednesday  
February 15<sup>th</sup> 2006

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# SPORTS

## Valuable vs. Outstanding AND THE DARK HORSE

BY CHRIS CLEMENTS

Watching NBA basketball is my job, and I have done a lot of it this season. It's a great job, but I've learned a few things about the NBA, not the least of which is that the majority of the teams are not very good and the majority of the games are not very entertaining.

Sure there are exceptions. Detroit is supremely talented and takes team play to a whole new level. Any game Phoenix takes part in, no matter who the competition is, is sure to be exciting. Even the Toronto Raptors, with their horrible record, can put on a decent show sometimes.

One of the big arguments surrounding the league so far this year has to do with who will win this year's Most Valuable Player award. Most commentators seem to agree that it will come down to the Lakers' Kobe Bryant, the Pistons' Chauncey Billups, or the reigning MVP, Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns.

Without Steve Nash, the Suns would very likely be struggling through this season. When he won the award last year, a lot of people doubted his worthiness saying things like "how can Nash win the league MVP when he isn't even the MVP of his own team?" These people would point to Amare Stoudemire as the true MVP of the Suns. This year though, Amare has been injured and hasn't yet played but despite this, Nash is leading the Suns like a true MVP should and has them in first place in the Pacific Division.

The argument for Bryant to win this year's MVP award basically goes like this: "Bryant is by far the best player in the league, and he should therefore win the MVP award." The problem with this argument is that being the best player doesn't necessarily mean you're the most valuable player. Bryant is a perfect example of the NBA (and all professional leagues really) should institute a Most Outstanding Player award.

Billups is a great player, there's no question about that. He won't win the award though. His numbers aren't impressive like those of Bryant and unlike Nash's value to the Suns; the Pistons would still be a great team without Billups.

So who should win this year's MVP award? Of the above choices, it's obviously Nash who should be the front-runner. There is another player though who should get some consideration.

If the Cavaliers can play good ball down the stretch, then LeBron James may emerge as the MVP this year. The Cavaliers third year forward is having an amazing season. His numbers are close to those of Bryant, and in some categories are even better. He's showing a great deal of leadership and currently has Cleveland in fourth place in the Eastern Conference.

The remainder of the season should be interesting.



## SMU GOALIE WINS PRESTIGIOUS AUS AWARD

At an awards presentation ceremony in Halifax at the Westin Nova Scotian last week, Atlantic University Sport announced that Saint Mary's Goalie David Chant is the 2006 recipient of the 20th Annual James Bayer Memorial Scholarship Award. Phil Currie, Executive Director of Atlantic University Sport and a member of the three-person selection committee commented that, "David exemplifies all the outstanding qualities that James Bayer lived his life by. This award embodies those principles and values. David's achievements and passion for excellence in the classroom and on the ice make him the ideal recipient of Atlantic University Sport's most prestigious award. On behalf of Atlantic University Sport, I wish David every success in all his future endeavours."

Academically, David is a Dean's List student and an academic all-Canadian who was also selected to represent Saint Mary's University in the 2005 Rhodes Scholarship competition. A native of Toronto, David also finds time in a very busy schedule for volunteer work. He was actively involved in the fundraising efforts of the Saint Mary's Athletic Council who raised over \$20,000 for Sebastien Savage and is currently a member of the "65 Roses" organizing committee that will raise money for Cystic Fibrosis at an event in April. He has also been instrumental in reviving a defunct English Students' Society, which now has an active membership of 70 students. David has appeared in 18 games this season for the Huskies, sharing goaltending duties with fellow veteran Cory Robert. He has posted an 8-7-1 record this season and holds a 2.65 goals against average along with a save percentage of .916.

The James Bayer Memorial Scholarship Award was established in 1985 and is awarded annually to an outstanding

student athlete in Atlantic University Sport for excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, sportsmanship and citizenship. James Bayer taught education and physical education at both high school and university levels. He served as Supervisor and Consultant for the NS Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness. At Acadia University, he served as Dean of Recreation and Physical Education and as Director of Athletics from 1978-1985. As an administrator in the AUSA and the CIAU, he was a key player in the establishment of intercollegiate athletic policy. This memorial scholarship is the most prestigious award offered annually by Atlantic University Sport.

## Track & Field Huskies

CAME OUT STRONG AGAIN AT GAGETOWN

BY DEBORAH BROWN

This was another great weekend for the Huskies at the final Gagetown meet before AUS. In the men's division, Ben McAllister was the star of the day - two-time winner with a CIS qualifying jump in the long jump of 6.42m and winner of the high jump with 1.80m. Tim Spidel won the 60 meter with a phenomenal time of 7.08s, while Brad Robinson placed second with a time of 7.17s. First place in the 300m was Calum MacQuarrie with a time of 37.23s. Second place went to Ben Clare with 37.25s, Brad Robinson placed 3rd with a time of 37.49s. Steve McGrath and Olivier Jarda placed 4th and 5th with times of 38.95s and 39.34s respectively. In the 60m hurdles, Yancey Zhang placed 2nd with a time of 9.94s. The triple jump event saw Desmoine Cooksey place 4th with 11.48m and Steve McGrath place 5th with a jump of 11.38m. Out in the field, Sean Yeulet placed 3rd in Shot Put with a distance of 12.58m and 3rd in weight throw with 11.44m.

Over to the Ladies - Jasmine Riviere ran a Personal Best of 8.35s in the 60m dash, and she won the 300m with a time of 46.35s. Christina Etter placed 4th in the 800m with a time of 2:40.69, and Kristen Gouchie placed 2nd in the 60m hurdles with a time of 10.89s. Heading the women's field events was Catherine Cone, placing 3rd in the long jump with 3.75m and 3rd in the triple jump with 7.88m. In the Women's Shot Put, Selina Dunbar placed 4th with a throw of 8.96m while Jackyln Brown placed 6th with a throw of 6.92m. In the Weight Throw, Jackyln Brown was 4th with a throw of 7.23m and Selina Dunbar was 5th with a throw of 6.21m. The team's next big meet is the Atlantic University Sport Championships (AUS), which will be held in Moncton on February 25th and 26th. Be sure to keep the team in your thoughts as they attempt to bring the AUS banner home to Saint Mary's.

## THE BASKETBALL DIARIES

BY: MATHEW BIRD

In AUS basketball action this past week, the St. Mary's Huskies never trailed while leading by as many as 16 with just 10 minutes to play. The Huskies suffered a breakdown thereafter however, allowing Memorial to rally and have a chance to win the game with their final possession. The Sea-Hawks inbounded to Robbie Hickey in the post with four seconds left, but his desperate fade way shot came up just short, giving the Huskies a 70-69 victory.

SMU's shooting was effective early on with Jerome Goodman and Ikeobi Uchegbu combining for 26 of the Huskies' 38 first-half points, shooting 13-for-16. Goodman managed to put up a perfect offensive game, going 12-12 from the floor while sinking his only free throw. He finished with 25 points and 10 rebounds, while Uchegbu contributed 14 points and eight rebounds coming from the bench. Saint Mary's only threw up a dismal 3 three point markers on 23 attempts on the game.

Andre Grant had 21 points for Memorial, including a three-point play with 46 seconds remaining to bring the Sea-Hawks, who trailed 57-41 with 10 minutes to go, to within only one point of drawing even. St. Mary's have now clinched a playoff berth after winning six of their last seven contests and currently hold a 10-6 record.

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# The Journal's Top Ten Sports Scandles

BY ADAM COSTELLO

Scandal in sports has been all too common a happening throughout the course of the last century, the most recent example coming in the form the illegal gambling network just recently discovered working out of New Jersey, a network that was financed by former NHL star Rick Tocchet, who is the assistant coach of Wayne Gretzky. Even Wayne's wife herself as been said to be involved in the scandal, along with up to 100 unnamed NHL players. Although they haven't been implicated in betting on hockey itself (betting on the sport they actually play would be far more damaging and illegal than betting on other professional sports) it is still an issue that has created a media frenzy, just as so many other issues such as this, have done so in the past. Whatever the sport may be, scandals in all forms of the word, have in the past reared their ugly head, usually damaging the name of the sport and the players involved. Instances involving gambling, sexual escapade, illegal drug use and the ever so popular fixated outcome, have all been strewn throughout the media at one time or another, but which of these almost countless instances will go down as the most memorable and controversial of all time? That question brings us to this weeks instalment of, The Journal's Top 10.

## 10. NFL Betting Busts

Paul Hornung, the Green Bay Packers' star running back and 1961 MVP, and Alex Karras, an All-Pro defensive tackle for the Lions, were both suspended for the 1963 season after betting on NFL games and associating with gamblers. Upon returning to action in 1964, Karras refused when an official asked him to call the pregame coin toss, saying: "I'm sorry, sir, I'm not permitted to gamble."

## 9. Gold Club trial

During the 2001 racketeering trial of Gold Club owner Steve Kaplan in Atlanta, a slew of pro athletes were made to publicly take the stand and discuss what illegal activity went on at Kaplains club. Among the testifiers were NBA star Patrick Ewing (who testified that he had been "comped" sexual favors at the club) and Braves center fielder Chipper Jones (who testified he was treated to a threesome at age 19). When one former stripper was asked under oath, who was present during one of Ewing's romps, she answered, "The whole fucking NBA."

## 8. Bribe Offered, Careers Over

Before the New York Giants 1946 NFL championship game against the Bears, Giants fullback Merle Hapes and quarterback Frank Filchock were both offered \$2,500 bribes to lose by more than the 10-point spread. While Hapes admitted to being offered the cash before the game, getting him banned from the game itself, Filchock didn't come clean until after the game. He must have wished he had come clean before hand however, for he threw six interceptions in the Giants loss. Neither was actually accused of accepting the bribe and neither was officially banned but between the two of them, only one more game in the NFL was ever played.

## 7. Kobe's Case

Although Bryant's accuser knows for sure what happened on the night of July 1, 2003, it seems we never will. Regardless of whether or not it actually happened, Bryant's squeaky-clean image is forever tarnished as he transformed overnight from the Next Jordan to a punch line for late-night comics. The woman said Bryant had raped her while Bryant maintained the sex was consensual. Before what would have been a media showcased trial, criminal charges were ultimately dropped. The two parties did reach a sealed settlement (which more than likely was the goal of the victim from day one) and while the cost to Bryant's reputation was incalculable, the cost to his pocketbook, along with whatever settlement he reached with the girl, included a 4 million dollar eight-carat diamond ring for wife Vanessa.

## 6. Blatant Boxing Botches

Everyone knows wrestling is fake, but is boxing really so different? Throughout the history of the sport scandal has reared it's ugly head often more times that not and there's no telling how deep this controversy actually goes. Most recent example's include Heavyweight bouts in which Evander Holyfield and Vitali Klitchko had fights with Lennox Lewis, all of which were surrounded by blatant judging errors. And who could forget the legendary "phantom punch" with which Ali knocked out Liston in the first round, barely visible even when it was shown in slow motion. It wouldn't have been sound to use just one incident for this entry, so to take into consideration how corrupt boxing is in it's entirety, boxing as a whole, comes in at number 6.

## 5. Harding's Hatfulness

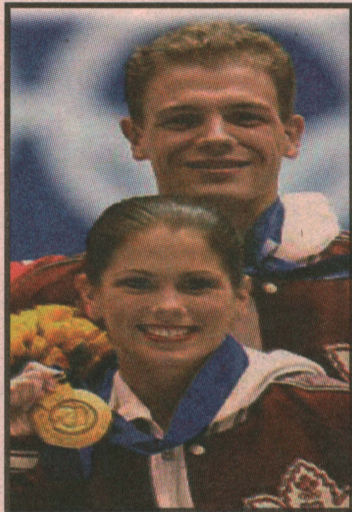
During practices for the 1994 US Championships, Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed in the leg and injured by a mysterious assailant. Tonya Harding went on to win the championship that year, more than probably because Kerrigan was injured. Harding soon after found herself in the middle of a criminal investigation but was still allowed to compete in the 1994 Olympics, finishing eighth behind Kerrigan who finished second. Harding later admitted that she had been involved after her ex-husband Jeff Gillooly, was identified as Kerrigans attacker. Harding was stripped of her national championship and banned from amateur skating while her ex husband served two years in prison.

## 4. Baseball Beefcakes

Let's face it, for ages we've all known these guys were hopped up on something, but just recently we've actually become aware of who and how many. In Jose Canseco's recent book, he explains that he and other players used to should steroids in the bathroom! Among those who are now tied into the steroid scandal are stars Jason Giambi, Sammy Sosa and the current face of MLB, homerun record holder Barry Bonds. Is anything in baseball justful these days? Steroid scandals aren't stationary to Baseball however, I mean who could forget Ben Johnson? I mean geez, Even American poster boy Lance Armstrong is now being accused of steroid use these days.

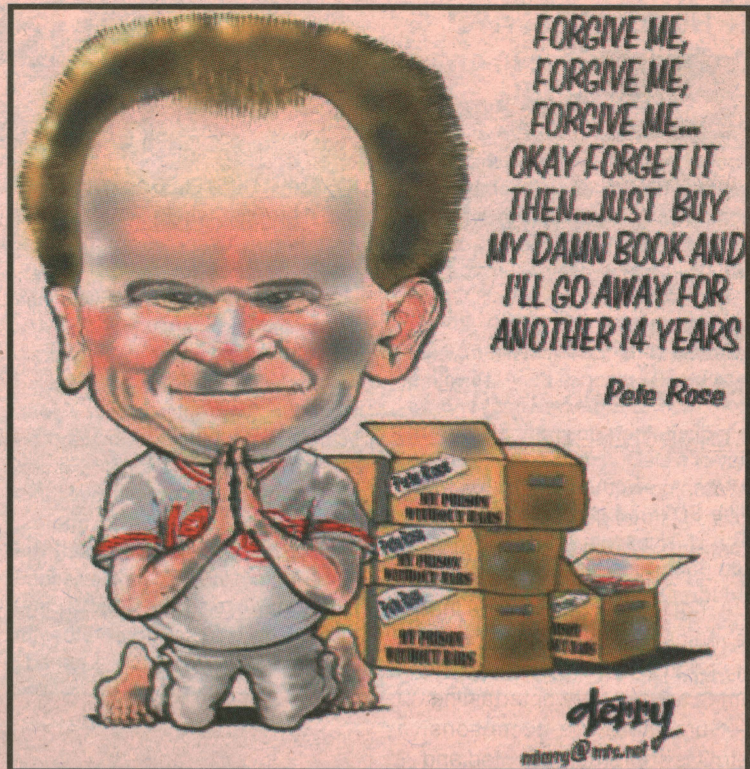
## 3. 2002 Figure Skating Fiasco

Of course sports in which a winner is decided by judges will sometimes be hard to distinguish a clear victor, but after a flawless performance at the 2002 winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Canadian figure skating pair Jamie Sale and David Pelletier were somehow awarded with just a silver medal. The gold medalists? A Russian pair that fell twice and clearly committed far more mistakes than Jamie and David, who literally committed none. With the media in frenzy, even the Russians admitted they did not in fact deserve the medal they had been awarded. Before the games even ended however, with it being obvious the judges had been coerced into their ridiculous decision, Canada and Russia were allotted a joined gold medal victory.



## 2. Pete Rose and his Unfortunate Addiction


Pete Rose not only bet on his own sport, which is a serious no no in the sports world, but he bet on his own team. As a result, he put his autograph on a document that declared him permanently ineligible for baseball and has since had his eligibility for the Baseball hall of fame rescinded. Rose had been the Reds' skipper from 1984 until he was banned, and also forfeited what likely would have been a long managing career. Although Rose had never previously formally and publicly confessed to betting on Baseball, in 2004, he made a desperate attempt at getting into the Hall of Fame by finally confessing that he had indeed, bet on baseball.



## 1. The Baseball Black Sox

Prior to the 1919 world series, 8 Chicago White Sox players found themselves fed up with how vastly underpaid they were, especially considering they were the best team in baseball that year. Receiving salaries amounting to half of that which other star players received playing on other teams, the select few players agreed to throw the world series. Why you ask? Well it goes far deeper than a simple sentence could describe, but they weren't getting paid, and someone

offered to pay them. A gambling ring offered them over 15 times the amount of money they were currently receiving to try and win the world series, so instead, they took the money and intentionally lost it to the Cincinnati Reds. Just two years later, all 8 were banned for life from baseball by then commissioner Kenesaw Landis. The now legendary "Black Sox" incident will forever go down in history as the biggest professional sports scandal to date, for nothing else like it in major sports has ever happened since.



# HUSKIES AT HOME

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### Huskies beat rival Tigers, close in on season title

The Saint Mary's Husky Volleyball squad refused to quit on their way to attaining a sweep of their biggest competitor and cross town rival Dalhousie Tigers in Atlantic University Sport women's volleyball action last Wednesday at The Tower. Game scores were 25-22, 25-20, 25-22. With the victory, the Huskies all but lock up first place in the AUS with a 14-6 record. Either a win over 6-13 Acadia in the season finale on Friday or a Dalhousie loss on Saturday to the Axewomen will be enough give SMU the regular season title. The Huskies were led by Danielle Shortall's nine kills, while Janesse Boudreau added six kills and 12 digs. The Tigers drop to 13-7 with the loss, splitting the season series with the Huskies 1-1.

## Huskies face STU in Round One of Playoffs

BY: ADAM COSTELLO

The final weekend of regular season play wrapped up in Halifax this past week for the St. Mary's Huskies. If they managed two wins in their final two games, the Huskies had a shot at second place overall, a shot that immediately got derailed when the St. Francis Xavier X-Men scored a 3-1 victory over them on Friday night at the Halifax Forum. SMU's loss combined with the Moncton Eagles Blues 7-4 win against the UPEI Panthers eliminated the Huskies from the race for the second first-round bye in the AUHC playoffs, which start on Feb. 15th with the Acadia Axemen having already

clinched first place the week before last weekend's games. St. F.X. had a couple of key penalty kills, surviving a 5-on-3 Husky power play midway through the second period and a couple of third period minors during a game in which the Huskies came out flat on all opportunities. Brad Self scored the only marker for the Huskies while they could only manage the one goal on a total of 36 shots. St. FX had only 20 shots for the game while their goalie, Ryan Aschaber stood tall in gaining victory for St. FX.

The following night, on the last day of regular season play, the Huskies took on the Dalhousie Tigers with

nothing left to play for but confidence going into the playoffs. Although the Huskies managed a 4-1 victory over the Tigers, one must question how much confidence the win will actually provide, considering this Dalhousie Tiger team has put up the league's lowest point total in just about a decade. The Huskies' Mark Szott capped off a breakout season with two goals and finishes with 11 goals and 5 assists in 28 regular season games. Brad Self and Brandon McBride had the other Saint Mary's goals, while goalie David Chant, recently the 2006 recipient of the 20th annual James Bayer Memorial Scholarship Award, stopped 24

shots for the win. The Tigers finish the season with a 3-25 record for just six points, the lowest point total since the now folded Cape Breton Capers went 2-23-1 for five points in 1995-96.

The victory for the Huskies means they finish with a 16-9-3-0 record for 36 points and fourth place overall. They'll meet the St. Thomas Tommies in the quarterfinals for a best of 3 series that starts on the 15th at the Forum, 7pm. The next game in the series goes Friday at STU, while if needed, the series finale will go Sunday back at the Forum.

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