



Sex Sells
American Apparel

Page 10



The Journal Sports
Staff Goes To Boston

Page 10

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THE JOURNAL

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

Liberal Leader Visits Saint Mary's

DION SPEAKS OUT AGAINST HARPER

Photo by Andrew J. LeVine



Dion speaks at the SMU Art Gallery with part of Peter Dykhuys' exhibition, *You Are Here*, as a backdrop.

BY OLIVIER JARDA

Over 200 people congregated at the Saint Mary's University Art Gallery to hear Stephane Dion, the new leader of the federal Liberal Party, give a passionate speech Monday afternoon. "Give me an opportunity and you will have in Ottawa the best partner Nova Scotia's ever seen," told Dion to the animated crowd.

Dion gave a passionate 20-minute speech that championed his three-

pillar approach of economic prosperity, social justice and environmental sustainability.

The former environment minister chided Harper for his environmental record. Dion, whose dog is named Kyoto, was elemental in an international agreement to extend the Kyoto protocol beyond 2012 at a conference on climate change in 2005. He cited the absence of the word 'environment' in Harper's latest economic update. "Now all

of a sudden it is a priority, what happened in between?" said Dion. A supporter retorted, "You got elected."

Last month, Dion enjoyed a thrilling victory at the Liberal leadership convention, winning over front-runners Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae, surprising many. Dion garnered the votes of less than one in five delegates on the first ballot, but as competitors dropped out of the race, supporters flocked to Dion's camp,

giving him an incredible upset.

Dion spoke warily of the possibility of a majority Conservative government, and asked the audience if it believed Harper's attention to such maritime interest as the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) was genuine. "He does that today because he wants to be reelected."

On Canada's involvement in Afghanistan, he spoke of Canadian "soldiers that are here so close in

Nova Scotia. We know that if we have to risk their lives in Afghanistan, it must be because the mission makes sense." He continued, "To propose to Canadians an approach in Afghanistan that will give to our soldiers the capacity to do good there, to help the population, to have more security, in a way will be done with our allies much more closely and much more effectively than it is the case today with Mr. MacKay and Mr. Harper."

Describing Haper, Dion warned, "Il n'est pas un ami," in his native French, meaning, "He is not a friend."

Support for Dion was evident as over 200 people gathered to hear him on very short notice. As well, a group of students from Saint Mary's flew to Montreal in December to serve as Dion delegates.

Dion talked about the importance of the sustainable economy as well as the knowledge economy.

Dion also reiterated his vow to increase female representation by boosting the number of women candidates in the next election to 33% in order.

He expressed the importance for strong grassroots, for the best platform, not one that is flashy, but one that can meet the challenges of the 21st century. He called his Liberals the party of the 21st century.

Although Dion only mentioned education in passing, the Journal asked him what he would do as Prime Minister about the fact that Nova Scotia's universities received public funding on a per capita basis, not per student basis. He recognized the problem and the burden it has caused on provincial funds, and spoke of his desire for a dedicated federal transfer to the provinces for post-secondary education.

HRM ON CLEANING UP THE HARBOUR

BY KRISTIAN BERTIN

This Monday, January 8th at the King's College Alumni Hall, the Nova Scotian Institute of Science held an illustrated talk on the Halifax Harbour Clean Up project, led by Dan O'Halloran. O'Halloran is the President of O'Halloran Campbell Consultants, who has been heavily involved in Halifax Harbour Solutions for several years.

O'Halloran's power-point presentation entitled "Halifax Harbour Solution: Project Update", illustrated the creation of a new sewage collection system and water waste facilities using slides and construction photographs. Through a flurry of maps and diagrams, O'Halloran detailed the physical characteristics of the construction as well as their location, situated around the Halifax peninsula.

He explained how for over 200 years, water waste from homes would run untreated into the Halifax harbour, where it still remains today.

O'Halloran explained the history of the movement to clean the body of water, citing the 1996 Halifax Harbour Solutions Symposium as the initial source of change for the city, when contractors were finally put into place to begin to work towards the goal. HRM will control and operate the three sewage plants in Halifax, Dartmouth and Herring Cove. The budget for the entire project is roughly around \$333 million dollars, according to O'Halloran, who also pointed to the project as a source of employment for over 5000 people.

Outlining the path of waste through Halifax and Dartmouth, O'Halloran explained how waste taken from homes and businesses would traverse miles of piping, some gravity controlled, others pumped by motors, to water treatment plants, which filters clean water back into the harbour, while solid waste would be trucked away to a Biosolids Processing Facility to be located in the Aerotech Business Park. There, waste will be mated with cement kiln

dust to produce a fertilizer used as topsoil or agricultural fertilizer.

O'Halloran ended his presentation by listing off the benefits of the Harbour Clean Up project, which included improved water quality, increased property values and tourism, a better shellfish harvest and healthier marine ecosystem, less health costs due to water illness, increased water recreation and better overall quality of life.

When question period began following the presentation, O'Halloran was flooded by numerous questions focused largely on the safety and health issues. One woman pointed to the use of converted solid waste product for agricultural purposes as a health risk to consumers who may be taking in pathogens through fertilizer use. One man asked about the effect of the pipeline on sailing, while another inquired about other dangerous substances in the harbour, including sediments and heavy metals. Others questioned the overall cost of the project, while others

pointed out it wasn't nearly enough money spent.

Among the first to challenge the presentation was Rosalee Grette Lydon, former member of the Harbour Solutions Committee, a group of government officials, scientists, NGOs and ordinary citizens assembled to create a report on the project

in an advisory capacity. Lydon's main concern was that a single pipe for both sewage and storm water was not adequate since heavy rainfall often causes overflow of waste that is harmful to the environment. The solution to this problem that was previously agreed upon in committee, to have two different pipes for each separate purpose, was ignored in this new incarnation of the project. Lydon, who identifies herself as an



Photo by Kristian Bertin

environmentalist and a member of the Ecology Action Center, claims that the project is well-intentioned, but ultimately ill-conceived.

Allan Ruffman, another member of the Harbour Solutions Committee was critical of the program as well, but thanked citizen involvement in the project, saying, "though citizen input was resisted at every turn, it is because of us that the project is changed."

The SMUSA Page

www.SMUSA.ca



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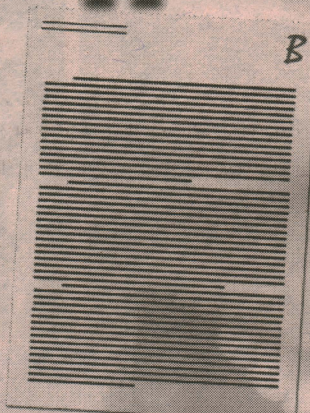
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NEWS

VIDEO OF HORRIFIC EXECUTION AIRED ON CNN



BY JASON HENRY

With the exception of flash bulbs and television camera lights, the grey walls of the Baghdad gallows were poorly lit, hiding the faces of official witnesses and any others who were present for the death of the man, who in his life went from being an impoverished boy in Tikrit to being known as the 'Butcher of Baghdad'. On Saturday December 30th at 0600h Baghdad local time, 56 days after the former leader of Iraq was sentenced to death for the ordered killing of 148 Shia Muslims in 1982, Saddam Hussein was put to death by means of hanging.

The trial, which began in Baghdad on October 19th, 2005, focused on the use of nerve and mustard gases on Iraqi civilians in Duhail following an attempted assassination attempt in 1982. Saddam and 7 other regime members were put to trial for this crime while only three, including Saddam, were eventually sentenced to death.

The following day, CNN found that it would be appropriate to broadcast the proceedings repeatedly on their stations. For those readers who have yet to see this film, the footage depicts the convicted leader being led to the gallows by several men wearing black balaclavas; these were members of the Iraqi guard, who were to serve as his executioners. The film shows a defiant Saddam nobly refusing the traditional hood and quietly allowing the noose to be fitted around his neck. The footage ends before the floor is dropped out below him, sending him to his death. The entire clip leads the people watching to believe that he was executed in traditional fashion and was given a dignified death.

However, soon after the original tape was shown on Iraqi television a new video surfaced on the Internet. An intentionally leaked video of the execution taken from the mobile phone of one of the official witnesses showed the entire execution from below the gallows. The witness, who reportedly filmed the execution, was arrested within the day, but not before his video had a chance to influence the opinions of many people about the manner in which Saddam was put to death.

The video was able to capture the sounds of the people in the chamber taunting Saddam with sectarian remarks and showed a solemn Hussein condemning his executioners for not acting like men. Najoib al-Nuaimi, a member of Saddam's defense team told Al Jazeera on Sunday that he felt the actions of those involved in the execution showed that it was less about the law being carried out, and more so an act of revenge, fueled by political reasoning. "This is not in the normal procedures to execute a normal person... it's full of hatred and it's very ugly. It's nothing to do with the Dujail case," he said.

In Iraq mixed emotions are being shown as Shia Muslim have been reportedly celebrating the death of their former oppressor, by dancing in the streets and firing shots into the air. The Shia believe that the way Saddam was treated was deserved due to the way he had treated those he had executed in the past. This is a sharp contrast to the disgust being felt by many Sunni leaders who feel that this is only proof that the Iraqi security services have been infiltrated by Shia militia. These opposing beliefs worry Iraqi officials who now fear increased sectarian conflict in Iraq.

But, it is not only the civilian population of Iraq whose divisions are being shown through this execution. The association of Muslim scholars released a statement that condemns the execution as well, claiming it was carried out by the Iraqi government for the Americans. This coincides with what a prominent Iranian cleric Ahmad Khatami, said, criticizing the US for attempting to increase the tensions between the Shia and Sunni Muslims in Iran and Iraq through the execution of Saddam Hussein.

Other international leaders including Hosni Mubarek, president of Egypt, as well as George Bush, also released statements. Mr. Mubarek vented his frustrations towards the way Saddam was treated and executed in such a public manner. Mubarek went on to discuss how, because of the way the execution was carried out, the Iraqi government has thrust the former dictator into martyrdom. Mr. Mu-

barek was quoted saying, "No-one will ever forget the way in which Saddam was executed".

However the majority of Mubarek's criticism stemmed from the decision to have the execution take place on the first day of Eid al-Adha, a Muslim holiday. In a message to George Bush he argued for a different execution date saying "Don't do it at this time. Why is it necessary to hang [him] just at the time when people are saying the holiday prayers."

The American president is also now in the hot seat, feeling pressure from Muslim groups who feel he played a role in the poor treatment of Saddam during the execution. In a released statement George Bush also had an opinion on the matter. "Bringing Saddam Hussein to justice will not end the violence in Iraq, but it is an important milestone on Iraq's course to becoming a democracy that can govern, sustain, and defend itself," He also commented on how he felt the execution could have been handled better.

In addition to all of the political turmoil begin caused by Saddam's death, human rights groups are becoming vocal after viewing the execution videos. The US-based group Human Rights Watch also issued an opinion on the execution. Richard Dicker, a Human Rights Watch director, said: "Saddam Hussein was responsible for horrific, widespread human rights violations, but those acts, however brutal, cannot justify his execution, a cruel and inhuman punishment."

For now, only speculations can be made as to what this will mean to the struggle in Iraq. The Iraqi people who once feared the oppression of a dictator are now at war with themselves are this execution threatens to vastly increase the already dangerous levels of tension that exist. With the last independent polls showing civilian deaths around 100,000 since the US invasion, the people of Iraq will certainly have some tougher times ahead. Unfortunately the death of Saddam Hussein will not have the desired calming influence on the people it affected most.

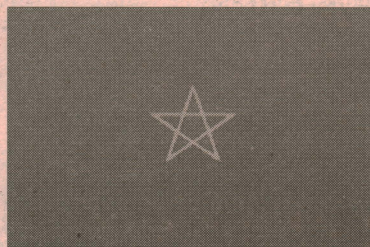
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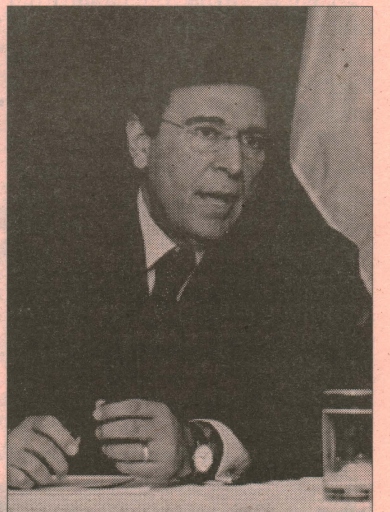
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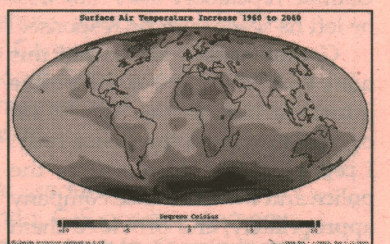
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Despite international appeals to Iraq against the Anfal trials



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Due to global warming, says Britain's leading climate experts



► **THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIAN FATAH MEMBERS PROTEST HAMAS**
Specifically targeting the armed Hamas group the "Executive Force"



► **HARPER ADMITS TO HAVING NO PLANS ON CLIMATE CHANGE**
Days after re-shuffling his cabinet for a new Environment Minister

RESOURCE MINISTER RESIGNS FLEES ACCIDENT

POSSIBLY DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE?

BY JAMES C. O'BRIEN

January 4th, Premier Rodney MacDonald announced that he received Human Resource Minister Fage's resignation. Ernie Fage's resignation comes after mass media reports, photographs and video footage of him fleeing the scene of a car accident back in November. "I do not want this issue distracting the government or the premier," says Fage.

"My understanding was that it was an accident and that Minister Fage at the time had reported it to the appropriate authorities," said Premier MacDonald. "The minister called me and proffered his resignation, he did not want this incident to get in the way of the work of the government...and I accepted his resignation."

Fage sent in his resignation from cabinet 90 minutes after the story aired on CBC Television because, Fage says, "I have to deal with this myself."

Mr. Fage has admitted his involvement in an early-morning traffic accident in a Halifax intersection while driving a government-leased Volkswagen Jetta back on the 24th of November. It is reported that Mr. Fage rear-ended a car carrying passengers George Myrer and Steve Bezanson, editors of the Chronicle Herald. Both have reported suffering stiffness from the collision. Myrer noted the stench of alcohol on Fage as he abandoned the scene before police arrived, refusing to show them his license or insurance.

"We've been very disappointed by what we believe was a lack of action by the police," says Mr. Myer.

However, the aftermath of the accident was both photographed and videotaped by Herald photographer David Gamble, who was called by the editors shortly after the crash. "Without the video this wouldn't be a story," Mr. Myrer said. "We wouldn't know anything."

Gamble followed Fage to an apartment building where a video, shot on a camera phone records Fage waiting for an elevator whilst Gamble repeatedly asks him why he left the scene with no response.

Gamble didn't know that this man was Mr. Fage until police informed him on the 3rd. "I am co-operating with the police fully. I reported (the accident) to the police and my insurance company appropriately, and provided them with all the appropriate material that they required," said Mr. Fage who informed the police about the accident the week after collision but not within 24 hours as required by law. Police reported that Fage ordered his secretary to inform the police about the accident (during the required time frame) but was informed by the police that Fage would have to make the call personally.

Furthermore, when Fage did phone police on December 1st to report the crash, officers 'failed' to link it with their investigation into the reported hit and run. "Normally we would compare any report with any other potential reports. However, in this case, unfortunately those two incidents were not married up," said Halifax Regional Police spokesman Constable Jeff Carr last

Friday.

Carr says, "The important thing is that the original investigation continued and we are satisfied that we have identified the driver of the second vehicle by evidence obtained in the course of that investigation."

Mr. Myrer, who reported that Mr. Fage reeked of alcohol and slurred words, missed a day's work and a \$500 deductible fee from his insurer, was told by police that they would be looking for a government registered car but would have no way of knowing who the driver was. Neither Mr. Myrer nor Mr. Bezanson were asked by police to provide a report until the accident became widely reported by the media. They spoke to an investigator last Monday.

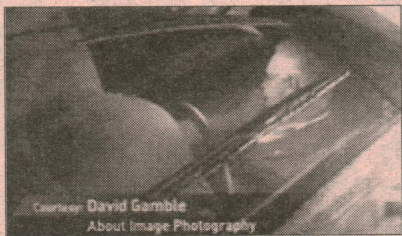
Within the hours post-crash, Myrer told police Gamble recorded footage of the man, however, Mr. Gamble did not provide a statement for police until six weeks after the accident. Constable Carr said that the incident is being investigated as a motor vehicle accident, "nothing more, nothing less" and that "it's not uncommon for an investigation in relation to a motor vehicle accident to take a number of weeks. Sometimes we have difficulty contacting witnesses. It's the nature of our business."

"We made every effort to locate the individual that night. We went to the building where a witness had reported following the man to and were unable to gain access into the building. We attempted to raise the superintendent and were unable." No charges have been laid in the accident and it remains under investigation.

"I have faith in the police and the justice system. I will deal with them forthright and appropriately," says Fage, who resigned from his position as Resource Minister on the 4th but plans to stay on as MLA for Cumberland North.

This is the second time Fage has resigned from cabinet in less than a year. He resigned last February after 'failing' to tell cabinet colleagues about ties to S&J Potato Farms, a company slated to receive a \$250,000 loan whom rented land from the Fage family. Mr. MacDonald put Mr. Fage back into cabinet after the June election, leading to criticisms made toward MacDonald for exercising poor judgement in bringing Fage back into cabinet.

NDP Kevin Deveaux says that since premier MacDonald insisted that Fage deserved a second chance, Macdonald must take responsibility for this second resignation.



Courtesy: David Gamble
About Image Photography

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PERSPECTIVES

EDITORIAL

University Logos Gone Secular

A debate has arisen at Simon Fraser University over the decision to remove from the university coat of arms two crosses. The university, situated in British Columbia, will remove two crosses on its 41-year-old coat of arms, which will be replaced with images of books.

SFU Vice President of University Relations Warren Gill told the CBC that internationally, the crosses coupled with the university being named after a person easily mislabeled it as a private religious institution, as opposed to a secular public one. The university's Board of Governors approved the change on November 30th. While officials contend the crosses are sending the wrong message causing confusion among international students, many have opposed the alteration, calling it a sign of disrespect toward the university's heritage.

The coat of arms is based on the Fraser shield, in honour of explorer Simon Fraser, yet the crosses situated above the shield were actually taken from the coat of arms of Clan MacDonald, the maiden name of Fraser's wife.

According to CanWest, Gill denied the change was a result of anti-Christian bias or political correctness. Some opponents of the change have called the move disrespectful of the university's heritage. The Christian church was elemental in the establishment of universities across the country, which include Simon Fraser and Saint Mary's as well.

SMU Vice President External Affairs Chuck Bridges explained, "In 1802, if you were Catholic and Irish, you did not have access to higher education." Saint Mary's provided these people with that opportunity. "We've had this tremendous history of reaching out and providing educational

opportunities for everyone," said Bridges.

The church played an integral part in the history of Saint Mary's, which was founded by the Jesuits. The Saint Mary's crest, which was designed in the 1940s, still reflects this. It bears the official seal of the Jesuits, the initials "I.H.S." Christ's Latin name, as well as three nails which represent the Crucifixion and the Crown of Thorns.

The idea of removing religious symbols from the Saint Mary's university crest was floating around last year, leading up to the school's undergoing of a brand renewal. In the end, the religious symbols were left intact and only the inscription around the crest, "Saint Mary's University - Halifax - 1841" written in Latin, were removed from the university's official logo. Although the official logo has changed, the official crest remains the same.

When asked about the possibility of removing such symbols, Bridges admitted that because of the huge component of international students (overwhelmingly non-catholic), "The catholic traditions might be seen as inappropriate in this century." Yet Bridges argued that the Catholic symbols spoke of tradition, of "consistency, dependability and longevity, and continued the focus on the attention to the individual students. These are values that transcend religion."

Whether the erasure of the religious symbols from university logos is an exercise in political correctness or a genuine attempt at representing the changes in university demographics, one thing is certain: it's going to make it increasingly difficult to trace the meanings of these logos to the roots and traditions of our academic institutions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to Review on Homosexuality Discussion

Dear Editor,

I'm happy that Ressa Peters was amused by some of the things I said in the public discussion I had with Wendell Eisener on homosexuality and erotic love ("Debate or Sermon?", November 29th). I want to tell her and others, though, that I didn't ever mean to be snide, at least not if "snide" means derogatory or supercilious.

Ms Peters writes that she was upset by some of what she heard, by, for instance, the claim that being alone is not good or that a couple's choice not to have children is not the right choice or that erotic love between people of the same sex is defective in comparison to erotic love between a woman and a man. She also writes of tension and uneasiness in the discussion period. It's unfortunate that people

were upset or tense or uneasy. Still, the matter how to live one's life is at the heart of the philosophical endeavour, and also at the heart of the idea of a liberal arts university. Confronting the matter how to live one's life requires one both to take seriously ideas that one finds repugnant and to expose one's own most cherished or comforting beliefs to critical scrutiny. Doing these things can certainly be upsetting, especially if one is committed to following the argument where it goes, even if it goes against what one formerly held. Easier and more uplifting is just to promote or celebrate whatever one unreflectively finds humane or noble. But simply to assume we all already are living well and we already know what is good or right is to miss the point of university life.

Ressa Peters wonders whether she learned much at the discussion. A difficult skill to acquire is the skill of thinking dispassionately about questions of value. If the discussion helped Ms Peters even a little to be able to evaluate dispassionately what Wendell called "the contraceptive mentality," to appreciate without fear or favour both Wendell's critique of that mentality and her own acceptance of it, then it did what a public discussion at a university should do. I hope that the philosophy society at Saint Mary's will continue to sponsor events that stimulate us to grow as intellectuals, even should what we hear at these events trouble us deeply.

All the best,
Mark Mercer

Department of Philosophy

Aramark Closes Before Students Close Books

To the editor:

My friend and I are writing the Journal concerning the current situation with Aramark on campus. We believe this situation needs to be looked into further. Student on campus are forced to purchase a meal plan in order to live on campus. However, moving on campus this year I have noticed that Aramark makes its own rules. They open and close at their own convenience leaving

students that have no other means for meals out in the cold. Exams this semester ran until December 18th, meaning that student would be here until the 19th (24 hours after exams) needing meals. However, Aramark closed on evening of the 16th, leaving my roommate and I to order Pizza twice in one day in order to have something to eat. It was this or chips and pop from the vending machine, because we were both studying for exams and

did not have time to walk to Spring Garden three times in order to have a meal.

Now if the meal plan was optional this would be a different story. However, for most students it is not. I believe this is an issue that should be looked into and brought to the student body's attention so we can put pressure on Aramark to think of their customers, not their profits.

Darlene Swales

Litter Makes Victorian Streetscape Look Like Slum

Dear Sir,

I am a SMU graduate and I live Tower Rd. in the block between Inglis St. and Victoria Road. If I were to walk across the SMU Campus and throw away my pop bottle, sandwich or pizza plate, or beer can, do you think it would be long before someone asked me to stop littering?

I love the activity and excitement the students bring, but I must

say "some students" do their best to make our neighbourhood look like a slum. I think our "Victorian Streetscape" of houses lends atmosphere to the campus and in fact we are your extended campus and part of the physical setting of SMU.

When new students are considering which school to attend, we, the neighbourhood, are often an influence on their decision.

Is it possible that there

could be a student-neighbourhood meeting to come up with a plan that would prevent both groups shooting themselves in the feet? We should be supporting each other for a first class university located in one of Canada's most historical and pretty neighbourhoods.

Yours respectfully,
Peter McCurdy
Tower Rd.

SMUSA REPORTS:

Federal Government Update

Last year, on November 23, 2006, the Government of Canada released their economic update and economic plan. Under the post-secondary education section of the Economic plan, the government commits to:

- * Strengthening the quality and competitiveness of the post-secondary education system by providing stable and predictable funding to provinces and territories.

- * Working with provinces and territories to develop shared objectives and targets, clarify roles and responsibilities and enhance public accountability.

- * Modernizing Canada's system of student financial assistance to make it more effective.

- * Encouraging the best foreign students to attend Canadian colleges and universities by marketing the excellence of Canada's post-secondary education system.

- * Investing in research equipment and facilities in universities and colleges to compete with the best in the world.

- * Increasing graduate scholarship support, including for the

sciences and engineering.

- * Exposing more students to private sector research challenges through internships and targeted collaborative research.

Student Leaders are happy that the government is committed to working with the provinces and territories to develop a shared objective, this initiative will clarify the roles of the Federal and Provincial government, and will bring better accountability within the system. This is something that Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) has been lobbying for many years, and it is wonderful to see that the government is moving forward with this student initiative.

In regards to accessibility to post-secondary education, which is one of the biggest problems that students and families are facing in our country, the government did not mention anything in their Economic Plan that addressed the issue of accessibility. This is of great disappointment to the students of Canada, and SMUSA. CASA will continue to push to the Federal

Government to help ensure that no qualified student will be unable to pursue a higher education because of their financial situation.

Overall we are pleased that the government recognizes the importance of Post-secondary education and is taking action to increase participation in the work force by eliminating barriers to under-represented groups, and making it easier for Canadian-educated foreign students and temporary workers to stay in Canada and become Canadian citizens. We hope to see the specific details on these plans, when the budget is announced next year. We are very hopeful the issues addressed in this update will move forward in a timely manner and not end up being a bunch of failed promises.

If you see me around campus, please feel free to speak to me for more information. My office is located at 5th floor Student centre

Emeka Leonard Chinabu
SMUSA VP External Affairs

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BUSINESS

MISSBIZ

INSIDE LOOK AT FAMILY BUSINESS

BY JACKIE HOWATT

"Some 35% of Fortune 500 companies are family-controlled. Family businesses account for 50% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product. They generate 60% of the country's employment and 78% of all new job creation" (www.businessweek.com).

While reluctantly paying my tuition last semester, I was completely unaware that along with receiving a required credit for my major, I would simultaneously receive much-needed therapy in the same course. That's right - I said therapy. Family Business is a relatively new area of study in post-secondary institutions; however, it is quickly gaining interest as academics and students are realizing the importance and economic impact of family run businesses throughout the world. Most large-scale businesses started out as family businesses, and many continue to dominate the markets in terms of revenues, influence, and respect (for example, Ford, Wal-Mart, and The Washington Post - just to name a few). Being apart of my family business for the past five years, I have personally witnessed the great benefits and overwhelming challenges that a family business can bring. Before taking the Family Business course, I felt completely dislocated from the majority of my friends, as it was difficult to relay the obligatory responsibilities faced in the lifestyle that being in a family business brings. I shudder to

think of how lost I felt before my Family Business course normalized some of the issues I was facing, and I realized that I should at least share some of the lessons that have eased my own mind, and that have ultimately smoothed over family tensions building within the past several months.

Family businesses face a multitude of varying relationship dynamics that can be both positive and negative, depending on how they are managed. I do stress that kin relationships have to be structurally managed within a family business as best as possible, as it is this structure that provides boundaries that serve to separate the family relationship from the family-business relationship. Recognizing the importance of this is essential in maintaining an effectual working relationship with family. It is the understanding of this fundamental aspect of setting up a family business that has maintained family businesses as the backbone of the economy. Businesses with a family-based foundation have an extra bond and commitment that is difficult to replicate in a non-family owned business - despite what some organizations may believe. On the other hand, family businesses do present excess problems that can be more damaging to the business than beneficial.

My family business experience is in working with an entrepreneurial father. Like most entrepreneurs, my father truly believes that he is immortal and that his

business will be in his own hands until the end of time. This is a very common situation when dealing with a first-generation business. He is extremely uncomfortable in dealing with the fact that he will have to relinquish control within the next ten years. Because I work in conjunction with my father and I am involved in the everyday operations and decision making of the company, it is apart of my responsibility to actively mention the issue of succession (or just the future of the company in general) to ease him into the thought of transition. Succession is the one issue in family businesses that can easily spawn other seemingly unrelated problems, if not dealt with properly. These problems can often begin as ineffectual, but can snowball into a larger situation - leading to potential fallout with a family member, or even worse, the jeopardization of the company. Succession issues become more apparent (and coincidentally - harder to deal with) as the CEO or founder of the company inches towards retirement age. In my own situation, as my father gets older, he seems to want to prove that he is able to keep going with running the business - that he is still able to mentally and physically take on the same amount of stress and work as he has in the past. This is a problem that has gotten worse as the years wear on. Instead of winding down and enjoying his "retirement years" (he will never admit to being in this demographic), it seems as though

he wants to prove that age does not affect him; that he is still young and vibrant. And although this may seem a little harsh to say about my dad, it is how it is.

As a child, it can be difficult to begin conversations about the future of the business with a parent owner (not just regarding succession - but regarding strategic planning in general) because it may feel uncomfortable, intrusive, and probing. Most first-generation owners are personally attached to their businesses, and asking them direct questions about the overall business situation can seem interrogative and insulting. I encountered this while interviewing my father for a business paper, which required him to answer questions about succession and other family business issues. Since I had to do this as a required task for a class, it gave me an excuse to find out more about my fathers plans. Even though the interview itself was awkward to say the least, it opened up a continuous dialogue between my father and I regarding the future of the company, and my role in it.

Another major issue in dealing with my dad is that as his daughter, I am expected to do, and to be, wherever and whenever, at any given time. My responsibilities and expectancies are not the same (and are not exactly compensated) as a "normal" employee would be. This is a mixed blessing in many ways, and because I work so closely with my father, it is hard to avoid this

type of relationship. On one hand, it is a great responsibility to work so closely with a business, and to be trusted on a professional level. The experience is unparalleled, and it is exciting to be personally involved in developing and marketing a business. However, the constant pressure to perform and excel at every detail can be wearisome at times. This issue in itself can be difficult to discuss openly, as it is difficult to admit that the workload is too much, or the expectancy is too high. As a father, he may get initially offended or mad which could lead to a fight. Inevitably, the tension would overflow into the personal relationship as father and daughter.

Even though family businesses are a crucial part of our modern economy, there is much to be said about them when it comes right down to the actual relationships that hold them together. In taking the Family Business course, I have learned that I was not the only student going through these problems. Understanding that relationship hurdles and tensions are normal and absolutely must be discussed and not ignored was the most important lesson I could have taken away. I am not suggesting that every problem has been fixed completely, but communication and being upfront enough to discuss uncomfortable issues is a realization all participating family members must understand before signing up to work in unison - especially for the long haul.

TECHTALK

NEW DRIVES ARE SOLID

BY ALEKS STARK

We are approaching the last days of the rein of perhaps the most revolutionary technological creation ever invented. After more than half a century, radically new technology is being produced that could spell the end of the traditional Hard Disk Drive (HDD).

Just over 50 years ago, on Sept. 13, 1956, IBM produced the very first hard drive. It was a massive device that was the size of two refrigerators and literally weighed a ton. Its disks were 24 inches in diameter and the entire unit had to be cooled by two incredibly noisy air compressors. And for all that size, the storage capacity was quite small in today's standards. It could hold about the same information as is contained in a single mp3 file (approx 5000 bytes). One song, that's it.

But the scientists at the time loved it. Up till that point all digital information was stored on reels of tape. With the new 'random access' ability to store memory, information could be recorded and retrieved from any point on the disk without have to rewind through the entire data set.

Over time, technology improved and the HDD got smaller and faster and gained more capacity. Its improvements were integral to the proliferation of the personal computer in our lives. Without

HDD, big businesses would have had no way to effectively store and maintain their massive records. Some people go so far as to say that big businesses of today couldn't exist without this ability. Without these storage mediums, the Internet itself would not exist. Scary.

It seemed that there was no end to the growth potential of the HDD. In accord with Moore's Law, the capacity of the drives has been growing exponentially since its conception. These days it isn't odd to see personal home computers with upwards of 500 Gb (Gigabyte = one thousand million bytes). At the time of print for this story Dell is selling home desktop computers with about 3 Tb (Terabytes = one thousand billion '1,000,000,000,000' bytes).

While the HDD is impressive in its strengths, it never quite got over its faults. After 50 years, there are still three major problems that the HDD manufacturers have not been able to overcome.

The first is heat. The original IBM monster had those two air compressors, but it still had to be shut down from time to time so it didn't melt the internal disks. Heat comes from the motors that spin the disks and from the reading/recording heads that transfer data. Modern computers (especially notebook computers) are still held back to slower speeds because of heat build up.

The second issue is fragility. The slightest bumps and impacts can cause the disks to get misaligned, or scratch the data surfaces, or even snap the disk. Even modern HDD can only take so much abuse.

The third is wasted energy, having to spin those disks at high speeds needs power. Power that could conceivably be used somewhere else.

All three issues come down to one main problem: Moving parts. That is why a new revolution is coming from solid-state memory devices (SSD), which are more commonly referred to as 'flash drives.' Many experts think that SSD will ultimately be the future of data storage for one main reason. SSD have no moving parts at all. Information is written directly into the 'flash' memory and can be recalled at will. Since the innards of a SSD would be solid it would be much more resistant to everyday bumps and scrapes.

It sounds almost perfect. So why doesn't everyone use SSD yet? The main problem is storage. HDD has a massive head start with all the research that has been put into it over the last few decades. At the consumer level the largest commercially available HDD is a couple Terabytes, while the SSD is a mere 32 Gigabytes. It will take some time and more investment before the SSD can finally topple the HDD Empire.

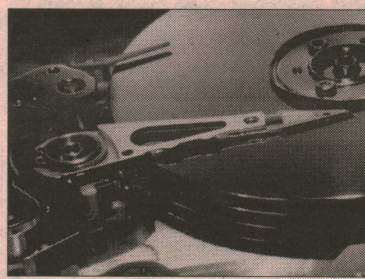
TECH AT A GLANCE:

INFRARED, IPODS, AND INFERTILITY

BY ALEKS STARK



The Fujifilm company has produced point-and-shoot camera with the ability to take infrared pictures. The camera isn't just a one gimmick product, it also offers a 10.7x optical zoom, and ISO of up to 1600. It's expected to ship in February for approx. \$1000.



The computer hard-drive turned 50 this year. To celebrate Hitachi is announcing the launch of a one Terabyte hard drive for computers. That translates into a massive 1000 Gig of storage, or 'really, really, ridiculously huge.'



The Zune is no iPod killer. Market researcher Current Analysis released a report showing the Zune only managed get 12% of the personal audio device market. It didn't even make it to the top 10 sales list in its category. Meanwhile, 8 different forms of the iPod were on the top 10 list.



Cell phone use may be linked to infertility. Researchers studying the effects of cell phone use in Cleveland, New Orleans and Mumbai found that men who use their mobile phones for more than four hours/day were far more likely to have problems with their sperm that could lead to infertility. It is still unclear if this is cause by radiation or simply heat from the battery.

TOYS FOR THOUGHT

BY LAURA MACINTOSH

So there I was - watching my 20 month old nephew Xander playing with one of my personal favorite toys growing up; the Magna Doodle; when I noticed the age restriction of 3+ on the box. At first, I rationalized the rating by the magnets that could be a choking hazard for a child with an abnormally large mouth. However, I began to search around my parents toy-littered carpet and found myself wondering what really goes into those age appropriate labels.

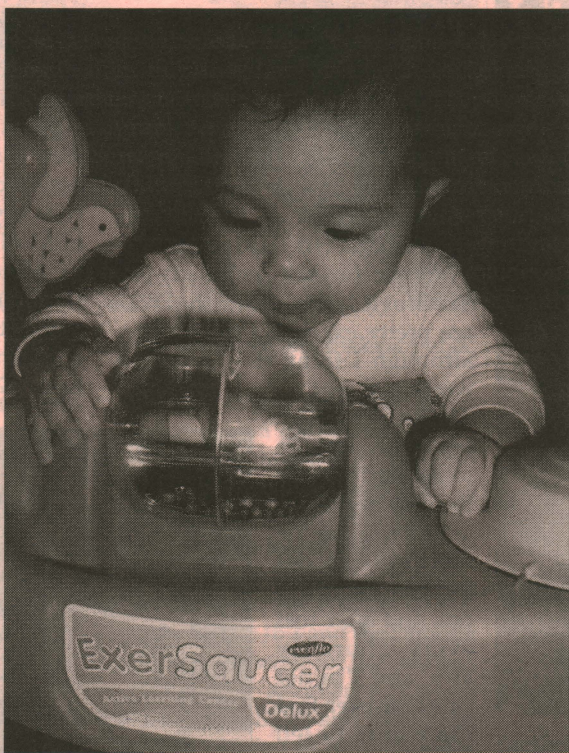
The 2006 Industry Guide to Canadian Safety Requirements for Children's Toys and Related Products gave me some disheartening answers. It turns out that although most toys are labeled, according to Canadian toy safety legislation, toys do not need to be labeled for age appropriateness (or even choking hazards). Although most are, there are no actual regulations

on the topic of age appropriateness, which means there's no systematic way of labeling. Playskool can use a different set of guidelines than Fisher Price, etc. Besides adding to confusion for parents, not having these guidelines based on developmental milestones can be dangerous on one hand, and under stimulating (or just plain boring) on the other.

Before reading on, think about what you believe age appropriate means. It's a very vague term; I always figured that little sticker that said "6mons" meant not only was the toy safe for 6 month olds, but that such a child would be capable

of using it.

Apparently I'm wrong. The guidelines are based mostly on specific safety issues, like hearing, choking and suffocation hazards. There's not much stopping a big rolling ball from being approved



for newborns. I certainly don't know of any newborns that can make a big ball roll, let alone chase it. Sure that's an extreme example but there are many toys out there that are poorly labeled. Take for example the many rolling toys labeled for 6 or even 3 month old children who may not even be *beginning* to explore movement. Besides being a waste of money, how safe is it to have a child attempt to crawl to that rolling duck only to fall face first on the floor. It's this idea that irks me, and probably any parent who has a stash of toys their kids just won't use sitting in a corner.

On the flip side, the Playskool

Peek 'N Play Discovery Dome that was meant for my nephew's seven-month-old sister Alicia was labeled "3 months and up", and both kids are absolutely infatuated with it. The toy includes a list of tips about how to make the toy grow with children, which parts are going to stimulate the 3 month old and which will be used by the 3 year old. And guess what... they're developmentally based. Activities for infants who can track the moving objects, kick with their feet, grasp objects, etc.

There is so much research out there on child development that there could easily be some regulations not only to help out consumers but to aid businesses in making sound economic and marketing decisions. If labels were developmentally appropriate, there wouldn't be panicking mothers everywhere trying to figure out if that cool looking crocodile lego thing is going to seem cool to their little boys. They wouldn't end up leaving stores frustrated and empty handed and there'd be plenty of opportunity for profit and economic growth. Toys would captivate children and would be tools of knowledge, not just something to keep the kids quiet.

Its simple business knowledge to know that marketing to the right audience will gain you the most profit, so why don't most toy companies do this? Why aren't they all as good at it as Playskool? Not only would it help them make money, it would help our children get the most out of this crucial developmental stage of life.

HOW TO WIN \$6000

BY LAURA MACINTOSH

So you want to win some extra cash for Spring Break? How about a grand? No? What about \$6000? That's not a typo; ACE SMU (in conjunction with its sponsors) is giving away \$6000 in the 3rd annual WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? Competition.

Ever thought of how cool it would be if your cereal didn't get soggy? Or to have a phone that said the name of the person calling instead of a ringtone? How great would it be to have a container that kept your banana from getting beat up in your backpack? Do you have an innovative idea for a business or product?

What's The Big Idea is a competition open to all SMU students. We want to know your idea for a great business or product. It can be anything; it doesn't have to exist yet, or ever. We want to know what you think would be an AWESOME idea to have become

reality. All you need to do is fill out a form, answering questions about your business idea. There are many categories, from best existing business to most creative business idea, each with cash awards of up to \$1,000, and a total pot of \$6000. Create your own idea or team up with a friend and split the pot!

Don't know how to write a business plan? No problem, ACE and the SMUBDC will be offering workshops throughout the competition to guide you through the process. It's simple to win up to \$6000 to do with what you please. So why don't you register? There's no reason not to!

The best part? You don't even need to win a category to win great prizes! All entrants are eligible to win cash/prize draws throughout the competition.

Time is running out so get your entry in today! Register at www.whatsthebigidea.ca to get all the details on how you can be living it up with free cash.



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Cancer Care Nova Scotia (CCNS) exists to foster excellence in cancer care and research. Encouraging Nova Scotia students to contribute to this excellence is the first step in ensuring the continued growth and quality of cancer treatment and care in this province.

The Norah Stephen Oncology Scholar Awards are funded by Cancer Care Nova Scotia to foster an interest in the field of oncology (cancer), among undergraduate and graduate students in Nova Scotia.

A total of twelve awards are granted each spring. Four awards are dedicated to cancer-related research projects in basic sciences, and four are dedicated to cancer-related research projects in other disciplines including, but not limited to, informatics, epidemiology, outcomes and/or socio-behavioural research. The remaining four awards are dedicated to clinical training / experience projects. Each award, worth \$5000, covers stipend support for the student for a maximum of 14 weeks.

Interested candidates, with support from their supervisors, are invited to complete an application, outlining the project or practical experience directly related to the study of cancer, and submit it to CCNS with the required attachments on or before **Friday, February 2, 2007**.

Applications are available on our website at www.cancercare.ns.ca or by contacting Pauline Hart at pauline.hart@ccns.nshealth.ca

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

MATTHEW GREAT



BY TREVOR MURPHY

Fuck Leonard Cohen and Bruce Cockburn. Fuck Joni Mitchell and Geddy Lee and Sarah McLachlin. There's only room for one winner in the category of Best Canadian Singer/Songwriter/Artist of All Time - and his name is Matthew Good.

On a social, political, emotional, ecstatic and passionate landscape Matt Good is by far the best artist this country has ever seen. He's had a slew of hits - "Apparitions," "Hello Time Bomb," "Weapon," "In a World Called Catastrophe," etc - and had the balls to stir up the mainstream music scene in a depressing post-post-grunge era where everything rock came up sounding the same (I'm looking at you Papa Roach, Linkin Park, P.O.D).

His lyrics make me shiver. They're not just political or social, they're insightful, meaningful, haunting; I could go on forever. The best Matt Good song is one

you've probably never heard. The songs that don't make the charts are typically the most powerful - with the exception of "Strange Days." My favourite is a song from the album *Underdogs* - which, by the way, I rank as one of my top ten albums of all time, ever, in the universe - and it's called "Prime-time Deliverance." Look at these lyrics:

"They found her in her room/
Wearing a pink bunny suit/
With sour cherry lipstick/
Hanging from her closet door/
Her eyes were wide, maybe to despise/
Or maybe just to look into your/
Headlight morning glow."

Holy. Shit. That gives me cold chills (or, les frissons, as we say in my native tongue) just typing it, let alone listening to it.

And the best part is none of it is meaningless drab. Matt Good *always* has something important to say, whether is political ("The Future Is X-Rated"), social ("Hello Time Bomb"), personal ("Truffle Pigs"), or just plain fun ("Rico").

He's a stellar musician to boot,

with amazing ideas, and excellent skills in the production room - seriously, the hand claps on "Alert Status Red" are probably some of the best hand claps in rock n' roll history.

So he's kind of a dick. He's outspoken, he fired his whole band, he stopped making music to concentrate on writing and films for now - so what. Sometimes being a dick is what launches an artist into the stratosphere of excellence. Is Bono a nice guy? No. I fucking hate him. But, apparently, he gets the job done. In the words of Green Day, "Nice guys finish last," unless you actually are Green Day in which case "old guys make pop-punk music that is somehow relevant to the teens of today." But, whatever.

In the case of Matt Good versus every other Canadian songwriter, I declare Matt Good victorious by an unprecedented, never before seen Seagull-acoustic-guitar-to-the-knees-knockout. He is the best we have, and has therefore earned the title of Best Canadian Singer/Songwriter/Artist of All Time.

SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA'S SONGPOSIUM 2.0 SET FOR HALIFAX, FEB. 3 & 4

The Songwriters Association of Canada's (SAC) Songposium 2.0 will be taking place in Halifax on February 3 and 4 at the Delta Barrington Hotel (1875 Barrington Street) from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Focusing on urban and pop music, the event will feature two full days of presenters offering workshops on all aspects of the music industry.

Songposium 2.0 will host a renowned line-up of presenters from all areas of the music industry. The list includes: JUNO award-winning singer-songwriter and front man of jacksoul, Haydain Neale; renowned East Coast hip hop artist, Classified; JUNO award-winning artist and owner of Suave Dawg Entertainment, Choclair; renowned producer and engineer Byram "Slakah the BeatChild" Joseph; and Sony BMG content developer, Chad Mitchell.

The first day's proceedings will feature four work shops start-

ing with "Anatomy of a Hit," an in-depth analysis of a hit song. The morning will continue with "New Media Marketing," which will examine how digital media is opening new methods for marketing songs. The afternoon will start with "Technology & the Tools," an up-close, face-to-interface look at the equipment used in the industry. The day will close with a series of demo evaluations of work submitted by attending musicians. Chosen songs will receive comments from a panel focusing on their relative merits from both the craft and business perspectives.

The second day will be divided into two half-day sessions. The first will be a mentor session, giving participants a chance to spend time in an intimate group with one of the resource leaders, offering feedback on songs. "Songwriting 101 / Facts and Tracks" will take place in the second half of the day. This session

will offer information for songwriters, including songwriting courses, networking and performance opportunities.

Two day passes for Songposium 2.0 are \$79 (including tax) for S.A.C., UMAC, GCFC, ECMA and Music Nova Scotia members and those with a student ID. Admission is \$129 (including tax) for non-members. Passes for day one only are \$49 and \$39 with student ID. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 2.

SAC acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Music Fund's Creators' Assistance Program, administered by The SOCAN Foundation.

For more information on Songposium 2.0, visit: www.songwriters.ca

TV GEEK

The Wire

BY RESSA PETERS

Now say what you want about BET (The Boondocks certainly has), but right now it might be the best chance you have to see what may be the best show on TV, *The Wire*. We don't get HBO up here and not everyone (myself included) gets The Movie Network and the DVDs are pretty expensive to buy new, although I think they're totally worth it to rent.

January 10th brings you a chance to get started from the very beginning as BET will play the first three episodes for three nights at 9 pm, and after that every Thursday at 9, and I'm not sure I can even find the words to tell you what you are missing out on if you don't give it a chance.

So what sets *The Wire* apart from the umpteen other crime/investigative/justice shows on the telly? Well here are some things you won't see on *The Wire*: high speed chases; Mexican standoffs; genius detectives that know everything; a world-weary cop close to retirement; ingenious, game-playing serial killers; flawless, futuristic forensic technology and a 43-minute resolution to every case. If you want to watch these things, feel free to stick your head back in the trough of drivel that is CSI: wherever and plenty other shows and live in blissful ignorance of how good and realistic television can be.

What does that leave us? Storylines that arc over 12 episodes each season; "good guys" that don't always win; main characters on both sides of the law wounded or killed; flawed cops and criminals that are likeable or sympathetic. The cast is predominantly African-American, which accurately reflects the demographics of the setting of Baltimore and the African-American, female and gay characters are as fully developed as any, which is a rarity in American television to say the least. Now in a perfect world all of those things I've mentioned would make it the most-watched, discussed and critically acclaimed show on the air. Unfortunately only one of those things is true. Publications such as TIME, Entertainment Weekly and Newsweek as well as The Peabody and American Film Institutes, The NAACP and The Emmys have all sung its praises and ranked it as one of, if not the, best shows on television.

So what's all the fuss about? Here's the re-up (you'll really bone up on your street slang courtesy of the corner boys): In Baltimore's war on crime there is an elite squad known as... well, there's a squad of some good cops, some not so good. After Detective Jimmy McNulty (Dominic West) haggles a judge about how much Avon Barksdale's (Wood Harris) drug crew controls the streets, murders, and tampers with witnesses, a task force is

put together to shut them down. Deep in the basement of the Police HQ pragmatic Lieutenant Cedric Daniels (Lance Reddick) heads a crew of some of the best cops from narcotics and some of the other cops anyone else wanted to get rid of. McNulty, ousted from homicide by Major William Rawls (John Doman) after too many problems with authority and alcohol, remains a driving force in the task force. Kima Greggs (Sonja Sohn) one of



of the best narcotics officers, was hand-picked by Daniels for her hard work on the street surveilling and work with informant/junkie "Bubbles" (Andre Royo, so convincing a real addict handed him a bag of heroin on the street once). Thomas "Herc" Hawk (Dominic Lombardozzi) and Ellis Carver (Seth Gilliam) are good at grunt work, but

can breach protocol and occasionally cross over into unnecessary force. Morgan Freeman type Lester Freamon (Clarke Peters) and young Roland "Prez" Pryzbylewski (Jim True-Frost) prove that police work isn't all interrogations and arrests; it's also hours of wire-taps, cameras, paperwork and tiny details; which they excel at.

On the street, Barksdale rules his drug empire with a dedication equal to, or even above, some of the cops' dedication to their jobs. His lieutenant, Stringer Bell (Idris Elba), takes business classes at night to think up new strategies to sell. Avon's nephew D'Angelo (Larry Gilliard Jr.) is working his way up the ranks of his uncle's crew, but is occasionally weighed down by his conscience. Avon and String control the trade from up high, rarely venturing onto the streets. The dirty work is carried out by the corner boys: angry "Bodie" (J.D. Williams), ruthless "Wee-Bey" (Hassan Johnson), a demoted D'Angelo, loyal follower "Poot" (Tray Chaney) and Wallace (Michael B. Jordan). I get the idea that Wallace, had he been born in another time, place or class, might've been able to be a successful, law abiding citizen, but is forced into the trade to help provide for his family; but who knows for sure. The Barksdale crew has another antagonist besides the law in the form of Omar Little (Michael K. Williams, yes, the scar across half of his face is real) a street Robin Hood, a stick-up artist who only steals from dealers, eschews cursing, takes his Grandma to church every Sunday, and can wield a shotgun with quiet menace.

The Wire is one long, layered story of brutality and mercy, life and death. It's a social commentary on the institutions of policing; businesses, legal and otherwise; politics; the education system and all facets of society. It's a visual novel about all components of a (North) American city and how they affect each other. It is real. And it's the best damn show on TV!

The Music World Mourns the Passing of James Brown



Rob Bass and DJ EZ Roc would be nearly as interesting without the sampled yelps from charismatic performer's albums.

Not only was he an innovator but he was also a civil rights leader penning anthems of the movement such as Say It Loud (I'm Black and I'm Proud) and performing concerts in Africa. Not only has Brown won Grammys, Billboard Awards and countless other statues and plaques but recipient of the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a songwriter; he has been parodied by Weird Al, who did a take off of Brown's song, Living in America.

Brown's funeral took place in his home town of Augusta Georgia, where he laid in state at the eponymous James Brown Arena in a golden coffin. This was the third of the three funerals for the soul and funk legend. In the previous two days there had been a private funeral for family and close friends and another at the Apollo Theater in Harlem where he had recorded some of his best known live recordings and staged legendary performances. No shortage of celebrities attended to pay respect to the fallen idol. The reclusive Micheal Jackson and even Hammer (formerly MC) were in attendance. Brown may be gone but the world is a better place for having been graced by such a soul.

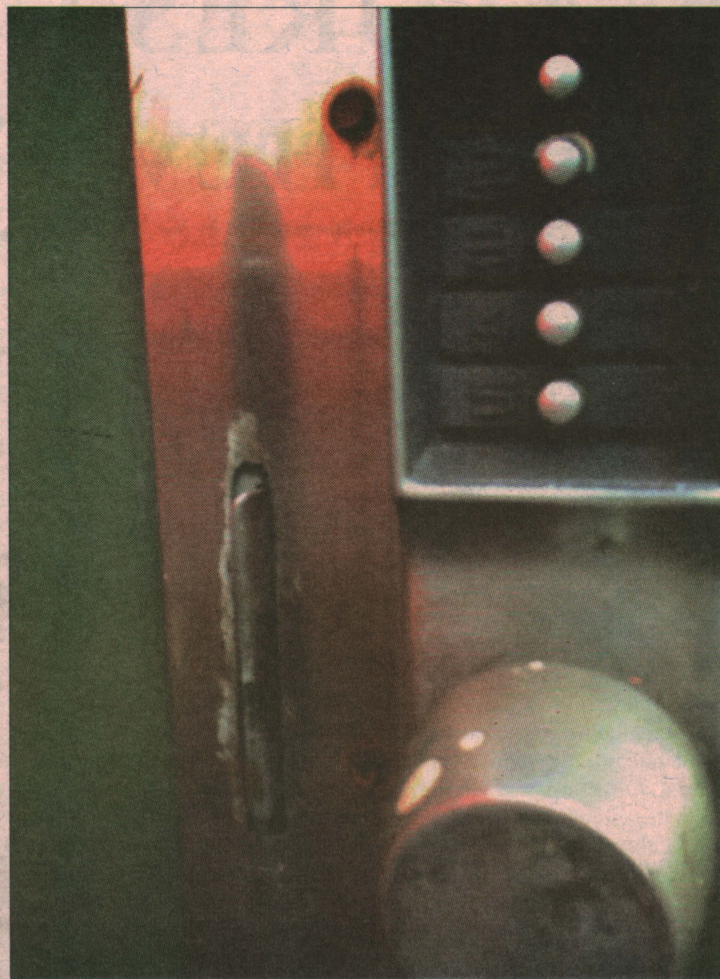
BY A.A. WALLACE

James Brown, the godfather of soul, the minister of super heavy funk, is dead. He died in hospital on Christmas day of congenital heart failure aged 73. He was admitted to Emory Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta Georgia after his physician discovered that the singer was suffering from pneumonia. Brown had been in and out of the public eye in recent years for his erratic behavior, drug problems and run-ins with the law. While he had not released an album since late last decade he was still keeping busy by

actively touring and making public appearances.

Brown began his career in the late fifties as a gospel singer and surrounded himself with talented musicians and performers such as Bootsy Collins and Bobby Byrd. Brown shifted his sound from gospel to R&B and Soul and eventually invented Funk. Not only are he and his groups the JB's and the Famous Flames responsible for the creation of Funk, they also had a hand in popularizing Disco and have been heavily sampled in hip hop since the early eighties. Early Hip Hop singles such as It Takes Two by

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



BY NICOLE ASHELYAUBE

Send your photos to arts.smu@gmail.com

THIS WEEK IN HALIFAX

Wednesday

- Shelter with Thieves Video Release with Alchemy at the Frigate, \$3 cover

Thursday

- Silvergun with Black Stares at Gingers Tavern, 10pm \$5
- The Sorrys, and Jim Rain and the Rebellion at Gus' Pub, 10 pm \$5 cover
- Andrew Hunter and The Way of the Future at the T Room, 9 pm

Friday

- Silvergun, the Contact, Sheva, and Faded Blue at the Seahorse, 10 pm \$6 cover
- Dr. dFunk at the Attic, 11 pm \$6 cover
- Fantods at Gus' Pub, 10 pm \$5 cover

Saturday

- Mike Trask and Mudhill at the Attic, 11 pm \$6 cover
- Shortsleeve, Hemmingways, Refusal Code and Fear of Lip-

stick at the Speakeasy, 10 pm \$5 cover

- Sleep to Dream at Gus' Pub, 10 pm \$5 cover
- Ryan Cook CD Release Party with Rebekah Higgs and Folds of Policy at the Seahorse

Sunday

- The Sunday Night Comedy Spectacular at Gingers Tavern, 8 pm \$4 cover

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Win Your Way to the

ECMAs Contest

The Journal and the East Coast Music Awards have partnered up this year to offer you a chance to win two tickets to the ECMAs Gala on February 18th at the Halifax Metro Centre.

Fill in as many answers as you can and return the ballot to the Journal office on the fifth floor of the Student Centre or email your answers to arts.smu@gmail.com by noon, Friday, February 2nd, 2007.

Please be sure to include your name, email address, and phone number. Good Luck!

What was the original name of the ECMAs?

Which channel airs the East Coast Music Awards?

Where were the ECMAs held five years ago?

How many nominations have Sloan had in their career?

- More than twenty
- More than thirty or
- More than forty

Who was the biggest winner at last year's ECMAs?

Who hosted last year's ECMAs?

Who has won the most ECMAs ever?

Which award was created in 2005?

How many music awards are there in total?

Name two of the five groups that sponsor a music award:

Which ECMA award was considered cursed due to many bands breaking up after winning it?

Name:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

FEATURES

American Apparel's Controversial Campaign for Success

THE "SEX SELLS" IDEOLOGIES SOCIETY TOO READILY VILIFIES

BY: SHANE BEEHAN

What if the Virgin Mary wasn't so virgin? What if thong sandals weren't the only thongs the disciples wore? Would this take away from the overall ideal of the Bible itself? Or would it just be a clever marketing scheme towards the misinformed and ignorant of our society? How exactly would this affect our views on religion and the church? Maybe this idea is just a little far fetched and a tiny bit controversial, but in today's world that's what we all seem to crave the most. Open up a newspaper, turn on the television or radio and you will absorb different forms of controversy. In athletics, in music, in movies, in the food industry, on the bus, in the bathroom stalls, in class; it is absolutely everywhere. It seems to be something we need more than something we simply crave. Maybe it's because controversy never truly satisfies us as a whole, and if as a whole we were all satisfied then we would have nothing to complain about. If our generation had nothing to complain about then where would we be? Perhaps being satisfied is the ultimate form of being unsatisfied. We seem to find controversy when controversy isn't the main issue; maybe it is our own insecurities that compel us to avoid the real issue at hand.

Take a walk downtown Halifax sometime. Maybe get a coffee on Spring Garden first, make some small talk with the cute girl study-

ing at the next table who is desperately trying to ignore you. Then perhaps do a little window shopping, check out the latest styles. There is a new store downtown called American Apparel...maybe you have heard of it? If not then you are so ten minutes ago. But if you have, welcome to the latest style that has swept our fashion-envious coastal province.

Dov Charney, a Montreal born retail executive, is the supposed brain child of this fashionable (open to interpretation) company. He presents this line of clothing as being socially aware and sweatshop free, which if you're socially conscious at all, helps to ease your mind as you are drunk off your ass grinding some girl at The Dome. Everyone wants to wear the latest fashions, they just don't want to come to terms with the reality of how they were made. They want to play ignorant to the thought that some eight year old boy in China was paid .0001% of the actual sale price for the clothes he was forced to make. So when a company goes out of their way to make sure that their clothes are

manufactured without these conditions then by all means they have the right to use this as an advertising campaign. American Apparel is passionately aware of the terror of child labor and sweat shop conditions and they actively make an effort to make others aware by doing so. But this is not controversial. The controversy lies in the fact that

is labeled as a pervert who tries to rectify his behavior by jumping on the ethical bandwagon.

With Charney's sexually charged behavior and the accusations amounted against him it's very easy to say his advertising campaign was created with the same vulgar intentions he seems to embody. But one must remember

that all things sexual aren't necessarily negative. This is not a mission to defend Charney, rather

a mission to defend the use of the human body within advertising. As in all art forms, the use of sexuality is open to interpretation. As far back as we can study the human body has been the basis for art. Was Michelangelo a pervert because he sculpted a naked man? Was Botticelli overtly horny all of the time because he

created The Birth of Venus? Of course not. So why do we try to point out that American Apparel blatantly uses sex to sell? Author Chuck Palahniuk once said, "what we don't understand, we can make

mean anything". So is that it? Maybe we on the ordinary East Coast just don't understand the concepts these trendy fashion moguls live by. But that would just be an easy excuse, to just say it is ahead of our time and leave it at that would be merely skimming the surface. It would be the conscious answer all of us would like to believe because if we actually thought intelligently and deeply about this, then maybe our own insecurities would come out. And that's a bad thing isn't it? A society avoiding the one thing we should be embracing.

Ever notice how in the English language our swear words revolve around the nature of the human body, while in most other languages the naughty words derive from a religious background? Is that a coincidence that our languages most explicit words are just different names for our most natural functions? Hardly. That is just where our insecurities lie and we cover it up with a potty mouth. Just as we cover up our insecurities with the human body by creating this controversy, when in all sensible reality, there is none. We have to learn as a society to accept that the human body is not just a tool, or a factory, or a stage. It is the purest form of beauty, and once we accept that, our insecurities can lessen. So the next time you find yourself sneaking glances at the porn in Shoppers Drugmart as you pretend to read MacLean's, pat yourself on the back because you are the future my friend, so enjoy it.



Stuff this. Stocking stuffers and Hanukkah hits. American Apparel®

The company's popular advertisement circulating during the holiday season.

while being a socially conscious company they also use a sexual advertising campaign, some would even say exploitative. Accused of sexually harassing the women who work in his stores, Charney



0¢ per minute
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Freedom to call long distance anywhere in Canada 24/7 for \$3.95 a month!

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- 5 minute sign-up, instant activation
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* To Landlines only: Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Czech, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, S. Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom

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OJ ON THE STREET

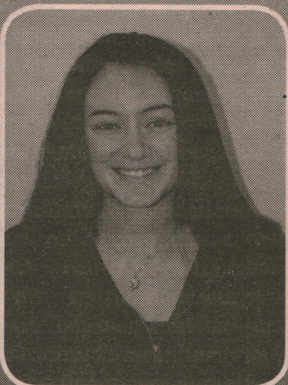
Q&A WITH OLIVIER & JOEL

Q: WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE NEW YEAR?



**ASHLEY
LEBLANC**
3RD YEAR PSYCHOLOGY

"I'm looking forward to shows, concerts, bands, new albums, music festivals...OH and new classes... yeah that pretty much sums it up."



**MYRA
ELBA-YOUMI**
2ND YEAR COMMERCE

"I'm looking forward to getting my academics organized as it's coming to the end of a school year and the beginning of another, as well as getting co-op started and my job with SMUSA started."



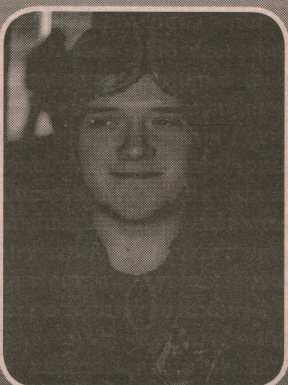
**DAN BOUDREAU
(ENGLISH)
STEVE CAMERON
(COMMERCE)
TRAVIS SAMPSON
(ARTS)**

"We are looking forward to parties at the Gorsebrook, especially Open Mic on Wednesday nights."



**KELLY
VYE**
2ND YEAR PSYCHOLOGY

"I'm looking forward to actually fulfilling my resolutions, which are to get better grades and go to the gym more."



**NATHAN
FREDERICKS**
4TH YEAR COMPUTER
SCIENCE

Im looking forward to going home for Spring Break to visit the family, to improving my grades, and some interesting courses I'm taking



**EMMA OTUKI
(POLI SCI)
JESSICA NOWAN
(ARTS)
AMY MARCHAND
(ARTS)**

"We are Looking forward to having a good year, and to Emma's graduation."

SMUDOKU

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	1				6	3	8	

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION

9	2	7	6	1	4	5	8	3
3	1	8	2	7	5	6	4	9
4	5	6	9	3	8	2	7	1
5	6	4	7	9	1	8	3	2
2	9	1	5	8	3	4	6	7
7	8	3	4	6	2	9	1	5
1	3	9	8	5	6	7	2	4
8	7	2	1	4	9	3	5	6
6	4	5	3	2	7	1	9	8

HOT OR NOT

HOT

- ▲ 2007
- ▲ Profs reaching a collective agreement
- ▲ Party Skits
- ▲ Students having a safe walk home
- ▲ Jessica & John
- ▲ "The Apprentice LA"
- ▲ Cabinet Shuffles
- ▲ Having a good joke get "counted"
- ▲ myboxinbox.com
- ▲ "Laguna Beach"

NOT

- ▼ 2006
- ▼ Finding something else to talk about
- ▼ Party Favors
- ▼ Cancelling SMUSAFE
- ▼ Justin & Cameron
- ▼ Rosie O'Donnell
- ▼ Rona Ambrose
- ▼ Begging for a "Count it"
- ▼ Dick in a Box
- ▼ "The O.C."

THE



"Hey Randy! I grew up in a super conservative house. My family never talked about sex, and I find my self lacking proper knowledge on my own body. I am a male, and have had this question but I did not know who to ask. Is it normal for a man to shave his arm pits and pubic hair?"

SS Randy Blue

In today's world, everything is normal. The better question would be if male hair removal, or "Manscaping" as it is referred to, is common. The answer to that would be a resounding yes. There are many different things you should know though before you grab your razor and head for the nearest washroom.

We'll start at the top and work our way down. Your back and shoulders should be kept hair free. Some people may like back hair, but the majority of the population would rather feel a nice smooth back when hugging their partner. If you are unsure about whether or not your partner is a fan of the backwoods strike up a conversation about it. If they are comfortable with your hair then save yourself some hassle. If you find that you do need to remove it then read on. The best way to remove your back and shoulder hair is to wax it off. It sounds painful but the result will be a thinner re-growth that, over time, will take more and more time to re-grow. The down side to getting a wax is that it can be costly, and many people are too embarrassed to go get it done. If you fall into this category, then head for the nearest Wal-Mart and grab yourself a pair of \$25 clippers and an understanding roommate. The problem you will find with clippers is that no matter how hard you try, you can't remove the entire hair follicle. The root stays in the skin and shows like a five o'clock shadow. The best way to deal with this is to set the clippers to a low setting and trim the hair. Turn your forest into a manicured garden.

While you're still at the top of your torso removing your shoulder hair, take a peek to see how your underarm hairs are making out. Having hair underneath your arms is fine, and perfectly acceptable. You should, however keep them trimmed to around the one inch mark in length. Also be sure to remove any stray hairs. The rule of thumb is to wet your hair and put your arms at your side. Any hairs that appear on either side of your arms are strays and should be trimmed.

Now let's move around to the front. Chest hair is nice; it shows that you are not a twelve year old boy from elementary school. It should, however, be maintained. If you only have a few stray hairs then tweak or wax them out. If you have a smaller or well defined build then the look you should go for is the treasure trail. If you start to groom your chest be sure to leave the trail intact or potential hikers may get lost and forget where they are heading. If you have a bigger build then you can get away with a bit more hair. Just make sure that it isn't growing wildly and if it does, simply trim it on a setting slightly longer than the one you used on your back.

Now onto the most debated hair, the pubic hair. Everybody you talk to has their own opinion on how to properly maintain your pubic hair. Some say that you should shave it all off. If you choose to go down this road then go down it very carefully. This is a job that requires a steady hand and a very good razor. Do not simply go to the nearest gas station for disposable razors. Spend the money on a decent razor that has at least 3 blades and a moisturizing strip (your scrotum will thank you). The sad part now, is that you must shave ALL of the hair off. Start in the back and work your way forward, this is the most efficient and effective way. Be sure to use plenty of shaving gel and do not rush the job. If you are too quick and nick yourself the night crew at the emergency room may just have a few laughs on your behalf. If this route seems to extreme to you then stick to the basics. Grab that pair of clippers (who thought that that pair of clippers could do so much?) and increase the setting one more time. Your goal here is not to remove all the hair, but to style what is there and remove the excess. You will find out that not only does your forest look like a manicured yard bush, but it also makes your member appear to be just a little big larger (and isn't that what we all want anyways).

By now, you will probably be tired of shaving and clipping. The good news is that usually leg hair can be left alone. Unless you completely waxed and shaved the rest of the hair on your body you can get by with the existing hair on your legs.

After all these tips, if you find that you are not getting the results you wished to achieve then I would say to keep styling, you are bound to find the look that looks best on you. And if all else fails...it's only hair, it grows back.

SOCIETY

Fifth International Development Week

Join the Saint Mary's University Community from January 26th to February 2nd in our week-long program dedicated to International Development.

The International Development Week is an opportunity for students, staff and the community at large to learn about international development issues and Saint Mary's involvement worldwide. It is also an opportunity to learn about Saint Mary's exchange abroad programs and international internship opportunities.

The week consists of an array of educational, thought-provoking and entertaining activities, commencing with International Night wherein you are invited to

join us for an evening of exquisite international cuisine and dance to the beats of international music and live performances.

The week features an International Film Festival, International Organizations Fair, National & International Speakers, Koshogatsu (Little Japanese New Year), Country Day, Workshops and much more!!

We will finish this exciting week by challenging your knowledge of world issues and having fun at our infamous Annual Trivia Night.

More information including the complete program will be available soon at: <http://internationalcentre.smu.ca/int-week.html>

Ninth Annual International Night

We are looking for people (individuals or groups) who would like to perform during the night (maximum of 6 participants per group). If you are interested, please contact Omozele Okosun at Omozele@gmail.com and/or Sasha Sears at searsasha@gmail.com

Our ninth annual International Night is soon approaching. This dazzling night of exquisite international cuisine, international entertainment, and a DJ dance is going to be held on Saturday, January 27, 2007 at 6:30pm, in the Loyola Conference Hall (L290).

Come and enjoy a great buffet

dinner, a beautiful show, and to dance to the beats of international music.

This year tickets are \$15 for SMU students, \$20 for non-SMU students and \$25 at the door. Tickets will be available in January.

Great door prizes will be drawn throughout the night!!!

Sponsored by the International Centre, IDS Undergraduate Society and SMUSA

More information and the complete program will be available in January at our website: <http://internationalnight.smu.ca/int-night.html>

SUMMER CAMP JOBS IN THE US

CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches and instructors 6/16-8/11. Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board, travel allowance and J-1 visa reimbursement. Information meeting and interviews will be held on campus in late January. Visit www.camptowanda.com Staff Experience for application. Email staff@camptowanda.com or call 800 923-2267 for additional information.

Gorsebrook Staff Spreads Holiday Cheer



L-R: Mark Downey and Lorne Caborn at Big Leagues Beverage Room.

BY THE LOUNGE LIZARD

While many students were making preparations to head home or studying for exams the management and staff of the Gorsebrook Lounge took some time out of their lives to spread a little holiday cheer.

On December 2nd members of the Gorsebrook Lounge took a road trip over to Big Leagues Beverage Room (www.bigleagues.ca) to lend a helping hand to their annual Christmas Daddies Auction. Big Leagues is the largest independent contributor to the Christmas Daddies fund raising over \$400,000 since it began contributing to this very worthwhile cause.

The Gorsebrook staff also adopted some families from the Ward 5 Community Centre (www.ward5.org) in the north end of Halifax this Christmas donating cash from tips, food, clothing and presents to families who would otherwise not have received anything this Christmas. Following their lead SMUSA saw an opportunity to help and did so in abundance by replacing secret Santa gifts with donations to the Ward 5 Centre as well.

So after all the charity work behind them it was time to get back to work on New Year's Eve which packed in even more of a good time than last year. Ruby Pier was back again live on stage playing some great covers and DJ Headgames kept the dance floor packed all night long.

Check out the Gorsebrook home page at www.smusa.ca for great up-coming events including Classified, Wing Night, Under the Sun, Open Mic, Bacardi Gras, Bill Kidney and much much more. See you all soon at the Gorsebrook.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE (DDC)

"N" Removal and Demerit Point Removal

Course Format

This course consists of six sessions taught in six hours. These sessions will be presented in a lecture format with complementing videos. The students will work on case studies and written exercises. Interactive class discussions will be encouraged during the course.

Course Objectives

The Defensive Driving Course is an established, proven program. The participants will learn lifelong safe driving habits through this course. The three-part *Collision Prevention Formula* will show drivers how to recognize the hazard, understand the defense and act in time. The participants will learn the principles of:

- Defensive driving
- Collision avoidance techniques
- The six adverse driving conditions
- The time-interval formula
- The habitual eye-lead tie technique
- The pre-trip mental inventory

Course Outline

- Defensive driving principles and foundations
- Avoiding collisions with the driver ahead and behind
- How to avoid collisions while passing.
- Avoiding collisions at intersections while being passed
- Avoiding single vehicle collisions
- Sharing the road with other road users

Who Should Attend?

- Graduated License holders (to exit the Graduated System)
- Professional Drivers
- Point deduction application
- Drivers wanting to refresh their driving skills

Course Duration

SIX HOURS
January 24th and 25th
6:30pm to 9:30pm
Loyal 277
Student Rate \$95.00
Pre Register 495-6112
or at the door



BULLETIN BOARD

■ LITERATI

Call for submissions to the 2007 edition of the *Clerisad*, an anthology of student works.

Accepting poetry, prose, drama, fiction, non-fiction and various other forms of literary art. Send submissions to: smu.literati@gmail.com or drop them off at the office, Room 510 in the Student Center. Deadline for submissions is January 26th, 2007.

■ VARSITY NIGHT

Presented by the Athlete Coun-

cil.

Date: Sunday January 21st
 Time: 10:00pm - 1:00am

■ GRAD CLASS 2007 MAROON & WHITE BALL

Date: Saturday, March 31st
 Contact: smu.grad.class@gmail.com for more information

■ GRAD SLEEPOVER

Date: Friday, January 26th
 Contact: smu.grad.class@gmail.com to register or for more information.

■ VAGINA MONOLOGUES

If you are interested in being a part of this year's production of *The Vagina Monologues* (onstage or behind the scenes) come to the first planning meeting.

Date: Friday, January 12
 Place: SMU Women's Centre, 526 Student Centre.

■ DOES SOMEONE YOU LOVE HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?

You can see what it's doing to them, but can you see what it's

doing to you? To learn more about the help & hope we offer to friends & families of problem drinkers, call us at 902-466-7077, or visit our website at <http://www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes/>

■ YOUR TURN...ON POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Are you in need of financial assistance while attending university? Do you think the government should increase funding for post-secondary education? Are there student life issues that you are

facing? It's time for YOU to voice YOUR opinions about any issue pertaining to students and post-secondary education. Whether you are a student from SMU, DAL, or any other university across Canada, your thoughts and concerns are valued.

To join the discussion group, please visit the Facebook Group - Your Turn...On Post-Secondary Education.

Group Administrator,
 Jean Brunet

SPORTS

THE JOURNAL

SPORTS ROLLBACK

SMU MEN START OFF NEW YEAR ON ALL CYLINDERS

The St. Mary's Men's Hockey team played two games on the road last weekend, first traveling to Fredericton to take on UNB. After surrendering the first goal early in the first, SMU answered with two goals from Scott Brophy and Marc Rancourt before the end of the first, followed by two more markers in the second by Dan Rudisuela. Jon Howse and Ryan Bowness capped off the domination in the third scoring twice more, with SMU winning by a final score of 6-2. Husky goalie Brandon Verge was colossal in making 34 stops for his squad, as SMU was out-shot 36-21.

The next night they squared off against UdeM, a team that before the break was ranked number one in the entire country. Marc Rancourt opened the scoring midway through the first, a goal met not two minutes later as Moncton tied it up at one before Jordan Chomack scored before the end of the first to pull St. Mary's ahead. Moncton's Yvan Busque got his second of the game to tie it at two, a score that stood until a shootout was needed to decide a victor. Travis Chapman scored on St. Mary's 3rd attempt to keep the Huskies alive until Chomack ended the contest in the seventh shootout round, giving the Huskies two points on the road against the number one ranked team in the country. They were once again out-shot, conceding 48 shots to their own 39, however, Brandon Verge was stellar in goal once again and the Huskies return home with a pair of road victories to kick off the New Year.

STILL NO UPS ON SMU MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The St. Mary's Men's Basketball team lost their first game of the New Year, losing a 64-54 decision to the Acadia Axeman last weekend. Cordell Wright and Mark McLaughlin each scored 14 points in a losing effort that saw SMU get out-rebounded again, 50-27, a stat that has consistently been the reason for a talented Husky team dropping games.

The men play two games on the road next weekend.

CANADIAN JUNIORS WIN 3RD STRAIT GOLD

Canada won its third straight gold medal at the world junior championship over the break, capping the tournament off with a 4-2 win over Russia last Friday in Leksand, Sweden. Canada got goals from Andrew Cogliano, Bryan Little, Jonathan Toews and Brad Marchand to overcome the Russians and Team Canada goaltender Carey Price was named tournament MVP and its best goaltender. Canada's first three goals came during a 2:27 span late in the first period. Last January in Vancouver, Canada put on a dominating display to win the gold medal with a 5-0 win, also over the commies. About 300 fans were among the announced crowd of 5,223 at Ejendals Arena to cheer on the defending champions while earlier in the day, first overall draft pick Erik Johnson scored the game-winner as the United States claimed the bronze medal with a 2-1 victory over tournament host Sweden. The

tournament All-star team saw Price as its goaltender, Defencemen Erik Johnson and Kristopher Letang (Canada) on the blue line and Forwards Alexei Cherepanov (Russia); Patrick Kane (U.S.) and Jonathan Toews (Canada).

KESTICLE LOSES TESTICLE

The Boston Bruins recalled rookie Phil Kessel on Sunday from the AHL nearly a month after he underwent surgery for testicular cancer. Kessel learned he had cancer shortly before playing in a Dec. 9 game against New Jersey. He underwent surgery three days later to remove his right testicle. Kessel has appeared in 27 games for Boston this season - his last against New Jersey - scoring five goals.

JOHNSON BACK WITH DIAMONDBACKS

Randy Johnson is headed back to the Arizona Diamondbacks after two unfulfilling years with the New York Yankees that began with a nasty sidewalk confrontation and ended with a messy playoff loss. The Yankees reached an agreement with Arizona last Thursday to trade Johnson to Arizona for reliever Luis Vizcaino and three minor leaguers. New York would receive Vizcaino and minor league right-handers Ross Ohlendorf and Steven Jackson, and shortstop Alberto Gonzalez. The Yankees also would pay US\$2 million of Johnson's \$16 million salary this year.

BRONCOS CORNERBACK KILLED

24-year-old Denver Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams was killed after getting shot on New Year's Eve just hours after the Broncos were eliminated from playoff contention. While driving away from a nightclub in a stretch Hummer limousine a little after 2 a.m., the limousine was fired upon from a vehicle that pulled up along its side, hitting three people. As many as a dozen bullet holes were visible on the driver's side of the vehicle and one window was entirely blown out. Police have no motive and no indication Williams was the target.

COWHER STEPS DOWN, ISN'T FINISHED YET

Bill Cowher, coach of the 2006 Superbowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers, resigned last week after 15 seasons as the Steelers' coach, a job he probably could have held for life - or, at least, for as long as the 23 years predecessor Chuck Noll had held it. The Steelers immediately began searching for a new coach for only the second time since 1969, a span when other NFL teams have had as many as 15 coaches. Team president Art Rooney II said Steelers assistants Ken Whisenhunt and Russ Grimm are among the candidates. Both are interviewing for some of the other four current NFL job openings, with Whisenhunt already talking to the Falcons and Cardinals. One word absent during Cowher's farewell to the Steelers was retirement - he said it makes him sound old. He is only 49, an age when some head coaches are only being hired, and he didn't deny he might want to coach again someday. Maybe soon.

REESE RETIRES

After 13 seasons on the job, Tennessee Titans general manager Floyd Reese resigned last Friday, a month before his contract was set to expire. An unlikely playoff run and the development of a star rookie quarterback wasn't enough to persuade him to continue as the franchise's longest-serving general manager. He had been with the team for 21 years, going back to its origins as the Houston Oilers.

SHELL A SHELL OF FORMER SELF

Art Shell's second stint as coach of the Oakland Raiders ended last week after just one season, the franchise's worst in more than four decades. Shell met with owner Al Davis on Thursday, and afterward the team announced that he would not return as coach for the final season of his contract. Shell's departure from the sideline marks the third coaching change for Davis in the past four years. Oakland has just a 15-49 record in that span, including a 2-14 mark this season that was the Raiders' worst since 1962.

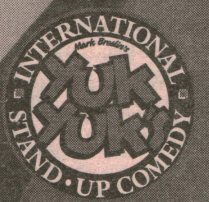
COMRIE A SENATOR

Forward Mike Comrie, who has seven goals and 13 assists in 24 games this season, was traded to the Ottawa Senators last week from the Coyotes in exchange for Russian forward Alexei Kaigorodov, a second round pick of the Senators in 2002. Comrie scored 30 goals last year for the Phoenix Coyotes, but made it clear to Coyotes management he would be testing the free agent market this summer. Armed with that knowledge, Phoenix

has been actively trying to shed Comrie's \$3-million ticket for the past several weeks. Kaigorodov has appeared in just six games for Ottawa this season, collecting just one assist. He was suspended in November for refusing an assignment to Binghamton of the AHL and is currently playing in Russia.

RUMOR RECAP

Trade talk coming out of Tampa from an unspecified source is suggesting that Jose Theodore and Marc Denis could be part of a swap between the lightning and Avalanche, a blockbuster that has also been rumoured to include Vincent Lecavalier landing in Colorado.

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ROMO PULLS A BUCKNER, COSTS COWBOYS THEIR SEASON

BY JAMIE KELLY

The only person in Dallas who was happy to see Tony Romo botch the game winning snap during Saturday's NFC wild-card game was the Dallas Stars' Patrick Stefan. Two nights earlier, Stefan had an opportunity to clinch a win for the Stars with less than ten seconds remaining but he fumbled the puck, missed the empty net, and allowed Edmonton Oilers forward Ales Hemsky to score with two seconds remaining to send the game to overtime. Fortunately for Stefan, the Stars ended up winning the game in a shootout. Tony Romo was not so fortunate. Romo, the starting quarterback as well as the holder on field goal attempts, assured Stefan that he would not be the Dallas community's goat for more than two days. Romo's crucial late-game error cost the Dallas Cowboys a chance at their first post-season victory since Troy Aikman was their quarterback. The field goal would have given the Cowboys a two-point lead over the Seattle Seahawks with just 1:24 left to play. The mishandled snap ended up costing the Dallas Cowboys their season as they lost to the Seahawks 21-20.

Despite ending the year on the sourest of notes, Romo had an exceptional season. After replacing Drew Bledsoe in Week 7, Romo won five of his first six starts, led the Cowboys to the playoffs, and earned his first trip to the Pro Bowl. Unfortunately for Romo, his regular season accomplishments are not going to be what Cowboys fans remember twenty years down the road. The Dallas Cowboys 2006-2007 season will always be remembered for Tony Romo bobbling a game-winning field goal opportunity during the playoffs.

One man's misfortune is another team's fortune however. The Seattle Seahawks were on the verge of defeat, one field goal away from another disappointing ending to a strong regular season. Now, they are heading to the Windy City to face a strong and rested Chicago Bears defense. Matt Hasselbeck threw for 240 yards in the Seahawks victory on Saturday against the Cowboys and with a win over Chicago on Sunday, Hasselbeck can guide the Seahawks to the NFC Championship game for a second year in a row. Last year, Seattle pummeled the Carolina Panthers 34-14 in the NFC Championship

before eventually losing in the Super Bowl to the Steelers. In order to beat the best team in the NFC, Seattle will need last year's MVP Shaun Alexander to run for more than the 69 yards he managed against the Cowboys.

Despite maybe Eli Manning, Chicago Bears quarterback Rex Grossman has faced the most scrutiny from the media over the past few weeks. Grossman had a hot start to the season, but had plummeted in recent weeks. Against the Vikings in Week 13, Grossman had just a 1.3 QB rating. To top that off, in the season finale against the Packers, Grossman had a 0.0 QB rating on 3-13 passing. Don't be surprised to see backup quarterback Brian Griese enter the game if Grossman can't get it done.

In the other Saturday game, the Indianapolis Colts advanced to the next round with a decisive 23-8 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs. Peyton Manning went 30-38 for 268 yards. He threw one touchdown and had three interceptions. Kansas City's strong running game was shut down by Indianapolis's usually poor run defense. Larry Johnson, who set the NFL record this season for most carries, ran the ball just 13 times for 32 yards. Johnson's counterpart, Joseph Addai, became the only running back in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards in a season without starting a single game. He finished Saturday's contest with 122 yards rushing and a touchdown. In just his second game back from a knee injury, tight end Dallas Clark caught 9 passes for 103 yards.

It's been 23 years since the Colts have called Baltimore home, but they will be returning there for a divisional match-up this Sunday against the Ravens. If Indy can play defense like they did last Saturday against the Chiefs, they have a good chance of winning this game and advancing to the AFC Championship. Jamal Lewis is the centerpiece to the Ravens offense attack and he will try to attack the Colts defense and earn more than the Chiefs 44 total rushing yards.

The early game on Sunday saw a mentor-protégé match-up between the Patriots head coach Bill Belichick and his former assistant Eric Mangini, rookie head coach of the New York Jets. Tom Brady was his normal playoff self as he went 22-34 for 212 yards and two touchdowns in a huge 37-16 win. Despite the loss, the Jets should be very pleased with their improvement this sea-

son. When Mangini was hired, the organization believed this would be a rebuilding year for the club. The team finished last season with a 4-12 record, and the 4th overall draft pick. Their record jumped to 10-6 this year, earning Mangini the opportunity to do what almost nobody has been able to do in the last five years, beat Belichick and the Patriots in the playoffs.

Next week's divisional game will see Tom Brady and the Patriots take on NFL MVP LaDainian Tomlinson and the San Diego Chargers. The Chargers finished the regular season with the best record in the league at 14-2 but defeating the Patriots in the playoffs is no easy task. Quarterback Philip Rivers will have to be on his game and get the ball early and often to Tomlinson and tight end Antonio Gates. Brady will be tested by the Chargers lethal defensive attack of Shawne Merriman and Shaun Phillips.

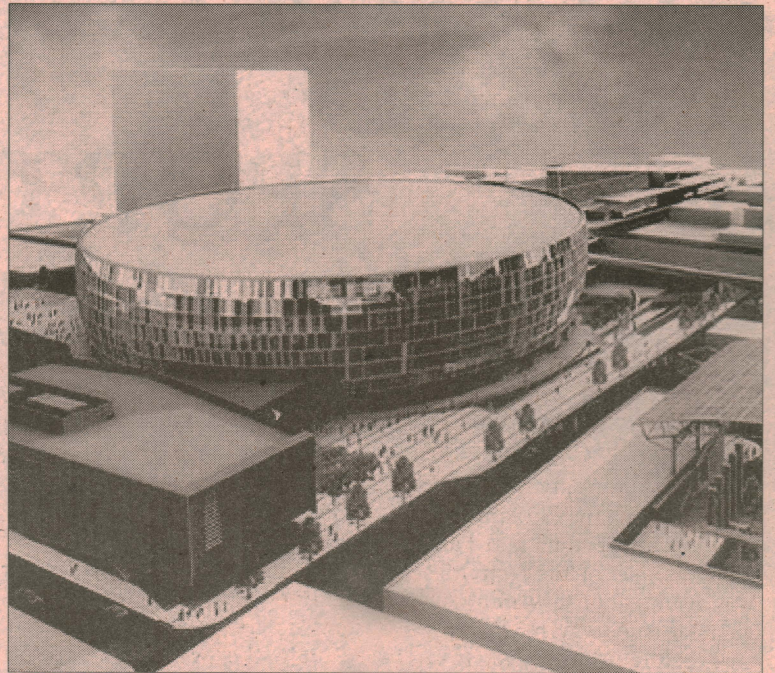
The final wild-card game came Sunday night in Philadelphia as Eli Manning and the New York Giants lost on a last second 38 yard field goal by veteran kicker David Akers. The big play of the game came in the second quarter when Eagles running back Brian Westbrook, who finished the game with 141 rushing yards on 20 carries, ran for a 49 yard touchdown. He also ran for a 65 yard punt return touchdown but it was called back on a holding penalty. Since replacing Donovan McNabb seven weeks ago, former CFL MVP Jeff Garcia has won 6 games and on Sunday threw for 153 yards and a touchdown. Eli Manning connected with Plaxico Burress twice for touchdowns, and Tiki Barber, who plans to retire after 10 NFL seasons, ran for 137 yards.

The New Orleans Saints will look to continue their magical run this season when the host the Eagles this weekend. Drew Brees, who finished second in MVP voting, led the NFL in passing this season and will need receivers Joe Horn and Marques Colston to outplay the Eagles strong secondary. Like the Jets, the Saints also went from the basement of the NFL (3-13 record last season) to a first round bye and just one win away from the NFC Championship.

PREDICTIONS:

AFC: New England over San Diego, Baltimore over Indianapolis
 NFC: Chicago over Seattle, New Orleans over Philadelphia

NEW NHL ALIGNMENT PROPOSAL SIGN OF UPCOMING EXPANSION?



BY ADAM COSTELLO

For the past few months, the NHL has been talking about what needs to be done to resolve its current scheduling problem and is now considering a significant overhaul of its division system, an overhaul that would see the number of divisions reduced from six to four. The NHL is presently pitching a very feasible new conference construction to its governors that would produce a new-look alignment and schedule if 20 of the 30 team representatives approve it. The changes would take effect next season and could be approved as soon as late January at a board meeting during the NHL All-Star Game in Dallas, although thus far owners have expressed mixed feelings on the issue.

There would still be an Eastern Conference and a Western Conference, but there would be one eight-team division and one seven-team division in each conference. The top two teams in each division would be guaranteed the top four playoff seeds within the conference with four wild card playoff berths going to the teams with the next highest point totals. The four new divisions would be configured primarily along the lines of time zones. The hope is that by implementing this arrangement, it would not only benefit teams in terms of travel, but could also boost TV ratings because game times in the same time zone would be closer to prime time watching hours.

As far as the actual divisions are concerned, the current Northeast Division (Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Buffalo and Boston) would remain intact, but would add two other teams to form a seven-team division. The league initially planned for the Blue Jackets to flip conferences with Atlanta and join the Penguins as the other two teams in the Northeast, however, Atlanta isn't exactly expressing optimism around the design. The current Atlantic Division (the three New York area teams plus Philadelphia) would be melded together with four teams from the current Southeast Division (Washington, Tampa Bay, Carolina and Florida).

The eight-team division in the Western Conference would feature all teams in Pacific or Mountain time zones (Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Anaheim, Los Angeles, San Jose, Colorado and Phoenix). The seven-team division in the Western Conference would feature teams in Central or Eastern time zones (Detroit, St. Louis, Dallas, Nashville, Minnesota, Chicago and Atlanta) -- although Detroit

recently expressed concern that they in fact should be the team to flip conferences, not Columbus, making the newly envisioned plan even more un-certain.

As for the schedule, it is said to be a little more complicated than it currently is, but each team would play each of its division rivals six times, play either three or four games against other conference opponents, leaving 16 games remaining versus non-conference teams -- allowing for every team to play every other team in the league at least once over the course of the season. This system would cause a reduction in travel because of the geographic alignment by time zone and more interestingly, would set up the two seven team divisions for a possible two-team expansion that the NHL is keeping hush, but is planning on exploring if the new alignment is accepted.

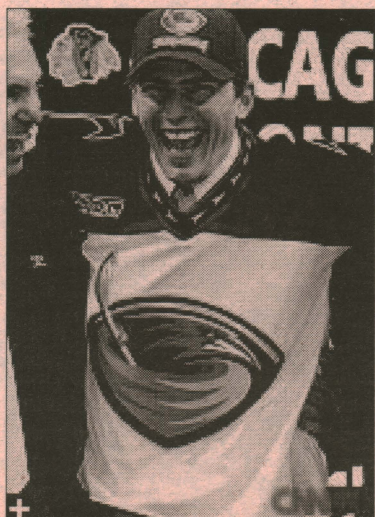
Over the break Jim Balsillie was not allowed to buy the Pittsburgh Penguins without committing to keep the team in Pittsburgh at all costs, so he withdrew his bid to buy the team, leaving Mario Lemieux's ownership group to explore all options. Although the future of the Pittsburgh Penguins is still up in the air to say the least, the NHL, along with Penguins ownership and the city of Pittsburgh, all remain committed to keeping the team in Pittsburgh. This is despite the fact Mario Lemieux is currently still exploring options on moving the team that saw him visit Kansas City last week to meet with representatives of the \$276-million multipurpose Sprint Center, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2007.

If the Penguins do stay in Pittsburgh, which is more likely than not, Kansas City's brand new arena is begging for a tenant and their location would fit perfectly into the proposed seven-team Central Division, despite the fact the city once had an NHL franchise for three years in the 70's before relocating to Colorado due to poor attendance, later becoming the New Jersey Devils.

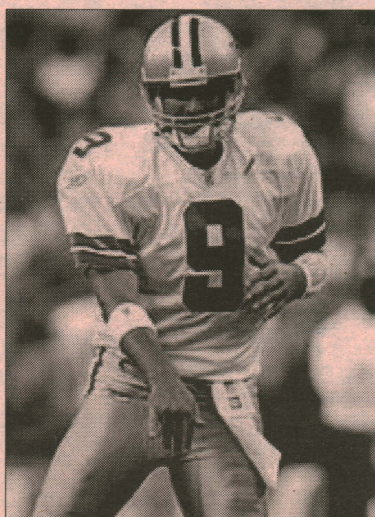
In the Eastern Conference, Hamilton would be an ideal location for a team being added to the seven-team Northeast Division, especially considering its location and seeing as they just missed out on the last expansion class. Although this type of expansion is presently hypothetical, if the Penguins stay in Pittsburgh and the new division alignment is accepted later this month, within a decade the new NHL will have a new look indeed, with four divisions of eight perfectly linked by time zone.

IDIOTS OF THE WEEK

No Stars Here



Tony Romo



Patrick Stefan

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The Journal Sports Section Hits the Big



BY ADAM
COSTELLO

The Journal recently took a trip to Boston during the Christmas break - taking in a Bruins and Patriots game as part of the festivities. It was my intention to write about the games in some way, but I wasn't yet sure, before or during them, what kind of vantage point I intended on approaching the story with. It wasn't until the experience was over that it dawned on me that I was experiencing first hand, the story of a lifetime - "the sports fan". The young ones, old ones, fake ones, barely interested ones, die hard ones, fun loving ones: all representing a separate aspect of the cultural entity that is "the sports fan".

It was my initial belief that a Boston Bruins game, Boston being one of the original six teams based in one of the most Canadian friendly cities, would show us what kind of passion American hockey fans can hold for their team. We attended the game for a modest twenty dollars a ticket and upon reaching our seats, it was realized that my all-time favorite goalie, Eddie Belfour, former Maple Leaf and Stanley Cup champion, a man who once tried to offer a parking lot security guard a million dollars not to call the cops on him for rampaging drunk around and urinating in a parking lot, was starting in goal for the Panthers. Although I'm not a Panthers fan, I took it upon myself to root for and yell the Eagles' name the entire game, considering it was seven in the evening and over a 2-4 had already been polished. Although I expected my obnoxiously loud cheers for the opposing teams goalie to at least conjure up a vulgar yell or two my way, much to my dismay, but no doubt for the better, I received virtually no

response. The angriest anyone got with me was when a man asked why I hadn't stood proud during the American national anthem, to which I responded, "I'm fuckin' Canadian, dude". Other than this mild confrontation during the star spangled banner, fans seemed barely interested in the game itself, let alone the two drunken idiots cheering for the other team's goalie. At a Maple Leafs game this would surely instigate a riot, but here at the TD Banknorth Garden, nothing more than a few confused stares were directed our way.

Isn't this the Boston Bruins we're talking about? They became the first American-based franchise in the NHL in 1924. They won Stanley cups in the late 30's and early 40's, then would go on to easily make the finals in 1969-70 on the back of the greatest defenseman the NHL has ever seen, Bobby Orr. They dominated the St. Louis Blues in the finals that season, winning their first cup in 29 years in a series that saw Orr score the game winner by flying through the air 40 seconds into overtime. The Bruins had been solidified as a historic NHL franchise, but what I witnessed on that night was a far cry from those inspiring days of Orr and the Black and Gold. There have been no Stanley cups in Boston since those days, the building was barely half full and to make matters worse, last year they dealt the eventual league MVP to the Sharks in what may have been the worst trade of all-time. Perhaps it is a stereotype to conclude hockey interest is dismal in America due to the experience of one game in one city, however, numbers and statistics relating to the subject seem congruent.

I learned from the fans at the Bruins game that hockey wasn't a priority for the city. Football on the other hand is a different story

altogether. The fans at the Patriots game the next day, young and old alike, seemed to enjoy the experience of going to the game just as much as the game itself. Danny lent me his Dillon jersey despite my pleas of scoring the Harrison one instead, and we drove to a parking lot where we met 20 odd people at 8:30 in the morning, all drinking out of our trunks until a bus picked us up. We were even allowed to drink on the bus until we reached Foxboro at around 10:00 AM, where we set up shop in the parking lot of the Gillette stadium for the tail-gate party. There were older fellas enjoying their beer and discussing years past, two young girls dressed like elves under their jersey's, bringing some Christmas spirit to the event; there were middle-aged fans just tossing the pig skin around, one of whom even threw me a pass while I was waiting for the outhouse like we were best buds that had never met. These were true fans of the sport they had all come to watch, true ambassadors of the game, all simply enjoying the pre-game party that showed the true character of the event -- it was about the good times; the experience.

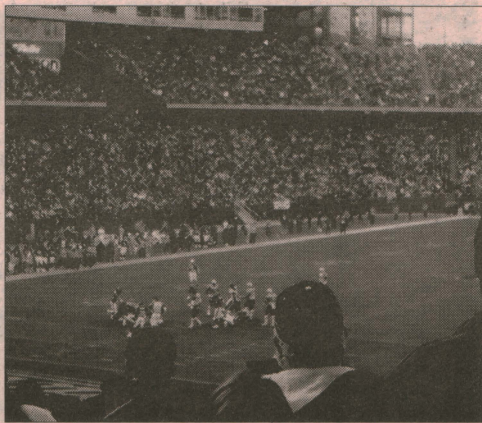
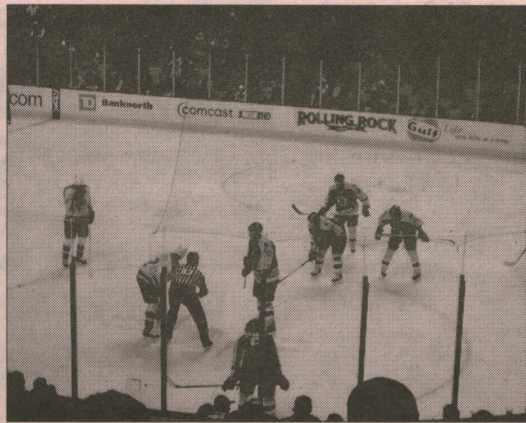
Ignorant Bruins fans also seemed to be there for the experience, but seemed to think they were attending a fight and were annoyed a hockey game had broken out instead. A group of guys behind us during the hockey game talked about how a fight had better break out the entire game, even claiming their money would have been wasted if said fight did not transpire. At the Patriots game though, it was about getting as drunk as possible before and after the game, eating barbeque and playing bean bag toss for a 500 dollar pot in the parking lot -- a cultural focal point. While these American's were educated on their football, most Bruins

fans were clueless, asking among themselves where the team sat in the standings or what happened to Raycroft. No sports channel gave air time to the Bruins; the sports section of the Boston Globe barely mentioned them.

Americans believe football is the most watched and popular sport in their country, thus, they take it more seriously and follow it more intently. American sport is about hype, made clear by the sentiments of the fans I had a chance to interact with afterwards. So much talk of the Red Sox and Patriots triumphant championship victories, so little mention of the Bruins shortcomings. Sporting goods stores and sports merchandise shops had entire walls dedicated to the Celtics, Pats and Sox, while the Bruins were usually allotted a tiny outpost in the corner containing a few hats and a Neely jersey, if anything. After the 1'clock demolishing of the Texans, 40-7, the group we were with drank an obscene amount in the parking lot until well after dark. The entire drive back we moshed on the bus to AC/DC and then watched the late game with Danny's friends and family at their favorite bar - The American Legion of Medford. The entire experience had been the best of my life, and trying to keep my balance after 40 something waters (err, I mean Bud Lights), I asked an older guy who kept buying me beer why Bruins fans lack the enthusiasm seen throughout the day of football we had all just experienced. I mean if I had cheered for the Texans, I surely would have been killed (luckily though, the Patriots are my team and I cheered "Carr eats shit" the entire game, receiving high fives and pounds from everyone seated around us). His answer turned out to be the simple most explanatory thing anyone could have said: the lockout.

It appears American hockey fans, who generally cared little as it was, weren't as welcoming with open arms as us Canadians after the lockout of over a year mired their perception of the sport into shrouded uncertainty and confusion. The impression I got was that they got tired of everybody whining and complaining about the problems in the NHL, and tended to believe the whining until it was just assumed the league must be as bad as everyone said. Bitterness I sensed, the belief that the NHL had turned their back on its fans, I felt. The meaning had been taken out of the event that is an NHL hockey game, and no mere event is important enough to necessitate yelling back at a drunk Canadian fan in a Leafs jersey attacking the very meaning the event no longer possessed.

Americans generally don't care about analyzing hockey the same way we Canadians do, so many of the so-so fans rely on our analysis to provide them with an understanding of the sport and its proceedings. If our analysis was screaming at that particular time for changes to the league, so far as to wipe out hockey for an entire season, the bulk of American's seem justified in their conclusion that they shouldn't care enough to give it a second chance. If the league stands pat for awhile, some of those lost fans may allow for a second chance someday, but at present the statistics are not very comforting. Until this trip I didn't fully understand why American fans weren't embracing the new NHL like us Canadians, but it seems so elementary to me now: Hockey is all we've got up here, we dominate it and that's why we love it. Americans dominate three other professional sports, thus, a new love for hockey may take awhile to manifest itself within



Photos by Adam Costello

Around the Rim

BY DANNY CAREW

IVERSON TRADED/EJECTED VS. FORMER TEAM

Allen Iverson's tenure in Philadelphia has come to an end. Iverson, the 2001 NBA M.V.P., was traded to the Denver Nuggets in exchange for point guard Andre Miller, forward Joe Smith, and two 2007 first round picks. There has been much deliberation throughout this past offseason speculating Iverson would be traded. The Boston Celtics made it clear that they would be major players in the Iverson sweepstakes; but to trade a star player to a divisional opponent didn't make much sense to the Sixers, especially since the Celtics were unwilling to depart with Al Jefferson and Gerald Green. The Nuggets offered exactly what the Sixers wanted: An expiring contract (Joe Smith), a talented point guard (Andre Miller), and two first round picks, which, ultimately, will help reshape the franchise that Iverson reigned. The addition of

Iverson couldn't have come at a better time for the Nuggets. Carmelo Anthony was suspended 15 games for his part in the brawl with the Knicks, so Iverson should bring immediate relief to a team that is battling to stay in the playoff hunt in the west. Iverson was quoted as saying, "I'd like to thank my fans in Philadelphia. They've been with me every step of the way, through all the ups and downs. I will always be grateful to the 76ers organization, and I wish them the very best." Ironically, the Sixers and Nuggets met this past week and Iverson was ejected for criticizing an official. The Sixers won the game 108-97. Iverson finished with 30 points, despite being ejected.

BOSH RETURNS

Chris Bosh returned to action this past week after missing 12 games due to a knee injury. The Raptors are currently in second place in the Atlantic Division with a sad record of 13-19, but their record is good enough at this point

because the Raptors play in the worst division in basketball. Bosh is the staple on the team, and his presence should help improve the play of Andrei Barnangi and Jorge Garbajosa, as Bosh will face double teams which will open up looks for these two. Bosh is averaging 20.5 points and 12.2 rebounds. Bosh's return to action was spoiled by our "National Athlete of the year" Steve Nash, as he scored the final points of the night to finish off the Raptors 100-98. Nash scored 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter. Nash can single handedly take over a game at any time, whenever he feels like it. Go Kid Canada.

BALL SWITCH

The NBA is switching balls. Before the beginning of the season, the NBA unveiled a new microfiber composite basketball which was different from a traditional NBA basketball. The "new" ball received numerous complaints from star players, which has caused the NBA to retract back to the original ball.

Most of the complaints had to do with the fact that the ball didn't have a good grip, and it hurt the players skin.

RILEY ON THE SHELF

Miami Heat coach Pat Riley is on the injured reserve. Riley had three large pieces of cartilage successfully removed from his right knee Friday, but a timetable for the Miami Heat coach's return is still unknown. The Heat have been without Shaquille O'Neal for the entire season, and Dwayne Wade had just returned from injury. The 2006 NBA Champion Heat have struggled all season long with a 14-19 record.

NBA TOP 5 TEAMS

1. Dallas Mavericks(27-8)- When you've won 9 out of your last 10, and you have the best all around player in the NBA(Dirk Nowitzki), chances are your team will be playing decent. Josh Howard has emerged this season and deserves a spot on the All-star team.

2. Phoenix Suns(25-8)- After starting the season 1-5, the Suns have gone 24-3. The Suns score the most points in the league, thanks in part to Steve Nash, who is easily a candidate for his third MVP award.

3. Los Angeles Lakers(23-11)- The Lakers are playing sound basketball and surprisingly- Kobe isn't doing it all by himself. Lamar Odom and Luke Walton have helped keep the Lakers among the elite in the west.

4. Houston Rockets(21-13)- With Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming finally being able to play side by side- this ranking shouldn't come as a surprise. T-Mac has scored more than 31 in 5 straight.

5. Utah Jazz(24-10)- The Utah Jazz are the biggest surprise of the 2006-2007 season. Sophomore point guard Deron Williams has led the charge as the Jazz started the season 12-1, however, they are 12-9 since their sensational start. Their record garners a top 5 spot.

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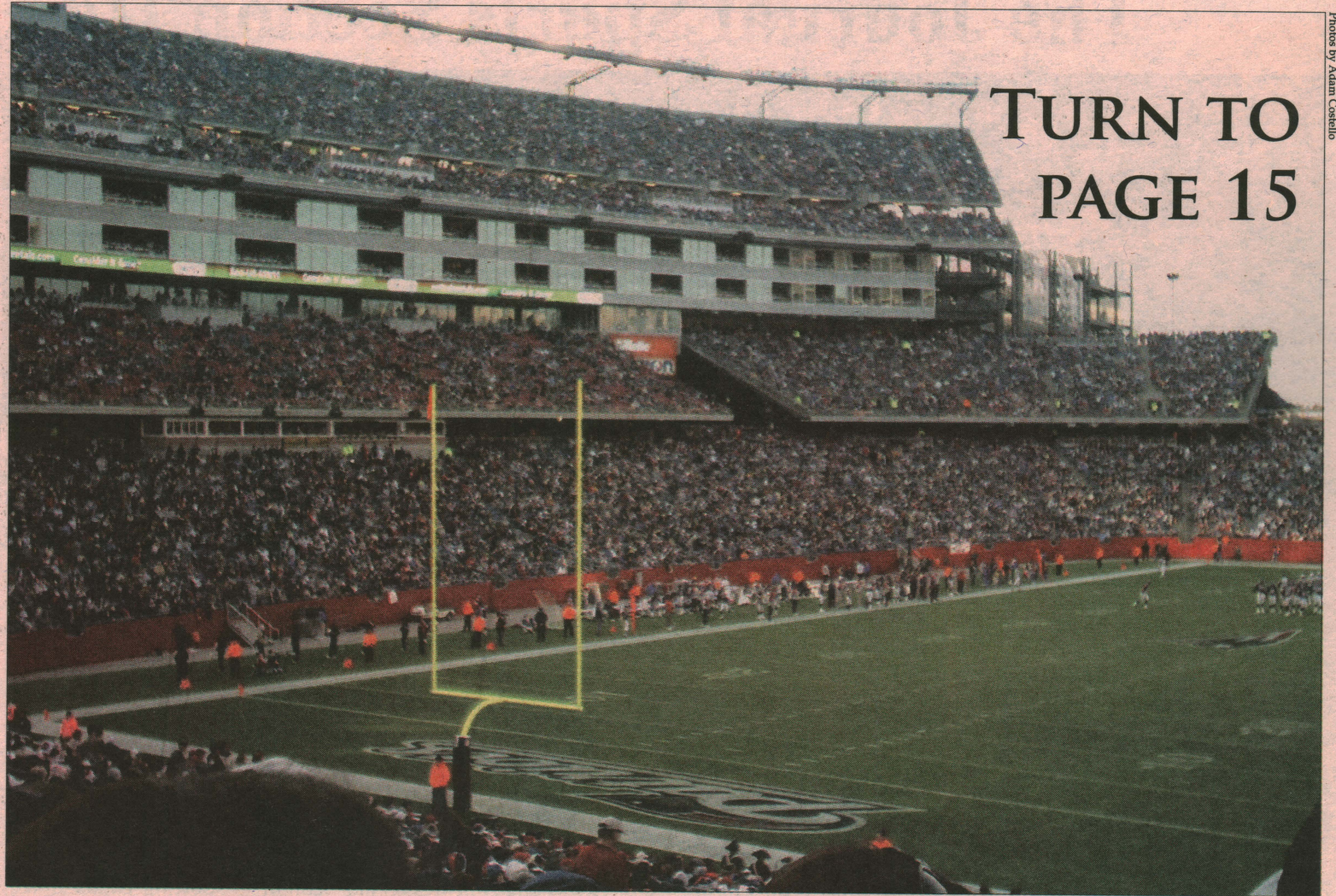
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