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THE JOURNAL

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Photo by Edgar Hartling / THE JOURNAL

Students march to protest against tuition hikes. Atlantic Canadian Universities currently have the highest tuition rates in Canada.

March against tuition hikes

by David Miller

The same yellow signs from the Canadian Federation of Students graced the streets of Halifax once again, and could later be found around campus and throughout the city.

Although it was noisy and made its point, there have been no immediate reactions from the government at any level in response to the march to freeze tuition held last week.

Reports from CBC placed the number of students involved in the protest at over 450, while others claim the numbers were as high as 1000. Although the exact number is irrelevant, the comparisons have been drawn to last year's march that drew more than 2000 students from across the province. The Saint Mary's portion of the march started in the student centre and featured two bands and free food provided by FANTASM. There were some speeches from Paul Deveau, Chris Alders, and Erika Shea that helped to infuse the audience with some passion about what is and has been happening to tuition in Nova Scotia. This was hardly a difficult task as Nova Scotian students pay the highest average tuition in Canada at 5,200 dollars. Cassandra Birch, one of the main organizers behind the event, exceed and kept thing moving. Around 1:00pm, the event moved outside and Max Haiven taught the crowd some simple chants and cheers and the march began.

A short parade around campus eventually ended up on Inglis and then up South Park to meet the protestors from Dalhousie and any other schools that sent delegations on Spring Garden Road.

Although the Dal Student Union did not support the event or attempt to get

students clemency from professors, there was still a large number of students from Dalhousie who felt strongly about the continued large tuition increases that they are facing. A large contingent of drummers and other noisemakers insured that the protest was heard from a distance. The march looped around Province House and the chanting became louder. More speeches were made from the steps of Province House, and some politicians mingled with the crowd, but none of these were from the Tories. Darrell Dexter of the NDP wandered among the crowd, and at least one other NDP member was in attendance.

In contrast to the number of Dal students that took part in the march despite not having the support of the student union, Saint Mary's had limited numbers of students, and a surprisingly short list of SMUSA executive and council members participating in the march. Paul Deveau, Erika Shea, and Chris Alders took part, but that was all. Support for the protest was divided among the SRC, but not even all those who voted took part, and despite being a SMUSA sponsored event, not all those representatives of SMUSA participated.

Tuition at Saint Mary's is rumoured to be rising by 5.5%, while reports from Dal include numbers ranging from nine to 14%. These fees are even more significant for international students where the differential fee is 100% and thus any rise in tuition is double for them. As these fees continue to rise, Nova Scotia continues to maintain its position at the top of the tuition fees for Canada; a distinction that is

Sexual assault occurs

Little notice, initiative taken

by Stuart Neatby

On Thursday, January 30th, around 2:00 am, a young woman was sexually assaulted, two blocks away from Saint Mary's University. The assault occurred near the corner of Inglis and Lucknow. The victim was alone at the time of the attack and was reportedly returning from the downtown area. The victim was unable to provide police with a description of the offender. Campus Security at Saint Mary's has made few details available due to the wishes of the victim. It is unclear as to whether this woman was a student at Saint Mary's. Soon after the assault took place, Campus Security posted Security Notices on tackboards around campus. The Notices were printed on white paper, and were intended to alert students, faculty, and staff of the attack, while urging students to take advantage of security services such as the "Safe Walk" program and "Husky Patrol" drive home services. Despite the postings of these notices,

many students believe that little initiative was taken by the Campus Security to inform students, faculty, and staff about the incident. To some, this seems an indication of a low priority that has been placed upon dissemination of information with regards to sexual assaults.

"They could have sent notes to faculty to announce in classes or even asked SMUSA to distribute it," said Cynthia Shelswell, who has been heavily involved in the establishment of a long-overdue women's centre at St. Mary's. Like many others, she learned of the assault almost a week after it had occurred, after an angered friend pulled her over to a bulletin board. Shelswell believes that the Notices, posted on overcrowded tackboards, were simply not noticeable enough to catch the attention of students. More effort could have been made to inform students in residences about the assault, and the notice could have been posted on the Saint Mary's or the

SMUSA website. She also pointed out that Campus Security have not done an adequate job of advertising the safe walkhome service. "I didn't even know it existed," she says.

Matt Cameron, SMUSA's Vice-President of Internal Affairs, when questioned about the dissemination of information about the assault, stated "I think there should be a little more effort to make students aware that it's [assaults are] happening. Just a plain white piece of paper with a whole lot of text just does not seem adequate." Cameron was unsure as to when he received the week old notice. When asked last Sunday whether he had contacted campus security about the issue, he replied "I myself have not."

Cameron did, however, point out that the SMUSA marketing department was looking into putting more eye-catching notices up in the residences. For Erika Shea, who has also been heavily involved in the development of the women's centre, initiatives like this should have been

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SMUSA PAGE

www.smusa.ca

SMUSA ELECTIONS SRC & EXECUTIVE

VOTE

February 12 & 13

Workshops Bursary

Friday, Feb 14

Loyola 171 11:30am

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NEWS

David Miller - journal.news@stmary.s.ca Office: 496-8204

Referendums approaching

by David Miller

Although most students never have the opportunity or desire to read the constitution of SMUSA, there will be an opportunity to voice their opinion on proposed changes to this document in the referendum currently taking place and continuing until Thursday, February 13.

These changes are not extremely extensive, but still may be debatable.

The question of changes to Article 4, the article determining the makeup of the Students' Representative Council will be asked. The SRC, under the proposed changes, will change only a few positions, and will mostly change the phrasing and defining of students that fit each position. The definitions used in the University Academic Calendar will be used to define who is eligible to fill the positions of graduating class, and freshman representatives. Mature, residence, off-campus, and part-time representatives will be recognized as such by the SRC depending on their status with the University of place of residence. The position of mature / part-time representative will be turned into a mature position only, and there will be a new position on the council for a students' with disabilities representative.

Article 5, which deals

exclusively with elections, is being reworked very extensively. A number of articles will be removed and turned into an elections procedures document. This document will include the articles that previously dealt with the responsibilities of the Chief Returning Officer, the rules for campaigning and campaign expenditures, removal of campaign materials, polling station locations, and listing of candidates.

A number of the other changes are minor, including changing the wording of a number of things. The more significant changes include changing the process of choosing a CRO, the final appointment of a CRO by the SRC, forcing candidates to resign from their current position if they become a candidate in an election, the campaign start time, the choosing of scrutineers, the actions taken when an article or section of the elections procedures is violated, and the complaint process against a CRO. These changes may not seem significant, but they will change the elections procedures and power of the CRO.

The third referendum question refers to the proposed Universal Bus Pass proposed to cost at most \$110 and to work for eight months as an unlimited bus pass for all full-time students.

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Assault

in place long ago. "I think that having a campus that's 50% female students, there should have been a very strict policy already in place. It shouldn't be a question of what-we-have-to-do-now. I know for a fact that this is not the first assault that's taken place here on campus or near to campus, which is the real disturbing fact: That they know about this, that they know it's a problem, and they let it persist."

The Saint Mary's Sexual Harassment Advisor could not be reached for comment.

When questioned about the visibility of the Security Notices, Bill Promaine, Manager for University Security, pointed out that 209 copies of the notice were sent out to offices across campus, as well as being posted on "every bulletin board we could." He also pointed out that notices such as this will soon be available through the Saint Mary's website, which will also contain information on campus security and Husky Patrol. Promaine welcomes additional feedback on getting word out about sexual assaults and other security concerns. "We are always looking for new and

innovative ways to disseminate this information in a timely manner."

Strangely enough, according to news editor David Miller, The Journal, widely read by St. Mary's students, was not faxed, mailed, or e-mailed a copy of the Security Notice from either campus security or SMUSA.

As for the "Safe Walk" program, Promaine stated that it was "publicized well" in the SMUSA handbook. Also, he pointed out the uniqueness of the Husky Patrol, a safe drive-home program conjointly offered with SMUSA. The program, which ensures students and staff working late at night receive safe transportation to their home, is offered by no other university in Atlantic Canada. The program is not offered on Saturday nights, ostensibly because of the reduced student presence on campus on weekends. Promaine pointed to the expense of operating the program on Saturdays. "It was just the idea of economics at the time," he said. Cameron pointed out how the program had been "taken advantage of" by students seeking a ride to the downtown area. "It is not a service to take students to bars," he said.

It is clear the assault, which took place close to St. Mary's, was not an isolated incident. A week earlier, a woman was assaulted by

three men in the middle of the Dalhousie campus at 8:00 pm in the evening. One of the attackers grabbed her by the throat before all three fled the scene when another man exited a nearby building. These two incidents highlight the importance of awareness of the dangers of sexual assault on or near university campuses.

Organizers of the women's centre hope to offer resources for women on a variety of gender issues. It may be some time before this centre becomes a reality. Although SMUSA has been generally supportive, no budget has been made available, and there has been no space reserved on campus for the centre itself. St. Mary's is one of the only universities in the Maritimes which does not yet have a women's centre.

For information on "Husky Patrol" or on the "Safe Walk" program, offered 24 hours a day to students living south of South Street, contact campus security at 420-5577. If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault, or would like information on what constitutes a sexual assault, contact the Sexual Harassment Advisor at 420-5113, or visit room 415 in the Student Centre. For information on the upcoming Women's Centre, look for information tables in the lobby of the Student Centre, or contact smuwomens_centre@yahoo.ca

Chandler fined

by David Miller

In an emergency SRC meeting held on Monday, February 10th, Jon Chandler, running for the position of Vice President External, was fined within one dollar of his election budget. This means that if Chandler is found to be in violation of any election regulations he will be removed from the elections race. This also means that Chandler will not be able to produce any more posters or any election material as it would put him over budget.

This was done because Jeremy Hunter held a party on residence where free beer was available. Chandler was present at the party and campaigned actively there. A complaint, lodged by Chris Richards, claimed that Hunter was acting as Chandler's agent. The free beer and simultaneous campaigning was deemed to be unacceptable to the SRC and it was decided that the penalty for this would be an extremely large fine.

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March

likely to discourage out of province students from travelling east for their education and is encouraging locals to move away to take advantage of cheaper schools.

As was mentioned by Erika Shea at the rally, education is a right guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations to be given regardless of social status, or monetary situation. Although higher education is not often considered part of this statement, a number of countries offer students free access to post-secondary education, whereas here at Saint Mary's, student fees contribute more than 50% of the operating budget.

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How will you improve communications between SMUSA and the students?

Chris Alders: Many in our community have a well-informed antipathy towards SMUSA. This has manifested itself in low voter turnouts in past elections and promoted a general feeling that SMUSA was/is a group of cloistered friends who are furthering their own career ambitions at the expense of the greater student community. In the wake of recent electoral reforms, it is now possible to have elections which are predicated on fairness and integrity.

However, the key words for enhancing the bond between SMUSA and its students are relevance and inclusion. We must treat each other as citizens, not as mindless consumers.

I pledge to embark on a campaign of mobilizing our student population on issues which strike at the very heart of our community; tuition fees, increased representation on the university's board of governors, lack of space, etc. I will work to ensure that our student community is consulted on matters of importance.

Kathleen Lingley: Already this year a number of initiatives have been adopted to create a stronger dialogue between students and SMUSA. These initiatives included more articles printed in the Journal, the marquee sign on the front of the Student Centre, and posters and calendars posted around school advertising events and meetings. This communication must continue. I would also like to see students be able to access more SMUSA related information via the web page, as well as through poster formats. I would also like to see more personal interaction between students and their elected representatives. Perhaps more general meetings should be held, as well as discussion groups, and public debates throughout the year.

Jon Kincade: Communicating to the student body is a never ending challenge because with each new year brings new students and new student leaders who often repeat old mistakes. I have an advantage because I know for all we tried this year it never worked as well as we hoped. Next year I want to write a full and detailed communications policy and strategy and put my marketing degree to work. This includes improved face-to-face contact with students, conducting more focus groups and surveys to continue to find out what you want and figure out how we can do it. Above all I want to start keeping some of my office hours in the colonnade or Student Centre lobby to answer questions about academic appeals, and help students get the guidance they need. These are things I hope to start now and continue into next year.

Robert Parker: There are several simple, common sense solutions to the existing seclusion of SMUSA from those who they should be representing. Student reps, instead of waiting forlornly on the fifth floor for students to come and see them, would come down and actively engage students. Office hours for SRC reps would be held in the lobby of the student center (where students are.) The physical setting I referred to for the book exchange in the previous question would also serve to terminate the council's isolation from students. There is an obvious demographic imbalance in SMUSA currently. New positions (like representation for black, women and Middle Eastern students respectively) would be created that would more accurately reflect the diversity of cultures and opinions we have in our university community. We would encourage the Journal to attend SMUSA meetings and report actively on student issues.

Tyler MacLeod: I believe there is a happy medium to find in terms of communicating to students. In the past, SMUSA has made information available to

students interested enough to seek it out. While I realize that at some point it becomes students' own responsibility to ask questions, I feel SMUSA needs to take at least one more step before we can honestly say every effort was made to get the message out. There is nothing wrong with putting our message in the Journal, on the website, or on posters, but I think we need to physically get the message into the hands of all students - and then if they choose not take interest, my job is done and the association has done its part. The day-to-day can be addressed by the website, but for the important events and upcoming issues, a semi-annual president's report mailed to every student is in order.

Ian Appleton: No response given.

Issmat al-Alkhali: I am a strong believer of the "Take it to them" theory. Many students will not voice opinions or give feedback about issues unless you bring it to them. Therefore, I plan to propose a complete system that improves accessibility and allows students to easily communicate with SMUSA. At phase one, a pre-evaluation process of all past/current practices will be conducted. Brainstorming sessions and several focus groups will be utilized to identify new and creative ways of improving communication. Once the methods are identified, phase two of the proposal will deal with implementation strategies. I will submit a budget to the SRC and, pending their approval, will continue to execute the project as outlined. Phase three will evaluate the success rate of the project. This final phase will attempt to identify areas that need improvement, good practices, bad practices, and provide recommendations for the next executive body.

Cassandra Birch: SMUSA has been sorely lacking in communications with students. Most students have no idea what SMUSA is or does, and I've sat in the gallery of three SMUSA meetings which never had more than four students watching. Students need to know what their council is doing, and have more input. I want to have more info sessions and newsletters to engage students, and more importantly, reach them through The Journal. Lots of people read The Journal and I think it would be a valuable way of keeping students informed about SMUSA. I would also like to occasionally hold office hours in a location with more traffic and visibility, and have tables set up in common areas, in order to be in more direct contact with students.

Terri Lynn Lawrence: A way to increase communication between SMUSA and students is to place a portion of each member's office hours amongst the students. Be it sitting at a table in the Student Centre, in the colonnade, or canvassing high traffic areas around campus like the library and bus stops, asking students what they want and need.

Erika Shea: It is very important that students paying to attend a University, feel that they have common spaces where they can congregate and engage in discussion. Having all elected representatives conduct a major of their office hours in a publicly visible and accessible area (i.e. Student Center Cafeteria) would contribute towards improving communications between SMUSA and the students. Additionally, the fifth floor offices (and board room) would be reclaimed public space to be used as recycled book store and general area of student communication open to all students at all times. Notions of being in touch students and an active part of the student body, are repetitively empty, unless there is continuous physical and meaningful interaction between the two parties.

Jonathan Chandler: Communication between SMUSA and students is one of my biggest concerns. As an elected representative of the students I would work very hard to make sure my stance on any issue is that of the SMU student population. My feeling from being a student here over the past 4 years is that many students could benefit more from SMUSA than they are, and therefore SMUSA has to show students exactly what the organization is there for and what it can do for them. I would like to see more openness in the decisions that SMUSA makes on behalf of the students and whenever possible more student participation in that decision making process. As your Vice President of External Affairs communication would be the key factor in representing student views and interests correctly. I will let students know that they are in control and that they are the decision makers.

Karinne Lantz: Communications between SMUSA and students is central to SMUSA's success. Services and opportunities could go overlooked and unrecognized if students are not aware that SMUSA's working to provide them. Exposure is central to increasing efficient communication. An open-door policy is always in effect, but it is also good to see people working outside of the office. In office, I would try to raise the profile of External Affairs to the student population whenever possible. Students need to realize that there is an avenue for their concerns to be heard and recognized; they need to understand what is being done on their behalf. Although it would add one more committee, the creation of a communications committee to include any SRC and general students who would like to be a part of it, as well as having mandatory positions for the executive members, marketing manager, and willing Journal participants may help.

Chris Richards: Communication between SMUSA and students is a large problem. I will remedy this through pressing for changes in our main media outlet, The Journal, which will revive its declining readership on campus. In addition I plan to make you, the student, more involved in decision-making by hosting regular 'town hall' style meetings on residence and in other high traffic areas so that your concerns can be heard and you feel like part of the process. The SMUSA website is a fantastic resource and I will work to make it a true component of communication for the organization. I also believe that we at SMU suffered a great blow with the loss of our campus radio station years ago I will actively investigate the possibilities for an internet based station and perhaps a full return to AM or FM broadcast as a way to improve communication and increase school spirit.

Jonathan Bellot: It is my opinion that the majority of students here at Saint Mary's are generally unaware of the activities and role of SMUSA. This is not to say that efforts have not been made, as opposed to merely the lack of trying different approaches. As a member of the governing body of SMUSA I would attempt to push for more frequent meetings, apart from the annual general meeting. Rotating the times of these meetings goes without saying, to accommodate class schedules of our many students. Regular use of the journal to merely update individuals of what has and is transpiring in the executive offices would definitely be a priority, to be inclusive of any information regarding decisions that will affect students. Additional use of the Times and the promotion SMUSA website are additional means within which we can successfully reach students.

Are there any students on campus that you feel would be better suited to fulfill the position you are running for? If not, what qualifies you more than others?

Chris Alders: I believe my diverse background in a wide variety of pursuits, educational and otherwise, qualify me to take on a leadership role within our student community. I have been a journalist (both print and broadcast), community development officer, literary agent and a two-time university graduate and now, a publisher.

Kathleen Lingley: I prefer to acknowledge that I am a worthy candidate for the position of VP Academic. My opponents are qualified in their own regard, and it will be an interesting and challenging election week. However I firmly believe that I can represent the students in an effective and fair manner.

Jon Kincade: I was inspired to run for office by reading this stuff 4 years ago, & maybe the work I've done this year inspired my co-runners. As the person with the most experience, dedication and desire to do more I hope you'll let me. Visit <http://votekincade.cjb.net> for more.

Robert Parker: There are several talented individuals on campus who bring new ideas. Cassandra Birch organizes the free food giveaway on Wednesdays. Chris Alders tackles important issues on council like free speech. Erika Shea kicks ass and takes names. She spearheads many initiatives such as the women's center and the student strike.

Tyler MacLeod: I feel I am the most qualified candidate on campus. With a provincial election upcoming, ongoing initiatives, and potentially high turnover at SMUSA, it is important to have experience. Accepting the status quo is an issue but by recognizing that fact and receiving students' input, SMUSA will succeed next year.

Ian Appleton: No response given.

Issmat al-Alkhali: SMU is full of brilliant and dedicated individuals, many of which I am sure are capable of exceeding expectations in withholding this position. However, of the three candidates running this year, I believe that my experience in personnel management, event organization, project implementation, and student involvement are of most value.

Cassandra Birch: I'm sure there are many students on this campus at least equally well-suited to this position. Among them would be my fellow slate members Rob Parker, Erika Shea, and Chris Alders. But it takes more than just qualification. And I believe I have the dedication it takes to stand out.

Terri Lynn Lawrence: I believe I am best suited for this position because I have fresh new ideas that will enhance past practices of the Association. I have previous experience in almost aspects that fall under the title of VP Internal.

Erika Shea: With a student population of nearly 8,000 it is hard to imagine that there are not a number of qualified individuals. Rob Parker, Cassandra Birch and Chris Alders come to mind.

Jonathan Chandler: To say no to this question would be very short sighted. I don't know the skills every student at SMU possesses. I will do the best job I possibly can and if my fellow students feel that my views and skills will be a good fit, Vote Chandler.

Karinne Lantz: I can only speak for myself; I know that I'd do a good job. I know two drastically different sets of academic-concerns first-hand. I've been involved with residence, intramurals, and SMUSA to know where SMU can improve. I've knowledge and drive to succeed as VP External, and know it'd help you.

Chris Richards: Mr. Paul Deveau has the qualities required to fulfil this challenging role. In his absence what qualifies me more than others is proven experience in the field, strong relationships within the SMU community, my sustainable vision for lowering the cost of education, and the ability to carry this vision through.

Jonathan Bellot: I'm very confident in my abilities to fulfill this position. My past experiences have taught me not only to think, but listen. I shall not attempt to judge others capabilities to fulfill this position. I can but speak for myself, and allow my fellow students to make an informed decision.

--- Campus Elections --- Campus Elections --- Campus Elections --- Campus Elections --- Campus Elections ---

--- Campus Elections --- Campus Elections --- Campus Elections --- Campus Elections --- Campus Elections ---

Would you accept a decreased salary in order to provide more services for students?

Chris Alders: In an age when quite a few of our fellow students are going to food banks just to survive, I feel it is unconscionable for the student executive to maintain the 30% pay raise accorded them approximately two years ago. Indeed, many whom I have talked to have informed me that they stopped caring about the student community when the executive voted themselves this increase.

Accordingly, I pledge that if our Freeze Tuition Slate is elected I will move to take a personal 30% pay cut to demonstrate solidarity with my fellow students and our common economic plight. This would, in a symbolic but important way, again give our fellow students reason to have faith in their democratically-elected representatives.

Kathleen Lingley: Personally I do not feel that the salaries earned by SMUSA executives, councillors, full time staff, or student employees are negatively affecting student services. SMUSA is by no means strapped for cash that they must consider decreasing salaries in order to provide better or more services for students. Currently a number of excellent services are offered, and if the need for additional services arises then those funds can be accessed, and worked into SMUSA's operating budget. Furthermore, I would like to ask how much could be accomplished by knocking a couple of hundred dollars off executive salaries? I doubt that student life would be vastly improved. I would also like to add that the individuals who work for SMUSA in any context deserve the monies allotted to them because they are all dedicated individuals who work steadily to create the caring SMU atmosphere cherished by students.

Jon Kincade: If the money could be spent better, sure why not. There are enough sources of revenue and opportunities for the Association to meet demands for services but of course we're always looking at adding new ones. This year I've started the SMU Student Book Exchange and that had very little cost associated with it. Student money has never been managed so efficiently but that's not to say it can't be managed better. I think through conscientious spending and keeping an eye open for new opportunities we can grow a lot. I conducted an independent review of the salaries of student executives across the country in attempts to improve the accessibility of these offices for students with debt, it's posted outside SMUSA by Travel Cuts if you're interested in reading more than I can write in a mere 150 words.

Robert Parker: Absolutely. In fact, this is already part of the Freeze Tuition Slate's campaign platform. Let me give some background. In 2001 the student executive gave themselves a 30% pay raise (roughly six thousand dollars each.) We have pledged to return this money to students if elected. All future pay raises would be approved by referendum of the students. If students feel that their reps deserve a raise than they would approve it. There is no way that the student council executive should ever be in a position to vote themselves massive raises at the same time as our tuition costs are increasing. The motivation to run for student council should not be a fat paycheque. If all four members of the Freeze Tuition Slate are elected we will be returning approximately 24,000 dollars. We suggest that some senior administration officials could also volunteer to do this instead of raising tuition.

Tyler MacLeod: If the choice was between giving myself a dollar or investing one in a service for students,

I would absolutely put other interests ahead of my own. For me, there would be a great deal of value in the experience as president of SMUSA, and on most days that alone would be reward enough for me. However, I believe that working on behalf of students for a year is a big decision; one that, ideally, finances would not play a part in. Realistically, my last three summer jobs have all paid better than SMUSA does. I am not as dependant on summer earning as other students might be and I would hate to think that a talented student leader passed on this opportunity because they would not be able to make ends meet otherwise. Fortunately, SMUSA can afford to pay executives what they are worth and deliver services to students.

Issmat al-Alkhali: Since the position of a SMUSA executive is what most people will consider full-time, and whereas suitable compensation is necessary for the outstanding efforts exerted by executives to represent and manage the needs of a student body that exceeds 8000 members, I will be more than inclined to accept an adjustment of current salaries if the following is true. The Association is recording a deficit, or all surpluses are already allocated to outstanding projects in queue, and where there is a substantial amount of new proposals being submitted to the SRC for consideration and are deemed, by majority vote, as necessary for immediate implementation, and where the total budgeted expenses for all approved proposals exceed current unallocated surpluses, and all reasonable efforts to raise funds have been exhausted unsuccessfully.

Ian Appleton: No response given.

Cassandra Birch: The Freeze Tuition Fees Slate has already promised to immediately give back the massive pay raise that the SMUSA executive voted themselves two years ago. For vice presidents, this was an increase from \$11,000 to \$18,000 (according to the Feb 28, 2001 edition of The Journal). Once upon a time, salaries were initiated in student councils in order to allow students who would otherwise have to work run for office, so that wealthy students weren't the only ones who could get involved in student politics. Working for students should be more than just a lucrative job. I would do it for free if I could afford it, and in fact have spent many unpaid hours working on the Freeze Tuition Fees campaign. I, along with the members of my slate, will enthusiastically give back (not just "accept") that money to spend on more services for students.

Terri Lynn Lawrence: Yes, I would gladly accept a decrease in salary to provide more services to students, however I do believe that each executive member works extremely hard and are worth every penny. Their hard work and dedication to the students at Saint Mary's goes above and beyond their required call of duty. The needs of the students is the main concern of the Association and whatever is needed to better its members will be accomplished even if that requires cuts from other areas.

Erika Shea: It is one of the organizing principles of the FREEZE TUITION SLATE to return the 30% pay increase (roughly six thousand dollars per executive) SMUSA voted themselves two years ago. This is students money to which the students are entitled. As a group we encourage other election candidates to make the same pledge, as well as the current executive

and the University Administration. So, as you see there are clearly ways to lower the costs of attending Saint Mary's. Please refer to the FREEZE TUITION slate's posters to see the graph that demonstrates the raise that the executive voted themselves, as well as additional platform points.

Jonathan Chandler: I believe the salary offered for the positions is fine the way it is. These positions are full time jobs for 1 year (summer included) and I believe the VP external position, which I am running for, pays about 18 000 for the year. Broken down over 40 hrs a week that comes out to just under 10 dollars and hour. Would I still want the job if the pay was less, yes. Is the experience worth more than the pay, yes. But a student can't afford to live and go to school if their full time job can't pay the bills. I also looked into it and found that SMUSA salaries are under the national average paid to student union executives at other Canadian universities. So all things considered I think the compensation received for these positions is fair.

Karinne Lantz: This isn't easily answered after receiving these questions 18 hours ago. The financial security of each candidate is a personal issue with great variation. A salary of \$18,500 may seem large, but when broken down to the bare minimum this is the equivalent of \$13.60/hr. With committees and working past 9-5, \$11.50/hr or less isn't over-estimating. Like all other students, education is costing me money. I'm pursuing a dual degree that will take me five years and 27 credits. I've four years of accumulated student loans, and struggle with the high costs of living in the south end of Halifax. In the event that I'm elected, and also receive a scholarship, then I foresee that a reduction in wages would be possible. I'm not pursuing this job for financial reasons; I could waitress and likely make more money. I want the job because I want to make a difference.

Chris Richards: The roles that our executives assume are quite demanding, requiring time, flexibility and commitment beyond that of many full time jobs. In addition, our executives are also students and have to balance full time duties with the needs of academic programs. As such I believe it is important to provide compensation which is comparable within the field, and which will continue to attract the most qualified of our students to seek to represent all of us at Saint Mary's under these circumstances. However, if the case was found that in order to provide reasonable improvement in the quality of services to students executive salaries should be decreased, then I would support a cut, especially if all other project funding sources were exhausted. Quite frankly, to me this is about the experience and the opportunity to create real change. Anyone in this race could make a lot more money elsewhere.

Jonathan Bellot: I would undoubtedly accept a decreased salary to provide more services to students. However, this is in no way an indication of whether or not executives are overpaid, I fully believe that SMUSA executives do earn their paycheques. Ultimately any individual in such a position must be weary that the needs of the general student body must at all times come before the personal interests of that individual.

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EDITORIAL

Marcin Modzynski - marcinmodzynski@hotmail.com Office: 496-8201

A Sheltered Experience

In keeping with the theme of mostly random material on the editorial page this week, but also in keeping with the theme of our features section this week, I would like to relate one of my favourite firsts: the first time I ever smoked a joint. I remember it like it was yesterday. The sun was shining on a beautiful spring day in South End Halifax, and I, a young lad of nineteen, was at a close friend's apartment, relaxing after a day of classes. Little did I know that as fresh and green as everything looked that day, everything was about to get a whole lot greener. While the four were sitting around, a fellow, let's call him Jay, offered to smoke a joint with us. I had never smoked marijuana before, and neither had one of the other guys. My friend declined, but the two of us decided it was high time to drop our cherries. I watched with intent as I witnessed my first joint creation, I think I probably unnerved the guy a bit, but I just really wanted to take it all in. With finished product held joyously overhead, we were told to go smoke outside, and so the hunt began for the appropriate locale. A quick circuit of the block landed us in the bus shelter on South Park St. across from Gigantic Video. Us novices were apprehensive about such an open spot, but under the tutelage of a much more experienced toker, we conceded. Jay did his best to convince and comfort us that nobody would care or even notice, but to first time drug users, we were sure we were going to get caught by some kind of authority figure, and promptly punished with banishment or beaten with reeds. Regardless, we swallowed our fears and proceeded in a blaze of hazy glory. The very first lesson was on inhaling; apparently we weren't keeping the smoke in our lungs long enough, and our erroneous methodology was quickly corrected. Jay doted over us like a proud father, watching his children take their first steps into a foggy new world with pride. Soon we were left with naught but a pile of ash and a head full of smoky clouds, and so we proceeded back to the apartment. There are only two things I remember distinctly from that experience to this day. First was trying to watch a movie (operative word: trying), *The Wedding Singer*. I (relatively) clearly recall being able to comprehend each scene and the action and dialogue within, but stringing all the scenes together to create a cohesive story line in mind was just not happening. Yet, for some strange reason, the movie was undeniably funny, moreso than when I had viewed it originally. It seems that Jay had done his job, and done it well. The second thing I remember is shrouded in haze, but somehow circumstances led to me finding myself in a bedroom, attempting to put on my pants backwards, a la Kriss Kross, on purpose, for what I undoubtedly thought would be a great laugh for all. About halfway through the process I realized the sheer stupidity of what I was doing, and almost fell over laughing at myself as I tried to right my pants. As for the remainder of the adventure, well, the details are lost to the mists of memory and marijuana. A very good time was had by all, what I would call a positive experience with what is often regarded in a very negative manner. Although I may not remember many hours, days and even weeks in the years since, that's one day I'll never forget.

M.M.

Dear Editor:

I would like to issue a public apology regarding the letter I wrote in last week's Journal. While it was my intention to approach the issue from a neutral standpoint and not criticize any one individual for their beliefs or efforts but rather raise awareness to the issue of appropriate journalistic practices within the student newspaper and hopefully provide some closure with my commentary, it was pointed out to me afterwards that it indeed appeared that I myself was making further accusations by suggesting some writers' information may not have come from credible sources, along with other comments which I now see to have been inappropriate and irrelevant to my message. Also, because my opinion belongs to a person holding a position of authority, having the letter circulated during the elections campaign period could be perceived to have an influence on certain candidate's campaign initiatives and may impose an unfair disadvantage to some. It should be known that by submitting my letter I did not mean to interfere with the elections process in anyway, nor cause any harm to any individual(s) or respective campaign, and I apologize to any candidate or individual who has taken offence to my submission. Readers should please exclude my stated opinion of the recent happenings in the Journal when making any decision regarding elections, and give serious consideration to each candidate's platform, making your own informed decision when heading to the polls. Please accept my sincere apology and I thank you for your understanding.

Paul Deveau

Nominations opened

Nominations for Charter Day awards and SMUSA Teaching Excellence Awards are now available around campus.

The awards presented at Charter Day include, Freshman of the Year, Sophomore of the Year, etc., and special "M"s (literary, gold, silver) and a number of other awards.

SMUSA Teaching Excellence Awards are new this year and will be presented to professors, lab assistants, and other University members who have demonstrated excellence in their work by doing more than what is their normal duty. Awards will be presented to a professor in each of the Commerce, Arts, and Science Faculties, as well as an award for a Teaching Assistant or Laboratory Assistant, and an award for Overall Excellence in the field of education.

Nominations for Charter Day must be submitted by March 14th, and submissions for the SMUSA Teaching Excellence Awards by February 28th. The latter must be returned to Jon Kincade, SMUSA VP Academic, in the SMUSA offices on the fifth floor of the Student Centre.

This is a recipe for some Bapineau frites.

They can be made in small, medium or large portions
And, as they say, hhhmmmm yum.

With however many potatoes, 6, 12, 20, depending,

Wash em, and then slice into 1.25 1 1/4" one and
A quarter inch cubes, parboil until no longer hard,
And before : sohft!

Then drain them, and toss into a frying pan with some
Margerine (or soya oil, or cooking oil, that has a few,
A few, medium sized splashes of soy sauce into it, and
A 1/2 teaspoon of garlic salt, or powdered garlic.

Cook at a between low and medium temperature, until
Delicious.

Let them cool enough that they are'nt too hot; and
Then maybe add some salt for that flavour.

The recipe for the Bapineau style potatoes has been
Written and was provided as something of interest in
Terms of preliminary developments of a new and more
Or less real partisan group, in a circa 2002 "venue"

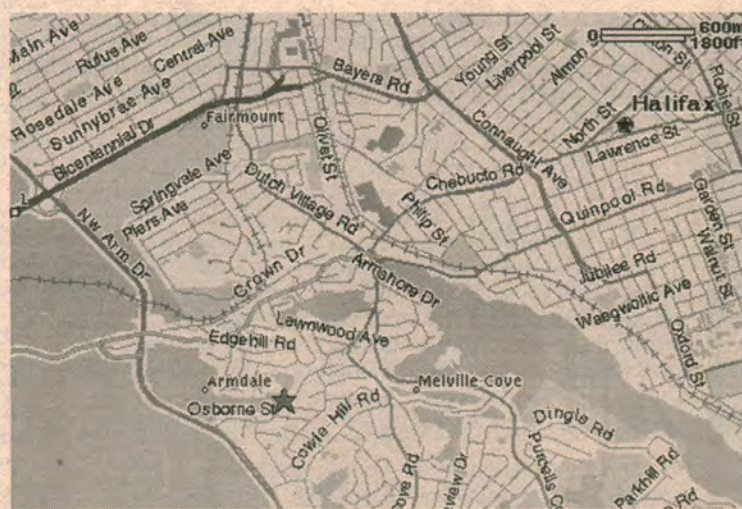
As they used to say about sunmaid raisins, mmmmeat
Them regularly and give some to the children too!!

Am I logging off now? Or was it loggin on?

A Trom. ★

October, 2002.

January 2003



Journal Staff

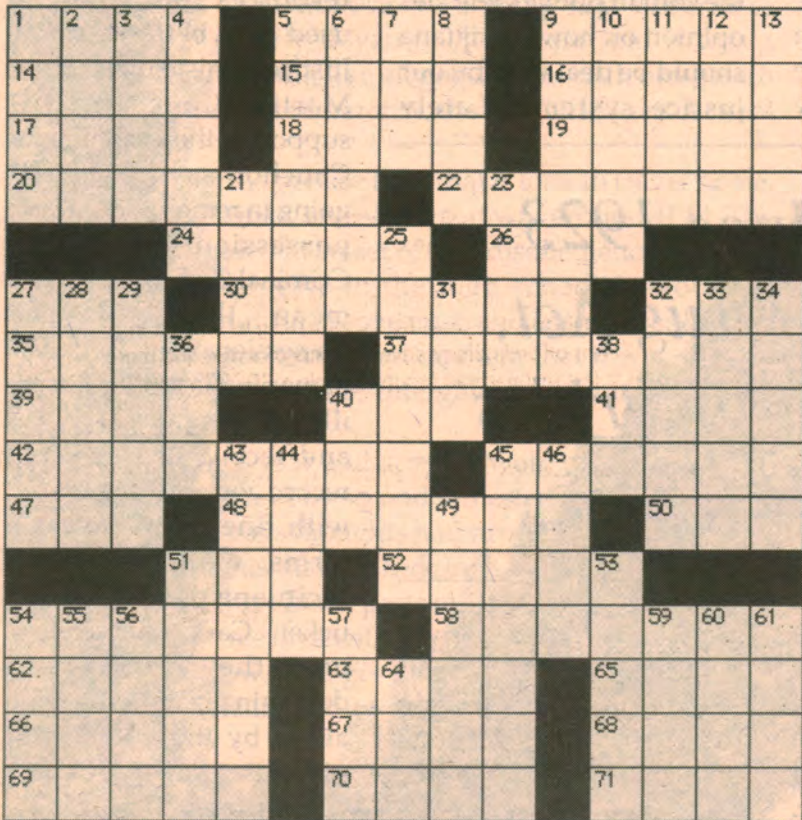
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Across

- 1 Rink projectile
- 5 Humble one's meal
- 9 Fred's sweetie
- 14 Ollie's partner
- 15 Fit as a fiddle
- 16 Electro-negative bit
- 17 Rational
- 18 General's sidekick
- 19 First troop in, familiarly
- 20 Music, dance, sculpture, etc.
- 22 Dotes on
- 24 Saw
- 26 "... it Be"
- 27 B. Mulrone and P. Trudeau, once
- 30 Cashes in
- 32 American SIN
- 35 Actor Hauer
- 37 Speed x time
- 39 Now, soldier!
- 40 Enjoyment
- 41 Chute opener
- 42 Some car finishes
- 45 Oil amount
- 47 Observe
- 48 ___ a beet

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- 58 Pull in
- 62 Author Zola
- 63 Depression
- 65 Work up
- 66 Dictator Castro
- 67 Mimic
- 68 Norse god
- 69 Stainless substance
- 70 Cell walls
- 71 Engrossed
- 21 Seldom seen
- 23 Handouts
- 25 Figured out
- 27 Baby carriages
- 28 The Louvre, for one
- 29 Gas or Rhode Island
- 31 One, in Lahr
- 32 Rabbit's bane
- 33 Con
- 34 Patrick Harris and Armstrong
- 36 Student's concern
- 38 Spring mo.
- 40 Evergreen variety
- 43 Hoopster Spewell
- 44 Future atty's hurdle
- 45 Dialogues
- 46 18 across, eg.
- 49 Corner entrepreneur
- 51 Battle
- 53 Computer problem
- 54 1 across dodgers, at times
- 55 Forget
- 56 Wait
- 57 Pequod captain
- 59 Sarah McLachlan hit
- 60 Talk show guest's exhibit
- 61 Forest home
- 64 Greek cry of celebration

This week's winner is Erin MacNeil

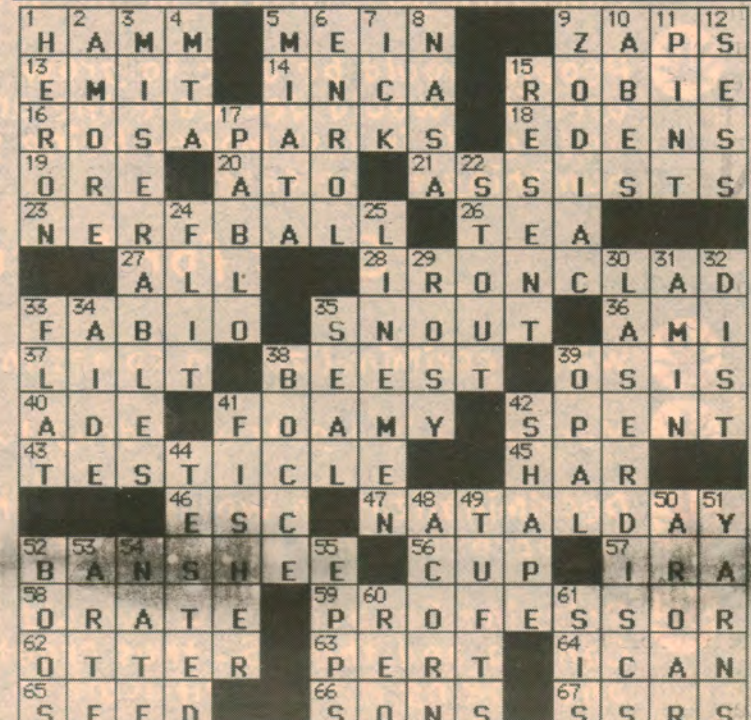
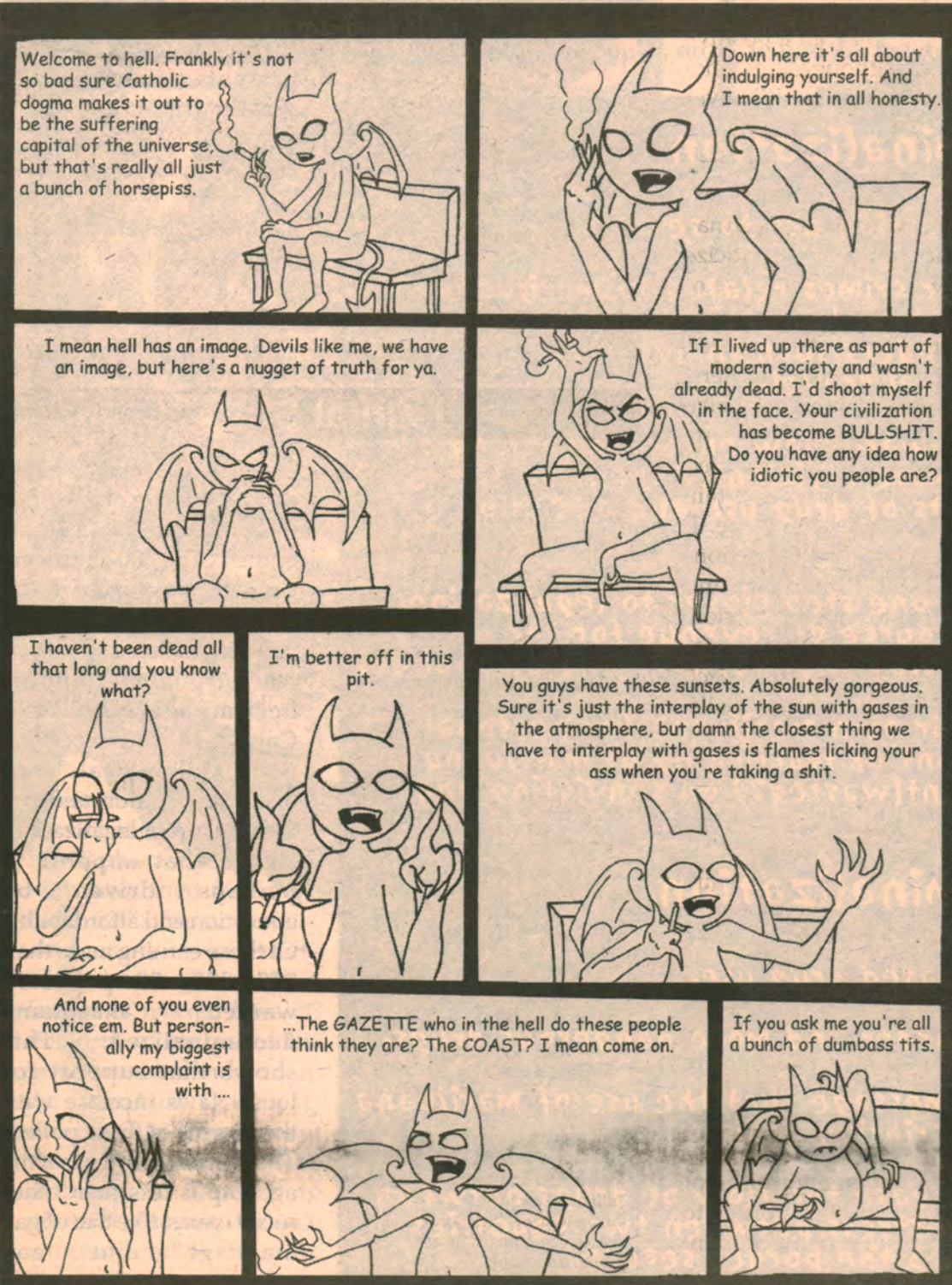
This week's prize is two free pitas from Pita Pit. Drop off your completed form to the 5th floor of the Student Centre at the Journal Offices. The draw will take place 3:00pm Monday February 24th 2003.

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FEATURES

Sean Hamilton - speedbag_69@hotmail.com

Cecilia Matthews - smueditor@hotmail.com

Pot culture

by Sean F. Hamilton

The general view of the cannabis plant, marijuana, is changing. We have seen a rise in the belief that it is not as harmful as the ghosts of our past have led us to believe, especially here in Canada. At the end of last year a published survey done by the Strategic Counsel, a Toronto-based polling firm, presented the views and beliefs of Canadians on the topic of marijuana and the idea of decriminalization. This poll, originally conducted for Maclean's magazine and Global TV, brings to light the general opinion of what should be done with the current laws that govern marijuana and those who use it.

Banned in Canada since 1923 under the Opium and Drug Act, Canada has made several strides forward since then. Presently marijuana is covered by the Controlled Drugs and Substance Act which came into effect in

May 1997. The next stride forward was in July 2000 when the Ontario Court of Appeal struck down a federal law prohibiting possession of less than 30 grams. It was ruled that by banning marijuana in terms of medicinal purposes was a direct violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights

Canada's requirements can now legally smoke marijuana in order to ease their pain. This ruling came from a case involving Terrence Parker; an epileptic who claims that marijuana is the only way to control his seizures. As it stands, more than 300 people have been allowed to possess and smoke medicinal marijuana in Canada. In these cases, the patient is able to grow

companies licensed to grow by the government. One such company is Prairie Plant Systems, a Saskatoon based company. Prairie Plant Systems is the first licensed company to grow marijuana for both medicinal and research purposes.

These changes support the shift in public view and opinion on how marijuana should be dealt with by our justice system. Lately

people caught with marijuana should not have to carry the stigma of a criminal record for life. Even the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has advocated decriminalization. They've taken the stance that prosecuting people for small amounts takes resources that could be used in a better fashion. Justice Minister of Canada, Martin Cauchon, has supported these comments. Cauchon says that he is going to remove simple pot possession from the Criminal Code. This would mean that use and possession of small amount of marijuana would remain illegal, yet jail sentences and receiving a criminal record would be replaced with fines, making it on terms with being the recipient of a speeding ticket. Cauchon's feelings on the status of decriminalization are being aided by the findings of various parliamentary committees. The Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs, headed by Senator Pierre Claude Nolin, has presented findings that state marijuana is not a gateway drug, such as cocaine and heroine, fewer than the per cent of marijuana users become addicted, and that it is less harmful than alcohol and thus should be treated as such, rather than harder drugs.

The statements by these various sources all seem to represent the public's belief in the lessening of penalties for marijuana related crimes. The 2002 Strategic Counsel survey of 1,400 Canadians revealed that 50 per cent either somewhat or strongly support decriminalization in Canada. This survey, which solely deals with decriminalization and not the support of legalization, shows that support is perhaps driven by education and affordability. Of those earning more than \$100,000, 59 per cent wanted marijuana decriminalized. This shows that support for looser laws increase with the income of those polled. The poll also shows that the age gap is less than other social issues, like that of gay marriage and gay

Continued on page 9






Banned in Canada since 1923 under the Opium and Drug Act, Canada has made several strides forward since then.

and Freedoms. Then a precedent setting decision was made one year later and Canada adopted a system regulating the medicinal use of marijuana, becoming the first country to do so. As it stands, any patient that meets Health





marijuana themselves, provided that they follow strict guidelines that include restrictions on the number of plants they can grow, indoor and outdoor. For those who cannot grow it themselves, they are allowed to buy it from

many well-known politicians and government officials have been voicing their private opinions publicly. Joe Clark, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, is one such example. He was quoted saying that young

Pros for Decriminalization

-  Current penalties for use and possession are too severe.
-  The majority of those convicted for crimes related to marijuana pass go and do not go to jail, yet they do receive a criminal record. Having a criminal record hinders such things as finding employment and international travel.
-  Most drug related funds are put towards law enforcement and prosecution, when they could be more efficiently spent on the education and public health aspects of drug use and addiction treatment.
-  Decriminalization brings marijuana one step closer to legalization. Legalization would create a new source of revenue for the Canadian government in the same way that tobacco and alcohol do.
-  People would be able to grow their own marijuana for personal use. This would decrease the amount of trafficking of marijuana and result in less money being spent (wasted?) on convicting and punishing these cases.

Cons for Decriminalization

-  With decriminalization comes increased drug use.
-  Marijuana is a gateway drug to harder and more dangerous drugs.
-  Decriminalization would send the message that the use of marijuana is approximately on par with prescription drugs.
-  Relaxing Canadian laws would increase the flow of drugs between Canada and the U.S., thus creating stress between two countries and making it more difficult to keep the border secure.

The legend of 420

by *Sureality*

Such an innocent triad of numbers. They're easy to pass over, unobtrusive, and rather uninteresting. However to the underground, symbolism is everything and the hieroglyphics for the hip incorporates and all formats to subvert the passive.

420, Chronic-speak for smoke time. But where did this piece of slang come from? How is West 49 making thousands of dollars a year on a logo of random numbers?

*****FlashBack*****

As the legend is told it was the early 60's, around the beginning of the new consciousness movement, the hippy era had just begun. An unassuming trinity of local students discovered a fantastical, nerve-tingling new experience from a local elderly deviant. They were told it was a Mexican cigarette and like all good loves, with one breath of Mary Jane's sweet fragrance, the trio fell in love. A ritual had begun.

Calculating the precise time that it took to travel home, drop off their books, and skin up, it was around 4PM. The group had decided in an act of civil disobedience that they would all congregate in the high school's colonnade beneath the beautiful bronze bust, and as the J was lit with the chrome Zippo it dawned on them that it was 4:20. At that precise moment the intergalactic terminology was born.

As the school year and stresses wore on, the tradition and their bond grew. By second semester, with the summer beginning, the boys thoughts had turned to the future and it became obvious that the fork in the road was actually a trident. As the three made pacts to spread peace throughout and to sample free love with abundance, they decreed that: "All in the know shall get lifted from below, and at 4:20 there will be plenty of bud for us to blow."



Continued from page 8

Pot culture

adoption. Toronto Pollster Michael Sullivan said that this could be due to the fact that "marijuana smoking in general started in the 1960s so a lot of people now who are 40 plus are people who may have tried marijuana in the 60s". The survey also showed men are more likely than women to be in favour of relaxed laws, 53 per cent of men said the government should act in decriminalization, compared to 48 per cent of women. These findings are different in contrast to other social issues, in which women tend to be more liberal than men, Sullivan

said. Another result shows that British Columbia leads the provincial pack of supporters with 56 per cent in favour. Support in Ontario resulted in 51 per cent, while 48 per cent of Albertans and Quebecers endorsed looser laws. The lowest amount of support was in Atlantic Canada and Saskatchewan, with 46 percent.

As we can see, decriminalization still has a long way to go, but it has come a long way in the last few years. With this in mind we may be seeing marijuana go from being an illegal to a controlled substance sooner than later.

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Spesh-K: Rap, Crackle, & Pop

by Richard Woodbury

rwoodbury@hfx.eastlink.ca

"It all started getting drunk and free styling in basements at parties". That's what Halifax rap

Friday, February 14. Cover will be only ten dollars and Friday's show will feature Spesh-K, DJ IV, Classified, Trobiz, and others. This is the first year for an urban

As the conversation continued and the awful music at the Gorsebrook kept playing, talks of a school radio station developed. Kinch felt that

and St. John. That will soon change, Kinch will be doing a tour of the Midwest United States starting in April in Cincinnati. The tour will last about two months and will have about 20-25 shows. Other locals on the tour will include Classified and J-Bru. Speaking of the tour, "it's gonna be hot". He plans to take advantage of this excellent opportunity. "When we're in the limelight, we have to use it wisely."

When asked about his music, he describes it as dealing with mainly his

You can pick up his CD's at Radioland in the Halifax Shopping Centre and at Musicworld in the Sunnyside Mall. His new album will be distributed by NoDistro.

Online, Kinch's unofficial web page is <http://spesh.iuma.com>. The site features mp3's, a message board, pictures, and even a means of e-mailing him. In his words, "it's a real dope site".

Asked about how he wants to be remembered, he wants to be known as "a kid who came in and furthered the hip-hop

There's no real voice for the students. I think that it (University radio) would make the school a much better environment

artist Spesh-K (formerly Spesh-III-K and also known as Kevin Kinch) had to say about how his career in hip-hop started out when we spoke recently over some drinks at the Gorsebrook Pub. Things have come a long way for the third-year Arts student. He has released three albums, and a fourth album will be released in the spring.

Kinch is currently nominated for an East Coast Music Award (ECMA) in the category of the Urban Recording of the Year for his single "Special". He is in for some tough competition up against Buck 65, Pimp-T, Shane C featuring Asia, and Syco, K.V., Gage, Kaleb Simmonds. The show will take

place Sunday February 16 at the Halifax Metro Centre and will be broadcast on the CBC. Asked about his plans for the show, Kinch

showcase.

Kinch is a busy guy. On the day that we spoke, he was coming from a photo shoot at the Chronicle-Herald. After our interview, he was to do a duet with local rap artist J-Bru. As we spoke, he checked over some scribbled lyrics that were to



be used for this duet. One lyric that caught my attention was, "I'm bustin' out like big girls in size small."

"University radio is key for getting listeners". He cited Dal's radio station CKDU as an example. "They have four or five hip-hop shows per week. It's a really good outlet for local artists, not only those in the hip-hop scene."

Kinch then headed to the bar to grab some more beers. Walking very slowly (with a bit of a strut), he attempted to get the attention of the attractive blond seated at a table near us. She was too engrossed in her studying to take notice. When he returned, he eyed her and smiled, but unfortunately she was now talking to a friend. As Kinch said at another point during the interview with a smirk, "I do it for the girls, dawg".

With respect to university radio, "it's real good for the students. It's something they can run and take part in. SMU students miss out on the experience of having a tool to express themselves, their interests. There's no real voice for the students. I think that it would make the school a much better environment". He did acknowledge the role that The Journal plays, but highlighted the fact that it is only one form of media. With a student radio station, "you wouldn't have to listen to this shit in the Gorsebrook".

Kinch has shared the stage alongside The Rascalz and Kardinal Offishall, amongst others. His past touring has included shows at clubs and rec centers in such cities as Halifax, Toronto,

experiences in life. He describes his sound as "the illest wordplay on the most raw ass shakiest beats". He cites his influences as Snoop, Redman, and Jay-Z.

movement for the whole world". Lofty goals, but if one thing can be said about Kinch, it's that he always accomplishes his goals.



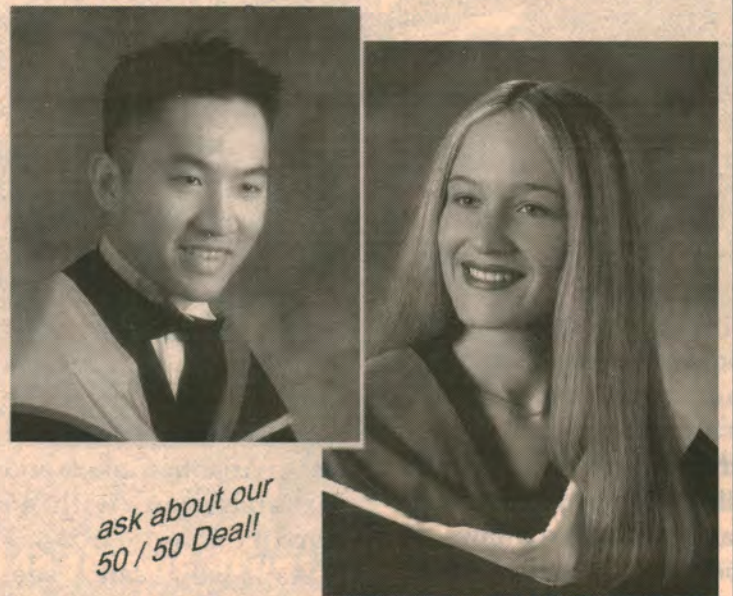
"When we're in the limelight, we have to use it wisely."

plans to "get sloppy and take it in". When asked if he'll be wearing a tuxedo, he didn't plan on it. He didn't want to worry about "messing up a rental".

In coordination with the awards show, the Mercury Lounge will be holding urban showcases on Thursday, February 13 and

Born and raised in Halifax, Kinch graduated from Queen Elizabeth High School in the year 2000, and decided to go to SMU for his post-secondary studies. Currently taking four courses this semester, he is pursuing a B.A. in English and is close to doing a double major in Sociology.

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Surviving Valentines Day

by David Hennigar

Remember what Valentines Day was like in elementary school? Everyone would wander around the room and slip their cards into little shoeboxes decorated with red and pink hearts. Each card was guaranteed to make you feel like a winner. Tweety Bird, Bugs Bunny and the Ninja Turtles were always able to get that message across just right. The next day was spent trying to figure out who sent that secret admirer card to you. Such a young and innocent stage that brings a smile to all our faces.

The focus of Valentines Day changes over the years. Instead of the group hug concept you had in elementary school, the emphasis changes to having that special someone - or no one at all. Being solo this year, I guess that you'll just have to wallow in self-pity. Unless you plan on hopping on a flight to Madagascar then you're going to have to put up with tripping over heart shaped everything and signs announcing that V-Day is imminent with its commercialized notions of "Love."

What is that thing anyway? It's hard to define, but when you're in the presence of that person, you really like who you are. You could take a more romantic stance on the topic but this is the core idea. (And besides, haven't unrealistic romance movies

already over-saturated this idea?) You should feel intelligent, witty, attractive and sexy around them - NOT dense, insecure or in need of an IQ transfusion.

There is a theory that says the presence of particular people cause endorphins to be released in our brains. This includes phenylethylamine, the chemical that makes us high with the feeling of love. Chocolate also contains this substance, so maybe we're really just craving a chocolate bar; probably not. Another theory is that the sweaty hands, pounding heart and shakiness induced by fear are mimicked in the feeling of love. What you might think is love could be a tingling feeling of danger. This would explain why so many bad relationships morph from two people in love to driving one another nuts. Sigmund Freud argued that the feeling of love was simply your libido; carnal sexual desires that were unrealized. Enrich Fromm stated that love is an art to be learned, and you must completely commit yourself to this principle. There is a final argument that we subconsciously bind to someone who seems familiar. When you look at some couples it appears as though they could be related. The next time you see Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston take a close look - the similarities are creepy. In any case, here are some

tips to help you survive being single on Valentines Day:

Take a step back and really put things in perspective. This is just another store created holiday where we are pushed to consume materialistic products. I mean after all, there is no better way to proclaim your love for her than with a diamond. Retailers have the intent of causing you to spend as much as possible to avoid feeling guilty. Just remember that being "Don Juan" for one day doesn't make up for a Homer Simpson-like performance the rest of the time. The things that were done the other 364 days are really what matters. We should go out of our way to show our affectionate and appreciative feelings sporadically throughout the year.

If you are single, however, treat yourself to a good time by doing something you enjoy. You could arrange an outing with all your single friends (avoiding high-class restaurants and head for the fast food chain), or maybe hit up the mall to throw around some extra cash on yourself. Rent your favorite action/suspense/

horror movie and live it up. You are over 12 now and should be able to survive one more day of the year.

Remember that old saying - what ever you do for others you will get back two fold? Well, this is a great time to spread good karma and be happy about making someone else feel special. Do a random act of kindness. Picking up some Tweety Bird cards (or an "I choo-choo-choo-choose you" train card) to give out to your friends might not be such a bad idea after all.

Think about what makes you feel good and try to give that to the people in your life. I've always remembered an interview with retired Toronto Argonauts' star Mike "Pinball" Clemens. He spoke of how amazed he was the first time he met John Candy. "You felt so special around him because you were treated like the most important person at that moment, directing all of his attention." Maybe you'll make some new friends; at the very least you'll get some smiles from people who could use a happy moment.

If you opt to take the Anti-Valentine's Day attitude, wear lots of black

and one of those trench coats that are so popular these days. Moan about the unfairness of it all and call local radio stations to request one of the latest hits by Destiny's Child, Shaggy or Justin Timberlake about cheating. Mope around and mumble about all the obligations of relationships and the downfalls. Use your friend Peter as an example of someone whose girlfriend has some serious issues. Make it a point to talk about the doomed relationships from a reality TV show like the Bachelor(ette), Temptation Island or Joe Millionaire. Joke about how most people think that monogamy is a type of wood. Rant, rave and feel superior.

For those of you who are celebrating today with someone else, I hope that you have successfully spotted the real thing in a forest of maybes. Take heart and enjoy this day of love. For the rest of us - don't scout out bridges to fling yourself from, sit in a pile of self-pity, or drink too much. It will be spring break and this moment is but a passing thought. Realize that you are stronger because of it.

FINE ARTS CORNER

Two weeks ago, I was approached by Rania Michaelides, a student at Saint Mary's. Rania thought perhaps The Journal was lacking a place for creative student's to channel their energies. I agreed with her and together we decided that the Arts and Entertainment section would test run a "Fine Arts Corner", where readers of The Journal could see their works of prose or simply their thoughts in print. So Rania and The Journal invite any of you creative thinkers out there to submit poetry, very short works of fiction, Haiku and other forms of verse, or just witty anecdotes, jokes and general creativity to The Journal, in person via The Journal's office on the 5th floor of the student centre or electronically via my e-mail address: Jeremy.Strong@hotmail.com. Every week Rania and I will review the submissions and print our favorites or the most interesting ones. Anyone interested in discussing this or any other aspect of the Arts and Entertainment section of The Journal, feel free to call me in my office at 496-8205, or at home at 832-1821. ~JS~

I SAW YOU
by Rania Michaelides

Out in the cold, in the wind, in that storm, I saw you,
Observing a reflection of your life, I inspected your
sadness, your sorrow,
Nature's elements were all you had, but only so to
avoid prison,
But aware you were, of the
time when the war would strike next,
And you gave the last command of control, without
the vision of your guardian angel,
Alone in the mendacity of the World, suffering,
struggling,
Surrounded with vultures, ugly creatures in that
explosion,
You felt lost and alone, reaching out for help but
nothing, nobody, no response,
In fever you were, so angry and furious asking nature
to get angry,
Closing your eyes, your mind, your brain were about
to erupt,
Babies were hard to find; Miseria was combined with
a strong wave,
Humans were not identical; Oxygen was running out,
pollution was eating it,
Wounds were too many to be cured; The magical
medication did not heal,
Hoping to sleep for eternity even though hungry and
starving for revenge,
You finally resisted the strong force that was taking

your whole life away.
My senses shook, afraid I was to throw you the rope that
lead to hope,
I lost love travelling through a process of metamorphosis,
Wearing an evil mask with memories that didn't seem to
take their direction,
All that you aimed for, was Fake Human compassion and
understanding,
Walking in the dark, where I was, didn't know, didn't care,
Wanting to catch a star falling, make a wish; I wondered
where you were,
Searching for solutions and answers; afraid to make any
kind of movement,
Keeping my body still; thirsty, I did not reach out to wet my
lips with some water,
The night should not end, time should be stopped; Silence
should not be destroyed,
The bright day that has arrived; Waking up was different
with a calm heart beat,
Up in the sky you were; so innocent and peaceful it seemed,
Surrounded in the color of purity, in white, you flew, you
were an angel,
Out in the search of a better life, climbing mountains,
rising, receiving Justice,
Hard as a rock, eyes reflecting power, facing life with a tear
and a smile,
Turning back was evil, but fighting to win the wooden
medal you succeeded,
Yes, on your own now, knowing who you truly are,
Glad that you lived in Hell so that you can live for eternity
in Heaven.

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The G-Spot vs. the He-Spot:

Craig's Take on Things

by Kara Gammell and Craig MacDonald

SMU_GSPOT@hotmail.com

I finally got my act together and hooked up with the guy I selected to write this week's column with. I picked this guy not because he was a friend of mine, but because of his extensive experience in the ladies department, combined with his sense of humor and looks (okay, maybe not the last one, but it certainly didn't hurt) made him just the type of input I needed and wanted.

I can't lie when I say that I originally thought that this would be great way to meet a funny, confident guy, but at the end of the day, I took one for the team and went with a guy that I couldn't even choose for my own personal gain (the guy's got a girlfriend and a great one at that) and picked Craig MacDonald.

So, I went through my question archives, pulled out the questions I hadn't been able to answer over the last year and a half, and listened to whatever Craig had to say in the area of my shortcomings. Unfortunately for Craig (the poor bastard), when he arrived at my apartment on Sunday night, not only did he have to put up with me in sweatpants and without makeup, but he was surrounded by four additional girls, who not only bombarded him with extra questions, but also argued just about everything he had to say.

Luckily for me, Craig had a thick skin and a laid back attitude, and managed to survive the friendly female attack on Tower Road without breaking a sweat or losing his smile. (Wow, that guy is smooth.) So, here it is - a male take on the G-Spot and an occasional two cents from me.

Q: It seems to me that every guy I know flirts behind his girlfriend's back but doesn't think this is dishonest because he doesn't actually do anything with them. I recently found out that my boyfriend has been flirting with girls when I'm not there now too and I think this is terrible but he calls it harmless flirtation. I think I have every right to be mad,

what do you think?

Craig: I personally think that there is a big difference between flirting and cheating. If you trust your boyfriend and feel confident being with him, than you shouldn't worry about it. Just tell him not to do anything behind your back that he wouldn't do in front of your face, and then just watch him the next time your out to see what happens. Besides, half the time it is just a misinterpretation between what girls consider wrong and what guy's consider to be flirting. Girls tend to assume that if their boyfriends are talking to other girls they are trying to get with them, when really all they are doing is talking to them and being friendly.

Kara: This question is funny because a guy friend of mine has a saying that 'a good blacksmith always keeps an extra iron on the fire', in other words 'one shouldn't always put their eggs in one basket'. But this is the same guy who claims it is easier to "beg forgiveness than seek permission". Believe it or not, he is actually a nice guy, but alas, never had a girlfriend. Big surprise.

My idea is this; you shouldn't worry about someone cheating on you because it's not really going to get you anywhere. You can't control your boyfriend, his actions or his integrity. Either way, if he did end up getting it on with a random girl behind your back, then you have simply washed your hands of a lying snake (ouch - that's a shot below the belt) and by being a jealous girlfriend not only do you look insecure, but you'll probably end up being insecure (and no one needs that noise). Jealousy is what I like to call a loose/loose situation, but who am I anyway? A college girl with her own sex column and still no boys. Ironic, isn't it?

Q: Why are guys such bastards?

Craig: I'm just going to plead the fifth on this one; I don't feel like burying myself alive today.

Kara: Ordinarily, I would say that this is my area of expertise according

to my track record. But, just as I am about to write off guys in general, a decent one (although usually only temporarily decent) pops out of the woodwork to prove me wrong.

When I get questions like this one, it's always interesting to notice what time they roll in at: 3:14 on Sunday morning just screams a woman scorned or one who has been recently repeatedly rejected.

Which is fair enough, we've all been there, but I think it would be just as hard to say what bastardizes many guys our age as it would be to question why some girls go so freaking psycho. Do me a favor ladies; look back at all the times you knew you 'looked' psycho (and maybe were just a bit) and then remember all the ways you excused your behavior and validated your actions - and boom! Now you know why guys can be dicks and how they can justify getting away with it. It's a shitty tradeoff, but true.

Q: Do guys really think that it is a bad thing if you sleep with them too soon?

Craig: If you are just picking someone up then it's pretty simple. You're a tramp; you're cut from the team. Thanks for coming out, see ya next year. Games over and you lost. But if you actually care about the girl, the more you like her, the more you are willing to wait.

Kara: I can't answer this one, because it appears I'm missing an important part of the male decision making machine.

Q: I was dating this guy, but didn't really want a serious relationship. I thought that we could just be friends with benefits, but he said no. This is fine, but what I don't understand is that he could have had the best of both worlds (i.e. being single and getting a regular piece of ass) and he passed it up. What do you think?

Kara: I found this one to be as confusing as the guy from last week that didn't want to receive oral sex. I guess essentially what it means is that by him not wanting to just sleep with you, that maybe he actually wanted a relationship (please

note the wide eyed, gasping amazement in this sentence). But, this for the record makes us girls question everything we thought we knew about guys in general and causes us to question everything that we have ever done or said. I hate hearing stuff like this - it makes me nervous.

Craig: Personally I think that this is cut and dry. Other than the fact that he would wonder who else you were being "friendly" with, he probably didn't want to be just what you call 'friends with benefits', because as much as you deny it, you would end up getting attached. Then when you see him out with another girl, you might just frigging explode and flip out. Then you would be all mad at him and he

wouldn't know what happened, because you were the one that said you guys had no commitment. This may seem like having your cake and eating it too - but really, this kind of cake would just bite you in the ass.

Q: How come guys feel so comfortable sitting around naked with each other in places like locker rooms?

Craig: I have to say that I can't answer this question. I'm the type of guy who is just in and out of those places; I don't exactly sit around buck-naked with the guys. And besides I am usually more interested in finding my way to the ladies changing room anyway.

Kara: Note to self: Find out practice times and book it to the rink - A-SAP.

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SPORTS

Daniel Bonner - journal.sports@stmary.s.ca - 496-8206

Huskies hold to beat Axemen

Stay close to first place

By Stephen Clow

It was a light schedule for the Huskies this past week with only one game on Saturday against the Acadia Axemen, the only team from the AUS that SMU had yet to beat. The Huskies came into the game losers of their last two contests and three of their last four and were on the brink of losing touch with first place St.FX (13-2). The

Axemen on the other hand were sitting atop the Nelson division with a 11-5 record, but were coming off an 18 point loss at the hands of the X-men on Wednesday.

SMU would begin the game down one point as guard Atnas Maeko was given an automatic technical foul for dunking in the warm up and Axemen guard and last years AUS rookie of the year Nick Landrigan hit

one of the two freebies. The Huskies would put the bizarre call behind them and cruise to a ten-point lead behind the hot hand of Micheal Shaughnessy. Since he wasn't allowed to dunk in the warm up, Atnas Maeko decided to give the crowd another taste of what he was capable of as he put down a nasty reverse slam to bring the hometown crowd to its feet. Landrigan and post player Matt Chapman would keep the game from

getting out of hand by hitting some key shots and nailing their free throws for the visiting Axemen. SMU seemed to fall asleep defensively in the second half as they let the Axemen battle back to within striking distance with under a minute to play. But Acadia couldn't complete the comeback as rookie guard Anre Grant bricked a three point attempt with only a handful of seconds left on the clock. SMU would close out their 78-74 victory by hitting a free throw to make it a two possession game and out of reach for the Axemen. Shaughnessy finished with

a team high 19 points, while Gabe Goree wasn't far behind at 18 and Maeko chipped in a lucky 13 of his own. Chapman led Acadia with a game high of 23 points against a soft Husky inside game.

The win moves the Huskies to 11-4 just two games behind first place St.FX as the Huskies look ahead to a week in which they battle UCCB at home on Saturday at 4pm and then travel to Antigonish on Sunday. The game against the X-Men will be round four of what has become a great season long battle between the two top teams in the AUS.

Rice dominates Challenges

Loyola must wait for next year

By Stephen Clow

Almost 250 brave residence students turned out last Friday afternoon to see the spectacle that has become the Annual Loyola versus Rice Residence Challenge Hockey game. Other than being a blowout, the game had something for everyone.

After Rice barked Loyola's ear off all week, the bigger of the two residences came out strong and opened up the scoring just three minutes into the contest when Bryan Shannon put home a pass from Jeff Cook. Rice wouldn't let the momentum get the better of them, however, as they replied with two of their own just two minutes apart, the second being a beautiful snipe by the always popular Mike "Grubby" Graham. A couple of big hits later, and Loyola would even the score at two before the first was over.

With the fans restless for a donnybrook, the second began with Rice lighting the lamp back to back as Andrew Walker tallied one and assisted on Ryan Foley's marker six minutes later. Rice's Graham got the second part of his "hattrick" as he assisted on Walker's goal. Loyola would cut the lead in half a minute later, but would only muster one more goal to Rice's five including three unanswered to finish the game off in the third. Rice's forward Ryan Chapman made the Loyola keeper look silly as he undressed Ken Rhodener for his first

of two goals on the night late in the second. "Grubby" Graham would complete his Loyola\Rice "hattrick" in the third as his Loyola opponent was no match for his ferocious rights.

Rice would be the big winner in the end as they marched to a comfortable 9-4 victory, successfully defending it's title from the year before. Chapman was named player of the game for Rice with two goals and an assist and Brad Ritcey was named Loyola player of the game.

For Rice, Walker had two goals and one assist, Andrew Reid had two assists, and Graham, Ben Rose, and Ryan Foley had a goal and an assist each. For Loyola it was Bryan Shannon with a goal and two assists and Jeff Cook with one of each.

Later that night fans headed for the Tower for the second leg of the contest, as Loyola met Rice on the hardcourt. It marked the first time in three years that a Loyola vs Rice basketball challenge joined the annual hockey challenge festivities, and it may be three more before Loyola catches up. In a sign of what was to come, the Rice basketball team took it to their arch-rivals from the opening tip off as the squad would begin the game on an 18-0 run before Loyola would score their first hoop, almost four minutes into the game. Guards Shaun Hirtle and James Wheeler led the Rice attack early, and big man Isaac Robinson could not be checked by any of the

smaller Loyola defenders inside. Wheeler would bring the crowd to its feet as he threw down a sick two handed baseline cram late in the first half to put Rice up by 20 going into the half. But Loyola would not back down. Bob Barker was everywhere to start the second half and along with two deep three point hoops from Kyle Lohnes, would pull Loyola to within 12. But they would get no closer as Rice's dynamic backcourt of Hirtle and Jaime Gaudet would take over. Gaudet hit a three point shot from the corner and guard Kurtis Woodley served a tasty dish that Gaudet turned into a sickening reverse lay up. Defense was the story down the stretch as Loyola failed to mount a comeback and would eventually be toppled by a 39point margin, 90-51 when the final buzzer went. Hirtle was named Rice\Vanier team MVP after a game high 21points, and Barker was named the MVP of the Loyola crew with a team high 11 of points.

Huskies claw Axettes

by Stephen Clow

Don't look now but the SMU women's basketball team is quickly gaining respect throughout the AUS. They came into last week sitting second in the Baldwin Division at 9-5 and riding a four game winning streak with only one game on the schedule for the week, a home game Saturday night against the AUS' worst team in the league, the Acadia Axettes.

Both teams came out firing in the first half, but neither team was able to build a lead. The Axettes used 86% shooting from the free throw line in the first half to keep pace with the Huskies early on. However, it wasn't enough to stop SMU from taking a 34-30 lead into the locker room.

The Huskies got everyone involved offensively in the second half as coach Jeffery had the offence firing on all cylinders. Sarah Hebb helped distance the Huskies as she nailed one of her three shots from beyond the arc midway through the second half to put SMU up by 8. From there they never looked back as five Huskies, including four starters finished the game in double digits for scoring. SMU would go on to win easily 75-60. The win was the fifth in a row for the Huskies as they stay safe in second place at 10-5 still three and a half games behind Memorial. More important is the three and a half game lead they have over third place Dalhousie at 6-10. Julie Galipeau once again led the SMU charge with 21 points, but just like the rest of the win streak, this time she wasn't alone as Laura MacPherson helped her dominate the paint and added 13 points. The backcourt was no slouch either as Hebb finished with 13, Kathrina Hack had 10, and Samantha Coutts had a great game with 10 points and 5 steals.

SMU now turns their attention to the Capers of UCCB, who have yet to be beaten this year at 14-0. That tilt goes Wednesday night here at the Tower at 6pm.

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Hockey Huskies slide towards playoffs

by Daniel Bonner

After a poor start to the new year, the Saint Mary's hockey Huskies were able to crack off their biggest winning streak of the year, with four wins over the past two weeks. What a difference a week makes. Over the course of the past seven days, the Huskies saw their winning streak snapped, while falling from a tie for first place in the conference all the way to fourth.

Heading into the mid-week tilt with Acadia, the contest looked as though it could have been one-sided. Entering the contest the Huskies were riding a three game undefeated streak against Acadia this season, while sitting in a three-way tie for first place in the conference, while the Axemen were dead last. An important point, however, is that the point spread between the two was a scant ten points, illustrating the parity in the league this season. Couple that with the fact that Acadia easily had much more motivation, since they were fighting for their playoff lives, and you have a game that turned out to

be a very intriguing contest.

The first period would run its course without providing the game with a goal, however, that would be rectified in the opening minutes of the second, as Acadia nabbed a 1-0 lead courtesy of Josh Dill. The Huskies turned up the intensity over the course of the second period, firing 19 shots at Acadia netminder Mark Cairns. In what would become a theme on the night, Cairns stood tall and pushed all 19 shots aside, holding his team's narrow 1-0 lead through forty minutes.

The final frame would bring with it SMU's only goal on the night, a Brian Barker marker just three minutes in to knot the score up at 1-1. Cairns would weather the mounting SMU storm for another ten minutes before Acadia would take the lead once more. While the Huskies were on the powerplay in the dying minutes, Axeman Scott Roles took advantage of a pick set by a teammate in and beat Brent Zelenewich with what would be the game winner. SMU coach Trevor Stienburg was livid at the

non-call by official Gilles Couturier, realizing that the event had possibly cost the Huskies the game. SMU would push in the dying moments of the period, but Cairns would once again stand tall on his way to making 39 saves on the night for the victory. In the end Acadia would add an empty netter late to seal the deal, and elevate the scoreline 3-1 for the Wolfville squad.

Following the defeat, the Huskies were left to think of what might have been for three long days before embarking on a mid-weekend road trip to Antigonish to battle the St FX X-Men. The loss to Acadia, and moreover the manner by which that loss came, was just a little more motivation for the Huskies heading into what was already a very key match-up with bitter foe X. The X-Men had suffered a Wednesday night loss of their own in a marquee match-up against Dalhousie. The victory elevated Dal into a first place tie in the conference with St Thomas, rapidly leaving SMU and X behind

in a tie for third. The winner of the SMU vs. St FX clash would have the only realistic shot of the two teams at making a run for the first round bye, leaving the other to prepare for a match-up during spring break.

Unbeknownst to the two clubs this contest would be resolved in only twenty minutes. Both teams stormed out of the gates, combining for 25 shots in the first frame alone, with X striking first on the scoreboard, notching a 1-0 lead just six minutes in. SMU struck back quickly, as team captain Jeff Tetzlaff took full advantage of a powerplay opportunity to draw the teams level. X was far from done, however, as a SMU slip late in the period would allow the X-Men to net two goals in a span of just 12 seconds, opening up a 3-1 lead that the team would hold into the locker room at the first intermission.

SMU seemed to give up in the second period, mustering only six shots, while being assessed an assortment of penalties as the game turned ugly. The

third would prove to be no better as SMU would only manage a pair of shots, while once again being charged with numerous penalties. For their part X was content to sit back and play any game SMU wanted them to. Sitting on their two-goal lead, X would lower their shot totals down to 12 over the final two frames, scoring twice, while committing just as many penalties throughout the ugly finish. After the dust had cleared, X had a rather convincing 5-1 victory that moved them one step closer to securing a first round playoff bye.

The Huskies will try to right the ship this week as they finish up the regular season with a pair of key games. The action begins with the final home game of the year on Wednesday night, as the Huskies will attempt to exact a little revenge as they battle the St FX X-Men. The season wraps up on Saturday night as SMU travel eight blocks to tackle league-leading Dalhousie on the road. Both games start at 7pm.

Family affair

SMU women's hockey team ends season with a sister rivalry

by Daniel Bonner

The Saint Mary's lady Huskies hockey team has enjoyed an incredible season thus far. The lady Huskies have risen to the top of the conference with a perfect 13-0 record to this point, with only a single game remaining. When the Huskies host Dalhousie this Saturday afternoon, the cross-town rivalry will not be the only one fans will be focusing on, as a sibling rivalry behind the bench may very well take centre stage.

Saint Mary's head coach Lisa MacDonald has enjoyed great success as the bench boss for the highly mighty Huskies. When Dalhousie began to seek a coach this past off-season, they looked at the success of the Saint Mary's program, and hoped some of the coaching ability shown by MacDonald was genetic as they hired her twin sister Lesley Jordan. Jordan's Tigers are enjoying a huge improvement over last year's effort, as with two games left on the schedule Dal sits in third place with a record of 8-3-1, just a year removed from a 4-6-0 record and a first round playoff loss. The experience of facing off against each other on a University stage may seem a bit odd for the sisters, as they were teammates throughout their playing careers, that lasted from 1991-96 at Concordia University in Quebec.

On the ice this season the Huskies have been led by freshmen forward Lindsay Taylor, who has a league leading 37 points. The Huskies have also been strong between the pipes, allowing a league low 14 goals against, thanks in large part to the efforts of netminder Cheryl Wright. The production of both Wright and Taylor are one of the reasons that the Huskies are in their best position in some time of ending the St FX stranglehold on the conference.

The two clubs have met twice thus far this season, with Saint Mary's taking both contests by narrow margins (3-2 and 3-1). All signs point to an exciting contest this Saturday at 2pm.

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Volleyball Huskies fight way into playoffs

by Daniel Bonner

The 2002-2003 campaign has been one filled with ups and downs for the Saint Mary's lady Huskies Volleyball squad.

Last season the team enjoyed success, finishing near the top of the standings, while keeping pace with Moncton and Dalhousie throughout the year. After losing key components for this season's team, namely Gillian Dobin and Caroline MacFarlane, the lady Huskies have struggled to find their identity, posting moderate results that left their participation in the upcoming playoffs in

question. In fact, fans would be left in suspense until the final game of the season against Acadia this past Sunday, before knowing whether or not the Huskies would punch their ticket to the second season.

The week began with a

tough contest against conference leading Dalhousie. The Tigers have been the class of the AUS this season, spending the



Photo by Daniel Bonner / The Journal

majority of the year comfortably in first place, and even garnering national recognition, being ranked tenth in the country. Entering the contest the Tigers had a 15-1 record, however, if there was one edge for the Huskies it was that the only blemish on

Dal's record had come at their hands. On this night though it would be Dal's day. The Tiger's would cruise to victory in three straight sets, 25-21, 25-17 and 29-27.

SMU's road to the playoffs failed to get any easier in their next contest, as the lady Huskies faced off against the Moncton Blue Eagles. The Eagles have been marred in an unusually mediocre season of their own, as the perennial powerhouse sat in the middle of a logjam at the middle of the conference.

Snow had prevented this game from taking place on its originally scheduled night of February 2nd. The weather would cooperate this time, setting the stage for an incredible match. After racing out to a 2-0 lead in a pair of hard fought sets (25-22 and 27-25), the

Blue Eagles were forced to go the distance as SMU took sets three and four, 25-22 and 25-17. The fifth and final set would be a real nail-biter, with Moncton eventually taking the set (15-12) and the match. The Huskies were led by Andrea Shakespeare (13 kills, 18 digs) and Janis Chapman (29 kills, 14 digs) in the losing effort.

As a result of the losses earlier in the week, the entire season would come down to the final game for the Huskies, as SMU faced off against fifth place Acadia. A win would allow the Huskies to enter the playoffs, while a loss would see the team sit out the second season. SMU played like a team that

needed to win, knocking off Acadia in impressive fashion, with a solid four set victory (25-19, 12-25, 25-13 and 25-6). Catherine MacFarlane was named the player of the game, as her 18 digs led all players in the category.

The AUS champion will be decided this weekend, as the conference playoffs take place in Cape Breton at UCCB. SMU squares off against third seed Moncton in the first round, with the game taking place this Friday at 6pm. If the Huskies can slay the Blue Eagles, they will once again have a date with cross-town rival Dalhousie, in Saturday's semi-final, with the winner moving on to Sunday's 2pm Championship game.

Volleyball Playoffs @ UCCB

Quarterfinals Friday, Feb. 14

SMU (6) vs Udm (3) - 6pm

ACA (5) vs UNB (4) - 8pm

Semi-finals Saturday, Feb. 15

(1) DAL vs Lowest - 6pm

(2) UCCB vs Highest - 8pm

Championship Sunday, Feb. 16

Winner 1 vs Winner 2 - 2pm

Rising to the top

Fourth year guard Gabe Goree had become the leader of the basketball Huskies

by Laurie Burns

Gabe Goree could be said to be the standing post of the men's basketball program this year at SMU. In his fourth year, he is basically living up to what everyone hoped he would be. Gabe is another one of the amazing hometown heroes we have amongst us. He hails from the North End of Halifax and attended Saint Pat's High School. He was a strong player there and led the team to a hard fought battle, almost winning it all. Now Gabe is a powerful 6'5", 205 pound all star coming to terms with his responsibility. This year he has already been named Saint Mary's athlete of the week for weeks one and three and as of January 27th was leading the AUS league with 18.2 points per game, and also leading the AUS with 8.8 rebounds per game.

Here at Saint Mary's, Gabe is taking an Arts degree with a major in English and a minor in business. He says that the program here has been helpful to him, and that he is certainly learning a lot. After he is finished his degree here, there seems to be many options available to him. "I want to play basketball as long as I can," says Gabe when asked about his future. On the back burner is the alternative of going overseas to teach English and eventually plans to get his Masters Degree.

As for this season, most of Gabe's critics have thought he has been playing very well, and for the most part he agree with this assessment. "I feel like I've been playing good for most part of the season, inconsistent at times, not as well as I would have liked to, I was injured for quite a little while there, that's a bother, but it's been one of my better seasons." Many feel that it can only get better. As a team the guys are coming together and preparing for the end of season and playoffs. As a team leader Gabe sees the same thing, "As a team we were playing really well, then we just lost a few games recently, very close ones, you know, I think we are going to turn it around and make a late search for the wins."

The hope for the men's team this year is nothing but huge. Everyone wants to see them go all the way and it seems that if the guys keep it together it will not be out of reach. This would be a great year for Gabe to see the team and himself go all the way. When asked what his goal was for the rest of the season, "We want to win it all, that's the goal, but ah, no, that's the goal, I don't want to say 'but' because I think we have a lot of potential and I think we got a good chance of winning this year." Keep that goal Gabe and lead the team as far as you and your remarkable self can.

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This Week's Varsity Lineup

Wednesday, February 12th
Men's Hockey - 7 p.m.
vs SFX

Saturday, February 15th
Varsity Basketball - 2 & 4 p.m.
vs UCCB

Saturday, February 15th
Women's Hockey - 2 p.m.
vs DAL

GO
HUSKIES
GO



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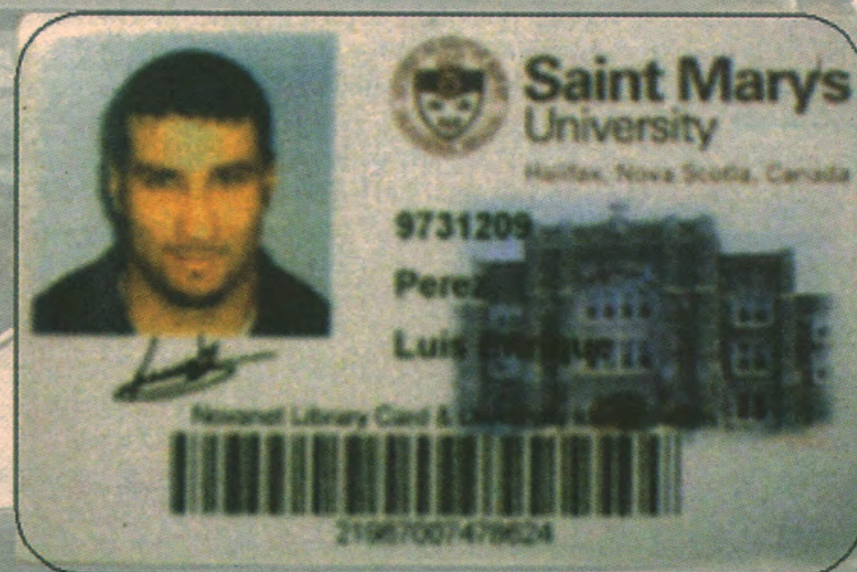
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