

THE

FREE • FEBRUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 9, 2011

JOURNAL

The Student Newspaper of Saint Mary's University | Halifax, NS

Students Claim Partial Victory, p. 8

Find the G-Spot for Valentine's, p. 6

Change for Change: A Student-Led Proposal p. 3



COVER PHOTO: ALEXANDER TAMO,
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Saint Mary's University Students' Association

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
CAMPUS CALENDAR LEGEND Presented by SMUSA Sporting Event / SMU Athletics Academic Event or Presented by SMU Alcohol Available No Entry Fee for SMU Students No Minors (19 years+ only) Gorsebrook Special <small>To get your event added to the Campus Calendar, send an email to marketing.manager@smusa.ca</small>		Open Mic Night Feb 9 @ The Gorsebrook Lounge 9:30pm 	Grad Class Society event 10 Happening at the Gorsebrook More details to come	Water Can Society event 11 Happening at the Gorsebrook More details to come	Feb 12 12 13 IDS Society event Happening at the Gorsebrook More details to come
	14 Tribal Fusion Belly Dancing with the Women's Centre 3pm - 4pm @ the Tower 10% Student Discount at Sobeys (Queen St.) Pub Trivia Night @ The Gorsebrook starts @ 8:00 pm BOD Forum and President's Debate 6pm - 8pm @ McNally Theatre Auditorium	15	Open Mic Night 16 @ The Gorsebrook Lounge 9:30pm SMUSA Elections 	17 SMUSA Elections Election Results Party in the Pub	18 Last day for withdrawing, without academic penalty, from 6 credit hour courses.

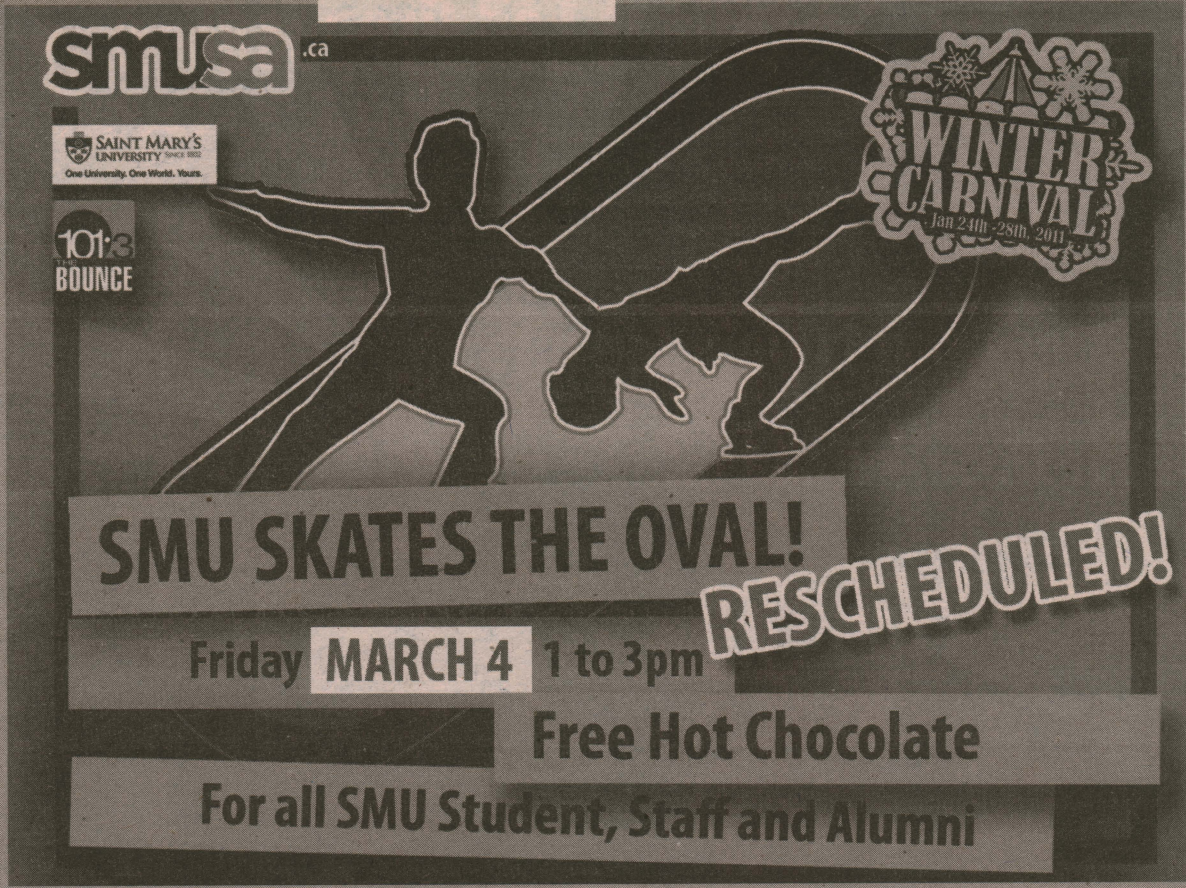
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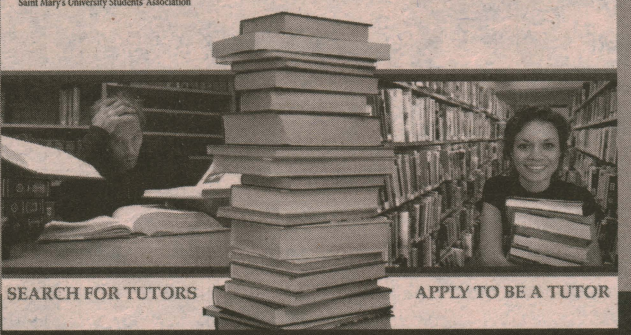
REMINDER

February 18
 Last day for withdrawing, without academic penalty, from 6 credit hour courses.

March 18
 Last day for withdrawing, without academic penalty, from 3 credit hour courses.

smusa Tutor Database

Saint Mary's University Students' Association



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REMINDER

Election Days: Feb 16 & 17
 Should one dollar per semester be added to Saint Mary's University student fees in order to support any student-led development initiatives and volunteer opportunities?
 Would you support an increase in the student levy of \$0.50 per semester to the SMU journal?
 Are you in favor of a mandatory U-Pass for full time students at a cost no to exceed \$141 per student for the months of September-April?
 Should the student body establish a levy for one dollar per academic year for Community development initiatives?

PERSPECTIVE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ADAM FABER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



There is a bit of a battle going on over how internet will be billed in the future: In general, Canadians pay for unlimited Internet connectivity, downloading and surfing at their leisure. The change that is being fought over right now is regulation coming from the CRTC that all Internet companies will have a cap, and charge for any over-age. This is similar to counting your cell phone minutes, and paying extra if you go over. The theory is the same, increased use causes increased cost. There are companies that already do this, in Iqaluit, for example, there is a fairly low cap in order to the service to remain profitable. Locally, there are Internet Service Providers that limit certain types of traffic, keeping overall usage low (file sharing goes slower so that it doesn't hog Internet usage.) Stephen Harper made a pretty safe move, asking for the decision

to be reviewed. People don't like the idea of things getting more expensive, and by recent study, 90% of people use the Internet. As an elected official, standing up for 90% of potential voters doesn't seem like a very difficult call to make. The whole reason I believe this has come up is the dual nature of many companies

AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, STANDING UP FOR 90% OF POTENTIAL VOTERS DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A VERY DIFFICULT CALL TO MAKE.

that provide Internet Service. I happen to get my Internet from Eastlink; I use my connection to watch television, so when I'm offered Eastlink TV, I don't feel the need to subscribe. In fact, the most useful thing my television has done for me lately is to serve as a footstool while I watch

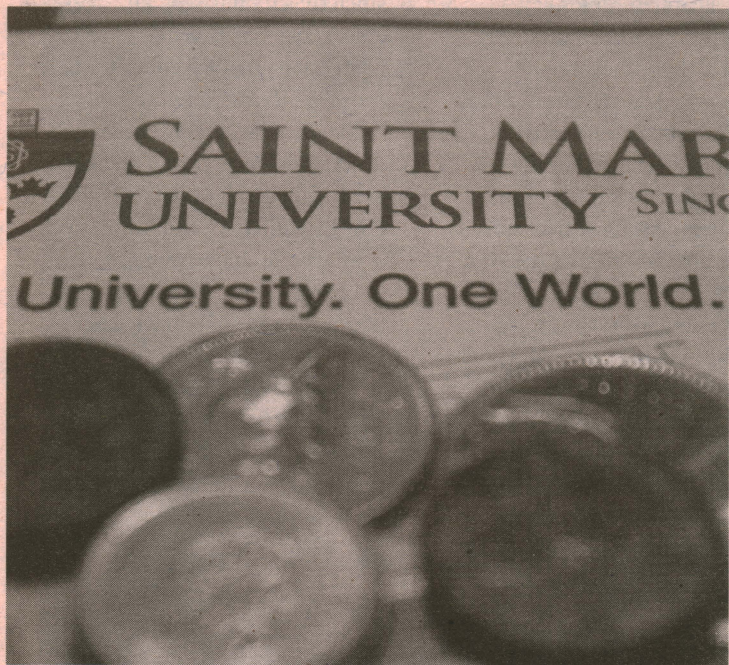


Mythbusters online. Due to my bountiful bandwidth, television providers have lost a potential customer. What if watching my shows too much caused my bill to soar? I might be more inclined to watch the cable box, knowing that I don't have to count my megabytes. By providing unlimited web traffic, companies are competing with themselves through YouTube, Hulu, and Torrent Sites. If I were a CEO, I would alter the services so that

they didn't interfere with each other. The CRTC ruling, now being called for a review, was good for the big companies in the way it forced all Internet Providers to do the same thing, therefore making sure that one company doesn't keep unlimited Internet and steal all the customers away. Now that politics is involved, it will be interesting to see who has more pull; the popular opinion, or the lobby groups?

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

JENNY O'CONNELL • VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS • SMU IDS UNDERGRAD SOCIETY



Next week, on February 16th and 17th, when you vote in the SMUSA elections, vote yes to the referendum question "should one dollar per semester be added to Saint Mary's University student fees in order to support student led international development initiatives and volunteering opportunities?"

As the question might suggest, the International Development Studies (IDS) Undergrad Society is trying to convince the student body to create a fund to support student

led development and volunteering initiatives. That means that if you have a plan, that shows legitimate potential to help improve the lives of those in the developing world, or wish to participate in an already existing program, this fund can help you do it.

A Board of Directors will be created specifically to administer the Change for Change Fund. Along with the President, and the two VPs of the IDS Undergrad Society, the Board of Directors will consist of a representative from International Mobility,

an IDS faculty member, a representative from the IDS Grad Society, and a representative from SMUSA and from the SMU Political Science Society. The SMUSA executive will oversee the Board of Directors and has the ability to freeze the funds if they feel as if the funds are being used inappropriately or unfairly.

The fund can be used in three ways, to fund any undergrad or grad SMU student who wants to go abroad to volunteer, to help a SMU student cover the start up costs for their own development initiatives (e.g. fundraisers, awareness campaigns, or even in starting their own charity), and to fund a development project led by the IDS Undergrad Society.

If you vote YES on the Change for Change referendum question

IF YOU VOTE YES ON THE CHANGE FOR CHANGE REFERENDUM QUESTION EACH OF YOU WILL CONTRIBUTE TO COLLECTIVE CHANGE...IN BOTH SENSES OF THE WORD.

each of you will contribute to collective change...in both senses of the word. Volunteering abroad

is expensive, some volunteer positions and internships can cost thousands of dollars. Think of all the different ways you can spend a dollar in the run of a day. You could get half a coffee, half a slice of cold pizza or a shot back in the 'dolla holla' days at the Dome... at the end of the day, a single dollar doesn't go very far, but collectively our dollars can go a long way.

Volunteering and doing development work abroad is a life changing and enriching experience. Such experiences give students the opportunity to gain personal and professional skills, work experience, strengthen their resumes, network and meet people from around the world.

Again, any student at Saint Mary's University can apply for funding and will be eligible to receive financial endorsements that cover up to 75% of their initiative's total cost.

Remember, these days a dollar doesn't get you far; but together just one dollar from each of us can make a huge difference to SMU students and communities in developing nations. On Wednesday and Thursday of next week, vote yes for Change for Change. If you have any questions about Change for Change please do not hesitate to contact us at ids.smu@gmail.com

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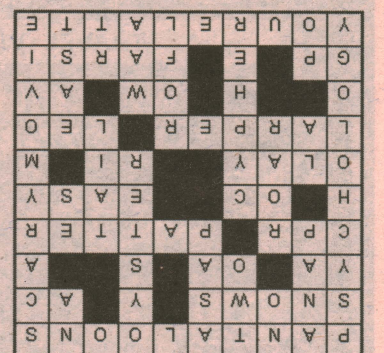
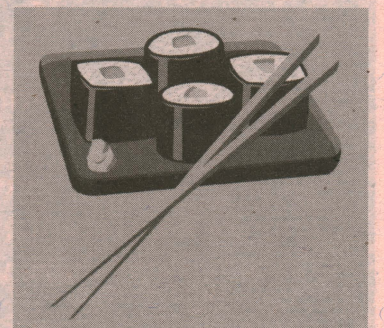
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GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK

Enjoy eating sushi? Bring your own chopsticks when going to a sushi restaurant and save from the approximately 25 million trees being cut down annually for the production of chopsticks. SMUES

Go to www.smues.ca or find us on Facebook to learn more about the SMU Environmental Society, upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!



NEWS

30 DEAD AND OVER 1 MILLION DISPLACED
BY FLOODING IN SRI LANKA

KEIMEKO SCOTLAND

Heavy rains in Sri Lanka's North Central and Eastern provinces have displaced almost a million people and caused widespread devastation, according to Sri Lankan government officials.

The displaced have been housed in 505 welfare centers and relief efforts are under way, said Pradeen Kodippili, assistant director of the Colombo-based Disaster Management Center.

At least 30 people have died, five others were injured, and two others were missing.

Kodippili said almost 1,000 houses have been destroyed.

The worst hit areas were the districts of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa in the North Central province, said Maj. Gen. Boniface Perera, a Sri

Lankan army commander. The eastern districts of Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara are also affected. Prisons flooded in Anuradhapura, and inmates had to be moved to three different prisons. In the Polonnaruwa district, the town of Medirigirya was fully submerged in water Saturday. Perera said army search-and-rescue teams, assisted by naval craft, were deployed for evacuation work. The intensity of the raging flood waters was illustrated by an incident on February 2. Perera said his headquarters received a distress call that a group of villagers were marooned on a patch of land and that rising waters would swal-

low them within hours. Two boats were sent for their rescue at midnight Thursday. When one boat with the 17 villagers came within 50 meters (55 yards) away from their berthing point, gushing waters lifted the boat and smashed it on a culvert. The boat broke into three pieces, leaving at least five people -- a navy sailor, a 6-year-old child, an 8-year-old child, a man and woman -- dead. Others who were swept away clung to trees and were rescued by the second boat. Troops used flashlights in the heavy downpour to locate them, Perera said. Relief efforts were accelerating, said Sri Lanka's ministry of disaster management.

MALAWI PONDER'S "FART BAN"

KEIMEKO SCOTLAND

Two of Malawi's most senior judicial officials are arguing over whether a new bill includes a provision that outlaws breaking wind in public. Justice Minister George Chabonda says the new bill would criminalise flatulence to promote "public decency". "Just go to the toilet when you feel like farting," he told local radio. However, he was directly contradicted by Solicitor General Anthony Kamanga, who says the reference to "fouling the air" means pollution. "How any reasonable or sensible person can construe the provision to criminalising farting in public is beyond me," he said, adding that the prohibition contained in the new law has been in place since 1929.

The Local Courts Bill, to be introduced next week reads: "Any person who vitiates the atmosphere in any place so as to make it noxious to the public to the health of persons in general dwelling or carrying on business in the neighbourhood or passing along a public way shall be guilty of a misdemeanour." Mr Chabonda, a trained lawyer, insists that this includes farting. "Would you be happy to see people farting anyhow?" he asked on the popular "Straight Talk" programme on Malawi's Capital Radio. He said that local chiefs would deal with any offenders. When asked whether it could be enforced, he said it would be similar to laws banning urinating in public.

MEXICO'S WINTER NIGHTMARE

KEIMEKO SCOTLAND

Seven people and at least 34 animals, including two crocodiles and a monkey, have died in a zoo in the Mexican state of Chihuahua because of an arctic cold wave which hit northern Mexico in recent days.

The death of an inmate at the county jail in Ciudad Juarez, from hypothermia, and that of another person in a fire, apparently generated in an attempt to keep warm. The number of victims in the state of Chihuahua rose to five, while in neighbouring Tamaulipas there have been two deaths.

The dramatic drop in temperatures, which reached 20 degrees below zero (-20C) in some areas of Chihuahua, caused the deaths of 34 animals that were exhibited in a zoo in Ciudad

Aldama, located about 200 kilometers south of the state capital, which bears the same name.

Five iguanas, two crocodiles, a capuchin monkey, 14 parakeets and 12 snakes were killed by hypothermia, according to Alberto Hernández, owner of the Serengueti zoo.

The owner said the icy wave that struck most of the state in recent days also caused power outages forcing the staff to heat parts of the zoo with wood to try to save animals.

The extreme cold, which began on February 2, has set new minimum records not seen in the region since 1956.

Furthermore, in Chihuahua dozens of birds died during the early hours of February 5 in the state capital because of the cold.

Thousands of homes have been left without electricity and water, and schools and factories have been closed.

"There have been cold temperatures in the past, but nothing that has lasted for so many days. It's been 40 years since the city has seen an emergency like this," city's civil protection chief Efran Matamoros told Reuters news agency.

The cold weather has shut down units at 17 power stations across northern Mexico, the Federal Electricity Commission said.

Factories have been asked to reduce their consumption of power, and there have been blackouts in some areas.

Mexico has also withdrawn an offer to temporarily supply electricity to Texas, where power stations have been hit by similar problems.

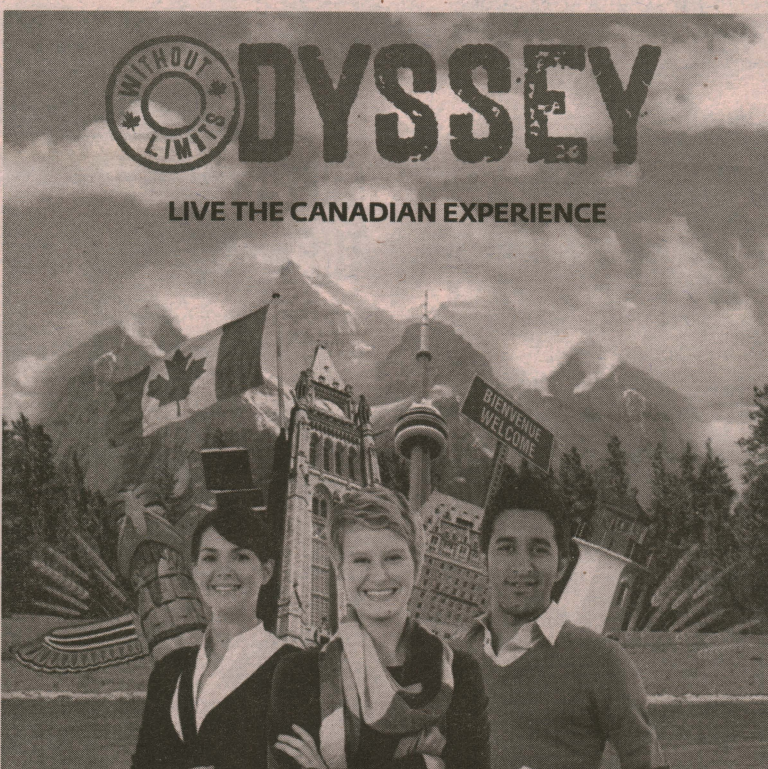
CANADIAN PACIFIC AND UNION
REACH TENTATIVE LABOUR DEAL

KEIMEKO SCOTLAND

Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd and a union representing 2,100 staff announced on February 5 that they had reached a tentative labor deal, averting a strike at the country's second-biggest rail carrier. The company and the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), which represents mechanical services employees, issued separate statements confirming having

reached a tentative contract settlement that will be sent to union members for ratification. Canadian Pacific said this process is expected to be concluded within three weeks. Both sides said details of the deal would be released following ratification. "The agreement enjoys the unanimous endorsement of the CAW-CP Rail master bargain-

ing committee. CP Rail local union leadership will come in to Montreal from across the country to review the new agreement early next week, before going on to a series of nationwide ratification meetings," the union said in a statement. The company has rail lines across Canada and in the upper Midwest and northeastern United States.



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FOOD PRICES REACH ALL-TIME HIGH GLOBALLY

KEIMEKO SCOTLAND

World food prices rose to an all-time high in January, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The Food Price Index measures the cost of a basket of basic food supplies including sugar, cereals, dairy, oils and fats and meat, across the globe. The index rose by 3.4% in January, the seventh consecutive monthly, to its highest level since records began in 1990. The cost of sugar, cereals, dairy and oils and fats all went up last month, while meat prices remained steady. FAO economist Abdolreza Abbassian said high prices were likely to persist in the months to come. Rising commodities costs are one of the major factors behind a growing wave of civil unrest across the Middle

East and North Africa. "High food prices are of major concern especially for low-income food deficit countries that may face problems financing food imports and for poor households which spend a large share of their income on food," said Abbassian. Responding to the FAO's announcement, Oxfam said the latest price rises "should ring alarm bells in capitals around the world." "If prices remain high, it will be just a matter of months before the world's poor are hit by another major food price crisis," said Chris Leather, the charity's policy advisor. Governments need to act now and act together to end this problem. "High global food prices risk hunger for millions of people. Poor people in developing countries spend up to 80% of their income

on food. For them high food prices mean selling off their land or sacrificing their child's education simply to put food on the table." During the recently held World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, economist Nouriel Roubini warned that rapidly rising food prices posed a serious threat to global stability. "What has happened in Tunisia and is happening right now in Egypt, as well as the riots in Morocco, Algeria, Pakistan, are related not only to high unemployment rates and to income and wealth inequality, but also to the very sharp rise in food and commodity prices."



FREE DIABETES AND BLOOD PRESSURE DRUGS FOR BRAZILIANS

KEIMEKO SCOTLAND

Brazil is to provide free medicines for everyone suffering from high blood pressure or diabetes. The drugs will be distributed through a nationwide network of budget pharmacies, where many medicines are already heavily subsidised. President Dilma Rousseff said the measure was part of her campaign to end extreme poverty in Brazil. About 33 million Brazilians have high blood pressure, and more

than 7 million have diabetes. The free medicines will be available to all Brazilians who have a doctor's prescription, but the authorities say they expect the offer to be taken up mainly by poorer people who use the public health system. They will be distributed through 15,000 chemist shops that belong to the "Popular Pharmacies" network, where many drugs are already sold at a 90% discount. Brazil's Health Minister, Alex-

andre Padilha, said high blood pressure and diabetes caused 34% of deaths in Brazil in 2009. President Rousseff added that the poorest sectors of Brazilian society spent an estimated 12% of their incomes on medicines. Since 1996 Brazil has provided free anti-retroviral drugs to patients with HIV/AIDS, an approach that has been widely praised.

CUBAN DISSIDENT GUIDO SIGLER RELEASED

KEIMEKO SCOTLAND

Cuba has released a prominent political prisoner, Guido Sigler, who had refused to go into exile in Spain. His release came hours after the Roman Catholic Church said both he and fellow dissident Angel Moya were to be freed. The two men were among 52 jailed dissidents the communist authorities agreed to release last July 2010 in a deal brokered by the Church. Most were quickly released, but 11 were kept behind bars because they refused to leave Cuba. Sigler arrived at his home in a village outside the central city of Matanzas on the afternoon of

February 4, dissident groups said. Under the agreement announced on February 4, Mr Moya is being allowed to stay in Cuba, while Mr Sigler "has indicated a desire to go to the US", Church spokesman Orlando Marquez said. The BBC's Michael Voss in Havana says the move suggests the prisoner release programme is back on track. Mr Moya is the husband of Bertha Soler, one of the leaders of the Ladies in White opposition group. "I am happy, as it is good news," Ms Soler told Associated Press. "But I am not totally satisfied because of the government's drip-drip approach" to let-

ting the dissidents out. The men had been in jail since 2003, when they were arrested along with 73 other opposition figures in a mass government crackdown. Two other remaining prisoners have begun a hunger strike. The Cuban authorities generally refer to the detained dissidents as common criminals or mercenaries paid by Washington to destabilise the communist system. The release of political prisoners has been a key demand of the US and EU if economic ties are to be improved.



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FEATURES & OPINION

JAMES URQUHART FEATURES EDITOR



THE CRANKY PROFESSOR

MARK MERCER • DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The election for next year's Saint Mary's University Students' Association is just next week.

I understand perfectly those students, over 80% of the total, who couldn't care less.

Yes, SMUSA has a big budget and does a lot of things on campus. But its officers are, or should be, administrators, not leaders. They need to understand how to spend well and

simply don't think the matter who is to be charge deserves their attention. As with all administrative posts, doing a good job as a SMUSA officer is enough to do a great job.

Moreover, students are confident that whoever is elected, he or she won't blow it. They figure that whoever is president or on the board, something or other will be happening at the Gorse-

politicians, as leaders, as active organizers of student and campus life. On the other side, their causes are often illiberal, at odds with what university community should be. Given the first side, SMUSA officers are prone to intervene or interfere in what goes on on campus. Given the second side, they are prone to intervene or interfere on the side of rules, order, control, and suppression. Further, there's always the worry that public relations means more to them than public service.

I remember from my days at Carleton University the sort of damage an activist students' association can cause. One year the association, its members troubled by low voter turnout in the election and in the grip of the myth that low turnout is a symptom of apathetic and disengaged students, decided that the solution was to bring the organization to the people, to connect with the students, to let them know what their students' association was doing for them, and to encourage them to participate in it.

So the association put a big door and some windows on the side of its offices that faced a popular student gathering place. And it installed on this wall electric signs that advertised campus events and news and welcomed students to the association's offices. No longer had students to take a short detour down a side hall when they wanted to visit with their

elected officers or the association's staff. Officers and staff were now right in their midst.

Problem was, in order to install the door and windows, a large colourful mural had to be removed from the wall. The mural, both joyful and sombre, celebrated the struggle of Latin Americans for equality and justice. It featured in its bottom right corner a couple stirring lines from Pablo Neruda. So the mural was removed, reinstalled in an obscure stairway near the poli sci department, poorly lit and hard to see all at once. The gathering place became just another corridor.

The officers of the Carleton students' association had no idea what real campus life is like. (Why should they have been expected to? They were students. Students, many of them, need to be initiated into the ways of the university. The real culprits, as always, are the university administrators and professors who fail to guide them.) In their desire to use their power to improve things, these student politicians destroyed a corner of the campus and impoverished campus culture.

It's easy for a students' association to be good, and, in being good, a students' association is just great. It's about as easy for one to be bad, though, and in being bad it can be a disaster for all of us.

A serious problem here at

Saint Mary's is our fear of open discussion and free expression. As an institution, we have shown ourselves to be intolerant of these things. Our official statements regarding expression are more about setting limits than opening spaces for it or celebrating it.

SMUSA, for its part, has the power to turn down students who want to form a society. As well, it claims the right to vet displays societies intend to mount. On occasion it has acted on complaints about messages, using whatever interpretation of its rules is handy to justify its censoring of displays and discussion.

That's why it is important for students to take student elections seriously and to get out and vote. Not to help to elect the best candidates, but to make sure that those candidates who would harm the campus don't get the chance.

Voters should be asking of candidates whether they would use the powers SMUSA's charter gives its officers to interfere with students' expressions of their opinions and emotions. They should be making sure that they elect candidates who favour a free and open campus culture.

If no such candidates emerge, if each would take it to be his or her solemn duty to police the messages students want to get out, then voters should cast blank ballots. Voting for no one speaks much less ambiguously than not voting at all.

YET, IN THE END, TAKING SMUSA FOR GRANTED HAS HAD BAD EFFECTS ON STUDENT LIFE AND THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF, FOR SMUSA'S OFFICERS HAVE NOT IN ALL REGARDS BEEN DOING THE JOB WELL.

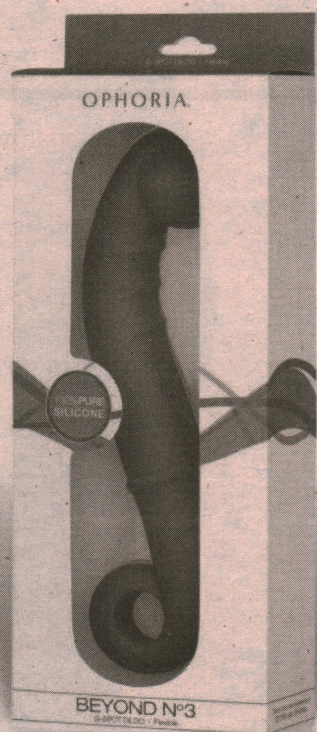
wisely the money with which they have been entrusted, of course, but that's not rocket science. To spend it well they just need a good sense of campus life and current tastes, and a little imagination, while to spend it wisely they just need an experienced staff and reliable suppliers.

Students who don't vote in students' association elections are not apathetic or disengaged, as student journalists and others sometimes say they are—or, at least, most are not. Rather, they

brook, there will be events (like skating at the oval) to enjoy, the book exchange will be running, the newspaper will get published, and student societies will receive the space and funds they need.

Yet, in the end, taking SMUSA for granted has had bad effects on student life and the university itself, for SMUSA's officers have not in all regards been doing the job well.

The trouble is two-fold. On the one side, SMUSA officers often think of themselves as



G-SPOT: CHOOSING A TOY

SS RANDY BLUE

Hello SSRandyBlue,

Seeing as I have no time or money to go check out the scene, or pick up I was thinking of buying a toy for my self, what do you recommend, should I get a Dildo or vibrator? If it's a Dildo, what kind should I get? I've seen ones that look bendy and ones that don't even bend. Also what size should I get?

For you or even for a partner, I would recommend getting a play toy. Nothing will spice up your pleasure and love life like a new toy in the bedroom. Whether you get a dildo or a vibrator you will still be able to have lots of fun.

If you can't choose what kind of toy you want I would suggest heading down to your nearest sex store to see what they have. Go with a price in mind as some

models can become very pricey. Talk to the staff and ask if they can recommend a particular model. If you see one that you like, ask to take it out and play with it in your hand. Turn the model to its highest power and hold the tip of it below your nose between your nostrils. If you can't handle the tingle than that model is not for you and you should pick another. Also, don't inhale during the test...you never know who was the last person to handle it and they may have had smelly hands. Once you find one you like pick up a bottle of lube for later (it makes things a lot easier).

Dildo or Vibrator? That depends on how far you are willing to play and what you want to stimulate. For the beginner I would suggest a simple vibrator. They're pretty cheap and run it up

and down your cock and around your balls and you'll realize it was a very wise investment. For the female readers gently rub the vibrator around the clitoral hood to get your moneys worth. If you want to venture a little further into the lust game then go for a dildo. For the girls, try to get a dildo that curves upward so that it will stimulate your gspot as you are thrusting. For the guys, use that lube you bought to liberally apply lube to both your anus and dildo for easy gliding. You won't need a very long dildo because the area you are stimulating, the promiscuous prostate, is only about one and a half to two inches inside the rectum.

No matter what kind of toy you choose be sure that it is the toy for you. Have fun and see how many fun new games you can play in the bedroom. Don't forget to stock up on batteries for those lonely winter nights.

A WORD OF ADVICE

JAMES URQUHART

For many students this part of the academic year can be very difficult and confusing. If you are in your first year, aside from having to cope with midterms, looming finals, continuing to adjust to university life, as well as eating Armark's food instead of moms, you now have to decide, or at least consider, what your academic future will entail. This is not meant to be a how to guide for students; we have wonderful advising departments for each degree program here at Saint Mary's, not to mention that each department's chair is more than willing to assist students with their decisions about their academic future. What I would like to do in this article, as well as with the rest of the articles in will write on this subject, is to, through my own personal experience, help students navigate some of the potential problems that they will face. This is after all my fifth year here at Saint Mary's (I will finally be graduating this year with my B.A.), and I think that if I can help students to avoid some of the mistakes that I have made, they will ultimately be better off.

As I mentioned above, when you are a first year university student, the next three years may seem insurmountable. However, you need not fear; what you need to do is get organized. At this point, I hope, you have an opportunity to take many courses, in many different areas, and are getting a feel for what you like, and what you would rather not

take again in the future. It is at this point that you should be deciding what program, or at least what select programs; you can see yourself majoring or pursuing a minor in. This is not to say that you have to decide the course of the rest of your life right this instant, or even before the end of the school year; this is simply not the case at all. I am only suggesting that at this point it would be a good idea to begin to get your ducks in a row, so to speak. I will tell you from personal experience, you may find that you think that you want to do one thing, and then decide a few years down the road that it is not for you. Take me for example: I came to Saint Mary's University specifically to study criminology (and this is not to say that I am in anyway disappointed with the program, in fact, I think that its reputation precedes it). It is just the case that I found a program that is tailored more to my individual interests in philosophy (and this is why I am still here for a fifth year). You will be surprised how much you may think that you want to go in one direction, and how quickly that all can change. Nevertheless, you should still think about what program(s) you like, and find out what the requirements are and speak to your departmental, as well as your degree advisors.

Another thing that you may want to consider is what you would like to do after your undergrad. Many if you may plan to work. However, many of you may

decide to pursue other educational opportunities past your undergraduate degree. It is important that if the program you are considering has certain criteria that will directly affect your undergraduate course selection, you figure out what they are as soon as possible. This is not meant to stress any of your out; rather, it is meant to inform you that there are requirements for many graduate and professional programs, both explicitly and implicitly stated. It is best to find out what they are ahead of time, so that you can feel well prepared, and in charge of your own path in life.

I did not intend to explore all avenues relating to first year students in this article. Again, it is mostly based on personal experience, and therefore I could only touch on those areas that have been part of my experience. Nevertheless, I think that what I have discussed here will be helpful, or so I hope, to first year students, who, like myself at that point in my academic career, wanted to know what my next step should be. If you have concerns at all regarding anything you have read here, or have any further questions relating to what you should do at this point in your academic career, I would urge that you speak with your departmental or degree advisors. You can feel confident in the fact that you are here at Saint Mary's; this is a great school, with great people who will help you along your way. Furthermore, choosing to further your education s never a bad decision.

THE HYPOCRISY OF TUITION HIKES

JAMES URQUHART

When it comes to the debate concerning the cost of education (if there is even a debate, so to speak, on the matter), I am probably the worst person to ask for their two cents worth. When it comes down to it, as long as the government and school are willing to throw money my way, I will continue to use that money to pay for my education. I think that you cannot put a price on education, and therefore, although I would like to be educated for free, this is not a perfect universe, so I take my lumps and get my degrees. I am, however, sympathetic to those who are more concerned with material goods than I am (at least I am sympathetic in a derivative sense), and thus this gives me an iron in the fire, so to speak. I understand that after 4 or more years of school, the last thing that students want to do is spend the next decade or more paying back students loans or other forms of

financial burdens that they have accumulated over the course of their formal education. That is why I have decided to purpose an argument outlining why it is detrimental, and in a sense hypocritical, for universities to charge so much money for post secondary education, and for the provincial and federal governments to allow universities to do this to students. After all, even though I would pay as much for school as was required of me, it may become the case that I cannot secure the money required to pay for school, and where would I be then?

In the case of universities, with Saint Mary's in particular in mind, I ask the question, "how much is too much?" Let us be quite serious here for a second. Universities are concerned with one thing first and foremost: remaining profitable. Universities may say that they care about individual students, and that this

is the interest they hold "closest to their hearts", but I assure you that not only is this not the case, it is impossible. If it were the case that the university, a business, which is part of our free market system of capitalist economics, was to create a business model based on "ensuring that the educational needs of students are met first and foremost, and everything else is of secondary importance", then they wouldn't last one semester (let alone 208 years). There are just not enough resources at the disposal of any given university to provide students with everything they need to attain their full academic potential.

Instead, we get a financial institution that is interested with generating as much profit as is possible. The problem here is that this generally means continually raising tuition to cover cost, and generate high profit margins. However, I think that there is a

CONSTRUCTION ON SUDANESE SCHOOL PREDICTED TO START SOON

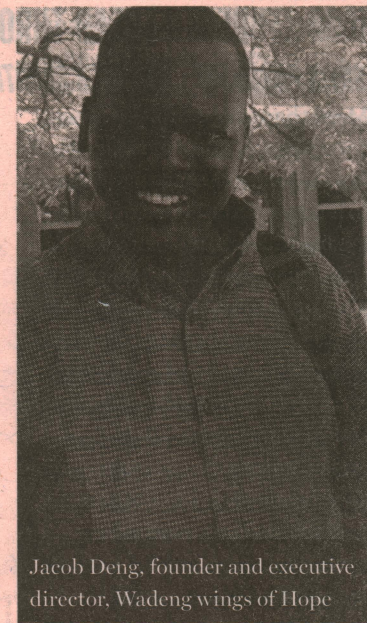
SARAH SPENCE • CONTRIBUTOR

The Charity Wadeng Wings of Hope, founded by Jacob Deng, continues its work in Duk Paidet. The plan is to get three classrooms built while Duk Paidet local people will be responsible for constructing the washrooms in a food for labour agreement. Construction should be underway by early to mid February with a guaranteed completion date of August. With the goal of establishing a school in his home village in Southern Sudan, Jacob, along with Denise Dukeshire, an International Development Studies student here at SMU, are in the process of securing Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as the construction company that will commence construction of the school.

Though Wadeng Wings of Hope has raised a lot of money and awareness thus far, the cost of constructing the school is higher due to the transportation costs of materials to the remote village location. Additional funds are necessary to see this project through. Jacob is planning a tour of major Canadian cities such as Toronto and Montreal to promote the book *A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk* by Jan L. Coates which was inspired by Jacob's extraordinary story. You can buy this book from the charity's website

large problem with doing this, especially for a school like Saint Mary's University, whose academic reputation, although good, is certainly not stellar. You are going to create inflation because you are putting students into the work force who should not be there, given the fact that they will not be competitive with others who have better degrees and a better education. Eventually, you are going to create such an inflated supply that there will be no more demand for your product, and you will have effectively priced yourself out of the market.

In the case of the government (both provincial and federal), have, I argue, the same problem as do the universities, the difference being how the problem manifests itself. For the governments, who are concerned with the welfare of the people (or so they should be), having too many students carrying very



Jacob Deng, founder and executive director, Wadeng wings of Hope

www.wadeng.org. Denise is also working tirelessly attempting to apply for funding through Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) which is an organization that works to achieve gender equality.

Jacob met with members of the organization World Food Program to discuss the reality that many students cannot return to school in the afternoon because when they go home for lunch there is no food and they have to go out looking for it. Hopefully this will lead to the provision of food by the organization as the long-term plan will see the construction of a kitchen and boarding facilities. For upcoming events by Wadeng Wings of Hope, look to the website <http://www.wadeng.org>

large students loans will be very detrimental to the economy. If these students have to pay back massive sums of money, they will be unable to contribute to the economy, which means that there will be less money to provide the essential services that are owed to the citizens of Canada. Furthermore, if the government is supposed to be responsible for the best interests of those it governs over, I hardly understand how allowing universities to continue to gouge students every time they have to pay tuition is looking out for their welfare.

Of course the debate is much more complex than I have had time to allude to here. I do, however, think that some of what goes on at universities, and what the government allows universities to do to students, is not only hypocritical, but is down right counter-intuitive to their intended goals.

STUDENT LIFE

SUVIR PURSNANI • STUDENT LIFE EDITOR



STUDENT DAY OF ACTION A BIG SUCCESS! 1000 STUDENTS TREAD THROUGH DESPITE SNOW, WIND, AND POLICE

SUVIR PURSNANI • PICTURES COURTESY OF SEBASTIEN LETOURNEAU

More than a thousand students from schools all around the Halifax area took to the snowy streets to protest against underfunding and higher tuition fees this past Wednesday, February 2nd. The event took place despite the severe storm warnings. Students braved blizzard like conditions in a show of student solidarity. A joint effort from all student unions across the province was what made this day a big success for students everywhere.

Rallies from several schools such as Dal, King's, MSVU, Sainte Anne, NSCAD, and SMU, poured onto Victoria Park by the hundreds. Soon enough the crowd stretched as far as the eye could

thousand strong march. "Whose streets? Our streets!" chanted the students. People as far as South St said they were able to hear our chants. Bearing the tough winds, heavy snow, and police forces; nothing could stop us. So on the crowd marched, down Spring Garden and then up Barrington St, till we finally stopped in front of Province House.

"Darrellllllllllllllllllll" called out the students, obviously there was no reply. I bet our premier would be a little frightened if he were to see the crowd on that cold February afternoon. Government officials, student union leaders, and faculty all shared a few words with us on

our backs. So we need to be loud!"

The SMU Journal reached out to Kiki Wood, President of King's Student Union, for her thoughts on the rally. "I'm really so happy with the turnout. A lot of students showed up, proving to our government that we're not willing to keep quiet over what's going on. We need to continue this and hopefully there will be concrete results that come from our actions." Mike Mercer, our very own Vice President of SMUSA, was also very pleased with the turnout. Mike's and Kiki's thoughts reflected everyone else's. It was great to be part of this; fighting for our right to higher education.

Just a day before the rally, Premier Darrell Dexter's government announced that it would be putting a cap on how much university tuition fees would increase. As you might have read, the cap was set to 3% annually. This would mean an extra \$154 for Nova Scotians, \$185 for out-of-province students, and almost double this for international students. A possible attempt to douse off the scheduled protest? Maybe. Students did not back down, however. In fact, this may be even considered as fuel for the fire. The government knew of our potential and buckled underneath the pressure. It is not a win though. Three percent is still a lot of money. We are also very prone to underfunding. Don't let the success of this rally get to you. The war over affordable education is still not over. I'll leave you with a saying from my favourite banner of that day: Dumbledore wouldn't have done this.



POST SECONDARY EDUCATION HAS BEEN THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN OUR NEWSPAPERS, ON OUR RADIOS, ON OUR CAMPUSES, BECAUSE STUDENTS REFUSE TO SHUT UP!

see. Driven with the passion for higher learning and armed with protest banners of all kinds, students had one mission, show the government what's on their mind. That's exactly what they did. A few public speakers took to the stage to share with us some of their thoughts. Not only did we hear from other fellow students, but faculty also showed their presence at the rally. After a few inspirational words, the crowd headed onto Spring Garden but was met with resistance.

Police forces had blocked off the crowd from marching onto Spring Garden. After much "aggressive negotiation" the police could not hold back the

the steps of the premier's office. Elice Graham, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, the group that helped organize the rally was amongst the speakers. "Post secondary education has been the topic of discussion in our newspapers, on our radios, on our campuses, because students refuse to shut up! In fact, the only place where affordable and equitable education is not being discussed is here, in our premier's office. Darrell Dexter has a short term memory, it wasn't too long ago, his parties claimed to proponents of affordable education, but they have since proven that students cannot expect any government to have

FREE SPEECH DISCUSSION AT SMU

ADAM FABER

In the wake of the ordered removal of a sign placed by the Student Society 'SMU Students for Life', freedom of expression discussions have been de-railed between SMUSA and Saint Mary's University administration. A memo obtained by the Journal from Dr. David Gauthier to SMUSA executives read: "In the context of any cases relating to member societies of SMUSA

IN THIS SPECIFIC INCIDENT, WE CONTEND THAT IT IS AN ISSUE BETWEEN SMUSA AND ITS SOCIETIES.

where there may be concerns regarding freedom of expression,

Saint Mary's University Students' Association is to consult with University administration. This is not intended to interfere with SMUSA's application of its policies and regulations in regard to its member societies, but rather to ensure that the University's responsibilities regarding rights to freedom of expression are met." When asked, SMUSA confirmed that they have no intention of

consulting with Saint Mary's University prior to any issues relating to freedom of expression. When reached for comment, Steve Proctor of University Affairs advised The Journal that the university offered this memo not as an order, but as an offer to consult, or to be a resource; "SMU is not in the business of approving or not approving posters." In Dr. Gauthier's memo, no word of disapproval was directed towards SMUSA for their actions, and Proctor confirmed this was the case; "SMU neither agrees

nor disagrees with the actions taken," he stated, "In this specific incident, we contend that it is an issue between SMUSA and its societies." A colloquium was proposed between SMUSA and Saint Mary's to further discuss the issue of freedom of expression on campus, however, SMUSA's Matt Anderson stated: "This executive team will not be entertaining a request for the colloquium. The admin is welcome to present the idea to future smusa leadership for their consideration"

IS SMU AN EASY SCHOOL TO GET INTO?

ROBIE STREET HIGH OR A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

SUVIR PURSNANI

"Gee Suvir, I really hope I get in," said Vimal Asnani; now a first year BComm student here at Saint Mary's. "Don't worry buddy, you'll get in; it's SMU". I don't know why I said those words; but ever since then I have questioned the basis on how students are accepted to this school. I compared our general requirements to those of other surrounding schools. I also took to the hallways of Loyola to ask the students what they thought.

Let's look at some facts. The grades required to get into the school aren't hard to achieve at all. A minimum average of 65% with no mark below 60% in the subjects required for the specific program of choice. This goes for all provinces nation-wide. Dalhousie, Acadia, and Mount Saint Vincent all require their students to have a 70% average. The requirements are about the same for international students

too. SMU is also a blessed learning abode for us international students. The international standards that SMU has acknowledged stretch across the Caribbean, over Africa and the middle/far east, all the way down to China. Without these acknowledgements, I probably wouldn't be here; so is it even right for me

ONE IDEA IS THAT THE UNIVERSITY KEEPS ITS REQUIREMENTS LOW BECAUSE IT HAS FAITH IN ITS QUALITY OF EDUCATION

to question the school's admission standards? Nevertheless I continued to ask around.

Our low requirement standards can also be reflected in the average entering grade of a stu-

dent; 79.4%. While Dal, Mount Allison, Acadia, St. Vincent, and St. FX boasted average entering grades of 86.4%, 85.9%, 84.9%, 84.2%, and 83.5% respectively. I'll leave it up to you to decide if this is a big difference or not.

It turns out that the students up on Loyola 20 have the same perceptions that most other students have. One group of students, Ghislain LeBlanc, and Brittany and Alyssa Macgregor admitted that they never worried about getting into SMU. "Not even one bit?" I asked. "Not really." They agreed that the school had a reputation for being an easy school to get into and was a safety school because of its low requirements. I also talked to another group of students who had a few comments to make about this. Ashley Dorey, Bryan Collicut, and Haley Mackintosh pointed out some positives of the keeping the requirements low. "It's like

giving a chance to students who didn't do so well in the first semester. While some students just take this extra opportunity for granted, some take advantage of it. High school is a tough time for kids and knowing that higher education is still within their reach is definitely a positive influence."

The SMU Journal contacted Steve Proctor from the External Affairs offices for a statement. When questioned about the requirements needed to get into Saint Mary's and why it was kept lower than most other schools, he responded: "If we won't, who will? In the past decade, other universities from the province have raised the requirements needed to get into post-secondary educations. Saint Mary's has decided to take a different path. SMU decided to be that school that gave students a shot. For whatever reason, students may not have done too well in high school; at least they know they'll still have the option for higher education. We also provide a number of services such as the LEAP program and the writing center. It's up to students

to prove themselves. The numbers of success stories we've had speak for themselves."

This article also comes at a time where the president himself, Dr. Colin Dodds, was reported saying that student recruitment and retention is of paramount importance to the university's future. Keeping requirements low is definitely a good way to recruit. However, can this method reflect in student retention? Does accepting students with lower grades only set them up for failure in university? The percentage of full time students in 2008 who returned next year in 2009 is 82.4%. Some of you might think that this is a low number, but in fact; it is second highest next to St.FX. So comparatively, Saint Mary's does a good job in keeping their students in school. One idea is that the university keeps its requirements low because it has faith in its quality of education. They know that that the school will produce great students due to its quality of teaching. The students sure do; 93% of SMU students polled said that were, in general, satisfied with the quality of teaching they received.

HEY FELLAS - COME CHECK OUT SMU'S VAGINAS. I DARE YOU.

RENA KULCZYCKI • CONTRIBUTOR

Yup, that's what I said. I dare men at Saint Mary's to come to the SMU Women's Centre's production of Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues. Why? Well...

Because I think you'll have fun. Yes. Really. FUN. There are some really funny and titillating pieces about sex, and I bet you'll hear a few names for pussy you've never heard before and I'd bet you'd be really interested in seeing the woman recreating orgasmic bliss. Over and over and over again. Of course, I'd be wrong not to warn you. There are also pieces that are brutally difficult to hear - ones about terrible violence against women, mostly things that happen at the hands of your brotherhood. You'll have to take a deep breath and get over some of those icky feelings you have about that. But really, suck it up fellas. It's worth it. Not to mention that most women in the audience, the performers and the women involved with making this happen, have to get over a lot more to be reminded of the threat we face that something like that could happen to us. DOES happen to us. Did you know that in Halifax, a sexual assault is reported every day? That one in every 6 women in university reports having been assaulted. And for those women in the audience who have experienced some kind of violent assault, there are definitely going to be some re-

mindings of what they've survived. That takes a lot more courage than what I'm daring you to do.

Also, because sadly I don't think many of you will do it without a dare or a challenge. I think you're too scared to sit through a 2 hour performance based entirely on the experience of women talking about vaginas and violence against women, in spite of how funny, moving and brilliant it is. I do. I think you're scared, but I don't blame you for that. Most of us are afraid of the unfamiliar, and believe me when I say The Vagina Monologues makes for very unfamiliar territory - for everyone, not just you guys. For a very short period of time, this performance creates an experience that is almost entirely unfamiliar for most people. It creates this bubble in time (only about 2 hours!) where we can sit passively and listen to women. Not to respond or be a part of a "women's movement" or to take up a feminist flag. We're just asked to sit and listen - just to hear what's happening to women. It seems like such a simple request, doesn't it? And yet I'm still sure too few of you will actually come... will be brave and strong enough to sit and listen.

Of course, all that said and done, I do want you to know it's OK to laugh at some of the things you'll hear - some of the monologues make me laugh so

hard it hurts - and it's even more ok to be angry or sad. This show can change your life. It did mine. As the director of this piece, I've been working hard to blow your mind, so that you'll walk away honestly inspired and in awe of how brave and bold the women in this cast, on your campus, in this world - in your life - have to be. Just so that you can come, and sit and listen. And with the hope that you'll walk away knowing that we need your help so that we can live without fear, and that maybe, just maybe, you'll do something about that. Because we need you to. Women need to not be alone in our struggle to overcome the threat of violence we endure every day. We need strong men to care and to help us live without fear. We need you to remind yourselves and other men that what happens to women everyday is bullshit. It needs to stop.

And yet, despite all the reasons I think you should come, I still think too few of you will invite your friends. Please prove me wrong - I want to believe that you can do something as simple as come and sit and listen... please do this little thing to help end violence against women. Is it really so hard to do so little?

The SMU production of the Vagina Monologues is part of the V-Day movement to end violence against Women. 90% of the show's proceeds will go to the Avalon Centre for Sexual Assault in Halifax (www.avaloncentre.ca) and 10% will go to this year's V-Day spotlight cause, women in Haiti (<http://www.vday.org/spotlight2011>). Tickets are avail-

able through the Women's Centre, at the Info Desk, at Venus Envy

and through cast and crew. See the poster for more details!

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BUSINESS

JAMES URQUHART FEATURES EDITOR



THIS (PAST) WEEK IN BUSINESS

KERRY J. O'ROURKE

INTERNET USAGE: In a ruling recently handed down by the Canada Radio-Television and telecommunications commission (CRTC) consumers were to have metered internet usage imposed upon them. Effectively, Internet subscribers would then be subject to limits on the amount of bandwidth covered under their monthly subscription fess. Under the CRTC's ruling consumers could only receive a maximum of 25 GB of bandwidth under a normal 30 day billing cycle. Prior to the ruling bandwidth limits were typically set around 250Gb per month. According to the recent ruling, if one were to exceed this limit a fixed price was to be applied to a subscribers bill for every GB of over usage. This rate was to be set at approximately CDN \$1.90 per GB.

Given that today many people watch movies, download media and stream bandwidth intensive content, many consumers were adamant in seeing this ruling overturned. Luckily, consumer activist groups were successful

after much protesting. Technically the ruling has not been overturned yet. However, the federal government has publically stated they stand in opposition to the ruling and are seeking to have it changed. If the ruling were to stand it would give large Internet providers such as Bell Canada the ability to charge exorbitant penalty fees to customers for services they already provide without penalty fees for bandwidth usage in excess of 25GB per month.

NFL: If you aren't aware the NFL finds itself in a similar position that the NHL did prior to the lockout in 2004-2005. Essentially, as it stands currently the NFL does not have a CBA in place for next season. Without one, there won't be a season. The current CBA will expire March 3rd. However, the league's commissioner, Roger Goodell was recently quoted as saying he wants deal done in "next few weeks".

Fortunately, things look optimistic. Goodell and union officials were scheduled to meet

last Saturday in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the first formal bargaining session since November. Two more sessions have been scheduled for this week, at an undisclosed location. It will be interesting to see whether these meetings prove to be effective in preventing a work stoppage for the next season.

HALIFAX'S SOLAR ENERGY:

The municipal government of Halifax recently introduced a program to install solar panels into roughly 1000 private residents to heat their water. The program has been immensely successful. Originally 2,000 people applied. Of these 1,000 residents were to be selected. The program is still set to be brought to fruition, however in an altered form. It's been uncovered that many residents are actually willing to pay for the solar panels themselves but want the municipal government to take care of the contracting rebates, and quality assurance issues. Richard MacLellan, HRM's manager of environmental sustainability was quoted as saying, "So we changed our model to 700 homes on the tax bill scheme and 300 to self-finance."

V-Day Saint Mary's University Women's Centre
THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES 2011

Feb 10th 2011
McNally Main Theatre
McNally Auditorium, SMU Campus

Feb 11th 2011
Loyola Conference Hall
Loyola Academic Complex, SMU Campus

Feb 12th 2011
The Company House
2202 Gollingen St.

Doors open at 7:30p.m. | Show begins at 8:00p.m.
Advance tickets \$10 | \$15 at the door

Tickets available at the SMU Women's Centre, Venus Envy or from Cast/Crew

Pay-what-you-can options available for the under-waged. Contact SMU Women's Centre for more information: 902-496-8222 or smu.womenscentre@gmail.com

Proceeds will go towards the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre and V-Day Spotlight: Women in Haiti

SUPER BOWL ECONOMICS

KERRY J. O'ROURKE

The Super Bowl is a much-anticipated event that occurs but once a year. It's a sporting event second to none. That is to say, in terms of size and scale. It's an event that transcends many boundaries. It gains appreciation and excitement by individuals that love football and those that don't. Presumably, people that know virtually nothing about football, become instant fans once the opening kickoff is held. For others it's a chance to go to what some might call footballs version of Mecca. Some die hard sports fans, undoubtedly wait all year for biggest game of the year, regardless of which team they typically cheer for most. However, one must remember football is a business. As such it provides a product (entertainment) in exchange for money. So with this simple idea, let's have a little look into the business of football and/or the Super Bowl.

When you watch the Super Bowl there's only two things to watch. The game and commercials. These commercials, as has been well publicized are not exactly cheap. For this years game, an advertiser should have

budgeted about USD \$3 million for every 30 second ad. Oh and I forgot to mention, that does not include any additional production costs needed to produce the advertisement. Regardless, this year, Fox was able to sell virtually all their add spots by October. Advertisers appeared to be keen to reserve their spot in order to broadcast their messages to an audience expected to be over 110 million globally.

The way in which the NFL has structured which network is privileged to receive this revenue is pretty simple. There are several networks that cover the NFL. Namely, Fox, CBS & NBC. Thus in fairness, all the networks are on a rolling time schedule to carry the game each year. Hence a different network carries the big game every year. This year Fox will be telecasting the game. Given the price for a 30 second commercial it is believed Fox should generate approximately USD \$275 to \$300 million in advertising revenue. Given that a football game is roughly three hours long, that works out to USD \$100 million an hour. Not too shabby folks!

Furthermore, the ads themselves have become a spectacle many viewers tune into see all by themselves. A survey conducted by the Retail Advertising and Marketing Association of America found 36.3% of consumers tune into the big game primarily for the commercials. In a world we live in with technology such as PVR that are designed (indirectly) so one doesn't have to watch commercials this statistic is surely impressive.

Of course one shouldn't forget about the players themselves too. After all, they are professional athletes that make very large salaries. So for any player fortunate enough to make it to the big game during their career they should expect a little reward too. Last year players on the winning team were entitled to USD \$78,000 each. On the other hand players unfortunate enough to be on the losing team only received USD \$40,000. These cheques should prove to be insignificant compared to their regular season contracts! Shouldn't winning the Super Bowl, really be about guts, glory and pride and not any financial reward?

To the NFL as a league, the Super Bowl also represents a business opportunity. The league's biggest stake comes from merchandise sales at the venue itself (Cowboy's Stadium), at NFL.com and retailers all over the U.S. Historically, the record for merchandise sales was set in 1997 when the New England Patriots lost to the Green Bay Packers 35-21. The record set that year was USD \$125 million in merchandise sales. Many believe, Super Bowl merchandise revenue is typically just below that figure annually.

The league also receives most of the games ticket sales. Thus, with an average ticket price of USD \$800 and an expected attendance of 105,000 (a new record) the league should generate approx USD \$ 84 million in revenue.

Another big sector that benefits tremendously from the Super Bowl are electronic retailers. According to a study conducted by the Consumer Electronics Association, 48% of high-definition TV owners who call themselves sports fans purchased their set to watch a specific sporting event. Not surprisingly, the Super Bowl

was cited most frequently. Last year, the CEA estimates the Super Bowl drove some \$2.2 billion in sales of HDTVs.

All told there's one simple equation to Super Bowl economics. That is to say, ticket sales + merchandise sales + player incentives + TV add revenue + electronic sales = big time Super Bowl revenue. Oh wait. That equation actually isn't fully formed.

Most football fans have what's commonly known as a Super Bowl Party. On that theme, no Super Bowl party is complete without snacks and alcohol. Hence, there is another industry that cleans up come kickoff time. ACNielsen conducted a survey last year using 73 of the most popular categories of food and beverage companies. Through their research, they uncovered that collectively this group saw an increased USD \$261 million in sales v. a normal week of business. Tortilla chips were the single most popular snack among party-throwers, receiving a boost of 29%, or \$13.4 million, over a normal week of sales.

TECHNOLOGY

ANGELA LINDSEY TECHNOLOGY EDITOR



FLICKR USER DISCOVERS ACCOUNT DELETED BY ACCIDENT

ANGELA LINDSEY

German photographer Mirco Wilhelm has been a member of popular photo sharing website Flickr for five years, and in that time has uploaded over 4,000 photos. However, he had a bit of a shock when he attempted to log in to his account last week and discovered that he was being asked to create a Flickr account. As it turns out, Wilhelm reported an account that he suspected had stolen material from a different photographer. When Flickr staff

attempted to delete the account of this user, Wilhelm's account was mistakenly deleted instead, erasing all of the photos on the account. Wilhelm was originally told that his account was not retrievable, and Flickr staff offered twenty-five years of free premium account membership status as an apology. However, recent developments in the Flickr server structure and programming gave Wilhelm a glimmer of hope. Flickr's Zack Sheppard com-

mented in the Flickr forum that: "We've been working on the ability to restore accounts for a while and hope to have it completed early this year. We have been in contact with Mirco and may be able to restore his account. The partial work that has been done so far may make it possible to retrieve the account. It's only a maybe but we want to try and do everything we can to rectify this mistake. Just as people have stated

flickr™

above, we also believe this is an important feature to have in place for cases like this when there was an error. As many of you know we usually do not discuss features before they are released but because of the community concern we wanted to let you know in this case." Shortly after this forum post was made, another statement was issued; one with a much more positive message: "Yahoo! is pleased to share that

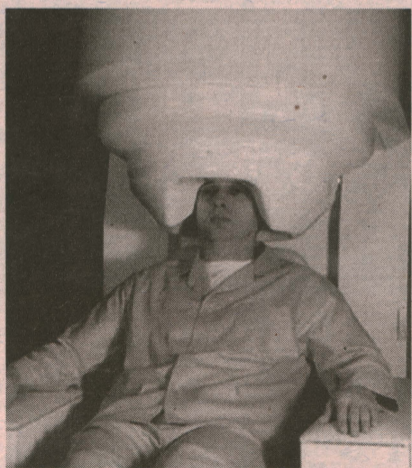
the Flickr team has fully restored a member's account that was mistakenly deleted yesterday. We regret the human error that led to the mistake and have worked hard to rectify the situation, including reloading the entire photo portfolio and providing the member with 25 years of free Flickr Pro membership. Flickr takes the trust of our members very seriously and we appreciate the patience shown by this member and our community. Flickr will also soon roll out functionality that will allow us to restore deleted accounts more easily in the future."

IWK HOSPITAL HOSTS MEG RESEARCH OFFICE

ANGELA LINDSEY

The IWK Health Center here in Halifax has opened a new research office called the Laboratory for Clinical Magnetoencephalography, or the MEG Lab for short. This office includes the first Elekta NeuroMag® unit in Canada, and is starting out with only two employees. According to the National Research Council Canada (NRC), "MEG is a non-invasive technique that detects the magnetic field generated by the brain, enabling physicians and scientists

to measure the activity of the brain in real time". The machine works much like an MRI, but instead of taking still scans, will work in real-time to see how the brain functions and reacts. Among the disorders and information that will be studied at the lab, there will be a focus on epilepsy and dementia. The machine can also be used for other purposes, however, such as pre-surgical functional mapping, assessment of pathological functional deficits, neuropharmacological investigations, trauma assessment, epileptic assessment, and a growing list of research investigations in neuroscience and psychiatry. Dr. Ryan D'Arcy of the NRC is pleased with the availability of such advances in medical technology. "How we're going about advancing the care in that is becoming much more focuses on looking not at the structure of it, but looking at the function. And this is one of, if not the most advanced way to look at function of the brain."



US CONGRESSMAN PROPOSES VIDEO GAME WARNING LABELS

ANGELA LINDSEY

The debate about video games causing and encouraging violence has been around for as long as the video game has existed. United States congressman Joe Baca believes it's time to start issuing warnings with these games, similar to those found on cigarettes. The bill that Baca has introduced is titled "The Video Game Health Labeling Act of 2011c". The bill will be based off of the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) ratings already found on games, and will require games rated "Teen" or higher to prominently display a warning label stating the following on their packaging. "WARNING: Excessive exposure to violent video games and other violent media has been linked to aggressive behavior." According to the ESRB rating guide, a game rated "Teen" may "have content that may be suitable for ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, and/or infrequent use of strong language". There



are two higher ratings on video games, Mature and Adults Only. The congressman believes that the video game industry hasn't taken proper responsibility for the potential effects of video games on those who play them. "Just as we warn smokers of the health consequences of tobacco, we should warn parents - and children - about the growing scientific evidence demonstrating a relationship between violent vid-

eo games and violent behavior." This is not the first attempt Baca has made at passing such a bill. In 2009, a similar labeling act was proposed, but was dismissed. However, despite frequent claims that there is research showing a proven link between video games and increased aggression, there is no concrete evidence to this point.

INTERNET USERS TOTAL OVER TWO BILLION

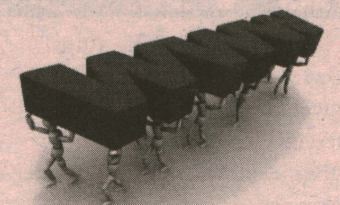
ANGELA LINDSEY

The UN's International Telecommunications Unit (ITU) has released a document stating that the Internet is now used by over two billion people, available in over 90% of worldwide countries between computers and mobile devices. This is a huge increase since the start of the

decade - in 2000, Internet users totalled less than 400 million. Also in the study were some interesting facts. Asia Pacific has over 857 million Internet users, over 100 million more than 2009. Arab nations and the former Soviet states experienced the most growth in 2010.

Arab countries have 88 million Internet users, and the Commonwealth of Independent States has reached 127 million. Meanwhile, Europe had the highest density of Internet users in 2010, which was higher than North and South America, Arab nations and the former Soviet states.

According to the research done by ITU, the number of mobile subscriptions (cell phone users) has increased from 500 million at the start of 2000, up to five billion. Consequently, the number of fixed landline telephone subscriptions has fallen four years in a row, and is now at 1.2 billion.



CRTC PASSES USAGE-BASED INTERNET BILLING REGULATION

ANGELA LINDSEY

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (or CRTC) has passed a new regulation forcing Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to switch their current billing plans to what the CRTC is calling usage-based billing, similar to the way power companies bill their customers. What this means is that customers will be charged their normal flat service fee, but will have a new charge per gigabyte over a certain limit. One Canadian ISP, Ontario

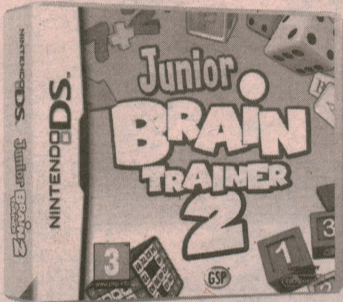
TekSavvy, was required to lower its usage cap from 200GB per month per customer to just 25GB, in comparison to the cap in place for many Comcast customers in the United States, who have a limit of 250GB. The overage rates are far from small, either, at somewhere between \$1.90 and \$2.35 per gigabyte. To put these numbers in perspective, an average Netflix movie will use around 1GB of data, so just one movie per day will take you over your limit for the month.

When you add that to all of the streaming data transmitted through services like YouTube or Steam, as well as any downloads (even those individual Microsoft Word files will add up quickly) that you may receive in your e-mail, you're looking at a fairly hefty monthly Internet bill. However, there is a light at the end of the tunnel here. The Toronto Star reports that the decision has already been made to overturn this plan, and the CRTC has appeared before the House of Commons to make its case. Prime Minister Steven Harper called for a review of this decision and information minister Tony Clement has made it clear that the Canadian government will not be standing by this decision.

On Clement's Twitter account, he posted: "I remain very concerned by the #UBB decision of the CRTC & look forward to my review being completed ASAP." Another Twitter user responded with a question: "is it true you will overturn internet decision if crtc does not back down?" To this, Clement replied: "True. CRTC must go back to drawing board." In a more detailed statement, Clement had the following to say about the decision: "...we do expect the CRTC to reverse its decision and to basically go back to the drawing board on this issue, and if they do not do this, we wanted to make it clear cabinet would take its responsibilities to do the same. It's a huge issue for a country that wants

to move forward on the internet for jobs, for creativity, for innovation," he said. "[We] felt the CRTC ruling would have a huge impact on consumers and would hurt small businesses, would hurt innovators and creators." Clement defends the government's intervention with the CRTC completely. "There is always a healthy balance and tension between a regulator that is appointed and a government that is elected, and I'm sure 90 times out of a 100 the regulator may get it right. But there are times when we, acting on behalf of the government, have to weigh in. That's our responsibility and that's our role."

VIDEO GAME RELEASES



MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT THESE NEW GAMES THIS WEEK!

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02/03/11 - The Ball (PC)
02/03/11 - Breach (PC)
02/03/11 - Jewel Quest V: The Sleepless Star (PC)

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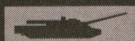
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE MADCAP REVEALED: AN INTRODUCTION TO SYD BARRETT (2010)

KYLE L. TRIMPER



Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Syd Barrett. If you are not already familiar with Mr. Barrett, a brief

history is in order. Syd Barrett was born Roger Barrett in Cambridge, England, in 1946. At the age of nineteen, Barrett formed an underground psychedelic rock band called Pink Floyd. Within four years, Barrett's behaviour became increasingly erratic due to his use of mind-altering drugs, and he was effectively kicked out of his band. Barrett released a couple of solo albums before dropping out of the public eye completely. Barrett died in 2006, at the age of sixty. Four years later, Barrett's first posthumous compilation emerged.

An Introduction to Syd Barrett is exactly that: an album full of remasters and remixes of Barrett's most famous songs both with Pink Floyd and by himself, all overseen by David Gilmour, who always seemed to be the sympathetic towards Barrett of all of the members of Pink Floyd. The album is comprised of Pink Floyd's early singles and tracks from Pink Floyd's *The Piper at the Gates of Dawn* and Barrett's two solo albums, *The Madcap Laughs* and *Barrett*.

The real highlights of the album of are, of course, the songs Bar-

rett performed with Pink Floyd. "Arnold Layne", "See Emily Play" and "Bike" are quirky, carefree pop masterpieces (a far cry from the later Waters-driven Floyd) that demonstrate Barrett's ability to channel his natural eccentricity into musical genius. Barrett's solo tracks, while interesting, lack the musicality and cleverness of his early work and chronicle the gradual deterioration of his mind. Nevertheless, the contributions from Barrett's two solo works are still important. After all, this is an introduction.

Barrett's oblique music and lyr-

ics are illustrated by lavish album artwork by long-time Pink Floyd album artist Storm Thorgerson. Artwork, lyrics, photographs and other important information are all displayed in a twelve-page booklet that accompanies the album. The album is more a lovingly prepared retrospective tribute than a hastily assembled 'Best Of' album. An Introduction to Syd Barrett is perfect for someone who wants to sample the music of a rock icon without a huge commitment.

ALBUM REVIEW: SHOTGUN JIMMIE – TRANSISTOR SISTER

KYLE L. TRIMPER

"Just another indie rock star", Shotgun Jimmie titles himself on his website; however, I suspect there is more to the Sackville, New Brunswick musician than meets the eye.

Jimmie's latest release, the album *Transistor Sister*, appears on the surface to be an unassuming indie rock release: the kind that sells well with the established fans, but misses the mainstream market. Maybe that is the kind of album *Transistor Sister* is supposed to be; however, the album is slightly more creative and care-

free than most indie rock albums.

Rather than the usual recipe of a group of similar songs, Jimmie's songs are spontaneous and different from one another. Many of the tracks on the album are snippets of songs rather than complete compositions. Jimmie seems more interested in experimenting and having fun than getting radio airplay.

Regarding the lyrical subject matter of the songs, the album seems to be a portrait of Maritime life, intentional or not. Beer, winter and hard-

ship form the main themes of the tracks: Jimmie seems to represent the Eastern Canadian everyman in his songwriting.

Jimmie's lyrical style, in comparison to other artists who try to weave subtle complexities into the words of their songs, is relatively relaxed, although not simple or repetitive, a trap that many indie artists fall into. Jimmie's lyrics flow freely and don't particularly conform to any conventional type of songwriting; nevertheless, they do not sound bad.

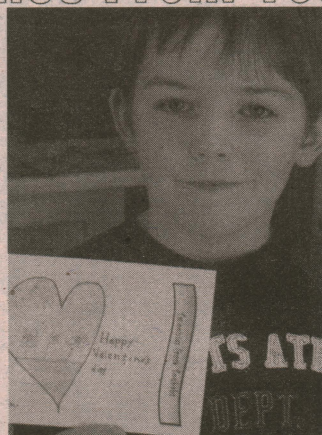
Despite being recorded at The

Confidence Lodge, in Riverport, Nova Scotia, the album maintains the relaxation and easiness of a home recording. *Shotgun Jimmie's* sophomore effort is definitely interesting and certainly worth listening to. Despite titling one of his compositions "Masterpiece", *Transistor Sister* doesn't make any grand claims, at least on the surface. In a genre controlled by consistency, Jimmie provides some much-needed variety.



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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Trousers of old
9. Winter will bring many
10. Cooler of the house
11. "She loves you _____"
12. Police jargon for "Upon getting there"
13. Lifeguard life-saving measure
15. Succession of light taps
18. Home of Summer
20. Jokes about my mom often suggests she's this
21. Age reversing oil
23. The smallest state
24. One who plays D&D, and pantomimes the action
26. RBC's cartoon mascot
28. Exclamation of pain
30. High school cameraman's club
31. Common video game money
33. Persian language
35. What did the espresso say to the tardy espresso?

DOWN

1. Study of minds
2. My Nan takes one every day
3. It means it, especially on a date
4. Can be as bad as one
5. Quickly acronym
6. Apparently there's a cult for blue ones, according to Eric Bloom
7. Doesn't have bearing
8. A spoof of many horror films
14. 26 across' cry
16. Slang for butt
17. .com's equivalent in Spain
19. X-Man who translates
22. Generic song syllable
25. High humour praise, in IM terms
27. Direction of the rising sun
32. Tinky-Winky's companion
34. 'S's neighbors

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35								

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 3

SPORTS

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

JOHN KUSHNERIK

Each year at least one club makes the next step in Europe. This year it appears to be Tottenham, who have taken their first appearance in the competition by the horns, finishing top of the group that also had holders Inter. Expectant of any easier draw as they would avoid group winners, fate would have it they play Milan's other club, AC. With stalwart centre-back Alessandro Nesta's fitness in question for the ties, it appears an already aging backline will be shorthanded as it takes on Spurs speedsters Gareth Bale and Jermaine Defoe. Is this the year an English club not named Liverpool or Manchester United wins it all? Take Spurs to progress.

Valencia is no stranger to success in the Champions League, finalists in the competition in 2000 and 2001 as well as holding the third-most La Liga titles. They face upstarts Schalke, who by comparison have never won the Bundesliga. The German side was led by Dutch marksman Klaas-Jan Huntelaar's 3 goals in the group stage; they were another surprise group winner. Valencia comes into the round of 16 still seeking an identity after this summer's sale of club legend David Villa to Barcelona yet was among the best poachers in the group stage with 15 goals. The pick: too close for comfort.

Skipper Francesco Totti's Roma is next up, and they face relative unknowns Shakhtar Donetsk of the Ukraine. Former Chelsea boss Claudio Ranieri's men find themselves 3rd in Serie A, but an average showing in the league can be vindicated if the Roman side can make a deep run into the tournament. Shakhtar field Croat captain Darijo Srna along with compatriot and former Arsenal frontman Eduardo as well as long list of Ukrainian and Brazilian unknowns. Will they replicate Dynamo Kiev's semi-final appearance of 1999 or beyond? We believe they will, at the very least, fend off the Italians and march on to the next round.

Barcelona and Arsenal probably share more bad blood than any of the other 14 second-round combatants. The 2006 final, the London side's sale of Thierry Henry to the Catalan, last year's quarter-final tie and Barca's constant wooing of the Gunners Cesc Fabregas stand at the forefront at the rift that divides two clubs who play similarly attacking football. This season has been more of the same from Barcelona, both domestically and in European competitions. Most notable was their 5-0 thrashing of nearest La Liga rival Real Madrid at the end of November, which cemented their flair and

grandeur of recent campaigns. Arsenal finds themselves slightly off the pace in the Premier League, but a larger issue lies in the fact that the past 5 years haven't produced any silverware. Take Barcelona with confidence.

As the first Danish club to ever make it past the group stage, FC Copenhagen is already ahead of the learning curve. However, a match-up with English titans Chelsea will likely mark the beginning of a steeper curve. Injuries and inconsistency have mired Carlo Ancelotti's London side, but the Blue Devils still seem to have enough poise on their day to be considered among the serious contenders. Nicolas Anelka's expulsion from the French team in the World Cup hasn't appeared to daunt him, while Brazilian midfield maestro Ramires has seemingly taken the reigns from Frank Lampard. Coupled with a strong defense, is this the year for Chelsea? It may not be, but expect them to win comfortably in both legs, but the Englishmen must remain cautious. On their day in 2006, the Danes beat Manchester United 1-0 in the Champions League group stage.

Olympique Lyonnais play Real Madrid in an intriguing fixture. Semi and quarter-finalists respectively last season, both clubs are out to prove themselves. Under former Liverpool gaffer Gerrard Houllier, Lyon won 5 consecutive French leagues. This did not translate into continental success, and he was eventually

sacked. Real entered last season with plenty of optimism, but enter this year with even more. The recent addition of Emmanuel Adebayor on-loan pales in comparison to the splashes made on Kaka, top goalscorer Cristiano Ronaldo and last year's Champions League winning manager Jose Mourinho. Mourinho, arguably the greatest manager of the generation, aims to lead an unprecedented third club to Champions League supremacy. With his track record at even minnows FC Porto, one cannot underestimate the man. He must, however, find a way to shut down former Porto striker Lisandro Lopes and solve star keeper Hugo Lloris.

Marseille face Manchester United and hope to replicate their 1993 triumph as the last French team to win the competition. United enter looking for a 3rd Champions League title under Sir Alex Ferguson and appear poised domestically to finally overtake Liverpool for most Premier League/old Division One titles. With an out-of-form Wayne Rooney often relegated to the bench, Chicharito (Javier Hernandez) and Dimitar Berbatov have provided enough offense while an aging back line conceded only a single goal in the group



stage. Marseille head man Didier Deschamps has won at every level as both a player and a manager, with the exception being a Champions League as manager. United should prolong a French Champions League drought.

Last but not least is last season's final rematch. Bayern are being given an opportunity to take vengeance for their defeat to Inter, who were recently crowned World Club Champions. Since last season's final, the Milanese are on their third manager but are finally in-form and a force to be reckoned with. Diego Milito, Samuel Eto'o and Wesley Sneijder continue to make back lines pay for any ill-conceived gambles forward. For Munich, Franck Ribery gets the chance to play Inter after card troubles cost him a suspension for last year's final. However, we don't believe this will be enough to save the Germans from a second successive elimination at Inter's hands.

THE PRO BOWL: MAKING A MEANINGLESS GAME RELEVANT

GEOFF LOWE

I'm not going to lie to you, I'm not a fan of the NFL All Star Game, otherwise known as the Pro Bowl. In the last few years I have not taken the time to sit down and watch the Pro Bowl mainly because I believe one of the most exciting parts of the NFL is that every game has so much importance and every game defines the direction of each team's season. In other sports leagues around the world losing the first game of the season doesn't really matter. Of course no coach enjoys losing the first game of the season and every team prepares in the off season to win that first game. But in the NHL, NBA, or any soccer league around the world by the end of the season the first game is long forgotten. In the NFL, this game defines

the direction of the upcoming season and every game after that means everything. There is no room to take a Sunday off.

The Pro Bowl means nothing and this removes the most important part of the NFL. Because these all-star games lack importance, many key aspects of the game are completely ignored or removed. The best thing that Major League Baseball has done in the last 30 years is make the All-Star game worth something, as the winning conference gets home-field advantage in the World series. The problem with most all-star games is the lack of defense and contact. Football is based in contact and the removal of this aspect fundamentally changes the game. This flaw is not the players fault, why play

and risk injury for a game that means nothing? In most Pro Bowls, the offensive and defensive linemen barely engaged each other. Most of the time the linemen would just stand up and shake each other's hands or make jokes following the ball being snapped to the quarterback. One of the Fox commentators called the game "glorified seven-on-seven", a practice drill in which only the quarterback, wide receivers, linebackers, and defensive backs take part and there is no contact or pressure applied to the quarterback. Who wants to watch that?

This year I watched the entire game. Well I watched most of it. I had to tune into the new episode of Californication (Hank Moody is the man). I watched the majority of the game with at least 75 percent of my attention at most times. In all honesty, the Pro Bowl grew on me this year. The NFL finally seems to be enhancing the Pro Bowl experience for the fans. In previous years the

game seemed to be more of a vacation for the players rather than a display of the league's best talent. All-star games need to be different and need to add entertainment for the fans that is taken away by the game being fundamentally changed. This year the NFL introduced its fantasy draft format which I watched and enjoyed thoroughly. Fans could relate to this and take part in this format and it enhances the all-star experience. This year the Pro Bowl added some electronic enhancements that made the game more entertaining. Being able to hear the plays being called in the huddle and numerous on-field interviews gave the audience a look at the relaxed and fun atmosphere the Pro Bowl created for the players. This year the Pro Bowl delivered with star power, high scoring, and big defensive plays.

In terms of the actual game the first half was dominated by the National Football Conference, taking a 42-7 lead into the second half. The NFC defense intercept-

ed the AFC quarterbacks 4 times in the first half, and five times in total. The second half was dominated by the American Football Conference who scored 35 points in the half and only allowed one touchdown by the NFC, an interception return for a touchdown by Carolina linebacker Jon Beason. The final score of the game was 55-41 for the NFC in a game that had it all but still lacked the intensity of real football.

The most important change the NFL made to the Pro Bowl, which began last year, is the move of the Pro Bowl from the week after the Superbowl to the week before the big game. This seems to have made a difference. The Pro Bowl's television ratings for 2011 were the highest they have been since the turn of the millennium. With this in mind I believe that the new look Pro Bowl did its job. I am now ready for a real football game that means something and what better than the football game that means everything. I'm ready for the Superbowl.

THE WORD AROUND CAMPUS

Question: Has the construction around campus disturbed your day-to-day activities? If so, how?

SAMANTHA PATTERSON • 3RD YEAR HUMAN RESOURCES

"I have had difficulties getting to class on time, and even worse, I have had trouble turning in assignments on time because I never know what is going to be under construction next."



SHANDA ANTLE • 5TH YEAR ENGLISH

"It has not been as bad this year, but last year I was a T.A. for a professor that was displaced and I was constantly late for meeting because I never knew what was closed and what was open around campus."



DAYTON LASHMAR • 4TH YEAR BIOLOGY

"I have been here four years and something has always been under construction. First it was the science building, which really affect my schedule, then burke and the Atrium, and now McNally."



CRAZY MIKE • SCHOOL? WHO NEEDS SCHOOL?

"I used to sleep in McNally, in the Engineering department's lounge, but now with all this racket from construction I can't sleep. Have some respect why don't ya?"




LEAH MACINTYRE • 3RD YEAR CLASSICS/ANTHROPOLOGY

"It doesn't really bother me; I just go outside to get around. I would however like to know what is closed in advance, perhaps some better signage."

RACHEL GRIFFITHS • 4TH YEAR MARKETING

"I have had problems with getting to class recently as there seems to be something or someone blocking the stairs in McNally almost ever day. Also, when they were redoing the courtyard I did not think that there were enough safety measures being followed. I remember men working with heavy machinery that was not fenced off."

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Quote: Bill Spurr, Chronicle Herald