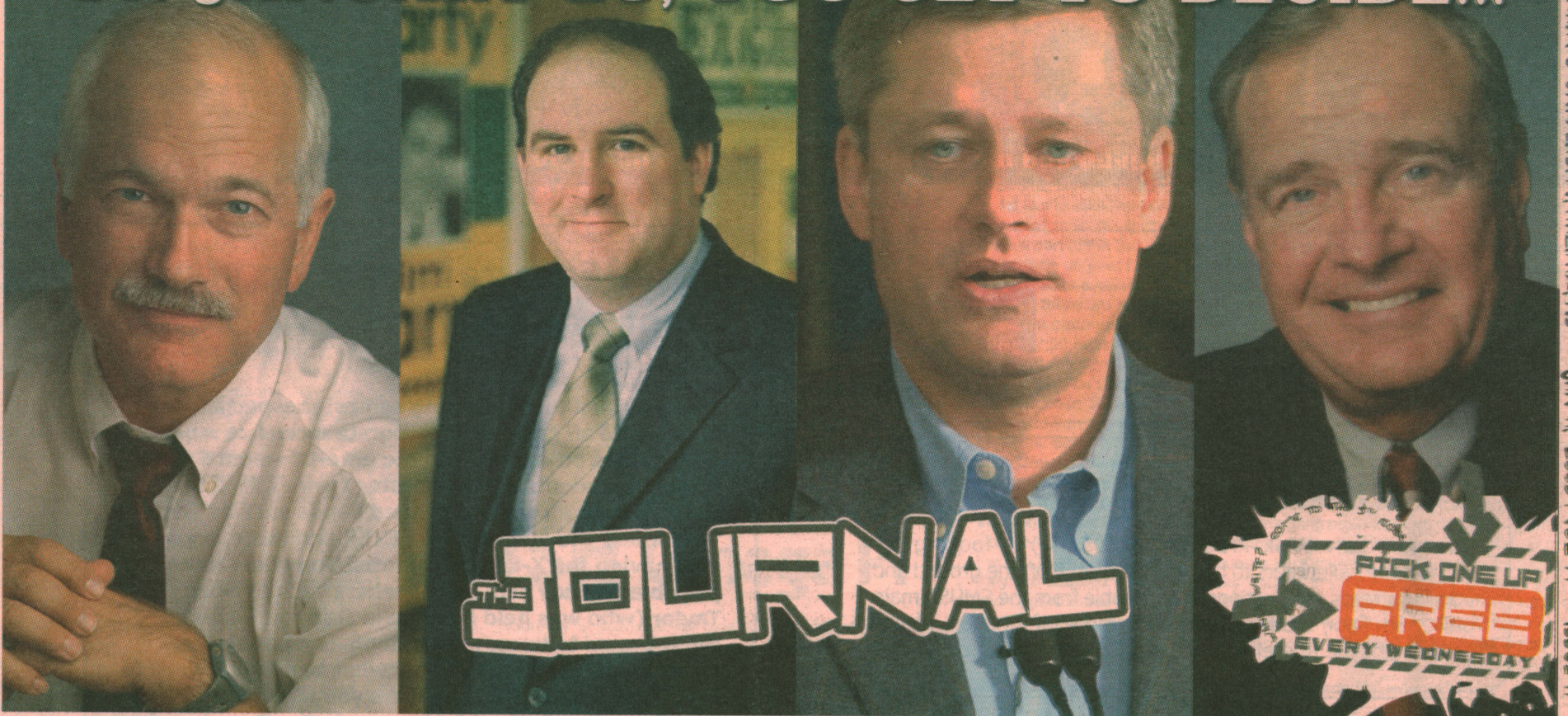


# ON JANUARY 23, YOU GET TO DECIDE...



SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, NS -- JAN 11, 2006, VOL 71 -- ISSUE 11

## HOW TO VOTE

BY CHRIS CLEMENTS

The Liberal party is corrupt. The Conservatives say they're not corrupt, but their track record shows differently. The NDP sounds nice, but they haven't had a chance to govern federally and if they get one they may prove to be just as corrupt as the other two big parties. The Greens have lots of fabulous ideas, but even their supporters are upset with the party. The Marxist-Leninists are communists (not that there's anything wrong with that).

On Monday, January 23, those are your choices in the federal election. They don't sound like great choices, but each of you reading this likely has a preference for one of these parties. If you don't have a preference and you don't care to make an informed choice, you should still go to the polls, even if it's just to spoil a ballot. Political parties which achieve 4% or more of the popular vote get \$1.75 for every vote they receive so, if nothing else, you should view the election as a chance to decide where your tax dollars are going to be spent.

People living on campus can vote at the Inglis Street Elementary School which is located right across the road from the St. Mary's campus. Polls are open on the 23rd from 8:30 am until 8:30 pm. If you can't make it on the 23rd, there are advance polls on the 13th, 14th, and 16th of this month. The advance polls are open from 12 noon to 8 pm.

Anybody not living on campus curious about where their poll is located can go to [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) and type in their postal code to find out what riding they are living in. Then by clicking on the "Where do I vote?" link they will be given the information on where the nearest polling station is located.

For you people who aren't from the area and are wondering if you can vote here, you can. According to Elections Canada, you have the option of voting for a candidate in either the riding where you are voting or in the riding where you are from (provided you know who the candidates are in the riding).

If you're not from the area you're likely not registered to vote here, but that's ok. You can register at the polls. In order to register you'll need to bring at least three pieces of identification. Something that has your name and signature on it (like a credit card), something with your name and address on it (like a driver's licence), and Elections Canada recommends you bring your student identification card to show that you do in fact have ties to the area.

For more info on who to vote for visit their websites. Call and/or write the candidates. Be a pest, if they can't handle questions they probably shouldn't be going to Ottawa.

## HOW TO VOTE [EXTENDED MIX]

BY EMEKA CHINABU // SMUSA VP EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

I will like to use this opportunity to say happy new year to all student, this is another busy semester and the external Affairs office will bring every information necessary to your door step as regard the up coming election. The federal election campaign provides an important opportunity for all Canadians to discuss the ideas and priorities that will shape the country over the next several years. In this campaign, a number of important issues will be discussed, but one that I would like to call your attention to is the state of Canada's system of post-secondary education. One of the MPs I was talking to in Ottawa basically told me that student don't vote, that's why some MPs don't think about education, but this time the president and I has been working tirelessly and taken up the responsibility to bring to the students every information they need as regard to the federal election and to prove that particular MP wrong that students actually make a difference in election. Below is what the political parties think about education

### CONSERVATIVE PARTY

The Conservatives have several proposals for reforming our post-secondary education system, but they do not list education as one of their top priorities. They have not released a full platform but they announced their proposals early in the campaign and also responded to our survey.

#### Tuition

The Conservatives acknowledge that high tuition fees are one of the main issues facing students in Canada. They, unlike the Liberals, commit to creating a dedicated Canada Education and Training Transfer with targeted, sustainable funding. The Conservatives want a "long-term, comprehensive agreement" with the provinces on the fiscal imbalance, but do not specifically commit to an Accord on post-secondary education. The Conservatives do not propose an amount for a dedicated transfer or state whether they would undo the Liberals' cuts to transfer payments, but if they succeed in improving the funding arrangement for colleges and universities than the root cause of tuition increases can be addressed.

#### Student Debt

The Conservatives acknowledge that student debt is a serious problem, and hopefully they could address tuition rates through a dedicated transfer. Other than the transfer, however, they propose nothing to directly address student debt.

#### Accessibility

One of the keystones of the Conservative post-secondary platform is a tax credit for students of up to \$500 per year to cover the cost of textbooks. While the ever-increasing cost of books and supplies is a serious issue for students, a tax credit is not an effective solution to this problem. Tax credits do not improve affordability or accessibility. Tax credits do

not offer a financial benefit until you are actually paying taxes, so students generally not claim them until they are graduated and earning significant income. Many tax credits are simply transferred to a parent – regardless of whether the parent actually incurred the costs. If the Conservatives wish to help students pay for the costs of books and supplies they should do so through a grant which will provide students with the money when they need it.

The Conservative commitment to amend the expected parental contribution requirements for student loans will significantly improve accessibility, however. It will ensure that student have access to \$20 million more per year in needs-based funding. The Conservatives have unfortunately not made any commitment to extending the Canada Access Grant or any other assistance targeted at improving access.

#### Student Financial Assistance

As mentioned, it is unfortunate the Conservatives focus on their book tax credit, as tax credits are not effective at improving accessibility. The tax exemption for scholarships and bursaries is a welcome proposal, however as it prevents students from losing a portion of their awards to the tax system.

The Conservatives unfortunately do not call for a holistic review of the student financial assistance system, but they do address what is the one of the most serious problems with the Canada Student Loan Program, the issue of expected parental contribution. Many students from middle-income families do not receive enough financial assistance because the Student Loans Program expects their parents to pay an unrealistic portion of their education. If the Conservatives improve this assessment it will mean many students will receive funding to cover a more realistic portion of their educational expenses.

The Conservatives wish to review the Millennium Scholarship Foundation but do not provide any details other than ensuring the Foundation "assists as many students as possible"

### GREEN PARTY

The Green Party did the best in our Report Card last year. They have released their full platform and have responded to our questionnaire.

#### Tuition

The Green Party supports the creation of a dedicated transfer for post-secondary education. They go further, however, and propose to work with the provinces to freeze and reduce tuition across the country. This is exactly what is needed, but will be a very difficult task as tuition is regulated by the provinces. The Greens are committed to working with the provinces in this regard, but they do not make a suggestion as to the amount of funding that would be necessary.

#### Student Debt

The Green Party wishes to transform our financial assistance system into a needs-based grant system which would reduce - and eliminate at least the federal portion of - student debt.

#### Accessibility

The Green Party wish to harmonize all student assistance into a needs-based grant system, which would significantly improve access to post-secondary education. They would also remove the GST from educational supplies. Furthermore, the Green Party would draft a "Contract with Youth" guaranteeing accessibility in Canada.

#### Student Financial Assistance

A needs-based granting system would improve accessibility and simplify the financial assistance system. The Green Party unfortunately does not go into detail regarding how this system would work and what it would cost.

### LIBERAL PARTY

The Liberals' fiscal update at the end of the last parliament contained several post-secondary commitments. They have not yet released their platform, but they did respond to our survey and recently announced several new post-secondary proposals.

**Tuition**  
The Liberals' "50/50 Plan" to cover 50% of tuition for the first and last year of all undergraduate students' education will bring much-needed relief to post-secondary students.

This plan will save students up to \$6000 in tuition over the course of their degree or diploma. Providing students with a grant to cover tuition is a much more effective way to help students deal with high tuition fees than tax credits. That being said, students should still be allowed to claim 50% of the Tuition Tax Credit and 100% of the Education Tax Credit (this credit applies to non-tuition expenses), which the 50/50 Plan does not seem to permit. While targeting assistance at the first and final years may promote accessibility and retention, it will still leave students struggling to pay their tuition in the intermediate years. It is unknown whether or not the tuition grant will be subtracted from Student Loans or other grants that a student will be receiving, but hopefully it is not.

The most disappointing aspect of the Liberals' post-secondary education platform is the absence of a commitment to address funding. During the last campaign Paul Martin committed to creating a dedicated transfer payment for PSE eventually reaching \$7-8 billion. The Liberals then reneged on the promise and are not agreeing to it in this campaign. Without increasing funding to our colleges and universities, tuition can continue to increase and this will erode the effectiveness of the Liberals' tuition grant. Furthermore, universities and colleges could simply increase tuition in the first and final years so that they, rather than students, profit from the grant.

While the Liberals will not commit

to a dedicated transfer for PSE, their proposal for \$1 billion in infrastructure renewal funding and \$1.2 billion to fund indirect costs of research will provide financial relief for our post-secondary institutions.

#### Student Debt

The Liberals' 50/50 tuition grant will decrease the debt burden for many students. The Liberals are agreeing to expand the Canada Access Grant to cover up to four years of study. This will provide significant tuition relief to students from low-income families while decreasing their student debt burden. Students borrow to cover many costs, however, not simply tuition. It is disappointing that the Liberal's proposals do not address educational expenses such as living costs. Many students will still have to borrow just as much money in loans even if they use the 50/50 plan, especially college students with low tuition but high living expenses.

#### Accessibility

The Liberals' 50/50 proposal will significantly improve access to colleges and universities in Canada. Their plan to expand the Canada Access Grant to cover four years of study is also very much welcomed by students. This makes the grant a much more significant tool for improving access to post-secondary education for students from low-income families, ensuring that 50% of their tuition is paid. In order to make the grants more effective however, they should cover all costs of education, not simply tuition.

#### Student Financial Assistance

The Liberals have agreed to review Canada's student financial assistance system to "ensure students from all backgrounds have access to higher education." Thankfully they realize such a review must encompass not just student loans, but all forms of assistance. They have budgeted \$2.2 billion over 5 years to improve the financial aid system, but this includes the 50/50 tuition proposal which will cost \$600 million per year at maturity. It is unfortunate that they would make such a significant spending proposal before a review has even begun. The expansion of the Canada Access Grant is an excellent step towards targeted financial assistance.

The Liberals did not commit to renewing the Millennium Scholarship Foundation or replacing the Foundation's grants should it not be renewed. This is concerning, as the \$2.2 billion pledged for financial assistance is far less significant if students lose the 90,000 grants the Foundation provides annually.

### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The NDP worked during the last parliament to add \$1.5 billion to the federal budget to, among other things, improve access to post-secondary education. The NDP is the only party that has neither released their full platform nor made any education announcements thus far in the campaign. They did respond to our

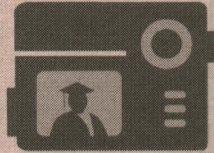
Cont. on page 4

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

check out [www.smusa.ca](http://www.smusa.ca) for more important info

## Grad Photos

About iMage Photography is back on-campus January 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. Sign up today by calling 429-1977



## Volunteers Wanted

The new Safe-Walk Program (SMUSAFE) is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help get SMUSAFE off the ground and into the streets. Applications are available from the SMUSA main office, 5th floor, Student Centre. For more information, please contact Shayne Russell 492-8706 or [smusafe@smu.ca](mailto:smusafe@smu.ca).

## January 13<sup>th</sup>

- Last day to add/drop courses without financial penalty
- Last day to sign a medical waiver
- Turnstiles with the subordination of Kevin Aitcheson at the Gorsebrook Lounge at 10 PM

## January 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>

- Open forum for Dean of Science Applicants at Sobey Theatre (see ad on this page for times)

**EVENTS**  
**calendar**

## Sociology Society Launched

After a rigorous few months to launch the Sociology Society, it has arrived and ready to kick off a new semester. One might ask why there is a sociology society when there is already a criminology society. We feel that Sociology students need their own society too. While the executive does consist of both sociology and criminology students, the five of us are eager to provide opportunities to enrich the lives of students of Saint Mary's University. To start off in January, we will be housing a pizza party and having guest speakers who will be relevant to courses here at SMU. February and March will have lots of fundraisers such as a Craft and Bake sale. Can't miss out on our Pub Crawl or Pool Night either! To find out more about events and general meetings, e-mail us at: [sociology.society@smu.ca](mailto:sociology.society@smu.ca). We are always open to suggestions and campus wide involvement. Come check us out the Pizza Party on January 11, 2005 from 5-6pm at the Private Dining Room (beside Dockside Dining Hall and the security desk in Loyola Residence). All are welcome regardless of major or minor.

## What Entertainment do you want at SMU?

This year and this upcoming semester especially, I have made an effort to incorporate more live music and various other acts into the entertainment SMUSA offers to students. This semester I am excited to say that we have already confirmed bands such as The Turnstiles, The Mellotones, NEVER and more, we are also having the X-Rated hypnotist Tony Lee, some possible comedy acts and speakers such as Scott Taylor (who was held hostage in Iraq for 5 days). What I need to know now though, is what else you want; we would love to know what bands you want to see play here, or what speakers you want brought in. We often have Friday nights open in the Gorsebrook and we would love to fill those nights with your favorite acts. We also work hard to fund speakers and variety acts, so if you tell us who, we will do what we can to make it happen. Please drop by my office on the 5th floor with your requests or call me at 496-8709 or e-mail [vpinternal@smusa.ca](mailto:vpinternal@smusa.ca).

This message from your VP Internal, Jeff Lohnes

## Important Student Loan Information:

If you have a student loan, don't forget that you need to be registered in your second semester courses in order to have your winter semester student loan document signed. You need to be registered in 60% of a full course load (9 credit hours) or 80% for students from Newfoundland and Labrador (12 credit hours).

Winter semester loan documents will be signed by Student Accounts starting on January 3rd, 2006.

A message from the Financial Aid & Awards Office

## Open Forum Dean of Science Applicants

Open to all students at the Sobey Theatre

January 16 at 1:30 PM  
January 17 at 1:30 PM  
January 18 at 1:00 PM

## This week at the Gorsebrook:

Wednesday: Open Mic  
Saturday: Hockey Night in Canada and NFL Playoffs

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION 

GORSEBROOK

# OPINIONS

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

## Bad Gorsebrook?

First off, let me just say that I am sorry to hear that you had a bad experience at the Gorsebrook, however it is not the Gorsebrook which you should complain about. The mere fact that you have credited this entire problem to the SMUSA division known as the "Gorsebrook Lounge" simply shows us how little you know about the place which you are complaining about. The lovely ladies in black who take your orders do NOT work for SMUSA. They are employed by the infamous company known simply as Aramark, so in future would you please complain about the right company.

That point aside, I would like to address your complaints. You said in your article that you were refused service at 8:55 pm and expected that wings would be served until the close of the pub... this assumption is nothing short of stupid. Firstly, the marquee has borne the times for wing night on prior occasions, I know this because I am one of the persons whose job it is to change the marquee. Secondly, the wing night times have been the same for at least the past 3 years, I cannot speak to the times in years before that as I am a mere 3rd year student, however I feel quite safe in the assumption that it has been the same for well over a decade. Lastly, the kitchen hours are noted on the back of each and every menu in the Gorsebrook. Last call for food is traditionally 15 minutes before the close of the kitchen. Do not blame the servers for this fact, and

do not complain about it afterwards. That's life. It is not their problem or fault that you were late, nor is it their fault that the kitchen closes at that time.

Furthermore, the policy of having to buy drinks before you are served wings is not a new one, it has been in place for at least 2 years. Wing Night is an incredibly busy night at the pub, if a server does not see the poker chits on your table she will assume one of two things: you have already had your orders taken, or that you have not yet ordered drinks, in both cases she has other tables who are ready to order which she also has to serve. This policy may be somewhat annoying when you are hungry and just want wings, however it IS the policy and has been that way for some time.

Everyone knows if you want wings you come early and get your drinks so that you can order wings as soon as they start serving them. It traditionally takes a long time to get wings simply because of the sheer volume that must pass through the kitchen. You also have to come early to get a table for the same reason, everyone wants wings. A wise man once said, Prior Planning Prevents Piss-Poor Performance. If you want wings and a table, plan ahead and GO EARLY.

As you can tell I take great issue with people who do naught but complain about food service at the Gorsebrook. Yes it can be slow at times, I myself had to wait about an hour tonight for a chicken

quesadilla. Do you hear me whining about it? Nope! Wanna know why? Because, quite simply, I know enough about what I am talking about to appreciate the fact that it is NOT the servers' fault that the food takes a while to be prepared on occasion. Aramark sucks, always has, always will. That is the fact of the matter. Let us not take that simple fact out on innocent people who are busting their asses working for minimum wage in an under-staffed organization. The girls at the Pub do their best to do their jobs to the best of their ability and they do not get enough recognition for it. Everyone jumps to cry them down on every occasion and I am personally sick of it. It's time they got some recognition for what they do. How many of you actually tip them? Come on people.

Girls, you all do a great job. Don't let the unthinking people at SMU get you down.

Barbados... Out

P.S. Next time grow some balls and don't hide behind your anonymity for "security reasons". If you are going to make such a damning statement as you did in your article at least have the decency and honour not to hide your face from the public. Stand and be recognised, and face any backlash that you may receive for your words.

## Dear SMU/Student Services/Aramark,

I find it somewhat ridiculous that at one in the afternoon, during the exam period, if I want to go find a hot lunch on campus I must go to the student bar for a meal. As nice as the renovations to the Gorsebrook are (and they are, really), its still a bar. I'm trying to nail down the finer points of my literary theory exam right now, not look for a pint.

Its no wonder students at Saint Mary's consistently complain about food services on campus. I understand the concepts of contracting out and the cost of doing business, but it still annoys me to no end, after all the tuition and ancillary fees I must pay, that I cannot find a decent meal on campus. I'm sorry, but the Chili and Soup of The Day in the Colonnade, and the Residence cafeteria doesn't cut it for the majority of students, such as myself, who live off-campus.

Is the cost of labour to keeping the "Snack Attack" window beside the Faculty Lounge (which remains open during the exam period, I might add) so egregious that it must be shut down, as well? That shut window is probably the best demonstration of why for-profit food services cannot always properly meet the needs of the university community. Behind that window is a kitchen that is fully operational during the exam period, yet its management has deemed it unnecessary to open its services to the student community, thereby reducing daily staffing levels.

And finally, the "friendly" notice outside all dining areas that remind the Saint Mary's Community about the reduced holiday hours ends by telling us that "Hours are subject to change without notice." Right now, I can't think of any greater slap in the face, after standing in line for my nourishing Walnut Crunch doughnut and coffee, than to be told that the remaining food service stations could be shut down at any time.

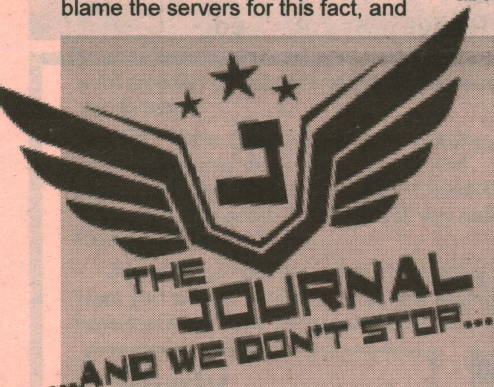
Students remain on-campus until the 18th of December. As part of the Saint Mary's Community - by virtue of their tuition paid, and the very fact they are the reason for the existence of the institution itself - student should be able to expect a little more in the way of food services on campus.

Yours, etc,  
Michael Steeleworthy.

## It's all about the anticipation...

Sorry we weren't able to fit in everyone's opinion pieces, keep them coming and we'll get them in the first chance we have. We haven't forgotten - we're just a little tight on space.

**The Journal is hiring** >> We need a delivery driver, an ad manager, an Editor in Cheif and maybe even a News Editor, and of course we're always on the lookout for proof readers and contributors - any questions? aim 'em towards thejournal@gmail.com



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## the fine print:

The Journal is the student news paper of Saint Mary's University. The paper is published each Wednesday by The Journal Publishing Society, and funded in part by the student body.

All students are welcome to submit pieces of work for publication in The Journal. These submissions should be received no later than 12:00pm Monday at The Journal offices or email addresses. We prefer electronic submissions. When in doubt send submissions to thejournal@gmail.com.

All pieces are subject to The Journal guidelines for submission, ((available on request)). The opinions expressed in The Journal are those of the authors and not necessarily of The Journal or Saint Mary's University.



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T: 496-8725 F: 420-5530 E: [mobility.international@smu.ca](mailto:mobility.international@smu.ca)

**Application Deadline: February 1, 2006**

# NEWS

## Cont. from Cover HOW TO VOTE

survey, however, and this is what we based our evaluation on.

### Tuition

The New Democrats acknowledge the problem of high tuition fees and the role that cutbacks to federal transfers played in tuition increasing. They, unlike the Liberals, commit to creating a dedicated transfer payment with stable, predictable funding and restoring "as finances permit" \$4 billion dollars back to this transfer. Such an injection of funding would significantly benefit colleges and universities and reduce their reliance on tuition as a source of funding.

The NDP traditionally call for a Canada Education Act, however thus far in this election they have not. In response to our call for a Pan-Canadian Accord on Post-Secondary Education they merely stated they were "committed to working with the provinces."

### Student Debt

The NDP commitment to create a dedicated transfer and inject \$4 billion into post-secondary funding could lead to decreased tuition which would also decrease student debt. The NDP wish to review the Canada Student Loans Program to reduce debt, though they did not provide specifics. They also propose creating new needs-based grants.

The NDP was the only party to address Canada's bankruptcy legislation. Student loan debt cannot be discharged by bankruptcy until 10 years after graduation. This is the only exception to bankruptcy with the exception of criminals, and the NDP promise to remove this discriminatory practice to help those who are in dire circumstances because of their debt.

### Accessibility

The NDP committed to expanding the Canada Access Grant to cover all years of study and to cover both tuition and educational expenses. This is a very welcome promise that significantly improve opportunities for student from low-income families to attend a post-secondary education institution.

### Student Financial Assistance

The NDP has committed to "re-examine the Canada Student Loans Program to create a comprehensive program designed to improve access and reduce the burden of student debt." A review is desperately needed, and hopefully they intend to review the entire financial aid system, and not just the CSLP.

The NDP was the only party to firmly address the issue of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, and they do not support renewing the Foundation. They would, however, replace it with a system of needs-based grants. As the vast majority of the Foundation's spending is on needs-based grants, it is not clear how this would be different for students.

### Any Questions? Need more info?

Contact SMUSA VP  
External Affairs,  
Emeka Chinabu :  
496-8716

vpexternal@smusa.ca  
- or -

SMUSA Prez. Zach  
Churchill : 496-8701  
president@smusa.ca

## BURSARY APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Deadline: JANUARY 31, 2006

### Drop-in Workshops: Room 411A Student Centre

Friday, January 6  
2:30 - 4:00  
Friday, January 13  
2:30 - 4:00  
Friday, January 20  
2:30 - 4:00  
Friday, January 27  
2:30 - 4:00

Financial Aid & Awards  
Office 4th Floor Student  
Centre Tel# 420-5761

## Make a Wish

BY TINA RUEL

Need volunteer experience? Want to help a good cause? The Make A Wish Foundation is an important charity that grants wishes to children with life threatening illnesses. It is through the support and donations from the community that allow those wishes to hap-

pen. In February 2006, the Make A Wish Foundation is planning a benefit, which will include a dating

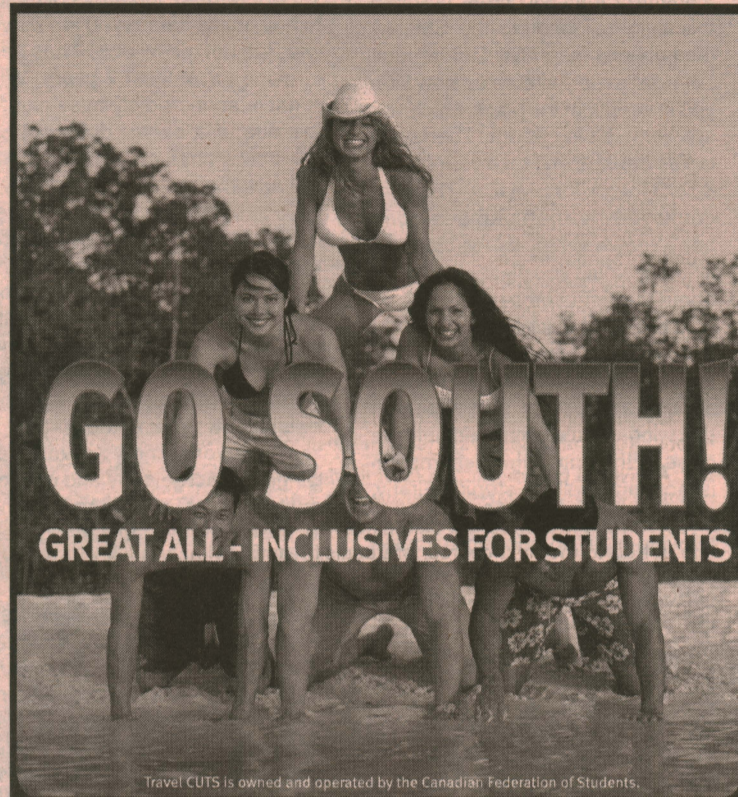
auction, meal, and entertainment. We need people to help with planning, promotion, acquiring sponsors and recruiting volunteers for the dating auction. If you would like to know more information please call Tina at 225-2893 or 466-WISH.

## THE JOURNAL IS HIRING

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DELIVERY DRIVER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
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- 496-8203

## Summer Camp jobs in the US

CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches and instructors 6/17-8/12. Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board, travel allowance and J-1 visa reimbursement. Information meeting Monday evening January 16th at 7:00 PM (SOBEY 255). Interviewing Tuesday January 17th from 9-5 at Student Employment Centre in SUB. Call Carmen at 420-5499 for interview appointment and location of information session. Also interviewing at DAL on the 18th. Visit [www.camp towanda.com](http://www.camp towanda.com) for application or email [staff@camp towanda.com](mailto:staff@camp towanda.com) or call 800 923-2267.



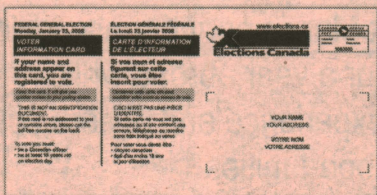
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Voter information card

Keep the voter information card we sent you. It has all the information you'll need to vote, and you'll get through the voting process more quickly if you have it with you.

To vote, you must be a Canadian citizen and be at least 18 years old on election day.

If you haven't received your voter information card, or if you received it but found an error in your name or address, please contact your local Elections Canada office now. You'll find the telephone number at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) by clicking on the Voter Information Service icon.

ON MONDAY, JANUARY 23, VOTE.

[www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

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001 800 514-6868 toll-free in Mexico

TTY 1 800 361-8935 for people who are deaf or hard of hearing  
toll-free in Canada and the United States or (613) 991-2082 from anywhere

**Elections Canada**

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## "It's a weird time in hip hop."

OLIVIER JARDA TAKES ON KARDINAL OFFISHALL

Somewhere between the first blankets of winter last month I sat down with Canadian hip hop artist/producer Kardinal Offishall. He's currently on a cross-country tour, and I spoke with him a few hours before he opened for 50 Cent at the Metro Centre. Kardinal has been crooning Canadian airwaves for almost ten years, and has received significant international attention. He's been on BET and MTV, and has worked with the Neptunes' Pharell Williams, Timbaland, and Busta Rhymes.

In 2003, his official debut album was shelved because his record label MCA folded. He came back from the underground with the mixtape Kill Bloodclot Bill, which was named the number one album on the 2004 Toronto Top Discs chart, beating out Death From Above 1979 and Broken Social Scene. In the fall of 2005, Kardinal bounced back with a new label and a vivacious new record destined to burn it up: Fire and Glory.

**Q** You went to York and studied Mass Communications. Has that helped you get your music out?

**A** NO. I only did three out of the four years, and really the first couple of years are really BS, nothing you can apply. There are just things you have to do to get on to the next course, prerequisite stuff. With my music, I think that it's definitely been life skills that have helped. I've been able to communicate far before I went to York, not to say that it was totally useless. I think it was useful in the way that it helped me learn to deal with people.

**Q** In 2003, your album debut wasn't released because MCA folded. You responded by releasing your critically acclaimed mix-tape Kill Bloodclot Bill Vol.1, where you bashed big labels. How do you feel about big labels now that you're back on with EMI?

**A** Well it's one of those things where I just approach everything differently now. Even the deal we have now is not a direct signing. For me it's cool because it's kind of an independent situation with big label backing. When we signed with MCA, everything seemed cool but I was kind of green. I was excited being with a major, and especially being a kid from Canada, signing with a label from LA was a big deal. It basically made me a lot smarter, taking care of the business aspect first and foremost.

**Q** Fellow Canadian rapper Saukrates has said that "Americans don't want you to win". However, you've said they labels can't deny Canadian Content because it's so good. Have you felt any hate from US hip hop artists?

**A** Nah. Not from the artists. If anything the artists want you to win. It is true what he's saying when he says that Americans don't want you to win. America is



for America at the end of the day. Even if they embrace you for a while, the bean counters, the execs, people in higher positions, would rather spend money on people from the States.

**Q** If you look at some of the big names to come out of Canada in hip hop, longevity has been an elusive quality. Maestro shot to the top but couldn't hit it again. How do you address the fact that breakout Canadian hip hop artists usually become extinct very quickly?

**A** [That problem lies with] hip hop artists in general. The nature of hip hop music is a very 'here today, gone tomorrow' type of thing. It's a weird time in hip hop. People that were the greatest, and it seemed that they would never go anywhere, where are they now? Red and Meth, they came out and had these big successes, and they went away. As far as Canada, and it's quite similar in England, we have to work ten times harder to even get to the same plateau. It takes a lot.

Unfortunately the market for hip hop in Canada is like a walnut with a steel shell. If you don't have the tools to crack it, you gotta say 'is it worth it for me?' I'm talking about hip hop artists, not people that mix different genres in their stuff. It's hard as hell in this country.

**Q** In order to crack that shell here, it seems that Canadians will only like certain brands of Canadian hip hop, the one that

includes guitars, for example. In August at Toronto's Getting Up hip-hop festival, you smashed a guitar. What made you do it?

In order for you to acquire a certain status in this country, you can't just do straight ahead hip hop. It's like you gotta dip into other genres to bring those fans along. I feel that you should be able to do that hard, hard, hard, shit, and have people still buy your shit. Big acts from the States like 50 Cent will do it and a lot of it doesn't play on the radio, fans are just into the shit. For Canadian artists to do the same thing, you can't just do that straightaway hip hop.

~Fire & Glory~

**Q** So your new record Fire & Glory dropped last month. Of the tracks that weren't released because MCA folded, you only put three of them on Fire & Glory. How do you feel about the tracks you left off?

**KO** It wasn't a quality dispute. I always want to give the fans the latest and the greatest. I wanted to keep up with the times and what was going on with me. Sometimes you need a fresh start. You know when sometimes if you have a beard and you're going through something and you want to shave it off but you might want to just keep the moustache? Same kind of deal.

**Q** Speaking of moustaches, what's with your facial hair in Melanie Durrant's homage to Nancy Sinatra 'Bang Bang'?

**A** (Laughs) When you do stuff with Melanie she's a fun person and she's willing to take chances. I thought, let me do this thing and give the kids out there a good laugh.

**Q** You produced 9.5 out of 14 tracks on this new record. Is it important for you to produce your own stuff? Do you think you get better results?

**A** Not better just different. I knew the type of album that I wanted to deliver. I knew that the glue that was going to keep everything together was to have me produce most of it.

**Q** There are some heavy Jamaican roots on this album, with some wonderful horns. They sound very authentic, reminiscent of the Wailers' sound.

**A** Honestly that was the sound I was looking for. It's ironic that it was actually an Italian that played the horns, Ivana Santilli. She's dope and she knew what I was trying to accomplish.

**Q** The track 'Everybody Gone Gangsta' addresses some issues about today's rap game. What do you think about the 'rise of the gangsta'?

**KO** What I was trying to get across

was that it's funny sometimes I'll be driving in random cities and everybody looks the same. Everybody's got this ice grill on, everybody's got the hat pulled low, and the pants that are twenty sizes too big. It's not that there's anything wrong with that, but when everybody's on the same thing, it's hilarious to me. Ten years ago, Nas looked different from Jay-Z, who looked different from Biggie, who looked different from Tribe Called Quest. Now it's like you have these fans that think everybody has to look and act the same. Because right now it's the gangsta shit that's winning, everybody feels like they gotta be that. That's what 'Everybody Gone Gangsta' is about. With hip hop right now we're in a state of redundancy. Everybody's just doing the same thing over and over; everybody sounds the same. The hip hop community's on hold.

**Q** The song 'Sunday' is one that any mother would be proud of. Did you have any reservations about putting this song on the album?

**A** Nah! That's one of my favourite joints. I grew up going to church and I'm still a spiritual person. For anybody that's been to church or has had good influences in their life, whether or not you're in church, or whether or not that person that gave you that good piece of advice is there with you, it's just something that you carry with you. It's like a hip hop Sunday sermon that you can play anytime a day and feel a good vibe from it.

**Q** How do you feel about sampling, and where do you draw the line?

**A** I draw the line at the ones that cost too much money! As long as it's creative or done tastefully - sometimes people sample stuff and you can tell that it's just an attempt to get some sales. For me it's all about musical integrity.

**Q** What's in your tape deck?

**A** I have an iPod with 8,000 songs. We were listening to everything from Coldplay to Bob Marley.

**Q** What's your stance on illegally downloading music?

**A** I actually pay for everything. 95% of the time I don't even take promo CDs. I usually go out every Tuesday and buy new stuff. I just believe in Karma. If I download other people's stuff they can do that to me, so I'd rather go out and buy it anyway.

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# BUSINESS

## THE ROCKERFELLER

1. I am starting a business in the U.S.A. and I am finding some differences in the Canadian business etiquette, and the American business etiquette. I am from Switzerland and I need some help on how I should be acting in an American business setting. Any tips?

My biggest tip is more in regards to pace than anything; in Canada we tend to allow negotiations to occur at a more moderate pace in comparison to our US counterparts who tend to prefer a face paced setting. This also extends to meals where in Canada you should wait till the other party starts business conversation while eating as it may be deemed inappropriate, unlike the US where a working meal is common. Outside of these tips you may want to brush up on your Spanish and basic knowledge of such sports as American Football/Baseball/NASCAR as they may be used for small talk unlike in Canada where French and Hockey tend to be more appropriate. My last tip I can give you is more a European/North American difference reminder whereby in North America unlike Europe giving a fine wine/spirit is not deemed offensive as it is in many western European countries. Outside of these I would recommend to check out: [www.executiveplanet.com](http://www.executiveplanet.com) (which also happens to be a good source for other countries as well) which can provide you with a few more minor differences.

2. Speaking about the election; what is better – a GST tax cut or income tax? What is each party promising in terms of taxes anyway?

To answer the first question, there is no right answer for everyone. While the GST cut will make a larger day-to-day impact, an income tax cut will become important further down the road. The reason behind this is that GST cuts tends to encourage people to spend more, while an income tax cut tends to encourage people to save more. In terms of exact dollar amounts, as a student you may find GST cuts to be a tad more attractive, but once you graduate you will find the income tax cuts will have the upper hand. To answer the second question: The Liberals are looking to give primarily income tax cuts; the Conservatives are focused on a GST cut and tax credits on things such as bus passes and day care; the NDP is giving no major tax breaks (if anything, they may increase taxes) but they are providing some small benefits for child care and low income families; last but not least the Greens are providing some tax breaks for small businesses and mid to low income families (unlike the Liberals to which it is across the board). In any case I would recommend going to the parties' websites for exact details or go to <http://www.ctv.ca/mini/election2006/static/issues/taxes.html> where the taxes breaks (or increases) have been summarized.

Have a business question? Write the  
Rocker-Feller at [therockerfeller@gmail.com](mailto:therockerfeller@gmail.com)

## ACE CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT JIMMY D'S MUSIC

BY LAURA MACINTOSH

James Donnelly is a 3rd year small business and entrepreneur major here at SMU, and has already put what he has learned into action. ACE SMU has teamed up with James and various other student entrepreneurs here on campus to make students aware about these great businesses, and show that Bill Gates isn't the only one who can run a successful business while still in university.

**What is Jimmy D's Music all about?**  
My old man and I started selling used records and CDs at the Forum Flea Market each Sunday about 5 years ago. It started off as a few crates of used records but has grown into thousands of new and used records and CDs. We focus on ordering good music that we know can be sold at a reasonable price. We sell each Sunday at the Forum Flea Market and usually once a month at SMU. The idea came to us through our love of good music and out of frustration at the high prices that music stores in this city are charging.

**How do you fund your business?**  
Self Funded

**Who is your target demographic?**  
Anyone who enjoys music

**How do you find balancing school with running a business?** You have to do what you enjoy. I love music and I'm taking a program that I enjoy. Having a knowledgeable partner doesn't hurt either.

*Thank you to James Donnelly for helping us write this piece. Find Jimmy D's Music at the Forum Flea Market Sundays, for good buys on great music. And watch for more Spotlights this semester, as ACE looks for the business owners of today here at Saint Mary's.*

*If you own a business, or want more information about ACE SMU, email [laura.macintosh@gmail.com](mailto:laura.macintosh@gmail.com)*

## MISS BIZ

aka Jackie 'jax' Howatt // aka [Jacqueline.Howatt@smu.ca](mailto:Jacqueline.Howatt@smu.ca)

Now that everybody is good and broke from yet another Holiday break... I'm sure you are all glad to get back into the swing of things. I don't know about you, but I cannot stand going home for three weeks to do nothing. Don't get me wrong, I love seeing my family and I love being at home, but no deadlines or daily grind for three weeks really gets under my skin. I did manage to complete a bunch of things I've been planning on doing over the Holiday's: reading, organizing work for the summer, and doing odd tasks for one of my employers. I'm glad to be back in this early morning, late night, go-go-go environment though.

GUANXI

I have been reading several articles lately on the differences in business practices from country to country. One of my jobs requires me to communicate on a daily basis with business people in China, and it occurred to me how important it is to know what is acceptable and what is not when doing business in foreign countries. "China" and "Business" are almost synonymous, and because it is so applicable to me, I decided to do some digging on this subject. It is obvious that the way business is conducted in China is different from the way it is conducted in North America. However, there is an actual term that describes Chinese networking: Guanxi. On [businessweek.com](http://businessweek.com), the article The Art of Chinese Relationships explains that it is essential to familiarize yourself with Chinese customs in order to foster lasting mutual relationships. North Americans are notorious for being pushy and straight to the point when it comes to business, and it's even considered a "virtue" to behave this way, as the article explains. In China, Guanxi, which literally translated means "relationships", is a slow process because it requires people to form more personal relationships first and then business oriented relationships second. Chinese business people want to know that they can trust whom they do business with. With Guanxi, business is basically built on friendship (reciprocity), not just exploitation. There are a whole slew of traditions and gestures that we North Americans should be aware of in order to give proper respect to our Chinese counterparts. I highly recommend researching into the values, customs, and traditions in whatever country you may conduct business in because something that may be respectful in one country can be a major obscenity or insult in another.

CENSORING OPINIONS MAKES NO SENSE

Keeping with the whole Chinese theme, I came across another article that describes how Microsoft was asked to shut down a blog that belongs to a Beijing man, because he was commenting on some "politically sensitive" issues according to the Chinese government. The issues were based around a "strike at a Beijing newspaper" ([www.businessweek.com](http://www.businessweek.com)). Now, I am not taking one side or another, but what exactly is a blog if you cannot talk about political issues and give your own personal opinions on subjects? I thought that idea is what constituted a blog? Reportedly, in recent months, China has been cracking down on the press. Shockingly, according to another online article, Microsoft Shuts Blog Site After Complaints From Beijing, Microsoft has filtered the words "democracy" and "human rights" in one of its Chinese blogging programs (<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/06/technology/06blog.html>). As you can imagine, Microsoft received a ton of criticism about the issue. This really disturbs me. Many bloggers have since commented on this tyranny, questioning when their own blogs may be shut down due to overbearing censorship. Does this not scare anyone? I mean, even as I am writing this I am thinking, "am I saying anything that could offend anyone?". Thanks to a great professor I had last semester, I am now aware that in order to not be responsible for libel, you must not state opinions as facts. You must always say "In my opinion...", because then it is just your opinion and people will take that for what it's worth. However, did this "well known" Beijing blogger form statements as his personal opinion? Isn't a blog just a personal journal, and just assumed to be one's own opinion? Isn't it strange that this issue revolves around a newspaper, which is supposed to be biased-free, and considerate of the population in which it represents? To me, this really highlights whom the media, in many instances, represents – politicians. And it's not just in Beijing, but all over the world, even here at home. Only a select few are allowed to publicly comment on various issues because they are trained what to say and how to say it, and we in the general public, are not one of these special people. But then again, this is only my opinion

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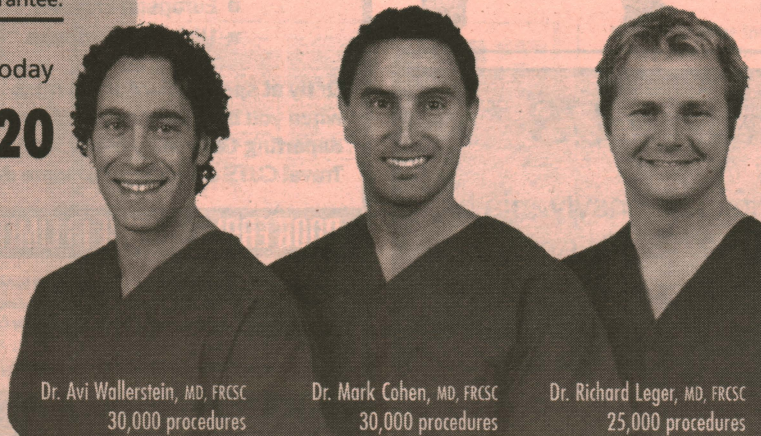
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# THE SOCIETY PAGE

## FORESIGHT HOROSCOPE

After spending years honing their skills, the astronomy students of Saint Mary's University have agreed to turn their attentions to more terrestrial affairs. These astrological predictions reflect many evenings of observation, reflection, and examination. The stars offer a glimpse of the future, but only to those who know how to look...

### Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Let's face it: you are not exactly the most on-time person in the world. However, things are going to change for the better for you this week! Instead of sneaking into class late, plan to spend your day rolling around in excruciating pain. You'll wish you were eating maggoty muskox droppings. Seriously.

### Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Monday will see a rain of cats, dogs, and 6" knives. On Tuesday, locusts will swarm into your bedroom and eat all your clothes. On Wednesday, you will get your finger stuck in an electric pencil sharpener. Thursday will see you getting struck by an out-of-control motorized computer chair. On Friday, you will be stabbed in the back by a friend wielding a knitting needle.

### Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

That which you fear most will come to pass this week. Don't worry, though, your current fears are nothing compared to what is in store for next week. Get some rest, food, and oxygen while you can.

### Cancer (June 21 - July 10)

This, I'm afraid, will be one of those "one step forward, two steps back" week. Unfortunately, it also looks like you'll be running a bit of a marathon this week. Sorry, it's a bit of a bad combination.

### Leo (July 11 - Aug 7)

On Jan. 12, 1915, the US House of Representatives rejected a motion that would give women the right to vote. This week, you will be offered a unique opportunity, and although it may sound strange at first, you should take it. Heck, you might be the first human to be given the same rights as beef cattle if you play your cards right.

### Sextans (Aug 8 - Aug 28)

I see bright things in your future! It is very clear that your eyes will be burned out will and errant laser pointer, your pants will spontaneously ignite, and the next bottled beverage that you open will contain hot liquid magma. It might be worthwhile to get in line at the ER now.

### Virgo (Aug 29 - Sept 22)

On Jan. 14, 1873, John Hyatt trademarked the term "celluloid". The material - a sort of early plastic - has largely been dropped from consumer goods because of its short lifespan and flammability. An exception is the ping pong ball, which, coincidentally, is a good symbol for how you will be feeling by the end of the week: hollow. You'll want to tilt your ear towards a cement truck just to substantiate yourself.

### Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

Beware of Leos with mumps. Actually, beware of everyone with mumps, because there is a bit of an epidemic here in Halifax. So, in your 8:30 class, if you see someone clearing their throat, scratching their jaw, or dead, consider putting on that mask you should keep with you at all times.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

This is just not your week. I mean, REALLY not your week. Like, roll-over-and-go-back-to-sleep, pee-in-a-jar, cook-a-big-pot-of-rice-and-keep-it-under-your-pillow not your week. Trust me, it looks bad. Try again next week.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Have you ever had that dream where you are pushed off a cliff and fall and fall but never hit the ground? That is probably the best way to describe your social life this week. Better find your teddy bear before he starts hating you, too.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

I am not sure about your fortunes this week. One possibility is that you will be eating duck for dinner tonight. More likely, you will be stuck in a quantum-mechanical spacetime singularity. Enjoy the duck, if you get it.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

The full moon is a great time to run around Point Pleasant Park, howling at the moon. Be sure to tear your clothes, dribble some blood on your chin, and avoid shaving for a week beforehand. If you see any pedestrians, pretend that you are going to bite them and gouge up their face. Don't believe Harry Potter: werewolves look like hairy hermits, not malnourished Doberman Pinschers.

### Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 19)

The stars tell me that you are a very gullible person. That's not really a bad thing, but if you are worried about it, I can sell you a magnetic crystal that will prevent people from taking advantage of you. It doubles as a paperweight, and so it's a real deal at only \$100. Meet me behind the Student Center at midnight on Friday night. Bring cash and come alone.

## SUNDAY NIGHT CURLING

Calling all SMU. The SMU Curling Society is pleased to announce our joint efforts with the Dal Curling Club in establishing in a Sunday Night University Curling League. Join us in a weekly Sunday Night league from 6-8pm at the Halifax Curling Club (948 South Bland Street) starting this Sunday January 15th until Exam time in April. This league costs \$90 per person and you are more than welcome to sign up as an individual or with a friend or 2! Because it is a co-university league you can even sign up with a friend from Dal! No experience is required, lessons can be provided and any equipment you need is provided at the curling club! For more information, or to register contact [carrie.vautour@smu.ca](mailto:carrie.vautour@smu.ca) Hope to see you on the ice on Sundays!

## RUSH Omega Pi

The Omega Pi Sorority is now rushing girls starting January 9th-17th for the Winter Semester. Please contact [rush@omegapisorority.com](mailto:rush@omegapisorority.com) or visit our website at [www.omegapisorority.com](http://www.omegapisorority.com) for more information about scheduled events.

Welcome Back - Hello Everyone,

I'd like to take the honour of welcoming back all commerce students to campus and a special welcome to the new students joining us this semester.

As a part of the Saint Mary's community there are many options available to students that will be of great help along your university career. This includes the many societies, and services available to students.

First there are the many societies located on our campus. These societies provide excellent opportunities for students to network seek career opportunities. Saint Mary's has over 50 registered societies for students to join. While all societies provide a great venue for student involvement, commerce students can expect to gain the most from a focus on The Commerce Society, The Accounting Society, AISEC, and The Management Science Society.

In addition to these societies, Saint Mary's also offers an array of services to assist students. Some of these services include the Student Employment Centre and the Business Development Centre. The Employment Centre offers a wide range of services from résumé and cover letter critiquing to providing space for on-campus recruitment.

The Business Development Centre offers final year Commerce and MBA students the unique prospect to work on real consulting projects through the Business Consulting Course while gaining credit towards their degree through the Sobey School of Business. I would like to encourage all students to pursue these wonderful opportunities. When they are coupled with a university education they will provide students with the skills and opportunities necessary to compete in a global workforce. If you have any questions or an idea for an event you would like to see on campus please visit me during my office hours Monday and Wednesday between 2:30 and 3:30 on the 5th floor of the Student Union Building.

Sincerely, Michael Keating - SMUSA Commerce Representative

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# SPORTS

## SMU hockey takes home Pete Kelly Cup

BY ADAM COSTELLO

Most of you were at home with your families on December 29th, eating turkey dinner after turkey dinner, and probably were still doing the same on December 31st. Enjoying this break from books, teachers and grades is an essential part of any university students life, but during the time period mentioned above, the St. Mary's Husky hockey team was spending their break doing the very same thing they do almost all year, playing hockey. From the 29th to the 31st of December, the St. Mary's Huskies were in New Brunswick challenging for the annual Pete Kelly Cup, a Christmas tournament played at the University of New Brunswick.

The Pete Kelly Cup National Men's Hockey Classic featured teams from UNB (naturally), Dalhousie, Manitoba, Saint Mary's, STU and UQTR, and the competition was fierce. When the dust settled, it was the Saint Mary's Huskies in the final facing off against the host team, the UNB Varsity Reds. In a game that saw the Huskies go up by 3 in the second period, ended with UNB making a resilient final frame comeback to tie the gold medal game 3-3 by the final buzzer. With a shootout then needed to decide a victor, the Huskies came out firing during the deciding Saturday finale to leave, as tournament champions.

Ryan Lauzon and Marc Rancourt had the shootout goals in the victory, while Brad Self, Jordan Chomack and Gordon Bell scored for the Huskies during regulation. SMU goalie Cory Roberts made 30 saves for the win, shining during the shootout to ensure his team the victory and himself a spot on the tournament all-star team, along with teammate Brad Self. Corey LeClair of Dal also made the team of all-stars, as he was influential in the Tigers 4-3 victory over the Manitoba Bisons in the bronze medal game.

In league action this past weekend, the Huskies skated to a 3-3 draw with the St. Thomas Tommies. Ryan Lauzon scored 3 goals in a game that the Huskies by all means should have won, but were lucky in the end not to lose. Following up the Friday night action the next night was a match-up against the hottest team in the league, the Moncton Aigles Bleus. With the Huskies down 2-0 early in the contest, Ryan Lauzon led a charged comeback that he capped off by scoring a beautiful go ahead goal late in the second period to put the Huskies up 4-3. Although Moncton came in with a 7 game winning streak, the pack made sure it stopped it there after netting 2 third period goals, the last of which Lauzon sailed into the empty net with just over a minute left to play. SMU Defencemen Tyler Noye and Scott Hotham had huge offensive nights, Noye scoring once accompanied by 3 helpers and Hotham adding a goal and an assist. The Huskies now sport a 10-5-2 record and travel to STU this weekend, hoping to achieve more than a tie against the Tommies this time around.

## BASKETBALL DIARIES

In women's Basketball action this past weekend, the Huskies attained victory in a wild one against the Acadia Axewomen. After an entire game of trading shots, turnovers and fouls, the difference proved to be one final missed shot by Acadia forward Becky Mutch. During the final seconds of overtime, Mutch's shot fell just short of going through the netting, with a teasing circular roll around the rim before falling out and giving Saint Mary's a final 68-67 victory.

Although the missed shot was the nail in the coffin for the Axewomen, the reason the Huskies squeaked by with the victory was the stellar play of Alise Brown, who scored 21 points including 5 of the Huskies final 6 points, 3 of which were earned by the game-tying beyond the arc shot with just under five seconds to go in regulation. After taking a quick 10-2 lead early in the opening frame, SMU allowed Acadia to charge back. With the Axewomen up 50-42 with eight minutes left to play, the Women huddled up, stuck to there game plan and slowly dissipated the Acadian lead until Brown was able to tie it up and send it to overtime.

During overtime, Jennifer Bishop sank a free-throw to give Acadia a 63-62 lead, the teams then traded one-point advantages the rest of the way. First-year guard Kelsey Daley made a couple of free throws with just over a minute left to put Saint Mary's on top 68-67, eventually proving to be the game winning score. Forward Laura MacPherson

added 21 points and 7 rebounds for the Huskies who with the win, improve to 3-3, while Acadia drops to 1-6.

In Men's action, Saint Mary's earned an impressive and well earned win over Acadia. Neither team looked overly impressive during the first frame, both putting up horrendous shooting percentages from the floor, with the Huskies going (8-for-32) and the Axemen fairing unmentionably better at 26.5 per cent (9-for-34).

With the Axemen defence playing a tight nit game, SMU could only manage 21 points heading into the break, still mildly better than Acadia's 20. During the second half however, SMU's post man Jerome Goodman scored 12 of his 14 points, helping the Huskies throw up 42 points while managing a vastly improved 41 per cent from the court. Goodman added 13 rebounds and five blocks for Saint Mary's (4-2), while newcomer Aaron Duncan logged a double-double in his first regular-season game.

Duncan, a native of Toronto, became eligible to play ball in the second semester, starting for the Huskies and putting up 12 points and 12 rebounds in just 32 minutes of action. Up by 3 with just 11 seconds left, the Huskies charged down the court to seal the victory and come away from the contest with a 63-56 win. Both the men and women play their next games on the 12th as they both head into St.FX trying to improve on their records.

## One for the Middle

BY ADAM COSTELLO

The World Junior Championship was wrapped up in B.C this past week with none other than Canada coming out on top once again. Now before this tournament began, it was widely believed that Canada heralded the title of underdog this time around. Why people around the world believed this to be so, is beyond me. Many reasons for this label were put fourth by so called hockey analysts, who could be heard discussing the proficiencies of American Phil Kessel and Russian Evgeni Malkin, before any player on the Canadian squad. Some of the reasons given for Canada's "underdog" label took the form of Canada having too inexperienced a roster to contend with teams such as the US and Russia, who possessed high talent players already taken high in past NHL draft years. It was said Canada lacked the star studded players seen in the year previous, during which the likes of Corey Perry, Sidney Crosby and Dion Phaneuf demolished all competition to earn 2005 team of the year honors. It was also repeated in the media that Canada did not have a proven young goaltender to carry the load of the pressure some tourney, and that a roster consisting of mostly 18 year olds in an under 20 championship would prove to be Canada's downfall.

Whatever it was being discussed prior to this years world juniors, I believe one word covers all these pre-conceived predictions on how Canada would match up with it's competition. Bullshiiiiit. In retrospect of the tournament, I'd like to formally extend a heart-felt "I told you so" to all the disbelievers that took these inferences on Canada's hockey ability, ever so seriously. This article is for you. What was it that made me so sure of Canada's chances going into the tourney? Well you see it all comes down to a simple set of rules one must remember when trying to infer Canadian hockey ability and projected performance before a tournament (or any level of play really).

First and foremost, we Canadians invented this shit! Our coaching, level of preparedness, team chemistry and overall heart, will always be greater than that of any other team, regardless of what any analyst thinks. I mean really, the few international strivations we indulge time into consist of Hockey, curling, and drinking and in most cases we will destroy anyone at any 3.

Second, regardless of whether or not our top eligible players for the yearly tournament are currently playing in the NHL, we will still always have

the most diverse amount of natural talent that any team could hope to possess.

Third, we were playing at home for F\*#k sake! If you assume home field, court or ice advantage does not apply to international competition, your nuts. How could any American or Russian player be at their top confidence level with 20,000 plus fans screaming about how incredibly they suck?

Fourth, it doesn't matter how old our players are you idiots, we could have sent our under 18 team to this championship and we still would have pressed for gold.

And Fifth, unproven goalie? Canadian backstop Justin Pogge came in unproven and played better than any Canadian goalie has for years, posting a shutout in the gold medal game (I know that one Russian goal should have counted but who cares? It was 5-0! If the Russians would kindly do their math, they'd realize they still wouldn't have won). Sure Pogge may not have been proven but was Patrick Roy proven when he won his first of 4 Stanley cups? What about Martin Brodeur when he won his first of 3? In fact during the last 25 years, only 4 non-Canadian goalies have even

won a Stanley cup. So don't go on air and talk about how worried you are about Canada's goaltending situation, because they will always prove any amount of worry negligible.

Obviously it is easy for me to say all this in hindsight but with Brent Sutter coaching the team, what other kind of sight could there possibly have been before the tournament? Canada thrives on chemistry, not individual ego. In fact, there wasn't even a single Canadian player among the top eight scorers for the tournament and what was the end result? Complete Mastery over any team who arrogantly thought they might be favored. Why someone would solely believe that because they possessed a Phil Kessel or an Evgeni Malkin they were favored over Canada at home? God only knows. Sigh\*, No my Russian and American friends, you will never be truly favored, you will just think of yourselves as such; this overconfidence systematically leading to your downfall, on a vastly greater number of occasions than not. But don't let that stop you, keep on trying and practicing and someday....you just might beat us.

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## HUSKIES AT HOME

THIS WEEK'S VARSITY LINE UP

### BASKETBALL

Thurs Jan 12 vs StFX at The Tower Women 6pm & Men 8pm  
Sun Jan 15 vs CUB at The Tower Women 3pm & Men 5pm

### WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Fri Jan 13 vs STU 7pm at Alumni Arena  
Sat Jan 14 vs UPEI 2pm at Alumni Arena

### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Sat Jan 14 vs StFX 3pm at The Tower

SMU students get in FREE with their student ID - Come out and Cheer on your Huskies