

THE JOURNAL

The Student Newspaper of Saint Mary's University · Halifax · NS



Studying for Exams in the Patrick Power Library

Photo by Andrew J. LeVine

LIBRARY POLITICS:

why you can't study late when it really counts

(P.3)

Find out why "The Superfantastics" are well... superfantastic' (P.11)

SMU students travel to Northern Ireland to teach conflict resolution (P.15)

“I had the worst study habits in the history of college, until I found out what I was doing wrong . . . highlighting with a black magic marker.”
-Jeff Altman

Good Luck on Exams

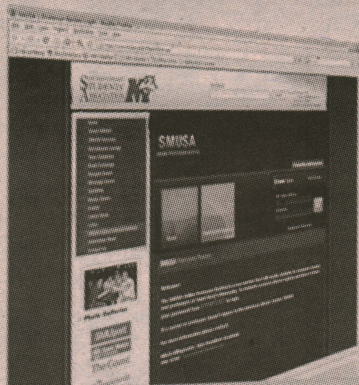
SMUSA

Online Professor Review

where students give the grade

where students give the grade

www.smusa.ca/professorhome.asp



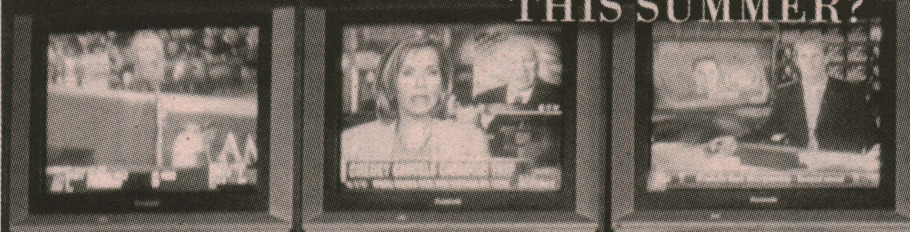
EVALUATE
 Your Courses and Professors
 Let Your Opinion
BE HEARD!

Winter Semester Evaluations are up!



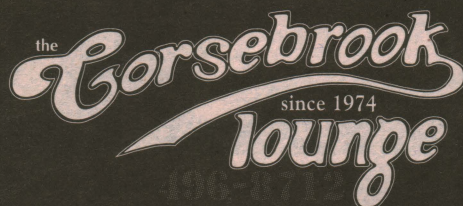
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NOT GOING ANYWHERE
 THIS SUMMER?

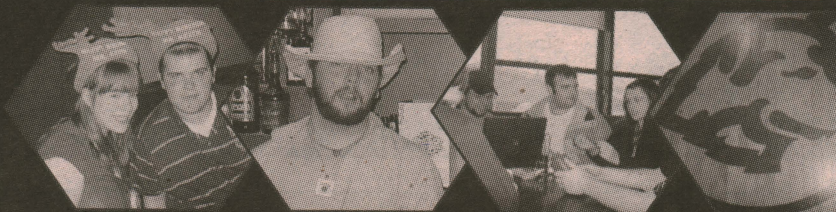


Neither are we...

**GORSEBROOK LOUNGE
 OPEN ALL SUMMER LONG**



EVENT LISTING



WEDNESDAY
 APRIL 4TH

**BEST OF
 OPEN MIC
 NIGHT**

THURSDAY
 APRIL 5TH

**GRAD CLASS
 FAREWELL
 TO THE
 GORSEBROOK
 PART I**

FRIDAY
 APRIL 6TH

**GOOD
 FRIDAY
 CLOSED**

SATURDAY
 APRIL 7TH

**UFC
 DOORS
 OPEN AT 7**

SUNDAY
 APRIL 8ST
 CLOSED

MONDAY
 APRIL 9TH

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 12PM - 10PM
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TUESDAY
 APRIL 10TH

**EXAM
 HOURS
 12PM - 10PM
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS TO THE JOURNAL

To the editor, staff and all contributors:

Before you quit publishing for the year and all scatter off to careers or summer jobs, I would like to recognize a much-improved newspaper this past 2006-2007 year. Generally in years past, I did not actively look for the weekly student newspaper of Saint Mary's (or of Dalhousie for that matter).

This year has been an exception at SMU, and I am pleased to note that The Journal and specifically its content have regularly caught my interest. I would like to thank each of you, and trust that you continue writing and insisting on better newspapers wherever you find yourself living. I trust that next year's Journal staff will thumb the pages of the 2006-2007 issues and resolved to at least equal efforts.

Regards,
Alan Ruffman, P.Geo.
President
Geomarine Associates Ltd.

Honourary Research Associate
Department of Earth Sciences
Dalhousie University

BOOK REVIEW: THE BIBLE LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED?

I do enjoy reading your paper, including its book reviews. However, last week's author of the article "The Bible Leaves Much To Be Desired" should have chosen a book to review he read and/or studied before. I would not want to go to a doctor who never heard of my illness before because she or he did not read that particular book. I would like to correct some of the misconception the article contained.

The Bible is a perfect book for mankind. It was penned by 40 different men during over 4,000 years but its theme is perfectly harmonious. If a reader thinks it is contradictory, it is because she or he does not have the whole picture i.e. did not read and study the complete book. Most of the prophecies in the Bible already had been fulfilled which shows of its divine origin (2Timothy chapter 3, verse 16).

So what is the theme of the Bible? It shows how humankind's perfect beginning turned sour and how the problems (or the consequences of the infamous eating of the forbidden fruit) will be solved.

After the story of creation, the first part mostly deals with the nation of Israel, how they became God's chosen nation and the rules and regulation they had to live by. It also describes Israel's wars with the surrounding nations and the consequences of Israel mistakes when they did not obey rules given by God. All throughout the first part there are several (over 70) references to a Messiah promised by God who will bring salvation to humankind (redemption from sin and imperfection).

The second part mostly deals with the birth of Christianity, the gospels showing the proof of Jesus' messiah-ship.

Following the gospels several books describes of the activities of the apostles (Jesus closest disciples while on earth) and several of the encouraging letters to newly formed Christian congregations to stay in the faith.

The last book of the Bible is one of the most exciting: it shows how the Messiah with God's help will solve the problem that plagues humankind for thousands of years, like wars, sickness and death.

I repeat for emphasis: the Bible is a perfect book for people. It is God's instruction of how to live our lives, deal with problems, including health issues, relationship with others, and most importantly how to develop a relationship with God himself.

The Bible is not a novel; therefore it is not an easy reading. But for the seriously interested ones, it is very rewarding. Obviously, the author of the Book review was not sincerely interested reading the Bible and definitely did not take it seriously. The task to review the Bible is a very complex one and it would require many years of study.

Julia Markus

Editor's Note: The author of the last week's spoof Bible review is a student of religious studies at Saint Mary's.

KUDOS TO SMU DRAMA SOCIETY

Kudos must be given to the SMU Drama Society for their recent rendition of Twelfth Night. It was clear from the beginning that the cast and crew put a lot of work into putting on this little show of merriment for the rest of us.

Our hats must go off, though, to the excellent performances by Julie Thomson and Kurt Burke for keeping the entire performance together by simultaneously playing Festé, the Fool. Thomson and Burke ensured that The Fool didn't suffer from a split personality disorder, but rather used their own individual talents (i.e. Burke's skipping, Thomson's swagger and singing) to craft one memorable character from two actors. Their performance kept both the audience, and cast, entertained through the entire show.

I'm going to end by giving an addendum to The Journal's own review of the performance in last week's issue. If the brunt of your experience with Shakespearean drama deals with Julia Stiles, Claire Danes, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Ethan Hawke in Hollywood adaptations (and there's absolutely nothing wrong with that, I promise), then you may want to check out the 2006 film, She's The Man. She's The Man is not as notorious as Tim Blake Nelson's O or Baz Luhrmann's Romeo + Juliet, perhaps because it stars Amanda Bynes in a movie clearly shot for the tween/early-teen market, but it remains a rather fun adaptation of Twelfth Night, nonetheless. And the gender-bending, cross-dressing subtext remains, too - chalk one up to America™ after all.

Michael Steeleworthy

EDITORIAL

The Library Should Stay Up Late

BY OLIVIER JARDA

There is a lack of study space and time on campus. This is especially evident during the exam period, when finding a seat at the Patrick Power Library becomes a challenge and every minute counts.

Although the library is busy at peak hours, the volume of students falls quickly, and by the time the lights flicker at 10:50PM the building is quite quiet. Students lobbying the university for later library hours have been told not enough students use the extra time for later closure to be implemented. The library has tried staying late for exam periods in the past. While some students enjoyed this luxury, the group was small, and the extra costs must have been seen to outweigh the benefits.

Students have also been told that if the library remains open until midnight, Husky Patrol can't drive the staff home.

It's important to note that the library may not be in a situation to increase spending in order to staff the building. Earlier this month, the Board of Governors passed a budget that saw many cuts, the result of a 6 percent drop in enrollment this year. The budget line for library acquisitions was among the reduced budget lines.

Although cuts have been made to the library budget, the argument for later regular hours should still be made. The library closes at a time that interrupts the regular study habits of many students, making it unaccommodating to some and unattractive to others. A study in the Princeton Review found that 37 percent of North American students surveyed reported they did most of their studying between 9PM and midnight.

There is one current alternative for students on campus who wish to maximize their late night study time. Although it's no library and lacks many of the Patrick Power's resources, the Student Centre is open until midnight every day except for Saturdays. It's equipped with a reliable wireless connection and it's usually pretty quiet. It also closes just in time for the last Husky Patrol ride home.

Although the Student Centre is a viable alternative, libraries have more fun. I wish I could enjoy more late-night madness in university libraries without having to frequent Dalhousie's Killam library.

Although there are some good reasons for the library to close when it does, a midnight closure (at least during exams) seems like a sensible request. Take SMU-SA's Husky Patrol, for example.

Although there are times when business is very slow, they remain open all night as a valuable service to students.

Although the Patrick Power Library may not be inundated with students if they were to remain open past 11PM, it would improve our campus and the student experience. Furthermore, the alumni who remember all those late nights studying at the Patrick Power Library may 1) be more successful than the ones that don't have such memories, and 2) be more likely to donate to SMU when the Alumni office comes knocking.

According to the university's campus master plan, a new common-area atrium will be built, connected to the Patrick Power Library. The university will need alumni support for the project. Invest in future alumni now and we won't forget. Give us 'til midnight.

Patrick Power Library exam hours:

Friday, April 6, 9-11PM
Saturday, April 7, 8-11PM
Sunday, April 8, 10-11PM
April 9 - 14, 8-11PM
Sunday, April 15, 10-11PM
April 16-19, 8-11PM
Friday, April 20, 8-7PM

THE JOURNAL

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A Message from the International Student Representative

BY MAUREEN KIMANI

Dear International students,

I have been honored to be your representative in the SRC for the past year. As I come to the end of my term, I feel I am duty-bound to let you know of what I have been involved in.

COST OF BOOKS

I took up the issue on the high cost of books. I held talks with the SMUSA VP Academic and the manager of the bookstore. I have always found it important for students to be informed. Below are some of my findings on the issue of high cost of books just to give International students an understanding of book prices.

- Generally, book prices are determined by publishers and so the book store gets to sell the books at the given price.
- Students should also be aware that most of the books that we use in the classrooms come from the United States, where the prices are set in US dollars then converted to Canadian dollars which given the exchange rate



International Rep Maureen Kimani (second from left) with members of the Student Representative Council.

somewhat raises the cost of the books.

- When revised editions are released by publishers, older editions are no longer in circulation thus the book store ends up stocking on the new released books which in turn becomes costly to students.

- I have received complaints from students about some of their books not being bought back (by the bookstore) during the Buy Back. When the book store buys back used books they do so in the hope that they will re-sell them all. Should the book store buy back books which end up

changing (publishers release new edition or professors change the book), the book store incurs losses and other costs like storage space. Generally, the book store buys back as many books as they can as long as they know professors are still using the title and the book is good for another semester.

CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAM

I am honoured to let International students know that as your International student representative, I am glad to have been able to facilitate in International students getting the co-op differential fee waived. I am pleased to have had the support of the SRC and Dr. Terry Murphy. This will give us, International students, the opportunity to pay the same fee as the local students and so I hope with this waiver finances will not be an issue and more International students can enroll in co-op and take advantage of the program.

I thank all International students for their support and having entrusted me with this position. For any questions, clarifications or further discussion, my email address is Maureen.Kimani@smu.ca



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APPLICATION
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SMUSA Close to \$300,000 Target For Opportunity Bursary Fund

JOURNAL STAFF

Last year SMUSA began a major fundraising campaign to create a bursary fund for students in financial need. This was the association's response to tuition increases and the financial obstacles students continue to face when pursuing

post-secondary education.

Last year, Saint Mary's students voted in favour of a one-time \$5 fee last year toward the fund, contributing over \$40,000.

SMUSA since then, SMUSA raised another \$210,000, making them \$50,000 shy of President Zach

Churchill's \$300,000 goal.

Zach Churchill, President of the Saint Mary's University Association said, "We enlisted the support of our alumni base and the business community. We had many people that supported our cause and believed in the importance of providing more students

and families with the opportunity to pursue higher education.

The bursary's biggest donor is Saint Mary's alum Kevin Reinhart, who is Senior VP of Nexen, located in Calgary. Reinhart donated 1000 shares in Nexen to the fund, which are currently worth \$66,000.

Aramark was another major

contributor. The company has donated \$30,000 to the fund over five years.

Churchill isn't done. Although his term as SMUSA President ends at the end of the month, he's flying to New York before it does to meet with another potential donor this month.

OPINION

DFO Loyal To Scapegoats

BY BRITTANY HILTON

As climate change is thinning ice, making conditions almost impossible, seal herds are struggling to survive in Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence. The need for sound conservation action to keep the seal population alive has never been as clearly necessary as it is now during such a vulnerable time for them. Unfortunately, Canada's DFO is legally in charge of ensuring the sustainability and conservation of the seal population, which doesn't leave one much confidence considering their notorious reputation marked in history.

DFO mismanaged cod stocks by allowing over-fishing, causing their decimation in 1992 and then had the audacity to blame the seal diet (which in fact also consists of eating the predators of cod) as a scapegoat in an attempt to conceal their irresponsible behavior and guilt for this decimation, on top of ignoring warnings from their own scientists, and now to add to DFO's scapegoat spree: authorizing the slaughter of 270,000 seals in a location where seals are endangered

by global warming. Over the coming weeks the 270,000 infant seals will endure a vicious death by government allowed hakapiks, sharp hooks, blunt clubs and the most deceptive instrument, the shotgun. Which in this years case, will be used for the majority of hunt due to poor ice conditions, hunters will have no choice then to shoot at a distance by boat, leaving the pups in agony for sometimes hours, awaiting their return to be hooked and dragged back to be skinned. Some would almost wish, the young pups be born without the misfortune of having thick silky pelts, so their lives could be spared

Is DFO going to blame Mother Nature for the fore coming decimation of these poor creatures when they are actively killing them and doing the opposite of what any true conservationist would do under these circumstances? Also, how can they promote such a slaughter while admitting inconsistencies to this process: that the seal hunt is not well-monitored, regulated, or humane?

DFO is running the fisheries



A seal drowning.

like a get-rich-quick business. They ignore the negative effect this has for the future of Canada's people and resource-based economy (and Canadian and Newfoundland governments refuse to promote alternative economic resources, like eco-tourism).

Boycotts of Canadian products are occurring worldwide, negatively affecting the Canadian economy, and seal pelts are banned in scores of countries, as well as all

Canadian products in general.

I urge the DFO to revoke this slaughter. DFO's reputation continues to stain the character of the (informed) Canadian people time and time again, while promoting ignorance by banning people from observing, documenting and filming this largest marine mammal slaughter in the world, applying distance restrictions to the observers only and not the approaching & attacking sealers. Permits were

denied today for those wishing to bear witness, compassionately willing to document the only hunt that targets the baby of its species (the average seal killed, is between 12-15 days of age, too young even to know how to swim). Further, the DFO is threatening arrest, charges and possible prosecution to persons attempting to witness the barbarity on ice. Preventing any new media to be released, Loyola Hern is still able to insult our intelligence by his previous attempts to discredit past years footage, claiming it to be 20 years old.

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities" - Voltaire

It's time the people of Canada stand up to this minority that is in favor of such an atrocity; Please visit <http://www.antisealingcoalition.ca> for more information and how to get involved in ending the slaughter.

Brittany Hilton is the Head Research Director of SMU PAWS - Partnership for Animal Welfare

NEWS

STARKTALK II

IRAN PLAYS HARDBALL

I know. You're used to seeing me in the business section. But this is important.

Lately Iran has not exactly been making friends. For several years already they have been proceeding with an open nuclear enrichment program. Upon realizing this, some countries told them "Hey maybe you guys should stop that." Iran's government told them to bugger off.

Then the UN stepped in and said, "Hey. You should really, really stop that." Same response. The UN Security Council votes unanimously to impose a set of sanctions on Iran. Iran could care less because they produce so much of the world's oil no one takes economic sanctions seriously.

Next, the US government begins active statements on the issue:

"Their reaction to this resolution, while in keeping with their past statements, is unfortunate," said US State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey. "It's unfortunate for the Iranian people who are going to continue to pay a price for their leadership's refusal to do

the right thing."

Ah, their leadership. The same leadership that, two years ago, denied the Holocaust of World War II ever actually happened. If I remember correctly, President Ahmadinejad called it a 'myth.' Oh, and he also called for the complete destruction of Israel. That went over well.

This is also the same government that publicly denounced the movie '300.' Why you might ask? Well if you read into the history of the movie, it is about the 'evil' Persian Empire trying to steal the land of the noble and well toned Spartan people. Fast forward several thousand years and Persia is now... Iran! Apparently the Iranian government sees the movie as a misrepresentation of their peoples. A spokesperson for the government stated that the movie is:

"... a fabrication of culture and an insult to people not acceptable by any nation or government. Iran considers it as a hostile behaviour which is the result of cultural and psychological warfare."

In response, I believe Jon Stew-

art said it best when he pointed out, "we (Americans) haven't exactly been going after out enemies through subtle cinematic allegory." "Do you know how hard we're working over here to keep president bombs-a-lot from throwin' down on you guys?"

Satirist that he is, he has a point. It doesn't take much these days to ignite... well, everything.

So in light of repeated international tension and a bad relationship with the west, what does Iran do?

Kidnap/Arrest some British Navy personal operating in the Persian (there's that word again) Gulf.

Now there is some confusion over whether this was an arrest or a kidnapping. The problem really boils down to where the UK sailors were when the incident occurred.

London claims that the sailors were well within international waters and that the kidnapping was an unprovoked attack on the British military. Tehran says that the sailors were well inside Iran's waters, and that they were arrested for violating the border. Tehran

considers the violation an unprovoked act against their nation.

I'm fairly certain that either side would lie about that fact at this point. Neither one has a great track record with the truth. But wherever those sailors were, I think it's safe to say that both sides are sufficiently 'provoked' at this point.

There have been calls in the British House of Parliament to mount a military action against Iran. So far, calmer heads have prevailed and only negotiations have taken place. There is talk of more sanctions. But the British are highly dependant on oil from Iran so that may not be an option.

In Tehran, the 15 sailors are being kept as prisoners, and from all accounts seem to be treated well. It's unclear what will happen to the sailors. There are anti-British demonstrations going on all throughout the capital of Tehran. Hardliners want the soldiers put on trial to 'pay for their crimes.' Many demonstrations have taken place outside the British embassy. Rioters had to be kept back by police as they threw rocks and

whatever else they could find at the embassy. Many critics believe that the rallies were government sanctioned events in order to put pressure on the British government.

On a side note, Iran is raking in the money as oil prices continue to climb as the conflict goes on and on.

I hope for everyone's sake that this gets resolved soon. Making all this noise is eventually going to wake up ol' Bush. And we all know what he's like when he's grumpy. The president has already made several statements in support of the British government. He's even gone as far to demand that Tehran release the sailors.

So what happens when a country on the road to producing nuclear arms and controls a shit load of oil provokes another country that has nuclear arms and needs a shit load of oil?

If you want an answer, just come by my bomb shelter sometime, because that's where I'll be. Enjoy World War III.

MCPrez

BY ALEKS STARK

Looking for the latest comedic mastermind? Forget Seinfeld; forget 'Thank God You're Here.' Just wait for the next time president Bush is giving a speech. No seriously.

Last Wednesday, March 28, president of the United States George W. Bush attended the Annual Radio and Television Correspondents Association dinner. Hilarity ensued.

The dinner has always been a pretty lighthearted event, but this year we got to see a side of President Bush that rarely comes out the play: The comedian.

Within minutes of being on-stage the president delivered this zinger:

"A year ago my approval rating was in the 30s, my nominee for the Supreme Court had just withdrawn... and my vice president had shot someone."

As if that wasn't enough, he delivered a perfectly timed:

"Ahh," he said, "those were the good ol' days."

Of course that last line was referring to the time that Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot a friend of his in the face while they were out hunting quail.

Bush went on to comment on his recent decision to fire eight federal prosecutors. He said:

"I have to admit we really blew the way we let those attorneys go. You know you've botched it when people sympathize with lawyers." Burn!

But my absolute favorite part of the night was when he started talking about what he would do after his time as president. He mentioned former president Bill Clinton's autobiography and hinted that he might do the same kind of thing; except:



Carl Rove: This man cannot dance

"I'm thinking of something really fun and creative for mine," he said. "You know, maybe a pop-up book." Seriously folks, he said that. The Journal doesn't pay me enough to make up shit like that.

But if Bush was high point of the dinner, the low was most certainly one of his political advisors. The cast from 'Who's Line is it Anyway' was on hand to provide some more professional humour for the evening. What resulted was political advisor Karl Rove helping the Who's Line gang with an improvised rap song.

Now I don't blame Who's Line by any means. They are professional improv actors and they did their job exceedingly well considering the tough crowd. Even Rove wasn't so bad at first. He added the lines 'MCRove' a couple times to spice up the song about him. I was ok with that. Then the dancing started. Oh god, the dancing. At first I was slightly concerned the man was having some kind of seizure, then he proceeded to attempt to signal down an airplane, and it was downhill from there.

Wikipedia tells me that Rove is Bush's senior advisor and chief political strategist.

Mr. Bush, I know you read this paper so hear me out. You have two things to do.

1. Fire Rove from any position attached to you.

2. Put your speech writer in his place. Or Drew Carey. It's up to you.T

The UPEI Cadre Gets A Second Chance



The UPEI CADRE

BY KIMBERLEY DARES

The University of Prince Edward Island's student newspaper, The Cadre, has been given a second chance at independence. The paper which is currently owned by the UPEI Student Union, has spent the past few weeks fighting a takeover by the campus group The Independent Student Media Society (ISMS) following a proposal by the Cadre Direction Committee. The ISMS currently controls the University's radio station and has an online news site.

On March 25th the Student Union heard a proposal by ISMS to take over The Cadre. The takeover would be devastating for the paper. It would see the paper's staff cut in half, from twelve to six, and also cut from bi-monthly to once a month.

The takeover has been put on hold due to concerns raised at the meeting. The exact intentions of ISMS were not made clear from the beginning, and not everyone was clear on what was at stake. Following the meeting the Student Union issued a formal apology to The Cadre's editor Rob Walker for neglecting to keep him informed on the planned takeover.

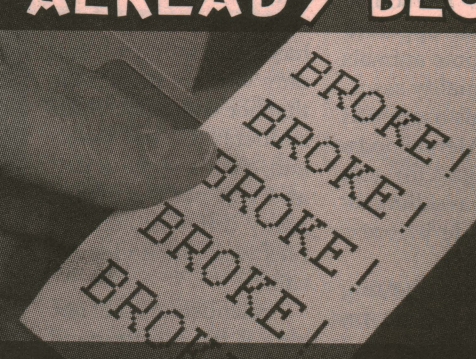

The takeover would see The Cadre become independent of the Student Union, allowing for more freedom in what they choose to cover. Last year, after publishing the controversial Prophet Muhammad cartoons, the Student Union had all 2000 issues confiscated and destroyed before they could be distributed.

As a result of the meeting The Cadre has been given a second chance, at least until a new, less biased Committee can be assembled. The current Committee consisted of the President of ISMS, but no editorial staff of the paper. Walker is hoping that he will be able to at

the least give recommendations to the new Committee on ways to improve the paper.

In comparison, the Saint Mary's Journal operates independently of the Student Association allowing for fewer restrictions in what is printed.

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Beating a Dead Bid

BY ALEKS STARK

Several weeks ago, Journal staff reporter Robbie Nauffts reported on the collapse of Halifax's Commonwealth Games Bid. After much debate, and a \$2 billion price tag, the city ungracefully backed out of the bid process. That took place back on March 8th when the city noticed they were still 1 billion dollars short.

Supporters of the games in Halifax were not impressed. They thought the Commonwealth Games would bring more tourism and notoriety to Halifax in the long run, as well as gobs of cash in the short run. The more athletic Haligonians were looking forward to the state-of-the-art stadium and aquatics facilities that were planned. They all blame the federal government for not kicking in enough money to help Halifax pay for the expensive venues.

Haligonians weren't the only ones upset. The other potential host cities that Halifax beat out to be named Canada's official bid are understandably angry. They did all that work to be beat out by a city that couldn't even get their act together to pull together a real bid.

News is just coming out now that a group of business owners in Halifax were apparently trying to revive the dead bid. They hoped to trim that fat on the massive cost.



This is concept art of the planned upgraded Forum. It will not be built.

They would have had to prepare the new bid for submission by the May 9th deadline. There are even reports that several members of the city council were asked to support the revival.

The new proposal would have to be approved by the Commonwealth Games Canada Committee based out of Ottawa. It is a group of volunteers that a responsible for picking Canada's bid city to represent the country. They have publicly admitted that they would be interested in entertaining the idea of a new bid, but have thus far

not heard of any official plans.

Last week several members of city council put the ol' stake through the heart of this thing. City council member Harry McInroy was quoted as saying, "We've wasted enough money." He may have a point. So far the whole process has cost 14 million dollars.

Ladies and Gentleman, this thing is officially dead. But on the bright side, if you donated any money when you bought your case of beer you can get a refund if you bring in your receipt to where you bought it from.

Hundreds of Pets Poisoned

BY ALEKS STARK

The reports started coming last week from all across the country of pet cats and dogs getting sick and dying, but no one seems to know why. Hundreds, maybe thousands of animals have been affected so far.

The symptoms of the animals include sluggishness, no appetite, loss of voice, and ultimately kidney failure. The source of the problem became apparent only recently when some animals used to test food for quality assurance began to die. This happened several weeks ago at Menu Foods, based in Mississauga Ontario. They have since been recalling all of their pet food made before a certain date.

Last week a food testing lab based in New York State announced that it had discovered a rat poison called aminopterin in samples of food from Menu Foods.

Then this week, the FDA concluded their testing and found that there was no rat poison in the 'tainted' food. But they did find something else. Melamine was found in all the samples. Melamine is a chemical used in plastic making and also in some fertilizers. Scientists first discovered the melamine on the kidneys of the deceased animals during autopsies.

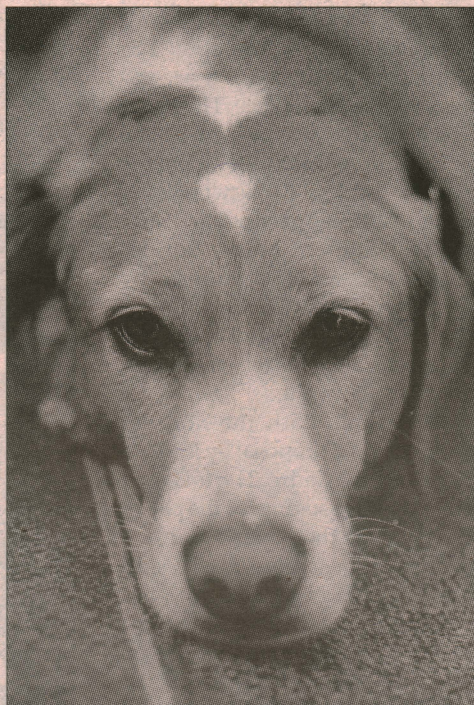
Menu Foods has publicly stated that the melamine came from some

wheat gluten that was shipped in from China. They don't normally use Chinese suppliers, but North American suppliers were unable to keep up with recent demand. They claim they have discontinued dealing with the supplier and have purged the infected materials from their system.

For weeks the recall has been going on for only wet pet food from that one company. Then suddenly this last weekend, a wide range of dry and wet pet food from many different companies was put under recall.

Scientists are still not sure if the melamine is actually causing all the fatalities. The literature doesn't support it as being so toxic. There was a test done with dogs in the 50s where all the animals were given much higher doses with no ill effects. Toxicologists and veterinarians are still trying to pin down what actually happened.

In the mean time, pet owners are starting to panic. There seems to be no consensus on what's ok and what's not ok to feed the pets. And for many, the thought of losing their beloved companion is too much to handle.



This is Kai, she is always very cautious about her choice of dog food.

If you own a pet, we urge you to go online and check out if the food you are feeding them is safe. Any major pet food company that has even the suspicion of something wrong has begun a recall, but don't trust the supermarkets to know which ones are ok.

If your pet is exhibiting an unusual behavior please contact a local veterinarian for more information.

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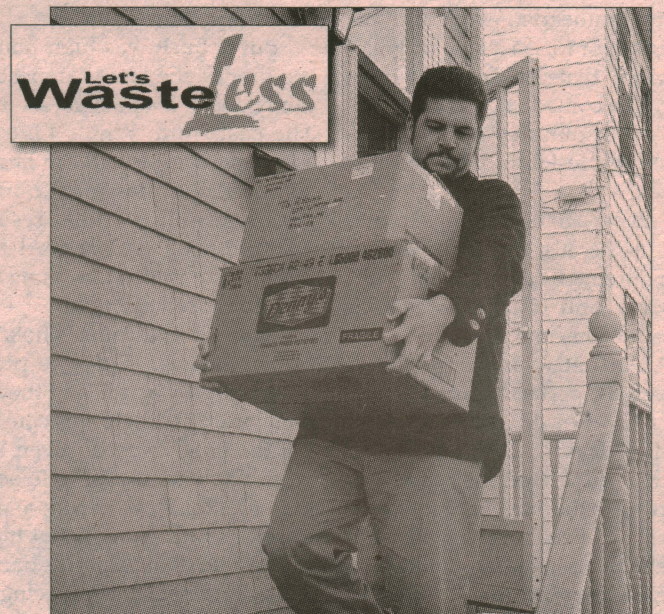
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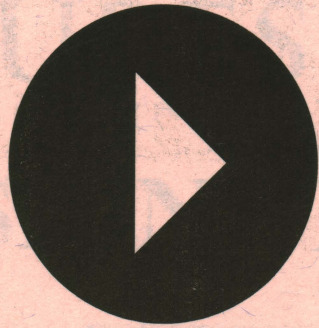
Please be environmentally responsible when disposing of your garbage by placing it at the curb for collection on the proper pick-up day of the garbage collection week. Remember that for residential dwellings, there is a limit of **10 garbage bags/cans** on garbage collection week, plus **one** bulky item. For small apartment buildings up to six units, the limit is **5 garbage bags/cans** per unit and **two** bulky items on garbage collection week. Please place food and leaf and yard waste in your green cart; bottles, cans and milk containers - with caps off - in blue bag; newspapers, flyers and magazines in a plastic grocery bag; and flatten and tie cardboard boxes.



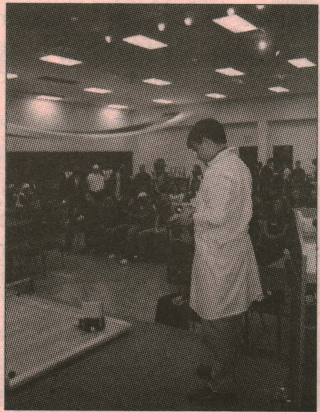
The following are collection weeks in Area 1 Halifax:

April 9 - 13	Garbage & Recyclables Only
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April 23 - 27	Garbage & Recyclables Only
April 30 - May 4	Green Carts & Recyclables Only
May 7 - 11	Garbage & Recyclables Only

For other collection areas, or for further information call 490-4000 or visit our website at www.halifax.ca/wrms.



NEWSFEED



ROBOT TAKEOVER!

The Saint Mary's Engineering Department hosted the Annual Volleyball-Tennis-Badminton Robot competition.

TSUNAMI HITS SOLOMON ISLANDS



A tsunami wave several meters high hit the west coast of the Solomon Islands. This came after an earthquake struck Monday morning.



DRIVER LICENSES GET TOUGHER

The Transportation Minister is proposing a longer learners stage, a second test to get N off your license, and a large N for the bumper of the newly licensed.

NO XXX FOR YOU!

ICANN officially announced that



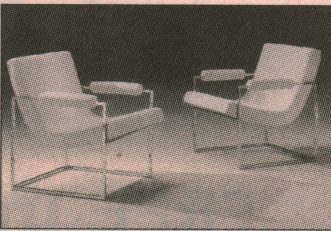
the '.xxx' suffix will not be used to identify pornographic sites.

GOOGLE FIXES NEW



ORLEANS

On the popular GoogleMaps service, Google has switched to using the pre-Katrina versions of their maps of the city. No one really knows why.



LOYOLA ACADEMIC GETTING A MUCH NEEDED RENOVATION

Sore legs and backs will soon be a thing of the past in Loyola Academic as furniture renovations are scheduled to take place in early May. SMUSA has successfully lobbied the University administration to replace the uncomfortable wire mesh seating on the first and second floor of the building.



INVESTIGATING THE RCMP
Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day announced Thursday he is appointing an investigator to discover the truth behind a possible pension scandal at the RCMP.



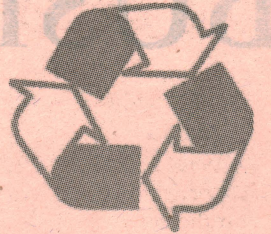
ABORINAL GROUPS COMPARED TO TERRORISTS
A draft of a Canadian military counterinsurgency (anti-terrorism) manual lists "radical Native American organizations" as potential opponents along with Hezbollah.



SEAL HUNT CUTBACK
270,000 animals may be killed this year according to the government - a reduction from last year's catch of 335,000 seals.

Credits: Engineer - www.smu.ca, Learners - Chubby Bat @ Creative Commons, RCMP - Firemind @ Creative Commons, Oka - <http://content.answers.com>, Seal - Yeimaya @ Creative Commons, Solomon - <http://news.sky.com>, GMaps - www.google.com, Chairs - www.carolina-furniture.com

Green Tip of the Week



Keep the costs of everyday items down and reduce packaging by purchasing in larger quantities or from a wholesaler.

Brought to you by the Saint Mary's University Environmental Society (SMUES). For more information contact smues@smu.ca



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BUSINESS

MISSBIZ

QUITE THE RIDE

BY JACKIE HOWATT

I'm having a ton of difficulty thinking of exactly what to write about for my last MissBiz ever. For the past two and a half years I've always had something of interest to discuss with students, but it's hard to find one subject to leave off on. That's why I've decided to use this opportunity to reflect on the more memorable moments and experiences I've encountered in working at the Journal.

First off, I just have to say that The Journal has been a defining aspect of my entire University experience. It's amazing and a little scary to say that I've learned more working for The Journal than by simply taking classes. Well, more about life anyway. I say this for two reasons: first, and like I have often said, The Journal has allowed me to research various business topics and issues that I otherwise

wouldn't have in school. Churning out interesting articles every week motivated, and at times forced me, to learn new things so I could relay them to my readers. Secondly, the interactive experience of being apart of a team with one goal in mind: to get the paper completed on Monday, has provided a social environment in which we've discussed everything from affirmative action to how to cook a chicken. And even though finishing the paper before the wee hours of Tuesday morning is almost unheard of, it facilitates a labor of love that we collaboratively share. Cheesy, yes, but it's within those wee hours that I have learned a lot about a small group of people - editors and contributors alike - and have subsequently discovered a lot about myself simultaneously.

Over two and a half years, there are some amazing articles that I've been able to write that really opened my eyes to the flip

side of the corporate world in which we learn about so avidly in class. For example, an article that really stands out is the interview with the owner of The Hamachi Steakhouse. It wasn't the fact that I was able to try hot and cold Saki during the interview, along with a mosaic of various mixed drinks, but the fact that he was a former SMUSA President and SMU student who took his passion for fine cuisine and hustled to make his dreams come true.

Another memorable article was the "Diamonds are For... What?!" feature I wrote last year (before Leonardo DiCaprio brought the issue to the big screen) and uncovered the history and ongoing issues related to Sierra Leone and the blood diamond industry. I spent more time on this article than I normally would spend on a term paper, which may be why it stands out so much. I just remember watching Kanye West's music

video "Diamonds are Forever" and the initial quote, "Little is known about Sierra Leone, and how they connect to the diamonds we own" and I immediately had to find out more.

One particular article I received a lot of feedback on was one I wrote this year called, "Shopping Our Way to the Unemployment Line: The Big-Box Impact" which exposed several issues about the Wal-Mart industry and how their massive size has devastated the economies of many home towns. I actually posted this on my blog and so many people commented on it - either defending Wal-Mart's amazing business model or putting down their ethical and moral impacts on their employees, and ultimately society.

A recent article I absolutely loved reporting on was the article printed just a few weeks ago about the Halifax Farmers' Market. Being a regular at The Market, and being

amongst a buzzing community of small businesses, was more than enough to inspire me to write about it. The atmosphere at The Market is unlike any other, and it's so refreshing to see such support and encouragement for local entrepreneurs.

It's hard to say whether I'll have another opportunity to have as much freedom to write about what I want in a weekly publication any time soon. On one hand I'm sad to be leaving everything behind, but on the other hand, I'm looking forward to the next thing. I totally encourage anyone to come up to The Journal office and talk to one of the Editors about contributing. You will never regret it - it's an amazing experience and it looks awesome on a resume. Now I just have to figure out how to take MissBiz to the big time... maybe... The New York Times?

ACE Campus Spotlight on: ATLANTIC VOLLEYBALL EQUIPMENT (AVE)



BY LAURA MACINTOSH

For those of you who don't know Chris MacDougall; he is SMUSA's incoming V.P. Internal. If this is old news to you, what you may not know is Chris is also an entrepreneur. The 3rd year Marketing and Management student owns his own business, selling top line volleyball equipment through his online store. I had the chance to ask Chris a few questions about AVE and starting up a business while attending university.

LM: So Chris, what exactly is your business?

CM: My business is an online source for volleyball equipment. Atlantic Volleyball Equipment or A.V.E. (as I like to refer to it) is the premier supplier for volleyball gear in Atlantic Canada. We supply teams, clubs, provincial programs, and individuals across the Atlantic Provinces and are proud to be one of the only suppliers directly serving the region. We carry only the highest quality of equipment, international competition quality balls, leading industry equipment and products our customers want.

LM: What made you want to be a young entrepreneur; why did you start AVE?

CM: Well...the whole volleyball idea started off a bit differently. My father has a renovations company and I've been around that industry

my entire life. So I decided to start bringing in some of the products that his company uses on a regular basis. The problem was I didn't have a warehouse and I didn't have the heavy machinery that's required to deal with some of the larger components. So within two weeks that was scrapped.

By this point I had the itch to get something started. It just came naturally that I get involved with something that I love. My family is pretty heavy into volleyball, my sister plays highly competitive club, school, and provincial and I played through school and still play beach. This year we started building an official size beach volleyball court in the back yard. 60 tons of white beach sand later, my inspiration was found.

With some help from friends and family I was able to get things going. My good friend Braden Urquhart of www.directvirtualtours.com set up my website, and it's always nice to have a strong base of friends to sell to.

Sick and tired of paying high retail prices and throwing money at some of the bigger outlets every other week; I decided it was the perfect opportunity to start my own business. I wanted to get equipment at better prices and help out teams in the area. I'm now able to sponsor players and provide lower prices than anyone else, it's been a tremendous opportunity and I couldn't imagine not doing it. My baby was born.

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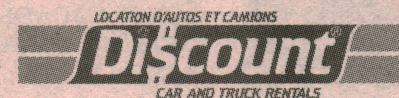
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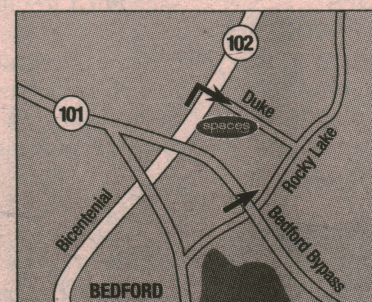
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STARKTALK

PORN, PORN EVERYWHERE

BY ALEKS STARK

As one of my heroes once said: "I am fairly sure that if they took porn off the internet, there would only be one website left; and it would be called 'bring back the porn'."

Dr. Perry Cox of Sacred Heart hospital may have exaggerated slightly, but his point is still valid. Internet pornography is a massive market. The most recent set of statistics available estimate that there are 4.2 billion sites. That means that 12% of the entire internet is dedicated to helping the general public get their collective rocks off.

Across the world, \$97 billion are spent on pornography every year. Interestingly enough, that's about how much the invasion of Iraq has cost so far.

China counts for most of the porn revenue - \$27.4 billion, followed by South Korea and Japan, while the U.S. came in at number four, spending \$13.33 billion. Canada spends a measly \$1 billion a year on porn (\$30.21/person). We have a long way to go to be competitive with China in this regard; a substantial pornographic imbalance.

And it's not as if you've run out of things to see, in the United States alone a new pornographic film is created every 39 minutes. If you wanted to catch every one that comes out, I figure that gives you about 10 minutes to watch it, 10 minutes to eat, another 10 to sleep, and the last 9 can be devoted to things like work/family/friends/cleanliness.

And who's watching all this porn? Well here's the breakdown

by age:

18-24	13.61%
25-34	19.90%
35-44	25.50%
45-54	20.67%
55+	20.32%

When you look at it that way, we university students won't reach our pornographic peak for several years now. Personally I attribute it to the fact we live in an environment where artificial sex isn't necessary.

Considering there is that much flying around the web, there has been surprisingly few attempts to keep it structured. As it is now, the simplest spelling mistake can take you from what should have been clean and appropriate to something... not. For example, if you've ever had the misfortune to type www.g-male.com instead of www.gmail.com you know what I'm talking about.

This is becoming an increasing issue for the young'uns who can't spell as it is. The proliferation of the internet has left them exposed to a whole twisted world that frankly they aren't ready to deal with. It's a big jump from cooties and neopets to (removed by editor) with a donkey. The current average age a child sees his first pornography is 11 years old. 90% of 8-16 year olds have viewed online porn.

In the year 2000 a proposition went before to ICANN to solve this problem. ICANN is the 'Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers'. This organization is responsible for issuing the IP addresses and domain names used on the internet. They hand out the .com and .org suffixes. The sug-

gestion was the creation of an .xxx suffix. If would be used for all pornographic internet sites. The idea that the .xxx suffix would create a clear distinction for pornographic sites. It would be much harder to accidentally run into one.

ICANN kept putting off the decision and stalling the proposal. They eventually just said no because they claimed not enough research had been done into how to implement such a system.

Then along comes Stuart Lawly, the owner of a company called ICM. He revamped the proposal and puts it together for a review in 2004. The proposal drew a lot of attention from both the press and the government. American senators and pornographers (and the rare few who are both) joined both sides of the argument. After weeks of the discussion the decision was handed down.

It was a big 'no'. The argument was that not enough members of the pornographic community were for the idea. The door was not shut completely; anyone could rebuild the proposal and bring it up a later time.

That's exactly what Lawly did. Two years later in 2007 he brought the same idea before the board of ICANN. Again he was rejected in a 9-5 vote. This time they took the extra step by refusing to ever hear this topic again. The door was slammed and locked this time.

"I believe we have to guard very carefully against ICANN ever becoming a regulator in that sense," said board member Steve Goldstein. "It is for that reason alone that I would cast my vote against the proposed agreement." Many members of the board



were concerned that this kind of action would require them to decide what porn is and what it isn't.

Lawly was not impressed. He stated that he and his supporters "...are extremely disappointed by the board's action today." He went on to state that ICM plans to take legal action against ICANN.

Many religious groups are cheering ICANN's choice to squash the .xxx title. They argued that the creation of the suffix would legitimize the pornography business.

Others argue that these sites already exist and we can't rid of them, so we may as well make sure they are labeled. U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, a Louisiana Democrat, chastised ICANN for not approving the domain name.

"These top-level domain names are the first signal to parents as to what their children are viewing online," she said. "For example, when we see '.gov' we know we are visiting a government agency,

and '.edu' tells us an educational institution is about to appear. Yet, ICANN continues to turn its back on child protection by refusing to take similar steps to make harmful content as readily identifiable."

But even if this .xxx suffix was created, who gets to decide when it has to be used? If it was voluntary many would choose not to because they produce 'art' not 'smut.' And if it was mandatory, who's the guy who gets to sift through those millions of pages making sure they don't go too far? Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart once said he couldn't define what porn is, but "... I know it when I see it."

Well here's hoping the next 40 years aren't too busy, because you might be seeing a lot of it (for purely judicial reasons of course).

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Tristan Goulden
 Geomatics Engineering Technology
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Thanks for reading the
THE JOURNAL

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK IN HALIFAX...

Wednesday

The Wilderness, Bocce, and the Just Barleys at Gus' Pub, 10 pm \$5

A Dying Race, Friends of the Red Army Faction, and The Dead Pinkertons at Reflections, 10 pm \$4

Sleep to Dream with Rich Aucion at Tribeca, 10 pm \$5

Thursday

My Dog Ego EP release with Shelter with Thieves and Broken Ohms at the Attic, 11pm \$5

Rich Aucion with The First Aid Kit at the T Room

Friday

The Good Friday Get Down with Ill Funk Slammer and DJ Unicorn on the Harbour Queen at Murphy's on the Water boarding at 8:45

Saturday

Rock Night with DJ Double A at Tribeca, 10 pm \$5

The Switch, Fistfight, Journalist Wolf and special guests at the Speakeasy, 10 pm

Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees and AV at Gus' Pub, 10 pm \$5

Sunday

Global Holocaust and Rabag at the Speakeasy, 9:30 \$5

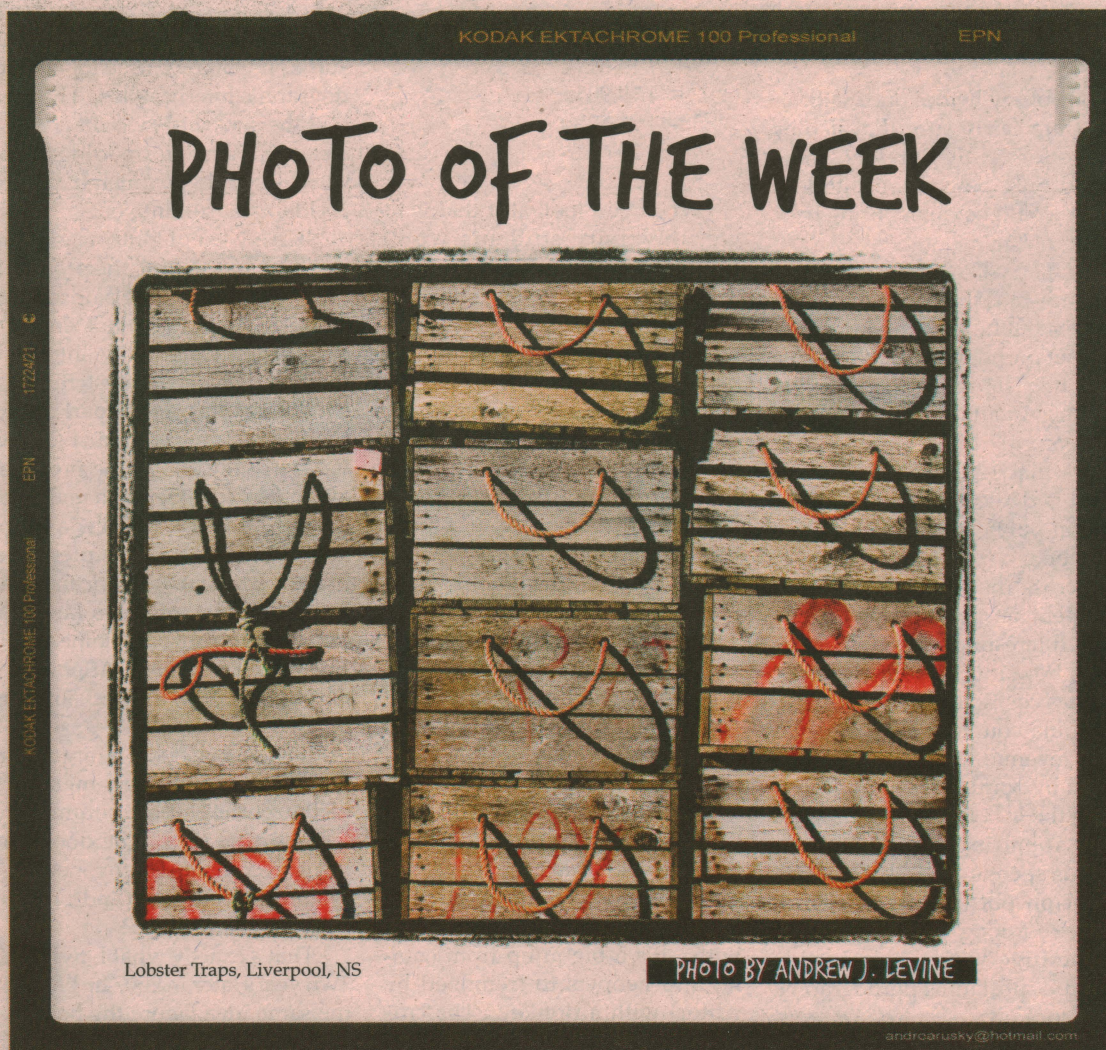
Metal Disco

The Seahorse
10:00 \$5

A and E CD Giveaway

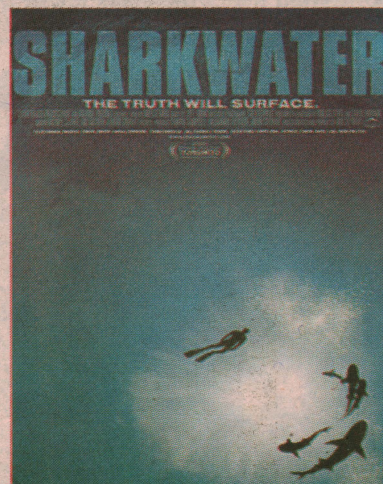
As the school year comes to an end it's time for the Journal to clean out the office. There are still lots of CDs left that never got the chance to be reviewed and are looking for a good home. If you would like a chance to win a CD simply send an email with as many answers as you can give to arts.smu@gmail.com. The first ten people with the most right answers will be mailed a CD. Please be sure to provide your name and mailing address with your entry. Good Luck!

1. Name two Halifax bands that were on tour in March
2. Name one show our TV Geek reviewed this year
3. What movie won best picture at this year's Oscars?
4. Name two independent Halifax record labels
5. Which two musicians have reality TV shows on Much Music?
6. What two movies based on children's TV shows from the 80s coming out this year?
7. Name one big act to come through town so far in 2007
8. Which did our TV Geek not do an in depth look on; Gays on TV, African Americans on TV or Women on TV?
9. What was the highest grossing film of 2006?
10. What play is SMUDS performing this season?
11. What two bands tied winning the most ECMAS this year?
12. What TV show and upcoming movie caused a bomb scare in Boston after an ill-conceived marketing ploy?
13. Name one of the art exhibits at the SMU art gallery during the 06-07 school year
14. Which former American Idol contestant has found success in the movie world with a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her first ever film role?
15. What Sci Fi star guest starred on NBC's "Heroes" as Hiro's father?



Thanks for reading the
THE JOURNAL

Sharkwater: Taking a bite out of the sharks infamous reputation



BY STEVE COLWELL ESQ.

Shark Water is a dynamic look into the views of a young activist, and follows his attempts to alter the misconceptions and contempt that surrounds sharks. Rob Stewart is a more than eager director, underwater cinematographer, surfer and marine biologist. He has made it his mission to uncover the plight and very possible extinction that sharks face. Stewart's actions during the film are of a passionate and clearly focused individual; his dedication makes the film all the more powerful. Stewart is able to capture astonishing interaction between him and the sharks. The editing and camera skills put forth by Stewart make this movie a fast paced and thought provoking experience.

Stewart shows all sides from glorious to horrific during his adventure with fellow activists including Green Peace advocate Paul Watson. Their efforts are to eradicate the expanding finning operations that our hierarchical society has created.

The film has won several awards

for best documentary and mainly people's choice awards. I can feel confident that this film overall will appeal to the masses and can only have positive outcomes. Those with an open mind towards the environment and any relative interest in aquaculture should definitely give this documentary a chance. My only negative comments are towards the most impressive Rob Stewart himself. His role as narrator in instances leads him to be somewhat self absorbing. I believe his personal insights and actions are remarkable but sometimes that golden voice can drive the points across more effectively. In all I highly recommend this movie and hope it spurs more films which promote sustaining and better treatment of our global environment. Sharkwater is well worthy of 9 smiley sharks out of 10 rating.

As this will be my last film review for the year I'll just sign off with some recommendations gathered from myself and comrades. Thanks to the Journal for getting my broke self into some amazing films for free, and to all of those who have actually read

my relentless rambles.

Rental Recommendations

Evil Dead 1, 2 and especially 3 (Army of Darkness) - low budget Bruce Campbell at its best. -Comedic Horror & Cult Classic

Misery - James Caan & Kathy Bates in a unique story of obsession. The Film is an adaptation of a Stephen King novel by William Goldman. The 1990 film has earned itself won several awards based on its excellence in writing and acting. Thriller, Drama

Killing Zoë - This 1994 film offers heroin, bank robberies and a brief cameo by Ron Jeremy. Canadian director & writer Roger Avary has worked for Tarantino in the past and it has a very similar feel to reservoir dogs. - Thriller, Romance

Very Bad Things - Many people may question this choice its nature is very violent but disturbingly funny., Christian Slater Jeremy Piven, Cameron Diaz make for an allstar cast that battles with a bachelor party from hell. - Dark Comedy.

The Best Little Band in Halifax



The Superfantastics
www.thesuperfantastics.com

photo: CHRIS SMITH
www.funkfactor.com

BY TREVOR MURPHY

It's the night of The Coast Best of Music Awards Show at The Attic on Grafton Street in downtown Halifax and Stephanie d'Entremont - drummer for the indie power-pop duo The Superfantastics - has just walked into the room.

She came in the back door; she thought it was the way to get in. It really wasn't. If she would have come in through the front door, and paced up the two and a half flights of stairs, she would have come face to face with a giant blowup of the cover of this week's Coast, which is a fanciful photo of her and her band mate, Matthew MacDonald, jumping on a bed in a hotel room.

Instead, she hears about it second hand. When she sees it for the first time, she is slightly embarrassed. There are photocopies of the cover on big white pillars throughout the bar, glowing in the candlelight. This is the first time she has seen



Superfantastics

it. There is no escaping the photo. She laughs nervously, and orders a glass of milk from the bar. No vodka, no Baileys; just milk.

This is a big week for The Superfantastics. Not only are they on the cover of The Coast, but they are also gearing up for their CD release at the Seahorse on Friday, their first tour to Ontario and back, not to mention that they're at The

Attic tonight to pick up the award for Best Merchandise in Halifax. The award comes as no surprise to their fans who have adorned the duo's hand-painted t-shirts and hand-crafted snap bracelets since this past summer. Friday night they will add another integral piece to their merch list, their debut full-length album, Pop-Up Book, which, as the title suggest, features a cartoon pop-up of d'Entremont and MacDonald inside the disc's booklet.

When their name is called in the Best Merchandise category, The Superfantastics accept the award, quietly, while a track from their new album plays in the background. "Thanks," d'Entremont says in her timid voice. "Come to our show on Friday at the Seahorse."

Some may mistake it for humility, others for shyness, most for a mix of both, but this is the personality of The Superfantastics. Both on stage and off, MacDonald and d'Entremont are coy, funny and witty, all while remaining relatively reserved and calm. Gene Simmons they are not.

"We kind of come off like we're casual and fun," d'Entremont says. "But at the same time we're not sloppy, and we're being professional. We find a happy medium."

This kind of attitude that lends itself to The Superfantastic's stage show and songs, one of casualness

and wisp, runs the risk of getting the band labeled as a "gimmick" band. On top of that, there is their desire to perform strictly as a two-piece, their consistent cutesy image, their Best Merchandise award, and a substantial amount of recent media attention. It could be dangerous ground for some bands, but with The Superfantastics it's clear that there is something more than just the music behind the duo.

"Every band has some sort of marketability," says MacDonald. "It's just a little more obvious with us. But it's just an extension of who we are, we're not faking it. We're not playing any roles. That's what separates a band from a gimmick."

While they're certainly not taking on any theatrical roles as different characters in their band, there are still clearly defined roles in terms of who does what. MacDonald is the main songwriter and lyricist, d'Entremont the media expert and merch lady. It's the combination of both that has turned The Superfantastics from two friends writing songs together in early summer evenings to the darlings of the indie scene in Halifax.

"We tried to approach everything the smartest way we could," says MacDonald. "We've seen the successes and failures of our friends, so there's a lot to build from."

The band has recognized the importance of producing various forms of media, specifically video, in a changing industry. d'Entremont has already produced three videos for the band (two from their first EP, Like Letters and one for the song "Countdown" from Pop-Up Book), and also continued to produce a video blog that documented the making of their most recent album - a blog which was the second runner-up in The Coast's Best of Music poll for Best YouTube Appearance by a Local Band.

Beyond all this, however, their

music shines. Live it's a happy-go-lucky, fun-to-watch-and-hear two-piece pop show complete with hilarious banter and wit. Their albums on the other hand take the fun a step further adding the seriousness of well thought-out arrangements and lyrics. The newest album, Pop-Up Book, is a sonic delight displaying MacDonald's capabilities not only as a songwriter but as a producer.

Recorded at Echo Chamber Audio with Hali-famous engineer Charles Austin, the album is reminiscent of early Halifax indie pop a la Sloan or Thrush Hermit, but also shines with shades of influence including everyone from Weezer to Phil Spector. The hooks alone that permeate the album's ten songs show that The Superfantastics have what it takes to leave a mark on the Halifax music scene, and perhaps (hopefully) beyond.

On Friday night, the Seahorse is full of sweaty bodies and the odor of must and old spilled booze floats in the air. There is a lineup coming down the red-carpeted stairs, and by midnight the bouncer won't let anybody in until somebody else leaves. The bar, he says, is at capacity.

On the stage, d'Entremont's pink and brown drum kit shines in the spotlight. The pink heart on the bass drum beats with every kick as d'Entremont gets comfortable. MacDonald stands in front of his plethora of guitar pedals ("I have every guitar pedal ever made" he jokes) and checks the tuning of his aqua-colored Jay Turser guitar. Behind them, a blue curtain hangs. Cardboard cutouts of a sun, trees and rolling hills form a backdrop that is similar to their album cover.

The first few songs are a little shaky. MacDonald is fighting off a cold, and his voice wavers from time to time. d'Entremont is focused on her drumming and tries not to look directly at the cameraman who is videotaping their set. They are both nervous.

As the set wears on, they settle into their niche and buckle down. The crowd dances, screams and sings along.

The Superfantastics have come a long way since their minimal beginnings about a year ago. The band started as a way for MacDonald to help d'Entremont learn how to play drums. As she learned, they wrote songs together. Their first shows were at the Monday night wheel-of-fortune open-mics at Reflections known as \$rockin 4 dollar\$.

"We're a really young band," says MacDonald. "We don't really play a lot of shows so we have trouble gauging where we stand [in the Halifax music scene]. It can be a pretty big psychological mind-fuck."

If tonight's crowd at the Seahorse is any indication, it is pretty obvious that The Superfantastics don't have to worry about where they actually do stand in the music scene. By their last song, "Vantastic" (a catchy ditty about the perils of MacDonald's first tour with his other band, Sleepless Nights), the crowd has since grown and it becomes hard to move, even a little hard to breathe.

After this weekend, the two friends and band-mates will load up a car with their gear and their travel bags and head to Ontario for the first time. There is excitement in their voices when they talk about it.

When they return to Halifax in three weeks, The Superfantastics say they will keep their options open, both artistically and professionally. Regardless of what they decide to do next, the things that define The Superfantastics - humour, fun, wit, coyness - will follow them wherever they go.

"There's no real precedent as to where we have to go artistically," says MacDonald. "We might put out a metal record next, and I might get a BC Rich seven-string Warlock. There's nothing really that we can't do."

The Pita Pit

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Much vs. Music

BY SARAH FRANCIS

We all have channels that we aimlessly flip through when watching television. Both Much Music and Much More Music used to be at the top of my list while selecting a channel. That slowly started to change as the music involved in both of these channels started to diminish. It's the middle of the afternoon and I just turned on much music to find yet another reality show on one of the Osbourne's. Switching over to Much More Music, I'm instantly disgusted when I see way too many screeching women fighting over 'Flavor Flav'. I can at least see the entertainment factor in 'Flavor of Love'. If for nothing else, it's always interesting to see how so many females

could possibly be fighting over someone as undesirable as Flavor Flav. However, I am yet to see how this entertainment has anything to do with music.

I am well aware that at one time, long ago, this man was famous for musical reasons, but this guy is almost fifty, and just because he has decided to take his mid-life crisis out on a variety of reality T.V. shows, doesn't make it good television, and certainly doesn't make it music. Kelly Osbourne on the other hand, has no excuse. While most of the horrible reality television shows consist of former pop stars desperately trying to make a comeback, Kelly Osbourne used her horrible reality television show, as well as her father, to make an even more horrible attempt at

music.

As everyone predicted, her music career fizzled away and suddenly we're hit with yet another attempt at fame while Kelly brings a camera crew to Japan while she wonders around in a kimono banging on a drum. It's questionable if the music Kelly produced should have made it on T.V, but I fail to see the amusement in watching the daughter of a former rock star turn Japanese. This sparked my interest in the subject and I went to go look at what shows were actually played on these channels.

I wish I could say I was surprised when I found that almost half of the shows on Much Music had nothing to do with music. These are the shows like "So You Think You Can Dance?" or

"The House of Carters" Much More Music wasn't as bad, half of their shows were at least about music. This, however, is not entirely the problem.

Just because there are shows that play music, doesn't mean the shows themselves will be played at prime times.

Much Music shows like The New Music, The Punk Show or Wedge do in fact exist, although you may not know it because they're not painfully repeated all day like most other shows on Much Music. Instead, they're usually played once, around mid-night.

Meanwhile, I'm sitting here

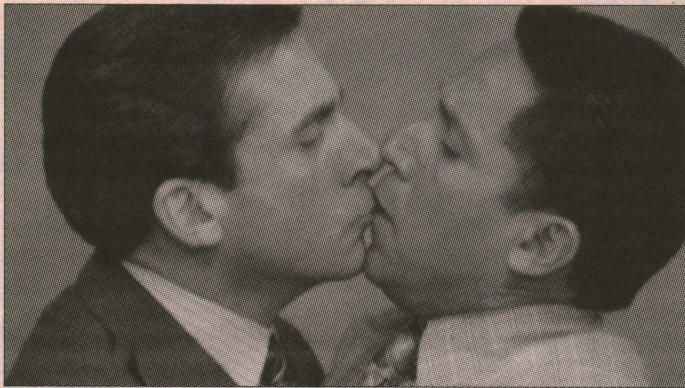
in broad daylight, in the middle of a Kelly Osbourne Marathon. As much as I would like to, I can't place the entire blame on these channels. It

seems like people are now more interested in how the children of former musicians are losing weight, as oppose to what the current musicians are putting out. I can only hope for the possibility that some day, I'll be able to turn on a music channel and hear music. Until then, it seems like the closest I'll get is listening to the music from the odd I pod commercial.



TV GEEK

2006-2007 Season: A Retrospective



The Office

BY RESSA PETERS

Just as the school season is coming to a close, the TV season is also winding down. Over the past months I've watched A LOT of television and much of it I'll forget in the vague Law and Order sense of "have I seen this one? I think he might have done it" kinda way. Here are five things I will remember.

1) That other F word. Last fall a few media sources reported on a back stage scuffle on the set of Grey's Anatomy in which Isaiah Washington uttered the other F word "faggot" in reference to a co-star. A few days later T.R. Knight came out of the closet. Washington denied using the slur and refused to apologize, even using it again on television during the Golden Globe awards. Many called for Washington to be fired but he eventually owned up and entered counseling to "examine within his own soul." The whole incident, and the fact it was bigger news (imagine if someone on the set had used the "n word"), shows us homophobia is still alive and well, even in the entertainment industry.

2) Heroes. If you haven't seen Heroes yet get started now. The latest and most buzzed about sci-fi show is turning into an instant classic. Racial diversity (always a good thing on TV), comic book elements, complex story lines, and guest stars like Malcolm McDowell and George Takei make Heroes the must see of the season!

3) That other Office kiss. The season two finale had Jim and Pam finally kissing, but the third season premiere had a two different sets of lips locked. Michael found out that an employee, Oscar, was gay and at first was shocked. Michael

tried his hardest to be accepting and his version of this entailed kissing Oscar in front of the whole staff. The result is the most hilariously awkward thing I have seen on television this year. Also, the episode never veered into making fun of Oscar for being gay, but made fun of the reactions of the other staff. The perfect antidote to number 1.

4) Prison Break my heart. It's quite rare to see a fictional sex offender portrayed as sympathetic on television. Even shows like Law and Order: SVU are usually pretty black and white on the issue. Notable exceptions, such as the few OZ characters and Veronica Mars' second season villain, are few and far between. For the first season and a half of Prison Break T-bag was pure



Prison Breaks T-Bag

villain, arguably the embodiment of many hillbilly and bi-sexual stereotypes. When the Fox River 8 escape he tracks down a woman he once loved and kidnaps her and her two kids, looking to start over. They head to his childhood home in Alabama (where it is revealed his dirt bag dad emotionally and sexually abused him), he locks them in the basement and realizes what he must do, eyeing the axe in the yard. When the police open the door to the basement they find

the family alive and well, and we see T-bag on the side of the road sobbing.

5) Lost, guest written by Edgar Allan Poe. While developing the third season of Lost, the writers realized if they kept killing off people they would have to add new characters. They decided to introduce two new survivors played by two new actors who had supposedly been there the entire time but never seen before, yeah right. Fan reaction was mostly negative. Nikki and Paulo, or as I call them- the Latino Shannon and Boone, had a lame back story about stealing diamonds from some rich old geezer. There story on the island was filled with improbability and plot holes until Nikki threw poisonous spiders at Paulo.

Diamonds on an island? What's the point? Both were bitten and presumed dead, and not wholeheartedly mourned. While they were being buried it's revealed that the spider venom only paralyzes, with Nikki opening her eyes just before the dirt falls. But Sawyer and Hurley keep shoveling, burying them alive. How creepy is that? Best ending ever.

Thank God You're Here

BY ALEKS STARK

Ah the proud tradition of Americans attempting at reproducing successful foreign comedies. Now, I have no problem with unoriginal people as a whole. They make for great long-term relationships. No surprises. But these people need to stop going into the entertainment industry.

Sure, there have been a few pretty successful shows. 'Whose Line is it Anyway' was originally a British show made for the British Channel 4. The show consists of 4 contestants playing a series of improvisational games. The host of the show assigns points seemingly at random, and a 'winner' is chosen at the end. The winner then takes the hosts position and host plays a round. Both the British and American shows are very similar, in fact most of the American cast performed on the British show. This could be the reason they are equally successful, and equally hilarious.

A slightly less successful remake comes in the form of that workplace mockumentary 'The Office.' The original show was broadcast in the UK on BBC Two. It began on July 9th (my birthday, mark it down) and was an instant hit (just like me). The show was so successful that NBC secured rights to produce the American remake. And remake they did! The US pilot episode is an exact remake of the UK pilot. The names and actors are different, but the characters and stories were exactly the same. The show was a hit with the American audiences, but those who had already seen the UK one claimed that the US one was too tame. In the UK version the humour is crueler, and includes more sexual innuendoes. Personally, after watching the first season of both versions I find the British one much more 'cringe-y.' I had moments where I simply could not keep watching because I felt too embarrassed for the characters.

So now, hot on the heels of those two comedies we have 'Thank God You're Here.' The basic premise is you take a bunch of famous actors

to come on the show. Then you throw them, unprepared, into a scene. The trained cast members inside inevitable say "Thank God You're Here!" and the scene continues with the guest completely improvising the whole time. The concept is great; I've always thought that improvisation was one of the highest forms of comedic acting.

The show is originally Australian. It premiered in 2006 and became the most successful new show of the year with an average of 1.7 million viewers. I've been catching up on You(edited out).com and I understand why everyone loves it. The regular staff of trained improvisers are amazingly talented, and the guest stars are priceless.

Even though the American version premieres on April 9th, some pre-recorded skits have already been posted online. So far, I'm torn.

On one hand they have a great scene with Jason Alexander playing a star ship captain returning from an alien planet. When a member of the supporting cast asks him about 'the flashing blue balls' he almost cracks up before responding with, "I didn't know they were flashing."

But on the other hand there is a scene with Mo'Nique where the supporting cast's main role seems to be disagreeing with her. It wasn't very good improv because it was so scripted and just made her look silly. It just wasn't funny.

And to round it off, there is a very funny scene with Tom Arnold as a chef dealing with disgruntled patrons at his restaurant. The scene was well thought out and left a lot of room for effective improv that Tom delivered sharply. The only thing was the entire premise set, and even the set-up lines by the supporting staff were an exact replica of a scene in the UK version.

So to sum up what we've learned today. It is ok be completely uncreative if you're stealing things you know are already successful. Baaa.

Don't miss the premiere of Thank God You're Here on Monday, April 9th after Deal or No Deal on NBC.

FEATURES

SAINT MARY'S OWN STAR

BY ANDREW SEYMOUR
& AMANDA WENEK

Nathan Deg, a student in the Faculty of Science at Saint Mary's, will confess he is a pretty boring person. He likes TV, movies, and hanging out with friends. He used to be into jiu-jitsu and would like to get into it again someday. Philosophy is his favorite non-science subject, and his minor, and he finds the "where did we come from?" debate very interesting and enjoys following both sides of the conversation. He has a passion for astronomy and physics which has brought him the opportunity of a lifetime. For a month, while you and I are sweating out the summer, Nathan will be staying up all night to go stargazing with the Pope.

Nathan will be in Rome and Castel Gandolfo, Italy at the prestigious Vatican Observatory to study astronomy with 27 students from 23 different countries in June. "The program consists of a number of seminars on observational astronomy, particularly pertaining



Photo courtesy of Nathan Deg

to extra-solar planet searches, and we will have the chance to conduct observational studies with the Observatory's telescopes. All students in the program will get the opportunity to take part in tours at sites of astronomical and cultural significance." There is also a chance he will get to meet Pope

Benedict XVI while he is there.

Religious or not, this is an opportunity that most people would love to have. For Nathan it has incredible meaning because he happens to be a devout Catholic. He volunteers as a Core Member in Lifeteen. Lifeteen is an international Catholic movement that

serves the Church by providing resources and faith experiences to help lead teens closer to Christ. This is accomplished by creating widespread opportunities for teens to grow in their faith. Every Sunday, 120 000 teenagers from twenty different countries attend a Life Teen Mass. Within the group, Nathan volunteers in a number of capacities including researching and speaking to the youth on the subject of Catholicism.

When he graduates, Nathan plans to continue on to do his Masters. When asked what he wants to do after that, he said "Who knows. I've always had the opinion I'll study what I enjoy and then something will turn up. Sort of let the chips fall where they may type of thing". He's in luck, because the stars certainly look like they're aligning for Nathan these days.

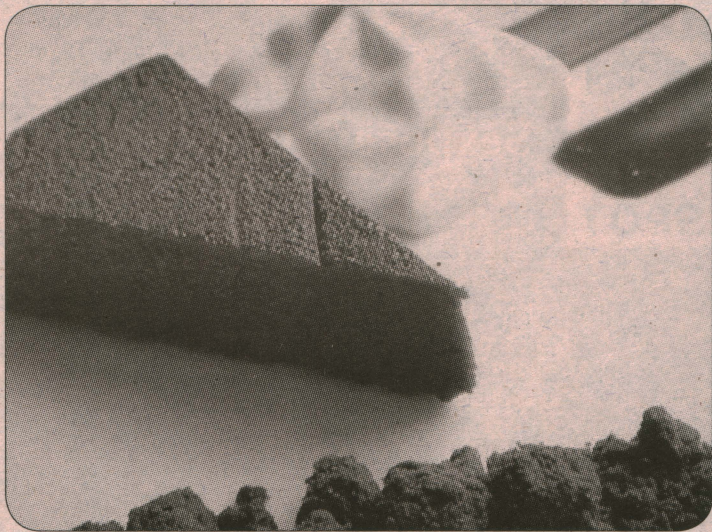
He has just returned from the Winter Nuclear and Particle Physics Conference in Banff, Alberta. This conference is usually reserved for graduate students, but Nathan's thesis supervisor, Dr. Alex

Aleksejevs, recommended that he attend and participate. While he wasn't eligible to win any awards, he was complimented on his work thus far. "The conference was an excellent experience, especially because my research was treated as equal to that of graduate level students, which is definitely a confidence booster."

When asked what he would ask the Pope if he was given the chance, Nathan said "I would maybe ask him about how he prays. Or how he knew God was calling him first to the priesthood, then to be a bishop, and then to be the Pope", and then he added "...or maybe I would just ask him what his favorite food is".

At just the undergraduate level, Nathan already has some incredible achievements and, thanks to his curiosity and ambition, not even the sky is the limit. He encourages students to submit any comments or suggestions they might have for the Pope just in case they do happen to rub elbows under the Milky Way.

Elie's Chocolate Cake Recipe



The Journal would like to thank all those students who helped us out by purchasing treats at our bake sale a few weeks ago! As a thank you we are willing to share the recipe for the popular chocolate cake we served. Enjoy (in moderation)!

- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups water
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 3 Tablespoons vinegar
- 6 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla*
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

- Beat oil with sugar, then add vinegar, water and vanilla.

- Mix flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt.

- Add dry ingredients to the oil mixture.

Bake 45 minutes oven 350

*You can use a substitute for it (i.e Rum, cognac)

SMUSA IS AWARE

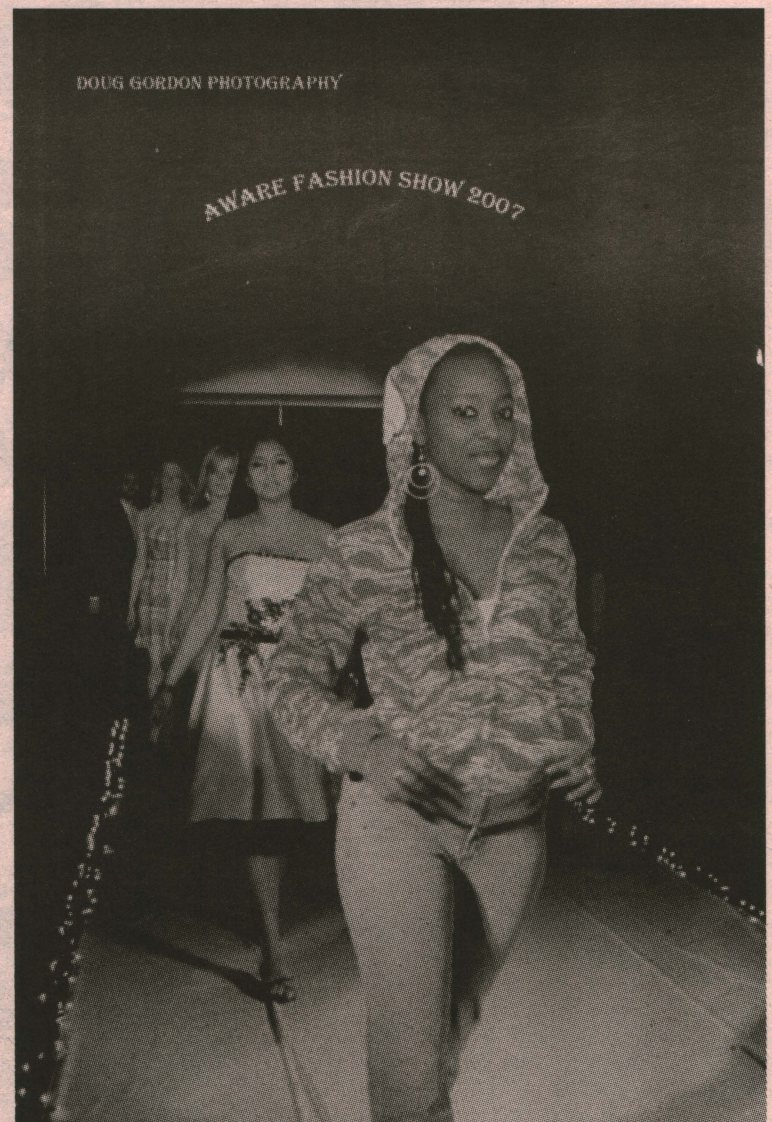
STUDENT LED INITIATIVE RAISES MONEY AND AWARENESS

BY ADAM LORDON

Now that the lights are off and the runway folded up we can look back on the event that was the "SMUSA is AWARE" Spring Fashion Show. It started with a simple idea, yet came together to raise almost \$1000 for the AWARE (Activists Worldwide AIDS/HIV Reproductive Education) Project.

Last spring SMUSA held a Spring Fashion Show which went well but something was missing. This year Kaitlyn Sawyer approached SMUSA about teaming up with the AWARE Project to put on this show to raise awareness and money for the cause. SMUSA gladly agreed. Organizers Katie Hamilton, Adam Lordon, and Kaitlyn Sawyer set out to recruit designers and student models and ended up featuring 25 models, who were mostly SMU students, and fifteen designers, most local but some from as far away as Maine and the Bahamas.

Local photographer and model consultant Doug Gordon also stepped up and volunteered his time and services to the cause. Doug's professional ability and guidance took the show to the next level. Doug provided many contributions to the night including models Heidi Hiscock and Shannon McNabb, designers Richard Daniel from Haute Couture Daniels Spring Garden Road, Trash Bin Clothing Company, Corsets by Dawn Mailloux, Annalise McMullen Jewellery, Stacy Smith Designs Swimwear Trinidad, and Glamour Puss & the Naughty Dog Pet Boutique. Amanda Tsistinas was on hand to do makeup and Marina Charnina & Alicia Melanson from Kara's Hair finished off the model's distinctive looks. Also, Doug and the AWARE Project would like to thank Atlantic Photo Supply on



Spring Garden Road for supplying equipment.

After weeks of hard work the show was held and extremely well attended as over 200 fashion conscious students and members of the community came out to see the production. Media such as The Journal, Daily News, and CTV all helped to get the word out about the worthy cause. As soon as it was over Sawyer was already talking

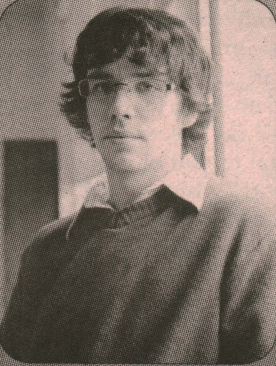
about next year, "This was simply awesome, I can't wait for this event to grow, and make it even bigger and better next time around. We now know we can do it and the support has been tremendous."

Make sure you watch campus next Spring for your chance to get involved with, or attend, SMUSA is AWARE 2008.

OJ ON THE STREET

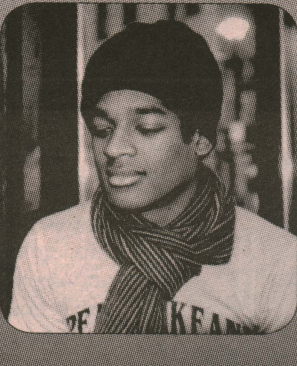
Q&A WITH OLIVIER & JOEL

Q: WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST ABOUT THE JOURNAL?




JOEL MILLER
PHOTOGRAPHER/
VOLUNTEER

"Sending it to my family every week"




OLIVIER JARDA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"I'm going to miss working in an environment where no one's in it for the money. Thanks to the staff, contributors and other volunteers for helping this thing walk for peanuts and pitas."




ANDREW J. LEVINE
ART DIRECTOR

"Working all night putting together issues of the paper... the greatest ideas can come to mind at 4am."




AMANDA WENEK
FEATURES EDITOR

"Monday night pitas. The Journal made Mondays something to look forward to."



ALLYSON MARSH
A&E EDITOR

"My TV Geek and Music Snob. They came through for me every week and are great people. Not to mention all the editors here. I love those kids."



RESSA PETERS
TV GEEK/
VOLUNTEER

"I'm drunk with power that I can distribute my ramblings and fangirlish gushes to a huge audience. My crowning accomplishment was getting a picture of dudes kissing into the paper."

Photos by Andrew J. LeVine with exception to Wenek & Marsh which they kindly provided

SMUDOKU

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION WAS UNSOLVABLE. APRIL FOOLS!

HOT OR NOT



- ◉ All the memories
- ◉ Arriving with a date
- ◉ Nelly Furtado

- ◉ "Blades of Glory"
- ◉ Gettin' the digits
- ◉ Donald Trump's Hair
- ◉ Larry King
- ◉ Friends hooking up
- ◉ Summer lovin
- ◉ The environment
- ◉ Graduating

- ◉ Ralizing it's over
- ◉ Leaving with someone else's
- ◉ Trying to top a night where you host, perform, and win 5 awards
- ◉ Varsity Figure Skating
- ◉ Forgettin' the digits
- ◉ Vince McMahon's Hair
- ◉ Suspenders
- ◉ Friends hooking up on your couch
- ◉ Summer workin
- ◉ Fucking it up
- ◉ Graduating



G Spot Presents Sexpose 2007 Part 4 of 4

By SS Randy Blue & NN Ginger Snatch

Now that we have all those myths out of the way let's talk about some of the more serious issues facing the penis today. You have more things to worry about than whether or not you can get it up. Many people today suffer from a frenulum breve. In English, this basically means that the foreskin cannot pull all the way back during erection and therefore the head of the penis is not being fully exposed. If you feel pain and stinging discomfort during sexual activities in that area of your penis then you should consult your doctor. They may be able to perform a form of frenuloplasty (no, it's not like getting a nose job). This process can allow the foreskin to pull back fully, but if the problem persists than you may need to have an adult circumcision, which is not very gentle when you are a newborn and severely more painful as an adult.

Keeping foreskin on the forefront of your mind, another condition is balantitis. This condition is more common in men over forty but has had rare cases in young children. Balantitis is an inflammation that affects the head and foreskin of the penis. It can cause penile discharge, sexual discomfort, swelling, and even impotence. In severe cases balantitis can even lead to phimosis which is the complete inability to retract the foreskin. Balantitis can be caused by a cornucopia of different viruses such the human papilloma virus, penis cancer, and diabetes.

A final thing to watch out for on your member is herpes simplex. This tricky fellow has been on the rise lately so you need to watch out for it. It can usually be diagnosed when you have several small, and very, very painful, blisters on your penis which turn into ulcers. This is the most common form of penile ulceration. It is highly contagious and extremely infectious and the first time you get it you can usually expect to experience a very feverish type illness to go along with the blisters.

So before you go off this summer to be free with nature and have several fun filled nights downtown remember this: you never know where that trick has been so wash him before you take him home, and keep it wrapped. In the words of a famous comedian "if you keep it wrapped like grandmas couch, when you turn 85 it'll still look brand new".

Have a good summer everyone, and see you again in the fall.

Northern Ireland Schools Conflict Resolution Project

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

This year, a group of students from Saint Mary's took part in the Northern Ireland Schools Conflict Resolution Project. This is the project's second year. Students receive conflict resolution training and lessons in Northern Irish history and use their techniques to promote conflict resolution to Northern Irish students.

Saint Mary's students of Irish Studies, Religious Studies, International Development Studies, Political Science and Sociology traveled to Northern Ireland this winter. The students facilitated workshops in five different Northern Irish schools.

Below are three accounts of students who participated in the project this year.

Danica Francis, IDS Honours

Participating in Peaceful Schools International with Saint Mary's University was a true honour for me. Learning about the issues in Northern Ireland was something that I will always cherish. I learned way more about Northern Ireland's history and current problems by going there than I would ever learn by reading it in a book.

The conflict that the children face on a daily basis is something that we do not normally think about happening in the Western World. As an International Development Studies student it was great for me to see how there are just as many problems in developed countries as in developing countries because we often do not look at the problems at home first before we cast judgment on the developing countries.

The one aspect that I enjoyed the most was looking at the murals

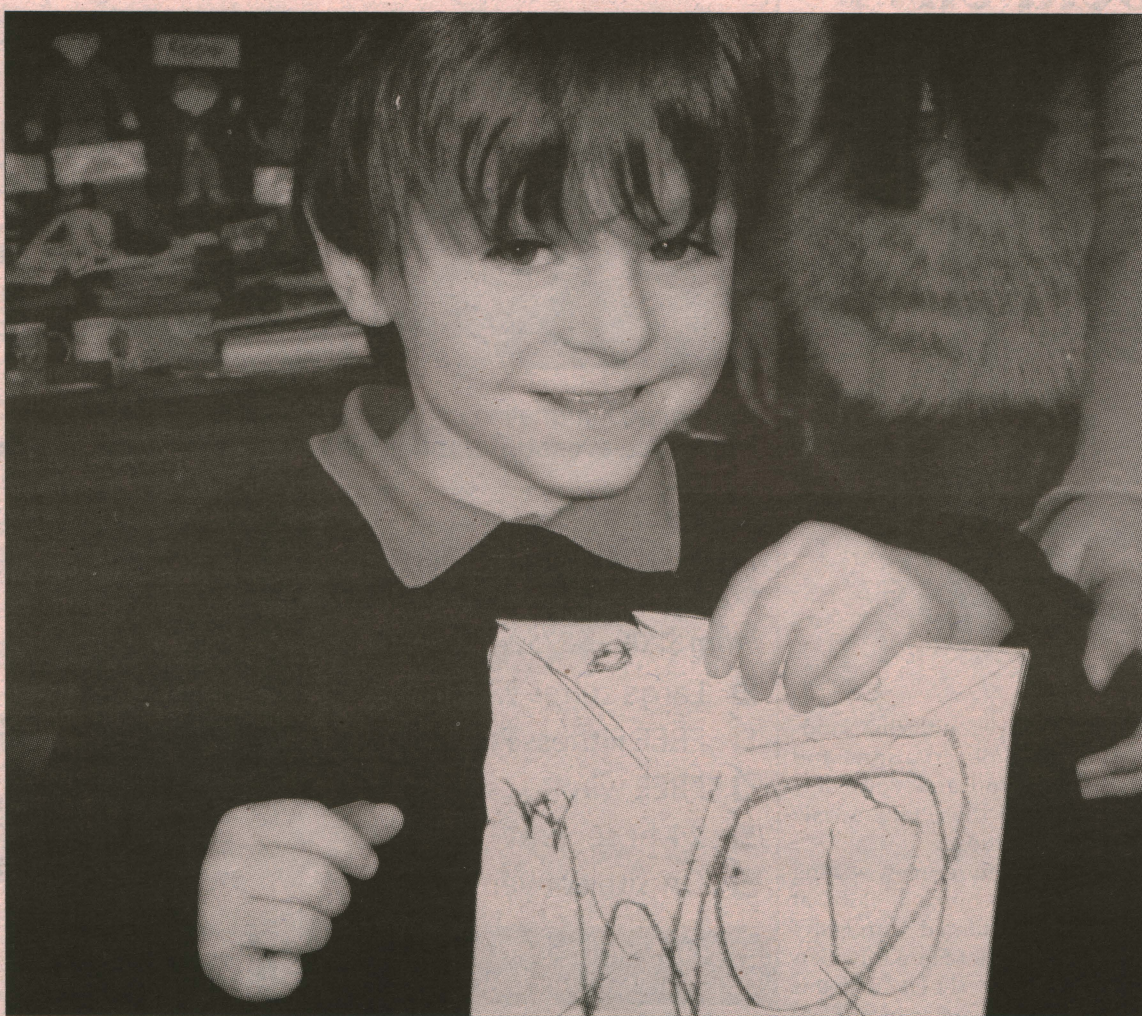


Photo by Laura Houlihan

that I have decided to initiate a project in my own community in Southern Ontario to deal with the issue of youth violence and gangs. I think that if the communities that face gang violence were to initiate these types of projects such as creating murals on the walls on how to resolve conflict and what type of conflict they see everyday that the crime rates will fall.

Another aspect that I really

that by going to the three different types of schools, Catholic, Protestant, and Integrated, it allowed us to get a greater perspective on the issues at hand. It allowed us to gain the proper understandings of how the school system is trying to rectify the situation in Northern Ireland.

I think that other students should get the opportunity to see what is going on in Northern

looked at issues ranging from the impact of conflicts on children, and environmental sustainability, to the complex role of religion in development and the workings of the international economy. However, throughout all of this I have been increasingly aware of the disability I have in grasping all of this information on an emotional level, as a Canadian.

Thus, my hope in visiting Northern Ireland was that I would gain a better understanding of what it means to experience life amidst conflict. Although Northern Ireland was of course very different than the places I generally study in development, this experience brought me closer to understanding the potential impact of outside intervention, and what it means to come to terms with a painful past in order to build peace and forgiveness.

On the days spent in West Belfast I certainly learned the most. Walking amidst peace murals, and barb-wired fences, or sitting in bookstores looking through the Catholic and Protestant accounts of what has happened, my emotional connection to Ireland began to grow. Particularly when learning more about incidents like the hunger strikes I really began to understand what it means for people to feel so strongly about their history and people. Understanding this gave me much better insight into why conflicts persist.

Though I inevitably met with many people my age and older, there was no one better through which to learn these lessons than children, which we of course had the opportunity to work throughout the week. Meeting with them one on one strongly re-affirmed my optimism in development. Their potential to create change was evident in their sense of humor and resiliency and as the young students asked us why we have the Queen on our Canadian money or lit up as they persisted with ques-

tions about how much we loved Belfast I felt a sincere connection and closeness between all of us in the classroom.

Mitch Gillingwater, Economics

Over the winter break of 2007 I was privileged to be able to attend the second Northern Ireland Peace Trip to Belfast. As a member of Peaceful Schools International ten students from Saint Mary's University and the Atlantic School of Theology, including myself, were able to plan and facilitate Conflict Resolution workshops for youths aged 5 to 18. These workshops took place in West Belfast schools as well as many other towns surrounding Belfast.

While the situation in Northern Ireland is certainly not as violent or tense as it was during the troubles there is still a sharp divide between Catholics and Protestants, particularly in West Belfast. Having had no stable form of government, with the exception of municipal councilors, the situation in Northern Ireland is as unique as the culture and history of its people.

Most of our work was focused in Belfast where children are at the highest risk and in the most need of Conflict Resolution. Growing up in broken homes, many of these children have lived without one or both parents and have witnessed more conflict and violence than any child should ever have to. It was eye opening to visit these children and hear stories of the IRA on the roofs of these schools up until only five years ago. Even with all of the conflict these children were smart, engaged, and had an amazing sense of maturity when we discussed some tough issues.



Photo by Joel Miller

Danica Francis is an Honours IDS student who took part in the Northern Ireland Schools Conflict Resolution Project this year.

While this peace project to Northern Ireland is still in its infancy, I have no doubt that it will continue to grow and be just as well received by those overseas as it is by those within our University community. Again, it was a great honor and a great experience to be able to visit Northern Ireland and participate in this peace project. It was something I won't soon forget and am fortunate to have been selected to participate in.

If you're interested in Northern Ireland Schools Conflict Resolution Project, contact Bridget Brownlow, Saint Mary's Conflict Resolution Adviser at bridget.brownlow@smu.ca.



Photo by Laura Houlihan

around Northern Ireland. I think that the developed countries can learn a lot about conflict, peace, and development from Northern Ireland. I think that the murals are a great avenue to pursue peaceful relations between different groups because they illustrate the troubles that each group face and what motivates them to gain peace. And it is because of this

enjoyed was going to the schools and talking with the children. The children in Northern Ireland know, and realize so much more than I ever did when I was their age. I believe that the main reason for this is because of the environment that they were living in; but, I also believe that the situation is getting better you can see it when you go to the integrated schools. I think

Ireland because it will give them another perspective of life that I think that every global citizen needs to have.

Laura Houlihan, Political Science and IDS

Throughout the past four years of studying international development and political science, I've

OPINION

From Germany to Canada Culture shock, eh?!

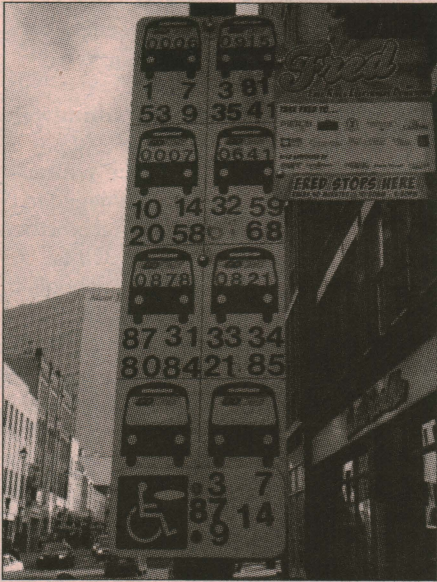


Photo By Carolin Anthes.

Canada is huge, freezing cold, a hideaway for grizzlies and maple syrup lovers, oh yes, and last but not least it produces the world's best brand of snow! Sounds stereotypical and simplistic? Well, how could I've known it better before arriving to the world's second largest country last August, before being introduced to Mr. "Double-Double" Timmy Hortons, before figuring out that 'potluck' has nothing to do with (a) lucky pot or even before absorbing Canadian multi-culture through my first poutine, my first African dance class or my first SMU International Night?

Let's turn the tables: What comes spontaneously to your mind when you think of Germany? - Assiduously engineered luxury goods: BMW, Mercedes and Volkswagen?! Probably. That's how my home country is often depicted in Canadian commercials. But believe me, before even having the chance to test your hypothesis, whether being German is all about those vehicles, you'll be astonished, your mouth gaping wide open, while facing tiny everyday mysteries and miracles... You'll be confronted with creepy green traffic light men (as I was with white ones), hyper detailed bus schedules (imagine you're new to Halifax and trying to catch a bus back to SMU - see picture), bread, so dark and substantial you've never believed it could exist, let alone be digestible (as I am still wondering how this white, fluffy airstuff kind a thing deserves the name bread), or words that will free you from all the faith you previously had in human reasonability: Hochseeschiffahrtsskapitänsmützenaufhängevorrichtung. Don't worry, this vocable won't necessarily confront you in German everyday life but it must nevertheless be considered as a legitimate German word and well, I think nobody expected me to learn what a "cornucopia of awesomeness" encompasses, either.

Sounds different and exciting? Oh yeah. It does.

Now that I attracted your attention, nothing else remains than convincing you to really do what will - honestly - change your life by enriching it, that will let you experience a plethora of new things and concepts and views and human mysteries so that you could fill books

and hard drives with thousands of thoughts, observations and pictures of you and your new friends...well then, take a risk: study a year abroad!

Perhaps you're even willing to boost your survival skills at a densely populated University (35.000) in vibrant Frankfurt, Germany (you know, the city with this big airport and the European Central Bank) as SMU and Frankfurt University have a new exchange partnership (voilà, I am the first generation ☐) that is open for every SMU student?

Before I start sounding entirely comparable to one of those advertisements for diet pills that are promoted to change our gruesome lives or before just talking too much about something you should experience by your own - I'll finish with one of my favourite lines by Marc Twain: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

There is nothing I would dare to add! This guy simply knew about what he was writing...

Oh, one last thing: Bis hoffentlich bald in Frankfurt!

Carolin Anthes,
who jumped into a one year
adventure without regretting

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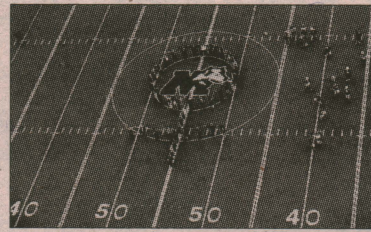
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SPORTS

Saint Mary's Athletes Honored at Annual Awards Banquet

BY DANNY CAREW

This past Wednesday night, the Saint Mary's Department of Athletics & Recreation celebrated the achievements of Saint Mary's athletes with the Annual Awards Banquet held at the Tower. The night gave athletes a chance to get dolled up in their best dress attire, have dinner and drinks, and cheer on fellow teammates who received awards as their respective coaches reflected on the season past.

Athletic Director, Dr. David Murphy started things off by introducing the guests of the night and laying out the structure for the ceremony. He handed the night off to the Emcees: Ally Read, a member of the Women's Soccer team and Joe Doherty, receiver for the Football team. Both Emcees were well prepared with jokes, including Joe Doherty offering to shower Ally with a glass of water, reminiscent of a certain poster Joe used in his campaign for President.

I had the honor of presenting the "John Jones Memorial Award," an award that honours the "unsung" player. This year's recipient is Saint Mary's point guard Mark Ross. Ross not only helped the Huskie's reach the AUS Final and CIS Final 8, but he was also 2nd in the CIS in minutes played per game, and 7th in the country in assists and assist to turnover ratio. While there were numerous candidates for this award, Mark was the most deserving of it. Mark doesn't score a lot of points but the team rallies around him, and, without him, this team would not have played as well as they did down the stretch. Anyone who has watched the Huskies play this season knows that Mark is the leader and soul of the team. It was nice for Mark to be acknowledged of his achievements in front of his athletic peers.

Throughout the rest of the night each coach of every Huskie athletic club would come and say a few words about the team and proceed to present an MVP award. Some speeches were short and others were long but each speech captured the essence of what occurred within each team's season.

Saint Mary's Rugby coach, Glenn Johnston, broke down in tears as he reflected about how he came to coach and how proud he was of his team, including this year's team MVP Paula McNeil. He mentioned not only how Paula was a mother but how she also acted as a mother figure for her teammates. The Rugby team finished with a 3-3 mark on the season. The team, however, lost to UPEI in the playoff final by a score of 25-5. Good luck next year, girls.

Jason Clarke was blunt when reflecting on the Women's Soccer team of the season past. The women finished 6th in the AUS with a record of 5 wins, 6 losses and 2 ties. He didn't seem too pleased about how this season went but he was pleased that the MVP for this year's squad, Courtney MacGray, scored on the last touch of her career. She was also first team All-AUS.

The MVP for the Men's Soccer team was Evan Harvey. The Soccer team made it to the CIS championship where they lost to Trinity Western 3-1 but won their consolation contest against U of T 2-0. The



From top left, clockwise: Director of Athletics Dr. David Murphy presented the Female MVP Award to Ashley Wicks, President Colin Dodds awarded President's Awards (for athletic and academic excellence) to Ally Read and Time St. Pierre, and Dr. Murphy presented the Male MVP Award to Dan Rudisuela.



Men's team always seems to be solid and they'll be going international this upcoming season with an exhibition match in China.

The Cross Country and Track and Field teams have both male and female MVP's. For Cross Country, Gerald Demers and Christine Carey took home the honours. Carey finished 60th in the CIS championship and Demers finished 57th. Ashley Ryer and CJ Price took home the MVP for Track and Field.

Maria Barreiro was the top field hockey player, while Dan Rudisuela and Courtney Shriver were the Hockey MVP's. Rudisuela was not only the unanimous selection for the Hockey MVP, he was also the top choice as Male Athlete of the Year. All Dan did was score in every single game except one! Dan won the League MVP by leading the AUS in scoring and he ranked 3rd in the CIS, finishing with 20 goals and 25 assists for 45 points in 26 games while also compiling a 23 game scoring streak. Dan's squad finished 4th in the AUS, however, they suffered a heart breaking loss to Saint Thomas University in the playoffs. It looks like Dan is coming back depending on whether he's accepted into the MBA program. Dan's 3.8 GPA, and the fact that he dominated the entire league, should bode well for his chances at gaining admission into the program. Shriver and the Lady Huskies finished 2nd in the AUS with a 17-2 record; however, they lost in the semi-finals to University of Moncton by a score of 4-1, a team they believed they should have beat.

The other big winner on the night was Ashley Wicks who was not only the MVP of the team, she was also the Female Athlete of the Year. The Saint Mary's Huskies Women's Volleyball team was one of the most celebrated teams of the

year as they won the AUS title.

The male and female MVP's for basketball were Alise Brown and Mark McLaughlin. Alise was consistent all year leading the conference in scoring, while Mark, in his second season, emerged as the dominant scoring option for the Huskies. Coach Ross Quakenbush commented on how Mark improved on his defense which was evidenced by the fact that he held league stars Sharone Edwards and Paulo Santana in check during the AUS championship. Ally and Joe made a funny remark after the basketball awards: "We led the league in free throw percentage until we let football players play." This comment was directed at Eric Glavic as he missed some important free throws in the AUS and CIS championship. Don't worry Eric, shoot 100 free throws a day and your woes will wash away.

Football coach Steve Sumarah commented on this past season, lamenting about how it was a trying season. It was indeed a tough season as the Huskies started the season 0-3 but they rebounded by making it to the AUS championship; the Huskies never lost a game all season by more than four points. Instead of a traditional MVP award, Steve gave out an award titled the Block & Tackle award. This year's recipient was not only a valuable team player but his greatest contribution- his leadership. Coach mentioned that when recruits would come to visit, this year's recipient would ask if he could let the recruits stay with him. He leads on and off the field. The team rallies around him and he's the heart and soul of the defense- Tyler Powell. After the award was given, Ally mentioned that it was too bad that QB Billy Robinson wasn't available because he's photogenic. For those who missed the joke, Billy was suspended for one



game for flipping the bird during a team photo. Ally and Joe's timing, throughout the night, was impeccable.

The Rookie of the Year awards went to Kateyln Cross and Brandon Verge. Kateyln helped propel the volleyball team to the AUS championship, while Verge posted the second-best goals-against average (2.90) and the second-best save percentage (.913) for the hockey team in AUS play.

The final major award of the night was the Presidents Award. This award is given for academic achievement, community involvement, and athletic achievement. Ally Read received the award for the female side. Ally, a member of the women's soccer team, is instrumental in organizing the run for Cystic Fibrosis. She is also an Academic All-Canadian. Ally truly bleeds maroon and is well deserving of this prestigious award. Tim St. Pierre took home the other Presidents Award. Tim hits the books just as hard as he does run-

ningbacks- He boasts a 4.0 GPA while playing linebacker for the Huskies.

The awards night was a success. Our student athletes bring great pride to our school and it was a pleasure to witness those awarded for their achievements. Congratulations to every team member on every sports team and thanks for giving us something to cheer about.



Photos by Nick Pearce

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THE JOURNAL

Sports Rollback

UNB WIN'S UNIVERSITY CUP, SAVAGE ON HAND

It took overtime to decide the victor of an all-New Brunswick final, but the UNB Varsity Reds have captured their second Canadian university hockey title. The V-Reds scored at 8:49 of overtime to top the Moncton Aigles Bleus 3-2 in front of more than 6,000 fans at the Moncton Coliseum. The Varsity Reds finished second to Moncton in the regular season and also lost the league final to the Aigles Bleus in two straight games. They pulled together when it really counted and won the University Cup for the second time in school history -- the first time since 1998. They had to kill off two five-on-three power plays during the game and had to battle back twice with Moncton holding leads of 1-0 and 2-1. Moncton was seeking its fifth Canadian title and first since 1995 and had a special guest on hand for the tournament. Sebastien Savage was back in Moncton for the first time since a tragic hockey accident in October 2005 left him with paralysis in his upper and lower body. He went head-first into the boards after getting tangled up with an Acadia player. At the time of the accident, he was in his third season with Moncton and Savage told the media he's particularly pleased with the improvement in his upper body strength.

TRETIAK'S SUMMIT SERIES PROPOSAL REJECTED UNTIL RUSSIA SIGN'S AGREEMENT

The NHL has rejected Russia's invitation to revive the famous Summit Series this fall. Vladislav Tretiak, the president of the Russian Ice Hockey Federation, recently submitted a letter to the NHL requesting the use of NHL

players in an eight game exhibition series that would pit Russia's best against Canada's top players. The league has put a strict emphasis toward an ongoing effort to settle a transfer agreement with Russia, which would bring one of hockey's biggest powers into the existing group of federations. While the 1972 Summit Series was one of the most significant events in the history of hockey, the NHL won't support or approve Tretiak's interest in bringing it back to life until Russia officially signs the agreement -- preventing such fiasco's as the one that saw Evgeni Malkin flee the motherland last summer.

In Russia's defense, there is a strong opposition to the agreement mainly because team's like Magnitogorsk Metallurg, who owned the rights to Malkin, only were entitled to receive a bit below \$900,000 for letting Malkin go to the NHL. In comparison, the Boston Red Sox shelled out around 50 million for the rights to Daisuke Matsuzaka. Other arguments by Metallurg's GM is that they are not happy with NHL/IIHF blackmailing tactics -- claiming that Russia was informed that NHL players might not be allowed to play at the IIHF World Championship in Moscow this month if the agreement were not signed.

Tretiak is the president of RHF (Russian Hockey Federation) and is actually a strong supporter of joining the agreement, however, the Russians stress that Tretiak owns several hockey goaltending schools in North America, which are highly dependant on the NHL. Point being, considering the NHL considered not even letting its players compete in the World Hockey Championships just to spite the Russia's stubbornness, it

seems the possibility of the Summit series returning might be a long way away yet.

LAMORIELLO MAKES YET ANOTHER DEVILISH MOVE

The playoff-bound New Jersey Devils have fired head coach Claude Julien with less than a week to go in the regular season -- veteran GM Lou Lamoriello will be taking over for the second straight season as he also stepped behind the bench last season after Larry Robinson stepped down as coach in December. The surprising move Monday comes with the Devils second in the Eastern Conference with a 47-24-8 record and 102 points. The Devils have won four of their last five games, including Sunday's 3-1 win over Boston. They went 6-6-2 in March while battling key injuries to Brian Gionta, John Madden and Patrik Elias. Julien, a former Montreal Canadiens coach, took over the Devils on June 13, 2006, after Lamoriello relinquished the coaching duties. It's reminiscent of the 1999-2000 season when the Devils fired head coach Robbie Ftorek on March 23 and went on to win the Stanley Cup under Robinson that spring.

PROBE INTO STEROIDS IN BASEBALL ALMOST AT AN END

Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell has asked to start player interviews as part of his steroids probe and expects to complete his investigation in the "coming months." On the eve of the first anniversary of his appointment, Mitchell said Thursday evidence-gathering has been slowed by legal issues. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig announced Mitchell's hiring for the probe on March 30, 2006.

Mitchell's staff has been at spring training camps talking with management personnel; but his investigators have not interviewed active players yet. Mitchell sent some players letters this year asking for waivers that would allow his staff to obtain certain medical records. Lawyers for the union have been negotiating an agreement on a centralized procedure that would allow him data.

LAWSUIT AGAINST NFL AND NFLPA GOES FORWARD

A lawsuit filed by six current and former players against the NFL and its union seeking to recoup \$20 million they lost in an alleged fraud scheme is moving forward. A judge denied a motion to dismiss, meaning the case in federal court in Atlanta can proceed. No trial date has been set. The NFL and the NFL Players Association contended the lawsuit filed last June should be thrown out partly because under the league's collective bargaining agreement, players are solely responsible for their own finances. Aside from the NFL and NFLPA, other defendants include companies whose names are unknown to the plaintiffs, but were supposed to perform certain background checks for the NFL and NFLPA. The lawsuit claims the union endorsed the services of an investment firm even though its manager had liens against him. In the lawsuit, the players said the league and the NFLPA are liable for the losses because of investments with fund manager Kirk Wright. Wright was arrested in Miami Beach, Fla., last May on federal fraud charges.

According to authorities,

Wright and his company collected as much as \$185 million from at least 500 investors since 1997 and used false statements and documents to mislead some of them to believe the value of those investments was increasing. Much of that money is now missing. Wright is awaiting trial. No date has been set.

NEW RACING REGULATION

At a meeting of the World Motor Sport Council earlier this week, the 2008 Technical Regulations were amended to include a complete ban on the driver aid. "No car may be equipped with a system or device which is capable of preventing the driven wheels from spinning under power or of compensating for excessive throttle demand by the driver --

Any device or system which notifies the driver of the onset of wheel spin is not permitted." The move has the approval of all the current F1 teams. Traction control was reinstated by FIA in 2001 after it was suspected teams were using some sort of engine management system to circumvent the ban. Officials admitted it was just too hard to try and police the rule so it was made legal. With teams forced to employ a FIA controlled ECU in 2008, it will be easier for officials to monitor and police the engine management systems. As well, in 2008, while engines will still have to last two consecutive race weekends, gearboxes will need to last four races before being changed out. Penalties for changing a gearbox before the four race limit is reached include a five spot grid penalty.

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Sam Mitchell Leaving for Charlotte?

BY ADAM COSTELLO

The Toronto Raptors are playoff-bound for the first time in five seasons, beating the Charlotte Bobcats 107-94 last Sunday to clinch their first post-season berth since 2001-02. While the win over the Bobcats gave the Raptors their 27th of the year at home, tying a franchise high and boosted their season record to 41-32 -- it also represented something many are ignoring at present. The team the Raptors beat to clinch that spot is the team many are speculating bench boss Sam Mitchell will depart to coach next season.

Mitchell's contract with Toronto is set to expire after this season and rumours are swirling that the Raptors coach plans to head back to Charlotte upon seasons end. Before the Raptors took the floor at the Air Canada Centre to face the visiting Bobcats, Mitchell refused to respond to a report in the New York Post naming him as the frontrunner for Charlotte's head coaching job. The job will become vacant after this season ends and Bernie Bickerstaff moves to the Bobcats front office full time.

Bickerstaff and Mitchell have

been close since the Raptors head coach was the lead assistant in Charlotte briefly before accepting the Toronto job. Despite the fact that Mitchell reached 100 career wins last week with a victory over Washington, or that his team, with nine games to go in the regular-season, sits third in the Eastern Conference and looks poised to possess home court advantage in the first round of the playoffs -- The Raptors still have not extended his contract.

Mitchell warned reporters he wouldn't answer questions about his contract status Sunday, and promptly ended his pre-game media scrum when one reporter posed a contract question anyways. The Raptors have already won 14 more games than they did all of last season, despite a 2-8 start. The last time Toronto was in the playoffs, Lenny Wilkens was coach, and the Raptors won 12 of 14 games down the stretch to clinch a post-season berth before losing to the Detroit Pistons in Game 5 of the five-game opening round series. Morris Peterson is the only current Raptor that was on that squad.

During Sam Mitchell's 13-year NBA career he was held in high regard around the league as a stu-

dent of the game. When he finally hung up his sneakers in 2002, he went from student to teacher toward his goal of becoming an NBA coach. In May of 2004, Mitchell was named the lead assistant coach of the expansion Charlotte Bobcats. He assisted them in player workouts and draft preparation during his brief stay. He spent the prior two seasons on the Milwaukee Bucks' bench, first assisting George Karl and then Terry Porter.

Mitchell was named the Raptors sixth head coach in franchise history June 29, 2004. Although the Raptors finished 33-49 in Mitchell's first season, the campaign under his direction was highlighted by the implementation of a more up-tempo style of play that saw the team's points per game average increase by 14.3 over the previous season, the third-highest jump in NBA history. It seems, though, that his time in Charlotte had quite an impact on him and the rumours of him returning to Carolina will continue to persist until he either resigns with the Raptors or does what everyone speculates he's going to do -- reunite with Bickerstaff in Charlotte.



Roger Hollett Rocks the ECC

BY LAURA MACINTOSH

March 31st marked a night to remember at the Halifax Forum; as Extreme Cage Combat V brought in some of Canada's best mixed martial arts fighters. Extreme Cage Combat (or the ECC as it's known to MMA fans) is the big show in Atlantic Canada, with its standard sized hexagon caged in like the Ultimate Fighting Championship; it is the stepping stone to the UFC. Just ask Jason MacDonald; after going 3-0 in the ECC, "The Athlete" broke on to the UFC scene plastering Ultimate Fighter 3 finalist Ed Herman.

The ECC's present looks just as bright as it's past. Roger Hollett, fighting for Team Titans in Halifax; has been making a name for himself in the cage, dismantling his opponents with submissions and hard hits; heading into last

weekends fight 5-0 lifetime, 4-0 in the ECC. ECC 5: A Night of Champions marked Hollett's title fight against Ricardeau Francois; a Montreal native and strong fighter out of Team Nestor.

As a photographer at the event; I had a ringside seat to snap away; unfortunately I didn't even have time to get a decent shot. As the bell rang to start the first round, Hollett rocked Francois with a flurry of punches that sent him to his back. Hollett mounted his opponent near the cage and continued to reign down hard shots until the referee ended the match just after the 20 second mark, deeming Francois unable to defend himself. It was clear to fans in the arena that the match was over immediately; as Francois hit the canvas hard, and appeared out cold 10 seconds into the match. Around this time, Hollett looked up at the referee as if to

say it's over, but the ref didn't stop the match until Roger gave a few more blows to seal the deal.

With those 21 seconds over; Roger Hollett was announced as the ECC Light Heavy Weight Champion. The dust didn't even have time to settle before the cage was rushed by Titans team mates, friends and family who knew Roger did exactly what he needed to make Dana White turn his head to the direction of the Maritimes once again. As Roger celebrated in the cage with his father, former boxing champ, Halifax fans got an up close look at the next big thing in MMA.

Now 5-0 in the cage and 6-0 in his career; with impressive wins over all opponents, Roger Hollett is the face of the ECC and has launched himself into the spotlight. This Halifax nightclub bouncer has a bright future ahead

of him and may very well follow in the footsteps of fellow Nova Scotia born fighter Jason Macdonald right into the Superbowl of Mixed Martial Arts, The UFC.

Thanks to Matt Bellefontaine for stats and input on this article



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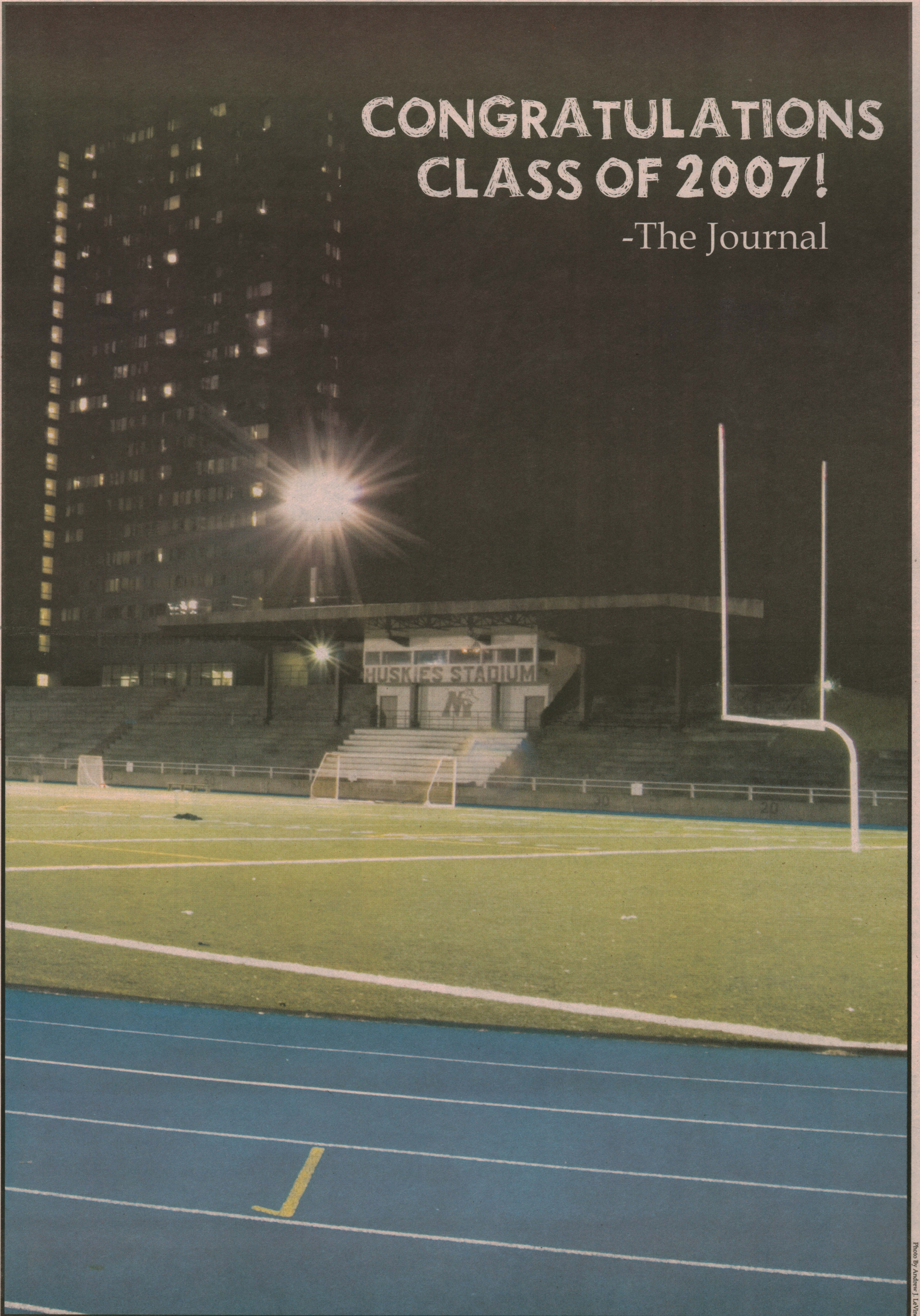


Photo by Andrew J. LaVine