

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER

NO MORE PENCILS. NO MORE BOOKS. NO MORE TEACHER'S DIRTY LOOKS
OUT FOR SUMMER. OUT TILL FALL. WE MIGHT NOT COME BACK AT ALL.

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

THE JOURNAL

← SINCE 1933 →

THE GORSEBROOK



Extreme MAKEOVER SMUSA EDITION

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Who shot Mr. Burns?

BY KATE ROSS

So, here we are. Last paper of the year, weeks after the big Journal referendum and we remain with no solid answers about next year's funding situation. I'm an art school kid - I don't claim to be any kind of technical writer or great explainer so please bear with me here as things just get more and more complicated.

Student groups cannot operate on campus without SMUSA's approval. The SRC must ratify all referendum results. This is usually pretty easy. Unfortunately The Journal and the SRC disagree on a thing or two. Where the SRC and The Journal are uncomfortable making this sort of legal decision without first doing some research, the ratification of our referendum is currently tabled. The next step is to get a legal opinion from an unbiased outside source, and go from there. Hopefully at the next SRC meeting this will be settled. We are told that will take place no later than April 24.

The two main problems in all of this are as follows: Is 50% + 1 "contradictory" to 66.7%? and Is The Journal fee a SMUSA fee? SMUSA President Simon Partington keeps coming back to the argument that nothing can be contradictory to their rules.

con·tra·dic·to·ry (adj.)

1. Involving, of the nature of, or being a contradiction. See Synonyms at

opposite.

2. Given to contradicting.

op·po·site (adj.)

1. Placed or located directly across from something else or from each other: opposite sides of a building.

2. Facing the other way; moving or tending away from each other: opposite directions.

3. Being the other of two complementary or mutually exclusive things: the opposite sex; an opposite role to the lead in the play.

If contradictory means opposite, then 50% + 1 seems pretty in line with 66.7%. Majority is generally accepted to be 50% + 1 everywhere. It's not like we're doing anything opposite. Both parties want what's best for the students.

Clearly we are very different then other student groups on campus. We get our funding from each student, and the university transfers that money to The Journal. SMUSA is not involved, nor do they fund The Journal in a direct way. We are a business. We don't get to use the society photocopier. We have to pay our own office phone bill. Years ago we held a referendum to become autonomous - you don't even need to be a student to be involved with us. Yes, we use office space, but we trade almost \$800 worth of ad space weekly for it. The Journal was a Saint Mary's University fixture before SMUSA was even around. I could go on and on. The reason we

need to be so picky about all the wording is because an extra \$2 per student per semester would make a huge difference to The Journal and its long-term survival.

Before 2001 our funding came from SMUSA with the amount fluctuating yearly. Skip ahead a few years, and you'll see higher printing costs, inflation, etc., requires more cash. On March 14 & 15 a second Journal referendum was held. It asked for \$4 per student per semester. 60.8% said they wanted to help support the paper and voted yes. So far, so good.

As I said in an article a couple weeks back, The Journal/SMUSA relationship is a little tricky to decipher. Of course, nothing's ever easy. In 2004 SMUSA made a rule that any fee increase of "the Association" (meaning SMUSA fee) required a referendum with 66.7% majority. Therein lies the problem. How much majority does it take for the Journal fee.

The Journal crew thinks 50% + 1. The standard for everything else at Saint Mary's University should be a qualifying majority.

The future: hopefully a lawyer looks over the paperwork, agrees we are 'separate enough' for 50% + 1 to pass. However, if it ends up that the 2/3 was indeed required in the referendum, another referendum can be held in September of next year, and if the students say yes then in September 2006 the new fee will come into effect.

THE HALF MILLION DOLLAR GORSEBROOK

BY LANCE GILBRAN

Make a list of the first five things you would like to put more money into at school. I'm willing to bet "give the Gorsebrook another \$500 000 for a complete makeover" wasn't anywhere on your list. I doubt it would be sixth either, and it's quite possible the thought would have never crossed your mind. So why is SMUSA doing it?

There are many other things that they could do to put that \$500 000 to use. SMUSA should be looking at the academic aspect of students' lives before they start pouring that much money into the Gorsebrook. For instance, a bursary program could be started. I'm sure more people would love to go to university for the sake of actually going to school, and I'm sure more students would appreciate a little extra help with their funding.

And maybe students aren't that interested in going to the Gorsebrook--or any pub--in the first place. In the last year a slew of bars have closed down, including the Marquee/Hell's Kitchen, The Planet, The Velvet Olive, and Coppa Cabana to name a few. Dal's pub, the Grawood, spent a large sum on renovations two years ago, but last year it lost over \$100 000, and this year it's expected to lose over \$70 000.

This is a nasty trend, and the way things are going right now, the Gorsebrook is headed on the path to becoming another money pit.

Just why exactly is SMUSA putting all this money into the Gorsebrook anyway? If it's to make more money, that just doesn't make sense. When your car stops working, you should take it to a shop to discover the problem--giving it a new paint job and some fancy rims won't fix any problems. Chances are there's something other than the atmosphere that's keeping people away from pubs. On the other hand, if the Gorsebrook is getting more money to provide a service to students at the school, that's still not a good reason. I'm sure students would be willing to give up a few fancy drinks and ambiance at the pub if it meant that they'd have more help in paying off their debt. Consider this too: Saint Mary's has a \$900 000 surplus in residence. Combined, that's \$1.4 million available to students. We're struggling to pay for textbooks and tuition and to keep our debt as low as possible, and yet we have over a million dollars that's just sitting there? There's half a million that could be going to a lost cause when we're still stuck paying \$6000 a year? Why?



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SMUSA PAGE



::: Great News! :::

The Student Centre Cafeteria will now be open Sunday through Friday evenings for studying and group work until MIDNIGHT! Pack up your textbooks and pencils and head on over.

::: Scholarships :::

The Financial Aid & Awards Office is still accepting applications for 2005-2006 scholarships and awards.

Applications can be picked up at the Financial Aid & Awards Office on the 4th floor of the Student Centre.

Deadline for applications is May 25th

For more information visit:

www.smu.ca/administration/student-services/

::: About iMage Photography :::

Attention Grads! Did you know your Yearbook is already paid for? Guarantee your place in the "Santamarian" SMU yearbook with a graduation portrait by About iMage Photography, Saint Mary's Students' Association's preferred photographer. About iMage will be photographing on campus March 24th, March 31st, and April 1st in the Private Dining Room in the Loyola Building. Call today to book your appointment, 429-1977.

Deadline for submissions May 20th, 2005.

::: Charter Day :::

Charter Day is coming up on Saturday, April 9th. For more information, please visit the SMUSA web site at www.smusa.ca

::: Academic Award Winner :::

SMUSA
Award for Excellence in the Field
of Education, 2003-04 was:

Dr. Elizabeth Chard
St. Mary's University Registrar

This year's winners will be
announced on Charter Day.



::: Reminders :::

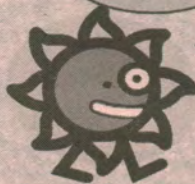
April 6: Last Open Mic to qualify for 'Best of'

April 8: The Best of Open Mic 2!

April 9: Charter Day

April 10: SRC Meeting 1:00 pm

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(rather the earth is tilting
relative to me, which facilitates
my beams of warm-
goodness reaching you)



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APRIL 8TH

9 PM

\$500

1ST PRIZE

The Gorsebrook is open only to SMU students, SMU Alumni, and their guests.

OPINIONS

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



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WHO CARES?

BY: SIMON MACKIE

The other night I got into a discussion with my brother, a Linguistics major at Ottawa U. It all began innocently enough when I introduced the topic of black holes and the concept of spacetime, as we had just learned about that in Astronomy. That escalated into some philosophical debating and further discussion of spacetime, as well as the development of Indo-European languages.

Aside from learning many things, I started to think about the question, "why should we care about the world at large?" If everything is working just fine in the world, why should we bother

questioning what's going on, or indeed what happened long ago and is now shrouded mostly in mystery.

Curiosity was my first thought. Humans seem to be naturally curious so it only makes sense to explore what is going on in our surroundings and what happened in our past. Curiosity affects people on different levels, but I'm sure everyone has had a moment of reflection. Everyone has at some point stopped and thought, "wait a minute. Why exactly are things the way they are?" Fortunately for the less motivated, people have acted on that curiosity and gone out to

discover why it is that way. I also believe a general understanding of things is an important factor in human development. Sure, maybe the specifics of a neutron star isn't going to help you pass that English test, and maybe understanding how the universe was created won't directly impact your life, but have you never wondered about the big picture?

I'm not saying that everyone should rush out and read every single book ever written to gain mastery over every subject, but I do believe that people should look above and beyond the horizon that they see. People should stop focusing so much on only what directly affects them, and see what else life has to offer them. Even though the summer is approaching, maybe you could do something educational (imagine that!) like reading a book. Try

learn some tidbits of information about something you didn't know a thing about before. Surf the net and look up something exotic. Just to get you started thinking, here's a topic my brother loves talking about:

"Imagine an alien who lives somewhere where our 24 hours is equivalent to his (her? its?) one second. Now imagine this alien steps out onto the freeway, where there are always cars passing. Would it get hit? Could it stand on this mass of "moving" cars which probably look solid to it? Or would it pass right through? It's a similar question really as to why we exist at all. There is more space between the molecules on the page you're looking at than there are molecules, and your hand is full of space between molecules, yet touch the page and you won't pass through it."

CONGRATULATIONS & A BIG JOURNAL WAHOOOOOO TO GUILLOME CHOUINARD

winner of the

CONTEST OF A LIFETIME

The Journal's Contest of a Lifetime has come to a close. If you sent answers in and you don't find your name here, you either had too many wrong answers or you were late with your submission. Tough luck, some would say. I think we would too, if we thought luck had anything to do with this contest. Solid detective work and math skills were necessary to claim the prizes, and we are pleased to extend congratulations to Guillome Chouinard, who we think lives in Vanier somewhere, who got the most answers correct. For his time and intelligence, we are awarding our man Guillome with a package from SweetLeaf Hydroponics, (HEY LOSERS: don't get excited. There is nothing illegal or "trippy" or magical.) Since you didn't mention whether you'd appreciate this prize (as requested in one of the crawlers), we issue this prize to you. May residence air be forever smoke-free. (You should be aware you can't smoke in most of residence.) A rare surprise from Molson, a bunch of CDs people sent us to review and a lot of other good stuff is also included.

Our runner-up prize is a gift certificate for a coffee house on Cunard Street and a bunch of other stuff you wish you won. ChillnGrindz donated this prize to our contest, and they are pleased to welcome J. Evans Pritchard for coffee with a friend. Thanks to everyone who participated, and most importantly to all of our sponsors and prize donators especially SweetLeaf Hydroponics and ChillnGrindz.

Did you know: Tuomas Holopainen is one of the greatest musicians alive. He's the mastermind behind Nightwish, the popular Finnish opera metal band. He wrote a six minute masterpiece while he had writer's block. How great is that? In addition to being a musical genius, he's also a snappy dresser. Check out their latest album "Once" to relearn the definition of great music. I also plan to marry Tuomas when I grow up. Really.



"SIMON SAYS"



Attention Off-Campus University & College Students

Are you moving soon?

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



The following are collection weeks in Area 1 Halifax:

April 11 - 15	Refuse & Recyclables Only
April 18 - 22	Green Carts & Recyclables Only
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May 9 - 13	Refuse & Recyclables Only

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

NEWS

Yeast gets hottt

BY SIMON MACKIE

A quick look through some of the past issues of The Journal will show that Saint Mary's students like talking about sex. And why not?

According to a recent study, sex is not only enjoyable, but it's a good thing too. The results from the research, led by a team of scientists in New Zealand, are the first to prove by experimental evidence that sex is good. Surprisingly,

neither humans nor rats were used in the experiments. The guinea pigs turned out to be two strains of yeast.

Usually yeast reproduces asexually but when stressed can reproduce sexually by producing four pores similar to male and female gametes. In the experiment, one of the strains of yeast was mutated so that it could only reproduce asexually while the other could

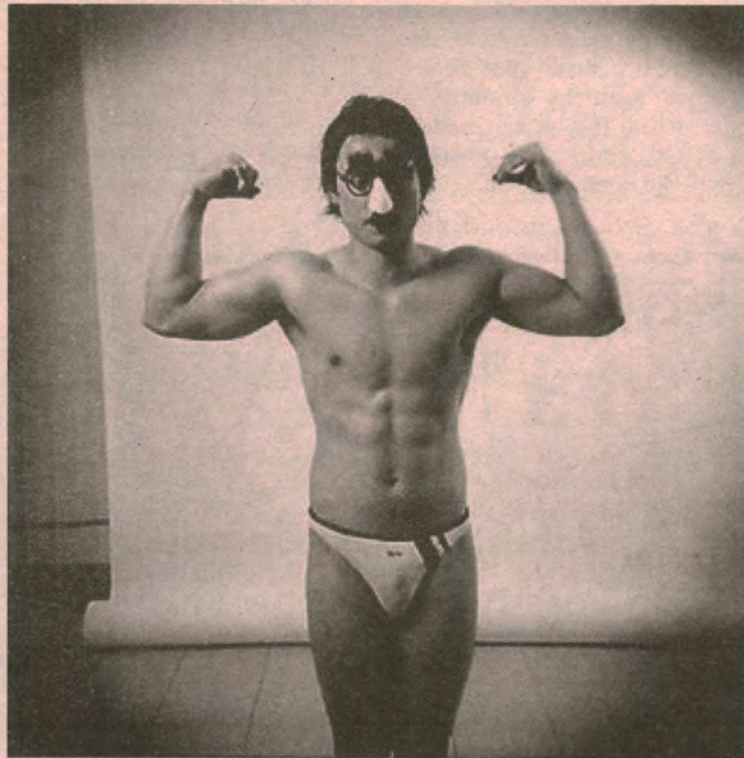
behave as normal.

Under normal conditions, both reproduced at about the same rate. However, under stressed conditions in a higher temperature environment, the normal strain of yeast remained relaxed while its growth rate increased by 94% compared to 80% for the mutated yeast.

This confirmed the theory that sexual reproduction speeds up evolution, allowing for a healthier, fitter species. However, one key question remains unanswered. In humans, males contribute less to sex than females. Not only do women have to carry the child around, but their egg has more of an effect on the offspring than the male sperm does. What this implies is that, by natural selection, males should have been eliminated and women would have become asexual. However, unless things have drastically changed by the time you read this paper, this process has not yet occurred.

Scientists are puzzled as to why sexual reproduction is common. Perhaps the answer lies within the research. Maybe sex is just that good for us.

(Kate says: Or maybe sex is just more fun than stressing out in a hot test tube.)



230,000 Students on Strike

BY SIMON MACKIE

Nova Scotians aren't the only ones with financial problems. While we're watching the tuitions fees go up, and fast, Quebec students just witnessed a \$104 million cut to their bursary programs. In response, 230 000 students have gone on strike. Since 1996, the government has cut more than \$300 million from the bursary programs. While \$40 million has been offered to be put back on, students are demanding for all of it back.

Quebec students are going beyond the silent protest that Dal students staged last week—students are blocking highways and occupying buildings. One source reported that dozens of students have been arrested since the protests began over a week ago.

It is thought that if the strike does not end soon, students may have to attend summer school to complete their courses. The president of the Quebec Federation of University Students said

those who are involved in the strike understood that before taking action.

The president wants to know why the government can cut taxes by \$750 million, but can't reinstate another \$60 million into the program. The two post secondary student organizations FEUQ and FECQ are proposing that the government rethink how they

plan to cut income-taxes. The FECQ President explains that it will only cost the average tax-payer in Quebec \$1.56 to fix the \$103 million cut that was made.

In the recent poll in Nova Scotia for ANSUT, it was noted that a majority of those polled would agree to an increase in taxes if it meant a reduction in tuition fees.



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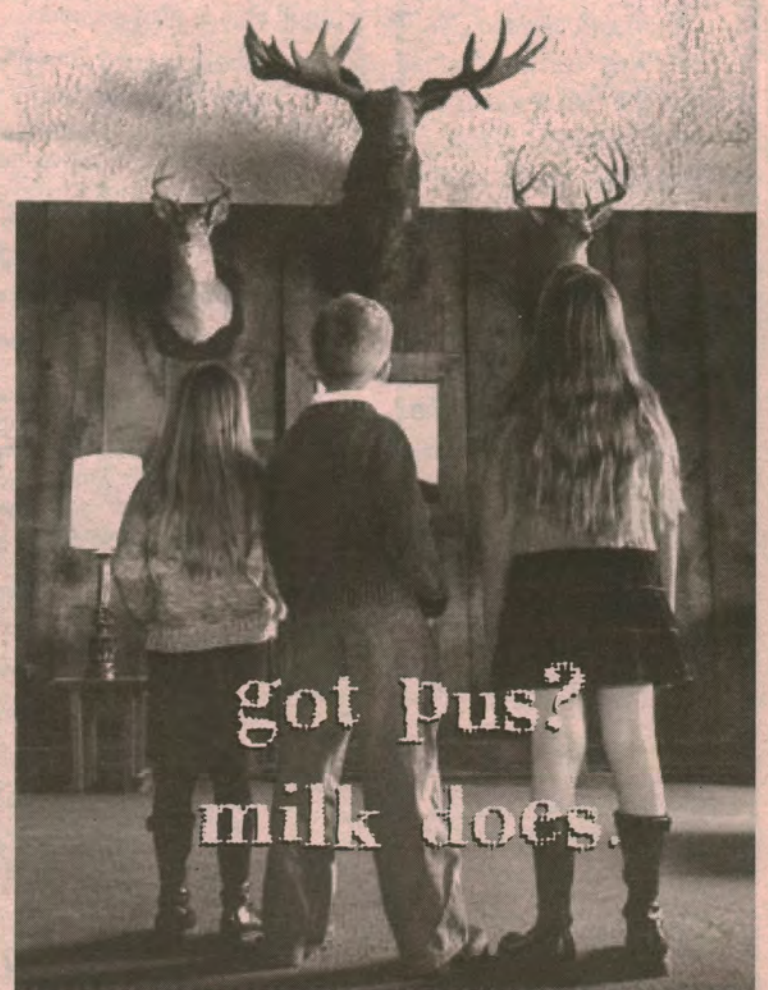
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FEATURES

Hundreds of yellow cabs prowl the city

BY ASHLEE STARRATT

Once again, students from the Saint Mary's University Model United Nations Society had the unique opportunity to participate in the renowned National Model United Nations conference at the Hilton in Manhattan from March 22-26th. The chance to visit such a bustling and vibrant city as New York was a once in a lifetime experience for myself and many of my other fellow delegates, and one that would most certainly not have been possible without generous financial assistance from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Saint Mary's University and many other gracious donors.

Having previously just attended the Canadian Model United Nations conference in Ottawa a week before heading to the Big Apple, our delegation from Saint Mary's was well-organized and well-prepared to meet the challenges put forth in their committee sessions head-on. All 15 SMU participants were representing the Syrian Arab Republic on various UN bodies such as the Arab League, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly plenary. I had the privilege of being a representative on the World Health Organization, one of the largest committees at the conference, consisting of slightly more than 300 people. Topics discussed within sessions ranged from UN Security Council reform, prevention and treatment of



HIV/AIDS, development and environmental sustainability, to the peaceful uses of outer space.

It was a wonderful learning experience to be representing a nation such as Syria whose foreign policies and perspectives are markedly different from what we as a Western nation are used to and the broadened viewpoints we came away with were invaluable to say the least. Opening and closing ceremonies were held at the United Nations itself in the great hall of the General Assembly—a definite highlight for all 3200 students in attendance. To actually be present in the location where such international power and democracy is seated was a moment of very personal pride and privilege, and really brought home the importance of these conferences, which is to further the passion and drive for peaceful cooperation and international diplomacy in the youth of today so that they too may carry on the tradition.

As a Canadian university we were invited to a United Nations briefing at the

Canadian Embassy near the UN, and were later treated to a DFAIT wine and cheese gathering in one of the many ballrooms located within the Hilton where delegates had the privilege of hearing Canadian Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Alan Rock, deliver a inspiring speech. Over the course of the conference's five-day run, SMU delegates once again let their assertive colours shine as they took charge in drafting resolutions and reports within their committees while working in conjunction with other students from colleges and universities throughout North America and around the world. One of the more moving moments of the conference occurred when it was announced within each committee that for the first time ever newly liberated Iraqis were able to represent their own country and were flown over with the financial aid of several American universities. The look of humble pride on the faces of their delegation was one that I know I won't soon forget.

Much like Ottawa, the

conference was overall a success, despite a few difficulties resulting from it being so large. In addition, the opportunity to explore a city that truly never sleeps was a source of constant excitement. Saint Mary's delegates had two extra days in Manhattan, plus chunks of time between committee sessions, so between all 15 people lots of ground was covered. Sight-seeing highlights included: Times Square, Battery Park (from which you can see the Statue of Liberty), Wall Street and the Financial District, Ground Zero, Fifth Avenue, Chinatown, Central Park, Greenwich Village, SoHo, Rockefeller Centre, Broadway and the

Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Hilton was located in the hub of Manhattan on Avenue of the Americas (or 6th Avenue), so it was relatively easy to grab one of the hundreds of yellow cabs that prowl the city streets or hop a subway train to all points of the island.

This was an experience none of us will soon forget and I encourage all interested students to take this accredited Political Science course (prerequisite is International Organization) and continue the tradition of excellence established by former SMU delegates during their performances at these conferences!



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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

GAME OVER The Next Level

BY SIMON MACKIE

The 2004 fiscal year was another great time for video games, but from the looks of it, this year will be even better and even more exciting. With Sony's recent release of the PSP, gamers will soon know if Nintendo's history of making handhelds will pay off with the DS, or if Sony will actually present some competition in the market. Speaking of Sony, they are the only ones so far to keep quiet on the details of their next system. Microsoft has already announced the X-Box 2, and news of Nintendo's next console, codenamed Revolution, came shortly thereafter. However, a quick glance at Nintendo's website will let you know they have no intention of slowing down the production of games for their current systems.

Just as with last year, it appears 2005 will present gamers with many sequels to old favourites. Last year saw the release of such titles as *Shadow Hearts: Covenant*, *Metroid Prime 2: Echoes* and *Musashi Samurai Legend*. This Fall and next Winter, gamers can expect to get their hands on *Wild ARMs*

Alter Code: F, *Mario Kart DS*, and *Fire Emblem: The Sacred Stones* to name but a few.

Some games are tentatively scheduled for the 2005 fiscal year, and provided their dates aren't shifted (as some of them have been in the past), these will be the ones to save up your money for. I'm talking about the hard hitters: *Final Fantasy XII*, *Shadow Hearts: From the New World*, and the new *Legend of Zelda*. With so much anticipation building around each game, developers should be biting their nails now, hoping that they've programmed every part of the game perfectly. Though from what I've seen so far from each game, I would be highly surprised if each didn't build on the success and excellence of its predecessor.

Finally, some of the many *Final Fantasy VII* spin offs should be available in 2005, too. *Advent Children* has been long in the making and should see the light of day soon, and *Dirge of Cerberus* is expected to be released sometime this year, at least in Japan. Here's to a good year of gaming!

The Attic gets even more skanktastic

BY BRYAN WINTERS

This past Saturday night I found myself amidst skanks, punks, drunks, and endless combinations of the three. The venue was The Attic and the entertainment was supplied by A Dying Race and The Delegates. The former started the night off with a good swift kick to the jewels, pounding off hi-octane punk rock that often sounded like an equal mix of Guttermouth (vocals) and Bigwig (drums, guitar leads). With a dead-on imitation of Guttermouth's "Bruce Lee Vs. The Kiss Army," this Nappanee trio started the show off nicely and set the pace for the main act.

The Delegates' set rocked. They played two trombones, a keyboard, two guitars, a bass, and drums between the six of them, and everybody sang. Toggling back and forth between a slow reggae feel and punked-out ska, it seemed as though there was something to appeal to the tastes of everybody in the audience. The trombones added a nice emphasis to the rest of the instrumentation and when combined with the

solo guitar work, reminded the listener of The Mighty Mighty Bosstones circa Let's Face It. Actually, the sound as a whole was very similar to the Bosstones, with a dash of Choking Victim thrown in for good measure.

Besides the bantering between the band members and their attempt to be as on top of the audience as they possibly could, my favourite thing about the show would have to be their covers. Starting off with their own rendition of "The Final Countdown" by Europe was a great way to get first-time listeners into the groove. Punctuated by those two horns and a guitar solo worthy of the original, the 80s track kicked the audience into high gear. Seriously though, who covers Europe? After a few more of their own tracks they got around to doing "I Wanna Riot," which they claimed was originally by Barry Manilow. I guess you learn something new everyday. Before this show, I never would have thought the American Idol guest host was such a big fan of public displays of violence.

Rock on, Barry.

Further into the set they again dipped into their reservoir of classics with a little ditty called "Time Bomb," by Rancid. The moshing slowed to a Rude Boy dance-off in the front of the stage. I hadn't seen people skanking it up with such fervour since the last time Fishbone was in town.

The two bands worked very well off of each other and the show was great. The Delegates are touring in support of their EP, *Cobra*, which has two previously unreleased tracks and two tracks from their upcoming full length, *Makin' Many Happy*. After listening to their previous album, *We All Taste The Same*, I'm extremely pumped for this CD. Hopefully it will take the sound and humour of "Super Size My Fast Food Life," "The DJ Stole My Girlfriend," and "The Gas Mask Lady," and add a little more of the energy and desperation found in their live performance.

This disc has some tracks that you'll fall in love with live, but the album versions just don't do them justice. It seems as though the singing is less strained for volume, and although a conversation voice works for Paul Simon and Neil Diamond, it doesn't really fit heavy ska-punk. Check out *We All Taste The Same*, check out *Makin' Many Happy* when it's out, and put yourself in the crowd at the next Delegates show. Just make sure you stretch beforehand, and spit shine your two-tones just in case.

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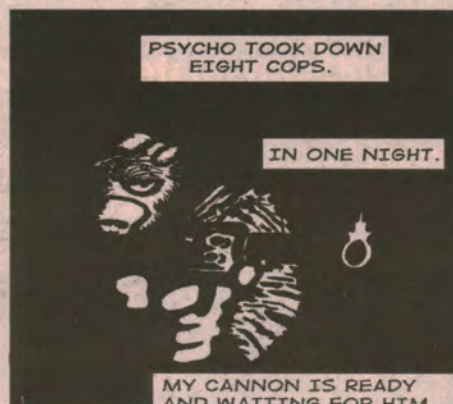
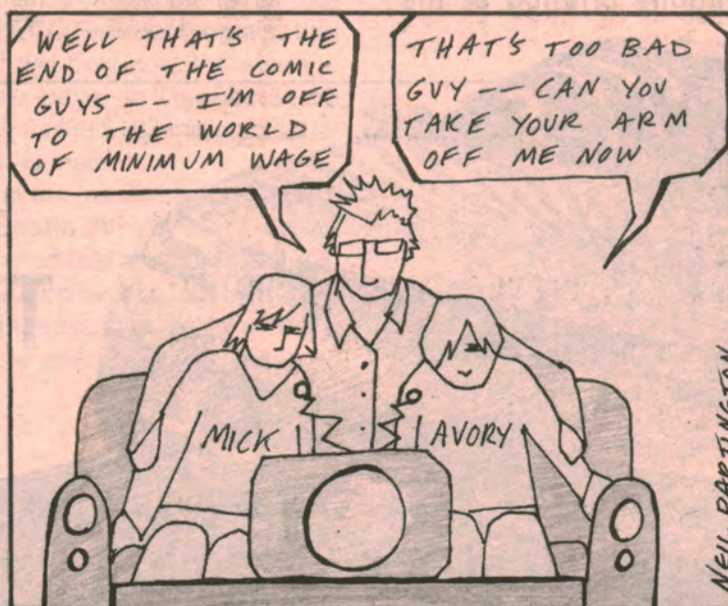
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THE PEELED EYE

BY BRYAN WINTERS

This coming week and for the rest of the summer there will be plenty of entertainment for a wide variety of tastes.

Thursday, April 7th we have the Rheostatics and Grand Theft Bus playing at Reflections for those folksy jam fans out there. Both bands are renowned for their live shows and are guaranteed to prove it on every occasion. The show will cost \$17.50 in advance or \$20 at the door and begins at 10:30.

If that just isn't your scene, maybe the benefit show for the NS Hospice Palliative Care is more up your alley. For \$5 you get to see five bands: Dead Red, The Kansas Nebraska Act, War Pony, Freedom 35, and The Hemingways. This is bound to be a fun, energetic show and The Attic claims it will begin at 11:00, but having been at a few Attic shows in the past, I'm skeptical. Go see this show. It's a great

cause and \$1 per band can't really be haggled out any better.

Friday, April 8th I'd have to mention The Pylons and King Konqueror at The Attic, which should be a good time. Still running on high from The Delegates performance or not, this is another chance to get your suggested dosage of ska for early April.

If you're looking for something a little heavier, head on over to Reflections for The Holy Shroud's CD release alongside Dog Day. The Holy Shroud have a buzz about them like the morning after a stag party and people just can't seem to get enough. This CD is a highly anticipated local release and these guys know how to lose it on stage. The cover charge is only \$6, but make sure you pack enough lunch money to pick up the disc too.

Saturday, April 9th will see the 'Fear and Loathing in Halifax' show, with its cast of renegade musicians. In the dog-pile you'll

find the Burt Neilson Band, The Jimmy Swift Band, Universal Soul, Slowcoaster, Fussy Part, DJ dFunk, Scientists of Sound, Jen Grant, and Jill Chandler. This ensemble cast will be making their noise on the dusty stage of the Marquee around 10:00. This is a pretty good sample of Halifax's more mainstream acts, so dig in.

If that's not your thing, Wintersleep will be having a video release party at Stage Nine at 9:30. These guys are receiving a lot of attention right now and if you haven't heard them, you should. With moody performances and emotionally charged music, the reaction this band pulls from an audience is impressive. Get in to see them

while you still can.


For the early bit of the summer, the list of shows I'm looking forward to starts with Motorhead, featuring Priestess and Damn 13 on May 2nd. Motorhead is one of rock and punk's most influential bands, and everybody has heard Lemmy's growl on "Ace of Spades," at one point or another. They'll be tearing the roof off of the Halifax Civic Arena for an all-ages crowd.

May 5th will see Death From Above 1979, controller.controller, and Uncut at The Attic. These bands are quickly taking off in terms of mainstream radio and television play and it would be silly not to get out and see them while the chance is there. They will take to the stage at 10:00 the

cover charge is \$8.

Besides those noted shows, there will be plenty of opportunities to hear great music in this city. Every week during the summer it feels as though you have to miss one or two really great shows to see one. There is so much talent in and passing through this area that listing everything worth seeing just isn't feasible. Besides what I've already mentioned, keep an eye out for the Montreal funk-rock group Les Mods who will be passing through sometime in late May, and I also have to recommend SNFU at The Attic on July 8th. The rest of the summer's scheduling I will leave to your discretions. Hopefully you attend a show or two, and hopefully you enjoy them. Maybe I'll even see you in the crowd.

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SPORTS

Ranting and raving THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

BY BILL HUGHES

I've just about had enough of the steroids debate. We all know that steroids are bad for athletes and sport. They are unhealthy, dishonest, cheating and destroy the integrity of any fair competition. Sport has always been marred by cheaters, whether it is Canada's Ben Johnson at the Seoul Olympics in '88, or accusations placed on Carl Lewis, Lance Armstrong, and Barry Bonds and Co. We simply cannot seem to avoid them.

All of a sudden anyone that has developed their body or skills at a rapid rate have to endure the inevitable accusations. We can no longer simply sit back and enjoy an incredible performance, without having that little spec of suspicion that creeps into the back of our minds, situating itself neatly in our conscience. It is rather disappointing that this has swept across the entire sporting world, whether fairly, in rampant cases in sprinting and baseball, or unfairly, and unfounded in rare cases in cycling, football and hockey.

What really bothers me is that baseball, for so many years, has turned a blind eye to the growing problem and has attempted to treat it so ineptly. Now, through media coverage, accusations often biased by disputes (Armstrong's former employee, Bonds's mistress) and pointless Grand Jury testimony, the problem has managed to seep itself into sports that do not deserve to be tainted by such problems.

I recently saw a report on a national sports broadcast that outlined the suspensions that have been developed to attempt to deter professional athletes from the temptation of cheating.

They are as follows:

NFL: 4 games
NBA: 4 games
MLB: 10 days
NHL: No policy

Although the penalties for cheating seem rather lenient, that was not my main plight. I felt that it was very unfair for the media to include the NBA and NHL among those groups. It bothered me to see that although neither the NBA nor the NHL have problems with Steroids, that they are grouped into a category among other professional sports that deal with persistent offenders. The NHL has been criticized for not having a concrete standard, but why would they develop a policy to legislate something that is non-existent? A case of Steroid abuse has never been documented in the NBA and NHL statistics show that approximately 2% of their players use "banned"

substances. These are not considered to be numbers that are "affecting" their respective sports.

Steroids are a major issue in sport, now more recently than ever. The bureaucracy must tread carefully to fix this problem before it continues to grow any larger than it has already. At the same time, it is my belief that the media must be careful not to push this reputation on those leagues that do effective work in keeping Steroids out of their sport, or to those sports that simply do not have a problem.

Anytime we witness competition between human beings we will inevitably endure accusation of cheating, and cheaters, no matter what the circumstance. But the media must be careful to pick their places when making accusations. These can be very serious and should not be made without concrete evidence. We can discuss Ben Johnson, Carl Lewis and more recently the MLB's Tampa Bay Devil Rays Alex Sanchez, but until we have proof that any others have offended, we should remain quiet and allow for investigations to be completed, for test results to come in and reserve judgement on those that rely on their reputations to make their living.

We cannot continue to make accusations based in interest of a story line. Innocent until proven guilty. I think that is the treatment anyone, anywhere, would kindly embrace if they too were in a similar scenario.

NEWS & NOTES

Tying up some loose ends

HUSKIES LOCK UP STIENBURG FOR FIVE MORE SEASONS

The Saint Mary's Huskies men's hockey team and head coach Trevor Stienburg have come to terms on a new five-year contract.

Stienburg, the Huskies head coach for the past eight seasons, has a 2002 AUHC title on his resume (the Huskies first since 1977) and has been honoured with two CIS Coach of the Year awards in 1999 and 2000. Terms of the deal were not released.

HUSKIES STADIUM TO HOST CFL EXHIBITION GAME

The CFL will stage an exhibition game at Huskies Stadium this coming June.

The details were released this past week, with CFL coach of the year Greg Marshall on hand to represent the Ti-cats, as ticket prices were officially announced at \$62.50 and \$40.

The game will be between Ontario rivals the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and the Toronto

A CRACKING START BY CHRIS CLEMENTS

Real racers drive fast cars on difficult, demanding circuits. Formula One drivers do just this.

The new F1 season is only three races old, and it is shaping up to be a good one. The sport has been turned on its head from last season. Michael Schumacher and his Ferrari team have won the last five championships, and they have done it in dominating fashion. Only once in the past five years has anyone come close to challenging the German in the red car.

Through three races this year, Schumacher has only

finished one, and in that race he only managed a seventh place finish. This past weekend's race in Bahrain saw Schumacher retire with mechanical problems, the first time a Ferrari has done so in three and a half years. This is good news for a sport where fans were beginning to lose interest because of Ferrari's unchallenged dominance.

So who is stepping up this year? The Red Bull and Toyota teams have emerged from mediocrity to respectability. Red Bull has already scored more points this year than their Jaguar predecessor of last year. McLaren-Mercedes, the last team other than Ferrari to win a championship, and Williams-BMW have both shown promise this

year, and once they get a few bugs worked out they should be challenging for wins again.

Renault is definitely the story of the first part of the season. The team has finally capitalized on the promise they have shown for years.

Renault has won the first three races, and won them convincingly. Fernando Alonso leads the driver's standings, and his teammate, Giancarlo Fisichella sits in third place. Although, Renault's dominance is not yet seen as a threat to the sport. McLaren and Williams are so close to being a threat, and, of course, the big red machines at Ferrari can never be ruled out.

Argos. It will mark the first game the Argos have played since winning the Grey Cup last November.

The high ticket prices for the game, in a weekend entitled Touchdown Atlantic, is being blamed on the expense of staging the event. It has been reported that it will cost organizers between \$700,000 and \$800,000 to import temporary seating from Ontario to increase the numbers to the agreed upon 10,000 tickets.

The Halifax group interested in attracting a CFL franchise to Halifax, led by World Trade Centre and Events Halifax czar Fred MacGillivray, hopes that a successful weekend in June will lead to convincing all three levels of government that Halifax is in need of a stadium. It seems to be the only thing keeping our fair city from convincing commissioner Tom Wright in establishing Halifax the CFL's tenth team, and reaching his goal of representing Canadian football coast-to-coast.

YEAR-END AWARDS

Ryan Lauzon and Morgan McCormick were the big winners this past week as the SMU men's hockey team handed out their year-end honours.

Lauzon took home two awards, including the leading scorer award for his 15 goals and 15 assists, as well as the rookie of the year award.

Morgan McCormick won the Scholastic Excellence Award for the third consecutive season, and also garnered the Father David Memorial Award as the player who best exemplifies leadership, commitment and dedication to the Huskies hockey program. Co-captain Kurt MacSweyn was honoured with his second consecutive Larry Uteck Award given to the team's MVP.

Fifth-year defenseman Matt Coughlin was selected as the Huskies top blueliner.

Other Huskies that took home hardware were first-year forward Dan Rudisuela (unsung hero), Aaron Van Leusen and Jordan Chomack (tie-best defensive forward) and rookie defenseman Travis

Chapman (most improved).

FEMALE HOCKEY STARS GET THEIR DUE

The Huskies Courtney Schiver was selected as this season's CIS Tissot rookie of the year. Schiver was also named to the all-rookie team. Schiver, 19, tallied 17 goals and 17 assists in only 16 regular season games. Schiver's output placed her fourth in AUS scoring and ninth in the country. Schiver added these accolades to her first team conference all-star selection and an AUS tournament all-star team pick. Lindsay Taylor captured the award in 2002-03, making Schiver's selection the second Husky to win the award in three years.

Lindsay Taylor, the AUS MVP, was selected as a First Team All Canadian.

MORLEY OFF TO EUROPE

Steve Morley has a full season of NFL practice under his belt. Just no official NFL starts. But those will come.

Morley began his assignment in NFL Europe this past week as he suited up for the first time with the German based Rhein Fire. The Fire lost to the Amsterdam Admirals 24-14 in

Morley's first game action since a Green Bay's NFL exhibition game in early August.

Morley will stay with the Fire throughout their 10-game regular season schedule, with the league crowning its champion in the six team league on June 11th at the World Bowl in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Following the Fire's season, Morley will return to the Packers for their training camp which begins in July. Morley will go to camp looking to secure the starting spot that was previously occupied by one of the NFL's top offensive linemen, in departed All-Pro Mike Wahle, who was signed away from the Packers by the Carolina Panthers last month. Morley is the next in line to take over following Wahle's departure.

If you wish to keep tabs on Morley, the Fire or simply NFL Europe in general, you can access the 23-year-old's online diary at www.packers.com.

Billy says:

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