



The 90th Anniversary of
The Halifax Explosion.
Details on Page 5



Look inside to find out The
Top Movie Picks of 2007.
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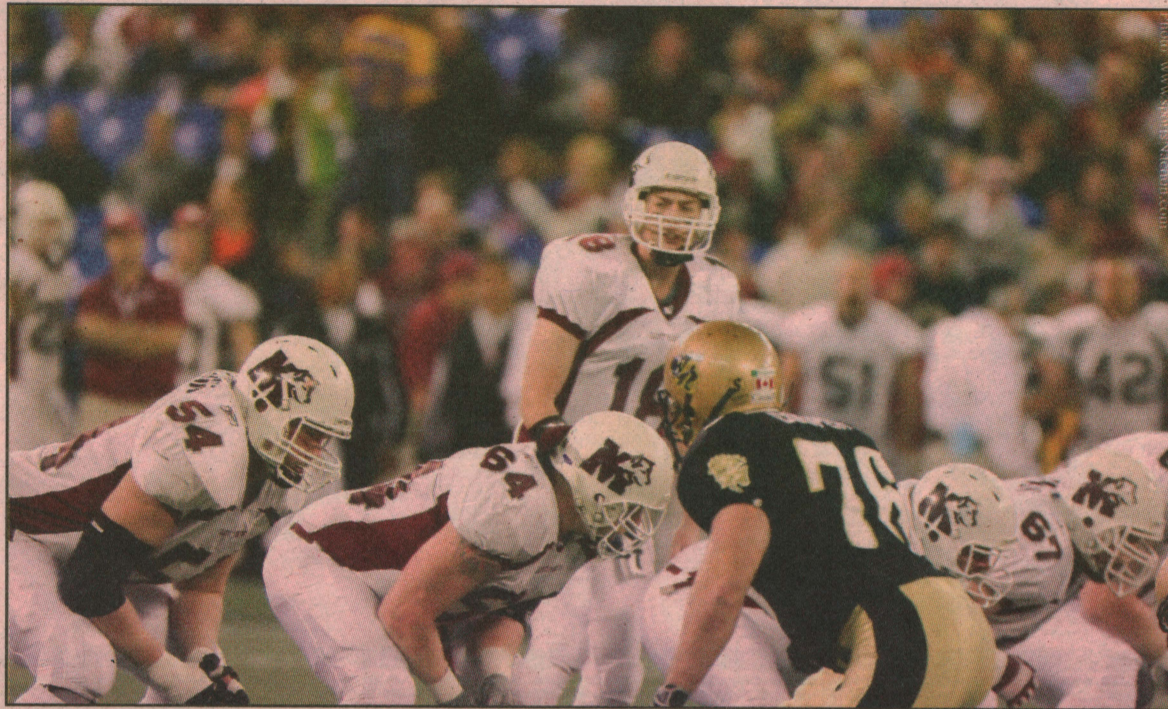
THE

JOURNAL

Est. 1935 · Vol. 73 · No. 11 · November 28th, 2007

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

Fans Thank Huskies For a Memorable Season



Quarterback Ted Abraham in action

DANNY CAREW

The mighty have fallen. In front of a crowd of 26,787 at the Roger's Centre, Saint Mary's storybook season came to a conclusion after suffering a tough loss to the undefeated Manitoba Bisons by a score of 28-14. The Bisons are the first team to go undefeated on a season since the Wilfred Laurier Golden Gaels played to perfection in 2005. The Bisons also got revenge on the Huskies who defeated Manitoba in the 2001 Vanier Cup by a score of 42-16. Ted Abraham got the start after Hec Crighton winner Erik Glavic was sidelined due to a torn ACL. Ted delivered a gutsy performance, but Manitoba would not be denied on the day.

There was no question that the Huskies made the Roger's Centre "our house" because the ovation the Huskies received upon running out onto the field was far greater than that of the Bisons. Saint Mary's won the coin toss and chose to defer. Manitoba would receive the ball to start the game.

The Huskies shut down the Bisons on their first offensive set. The dogs were let off the leash and they came out running. Jacques Lumbala broke out a couple of

big runs up the middle to get the Huskies into the redzone. Abraham dropped back and hit Fraser O'Neill on an in route to give the Huskies a 7-0 lead.

The Bisons began to pick on the Saint Mary's defensive backfield, but John Makie's passes were off the mark. However, after some decent runs via the Bisons backfield, Manitoba kicker Scott Dixon hit a 40 yard field goal to put the Bisons on the board.

After a shaky start on defense, the Bisons began to bring the pressure. All-Canadian Justin Cooper broke his way through the backfield and laid out a major hit on Ted Abraham. The Huskies would be forced to punt.

The Bisons would receive good field position after the punt. Running back Matt Henry broke a big run up the middle, and as he shifted towards the sidelines he was hit low by SMU defensive back Jeff Zelinski. Henry was down on the field for a long time. The replay showed Henry's leg shifting out of place, bending like a piece of a rubber. The diagnosis was a broken right femur. The replay was disgusting. In a sign of great sportsmanship Jeff Zelinski went over to see if Henry was ok.

Nobody wants to see that happen.

The run set up another field goal attempt and Scott Dixon split the uprights from 27 yards. At the end of the first quarter it was SMU 7, Manitoba 6.

The Huskies had the ball to start the second quarter and it was imperative for the Huskies to sustain a decent drive. SMU would benefit from a roughing the passer call. The Bisons would be flagged for four roughing the passer calls on the day. After the flag, Abraham would air it out to Fraser O'Neill. Fraser had a step on his man, he extended his hands, hitting the ball not once but twice, before pulling the ball in for a 38 yard reception. The Huskies had great field position. Ted tossed it up to Carl Hardwick, however, the ball was under thrown resulting in an interception in the endzone; a devastating result to such a promising drive.

Despite the terrible turn of events, the Huskies defense would continue to play smash mouth football, the in your face style the Huskies are synonymous with. John Makie was unable to spot a Bisons receiver and Manitoba would be forced to punt.

On SMU's first play, Abraham looked for Fraser O'Neill. The pass was thrown well over the head of O'Neill and into the hands of defensive back Mike Howard. SMU committed two consecutive costly turnovers. Ted's job was to come into the game and manage it. Ted had done an admirable job up until this point in the game, but turnovers will kill you. Manitoba had picked on the secondary thus far, but had yet to connect. Manitoba would air it out on the series.

Makie dropped back to find a wide open Steven Gronick on a 37 yard touchdown. There was not a SMU defender within 10 yards of him. 13-7 Manitoba.

SMU would then march the ball to set up a Justin Palardy 30 yard field goal. The kick was wide-right and SMU would SMU would pick up one point, making it 13-8 Manitoba.

Both teams would exchange possessions, leaving Manitoba with the ball before the end of the half.

Makie would find a streaking Randy Simmons for a 57 yard reception with 0:27 remaining in the half. Makie wanted another touchdown before the half so he threw it deep, but SMU's Billy Dee Johnson saved a touchdown as he batted the pass down at the last second. Manitoba would attempt a 23 yard field goal. The kick had more than enough distance but it hit the left upright- no good. At the end of the first half it was Manitoba 13, Saint Mary's 8.

Abraham was 6-13 passing for 88 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions. Ted was sacked once while SMU was unable to get at John Makie. Time of possession was near even- Manitoba-15:08, SMU-14:55.

SMU would receive the ball to start the second half. The Huskies gave the ball to Lumbala but he was unable to penetrate the Bisons defense. Makie and the Bisons would once again receive great field position.

John Makie hit the home run toss all day long. Perhaps the fact Saint Mary's could not create any pressure led to him dissecting the defense via the deep ball all day long, because Makie would test the secondary often. Makie proceeded to throw a 29 yard dart to Terry Firr. With it 2nd and goal, Makie rolled out right, no one was open in the endzone, so he kept it and dove into the endzone, making the score 20-8 Manitoba.

Saint Mary's would once again be denied on their next offensive set after the third interception by Mike Howard. His three picks on the game would tie a Vanier Cup record previously held by Kurtis Albers of Saskatchewan in the 1998 Vanier Cup. Manitoba would drive the ball and relied on the steady leg of Scott Dixon who connected on a 32 yard field goal with about three minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. 23-8 Manitoba.

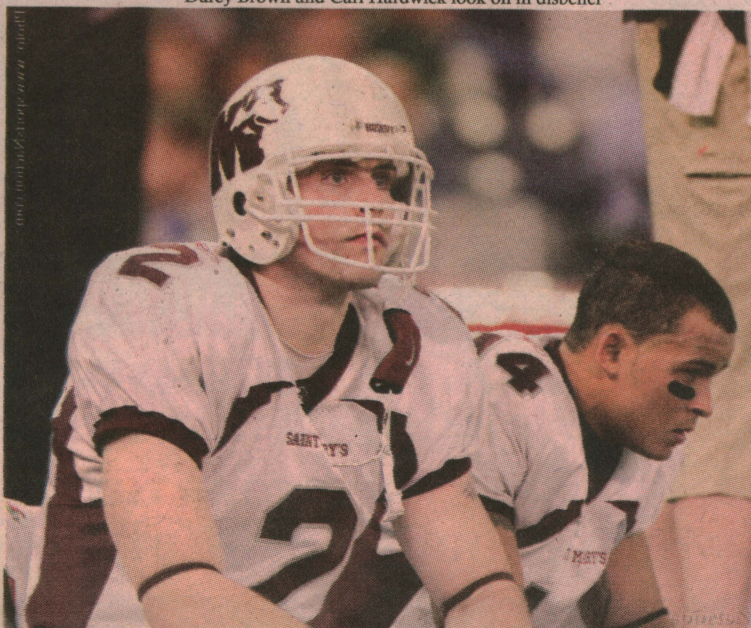
The Saint Mary's offense would come out stale to start the fourth quarter. Good field position would lead to yet another field goal for Dixon, extending Manitoba's lead to 26-8.

The Huskies were not ready to bow down to the Bisons. Ted Abraham, the man who would stay true to the pocket, unfazed by the Bisons pressure, lead SMU down

the field. A combination of runs by Jacques Lumbala and a nice catch by Ryeon Warburton would put St. Mary's deep into Bisons territory. Abraham hit a leaping Sean White in the endzone to cut the lead to 26-14. Saint Mary's would attempt the two point conversion to make it a two-possession game, however Ted overthrew Fraser O'Neill. 26-14 Manitoba.

Manitoba would tack on two more points after SMU was forced to concede a safety. Saint Mary's would try to get a late touchdown, and follow it up with an inside kick, but neither scenario would occur. Before you knew it Manitoba coach Brian Dobie was being showered with Gatorade and the Saint Mary's players would head off to the showers. The Huskies were in disbelief and denial. The dream season is over, with no fairy tale ending. The Huskies played hard, leaving everything on the field. The 2007 season could be characterized as bittersweet.

To upset the number one ranked team in the country, only to fall in the Vanier Cup final without the guy(Glavic) who got you there, is unfulfilling, especially from the players standpoint. "It sucks. For the most part we played well, but there were a few breaks here and there. Manitoba played well," stated Erik Glavic, the Hec Crigh-



Darcy Brown and Carl Hardwick look on in disbelief

ton winner.

Head Coach Steve Summarah pointed out the main reasons as to why Saint Mary's came up short. "Turnovers hurt. We threw an interception in the endzone; that always hurts. Manitoba controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball."

The Huskies of 2007 captured the hearts of Haligonians and the Huskies will do whatever it takes to make it back to the Vanier. The dogs have marked their territory in Toronto; the sleigh will be shipping off once again come November of 2008.

* If any fans are interested in photos from the Vanier Cup check out www.sportsNaction.com

smusa NEWS

World AIDS Day

December 1st

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November 26th - 29th

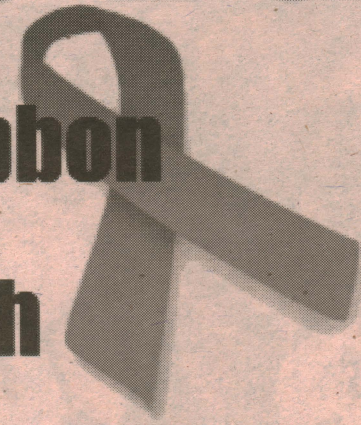
Guest Speaker

Jennifer Heatley

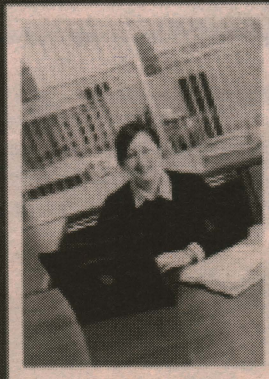
Shares her experiences about working in Africa

November 29th 6:30pm

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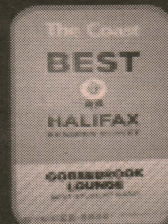
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wednesday and thursday 9-10:30pm
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December 2nd
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STAFF PARTY

MONDAY
December 3rd
GLOBAL
WORLD SPORT

TUESDAY
December 4th
INTERNATIONAL
REVOLUTION

The Gorsebrook Lounge is open to SMU students, Alumni, and Guests

PERSPECTIVES

Letter From the Editor: What's With the Crazy Weather?

AMANDA WENEK

With the crazy weather patterns of the last few years one can't help but have an awareness of the "global warming crisis" that is plaguing our world. Some theories claim the weather changes are part of the world's natural cycle, others claim that it is a result of the negative impacts of progress.

This year we had a snowstorm on November 10th, Ottawa and Toronto have already had a few, Manitoba is covered in snow, and there is more snow being called for in the coming weeks throughout the country. Compare this to year's past- last year neither Ottawa nor Halifax had snow until after Christmas day (the days prior to the snow were chilly at best), two years ago I recall getting on the plane in mild Halifax wearing a skirt and showing up freezing cold in snow-covered Toronto, and in the ten or so years prior it was

perfectly normal to have the first snowfall in early November.

This inconsistency, and the back and forth between years of early snowfalls and years of later snowfalls, causes one to really think about the true explanation for the changes in climate we have been noticing.

If it really is the negative impact humans have on the world then why would the changes in climate not be consistent, worsening with each year that goes by? Instead, the climate seems to change sporadically with no consistency; sometimes mild weather lasting far into the winter and other times chilly, wet weather lasting far into the summer.

Politicians, corporations, and scientists are putting forth the idea that it is because of the human race and the technology we have spawned that the climate is changing in the way that it is. Because of the greenhouse gases, created

from our endless consumption of energy, getting caught in the atmosphere, a warming effect is created and, thereby, the sun penetrates the earth much more strongly. They claim "climate change is going to kill us all" (which is somewhat true) unless we do something about it (which is questionably true). Many people cry "conspiracy theory" at this idea; claiming it's just a ploy for corporations to sell more hybrid cars, for politicians to create fear in the people thereby increasing their votes based on their environmental agenda, or for other's to create Blockbuster hits and make a few bucks.

There are many theories that claim the changes in climate we are noticing are merely a part of the earth's natural cycle. The book "No Turning Back: The Life And Death Of Animal Species" by Richard Ellis asserts that long before humans existed many organisms, as well as dinosaurs, died out because

they simply couldn't evolve and adapt further/quick enough to a change in environment brought on by climate change. Both marine and terrestrial, vertebrate and invertebrate, went extinct because of this inability. He urges that humans are just the next to succumb to that fate.

Climate change, a totally natural effect, comes and goes at complete random over the span of thousands of years. It's treated as a big crisis that we are capable of stopping because some of us



Photo: www.solcomhouse.com

believe we are the most powerful, therefore important, species on the planet. But humans have only existed on the Earth for a few thousand years, and it will only be a matter of time before we all die out, and either a new breed of homosapien-like species with come to exist or we will evolve to become a stronger breed of human.

Whatever you believe, there is no doubt that something is happening to the earth's climate, and even if you doubt the urgency the greenhouse gas theory asserts what is the harm in acting in ways that will lessen these emissions? Car-pool or take the bus, ride a bike to work, use the now-trendy reusable shopping bags; all of these things can make a difference. There are other ways to slow down what is happening to the environment, you don't need to give all your money to some corporation just to drive an eco-friendly car. Do your own research on the topic; form your own opinion.

I want to know your opinions on the global warming crisis! Write to me at thesmujournal@gmail.com if you have anything to contribute to this ongoing debate.

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Last week, Mark asked:

What benefit does Saint Mary's University derive from its official ties to organized religion? I've asked various administrators, professors, and students this question, and no one seems to know. Perhaps a reader of The Journal can help me out?

Hello Mark!

I was just reading the journal and noticed your plea for an answer to Saint Mary's religious ties. It got me thinking and this is the best argument I could come up with.

The religious ties have to do with Saint Mary's history as a university. We have signs out front of McNally as well as on Spring Garden at the old campus showing off our history as a university.

These signs throughout the city serve as an ad for the school; even in our slogan the date of 1802 appears. If we were to give up our ties to religion, perhaps we would have to give up this history as well. The Spring Garden campus is next to a church, our modern campus was not built until the 60s or 70s.

Now, obviously you could say "well Erika, you can get rid of the religion and keep the history", however, I don't think you can.

Getting rid of the religious aspect of the school gets rid of that Spring Garden "campus" and the date of 1802. We'd be respected even less if we change the date of the school from 1802 to 1960 something. Also, who wants to go to a school that began in the 60s?

Anyway...feel free to attack my argument, it's only my simple conclusion.

- Erika MacDonald

To Editor,

In his letter to the editor, correspondent "Mark" has asked "what benefit does Saint Mary's derive from its official ties to organised religion" ?

Without being trite my immediate response would be to offer an old adage that "a little religion never hurt anyone". However, to seriously attempt to respond to Marks question I would say that while the benefit Saint Mary's does receive may be intangible, the "ties" obviously relate to its very establishment in 1802 by Edmund Burke, the Roman Catholic Vicar General in Nova Scotia. The establishment of the existing Gorsebrook Campus was carried out by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax, and until the early '70's, Saint Mary's was a Jesuit operated university.

If Mark is a SMU student, I suggest that he take a few minutes and examine the information displayed on the monument directly in front of the McNally building which contains the history of Saint Mary's, and which was placed there to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the institution.

William J. Phillips, '46

November 29, 2007 International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People



ADAM KHALFALLA

The General Assembly of the United Nations called for the annual observance of November 29 as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (resolution 32/40 B), in 1977. On that day, in 1947, the Assembly had adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine (resolution 181 (II)).

On December 3, 2001, the Assembly noted the action taken by Member States to observe the Day, and requested them to continue to give it the widest possible publicity (resolution 56/34).

I picked out some websites for you to find out more about Palestine, from its history to most recent news.

www.palestineremembered.com
www.palestinehistory.com
www.palestine-net.com
www.wafa.ps/english
www.jonelmer.ca

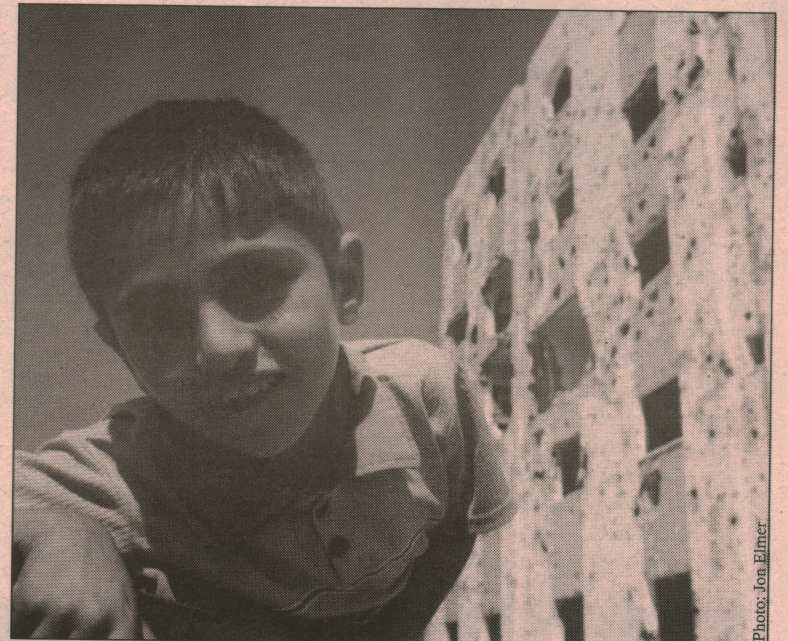


Photo: Jon Elmer

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THE JOURNAL IS THE STUDENT NEWS-PAPER OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY. THE PAPER IS PUBLISHED EACH WEDNESDAY BY THE JOURNAL PUBLISHING SOCIETY, AND FUNDED IN PART BY THE STUDENT BODY.

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NEWS

The Halifax Explosion: 90 Years Later



Photo: www.collectionscanada.ca

Members of the Armed Forces search through the debris and rubble following the explosion.

KIMBERLEY DARES

The story of the Halifax Explosion is a familiar story for many Nova Scotians. The First World War became a reality on the home front December 6th, 1917.

The Port of Halifax was extremely busy during WWI and the Harbour was often filled with ships carrying various supplies bound for Europe. These ships carried everything from troops to munitions to food and clothing to Allied forces overseas.

The morning of December 6th started out like any other morning. The city was bustling with people heading off to school and work. Then at 7:30 a.m. the unthinkable happened.

The Belgian Relief ship, the Imo, began proceeding out of the Bedford Basin, headed for New York at the same time as the French Muniton ship, the Mont Blanc, was heading into the Basin to meet up with a convoy. When the ships passed each other in the Narrows the Imo struck the bow of the Mont Blanc. The Mont Blanc was carrying a very dangerous cargo load of 200 tons of TNT, 2,300 tons of wet and dry picric acid, 35 tons of benzol and ten tons of gun cotton.

When the ships collided a fire quickly broke out on the deck of the Mont Blanc forcing the crew, who were aware of its dangerous content, to abandon ship. The fire aboard the Mont Blanc burned slowly for almost two hours after coming to rest on the shore near Pier 6. The sight of the burning ship attracted many people who had no idea of the ship's explosive cargo.

Then moments before 9:05 a.m. the Mont Blanc exploded; shattering the city. The ship exploded into a million pieces that rained down over the city. Nothing remained near Pier 6 where the ship had sat and burned.

The city was virtually destroyed; homes, churches, factories, and schools burned, windows shattered throughout what is now the Halifax Regional Municipality. The blast covered an enormous distance and windows were shattered over 80 kilometres away.

Hundreds of people were killed instantly when the Mont Blanc exploded. All those who had stopped outside on their way to work or school to watch the ship burn were killed or seriously injured following the blast. Those watching the ship burn from the safety of their homes were not exempt from the destruction and many were left blind after windows shattered, blowing glass shards into their eyes.

Rescue efforts were quickly co-ordinated

as there were many trained troops and naval brigades available to aid in the relief effort early on. By early afternoon on December 6th City Officials had organized official relief committees. Any buildings left unsalvageable following the attack were quickly turned into makeshift hospitals and shelters.

Help and volunteers arrived as quickly as possible to Nova Scotia. The most notable and substantial help came from Boston, Massachusetts. A train loaded with supplies and all the available doctors, nurses, and relief staff available was sent to Halifax from Boston by early evening. As a token of gratitude for this help every year a Christmas tree is sent from a Nova Scotia forest in time for Boston's tree lighting ceremony.

Recovery efforts were dampened when a large snowstorm hit the province. For people left with damaged or destroyed homes this made finding a place to sleep even more of a struggle. It also led to even more deaths as a result of the bitter cold.

Over 1,900 people lost their lives in the explosion and it's aftermath. Approximately 250 bodies were never identified, and even more were never found. Over 4,000 people received treatment for vari-

ous injuries following the blast. 37 people were left completely visionless, another 250 eyes were removed, and 25 limbs were amputated.

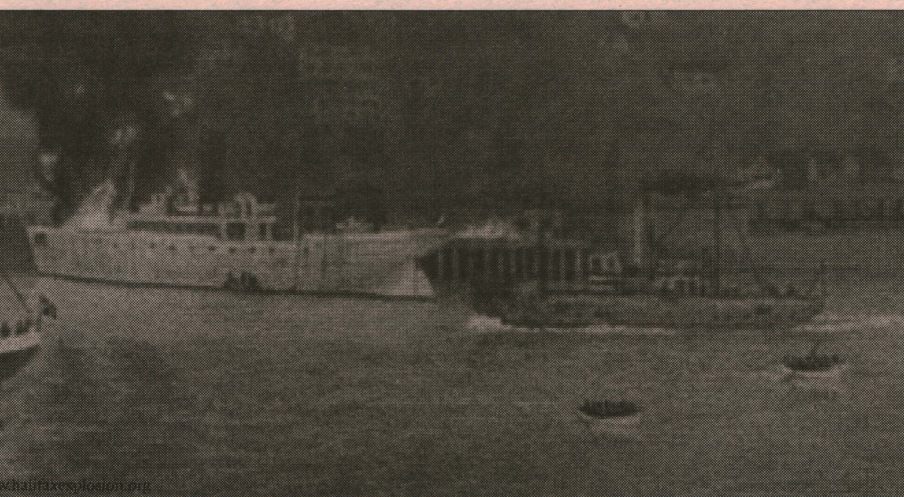


Photo: www.halifax.ca

An artist's rendition of the scene in the Halifax Harbour.

Prior to the atomic bomb the Halifax explosion was the largest manmade explosion.

A memorial was erected in 1920 on Fort Needham which overlooks the harbour. Every year at 9a.m. on December 6th there is a memorial service held there in memory of the victims of the explosion.

Saint Mary's is set to host a Legacy Concert December 1st in the McNally Theatre Auditorium to commemorate the

90th Anniversary. Alan Ruffman, a well known Marine Geologist, and others will be speaking at the event. Ruffman will be presenting the events from exactly when they occurred, 9:04:35 a.m. and will also explain the science behind the Explosion.

The Halifax Explosion brought the experience of war and terror much closer to home for many Nova Scotians. It shattered the false ideas held by many that Halifax was safe, that nothing could happen here; sure there were ships in and out of the Harbour daily but that was just a reality of living in a Port city.

The Explosion has been in the news quite a bit in the past few years as CBC completed the documentary, Shattered City, and the tragedy has also been present in many other films and documentaries. It was also the source of a Heritage Moment, which showed Vince Coleman, a train dispatcher, finding out that the Mont Blanc is carrying explosives. Instead of running, Coleman stayed in his booth warning trains to halt immediately to help protect their passengers. His warnings were received in time and as a result many lives were saved, although his was lost.

The Explosion that rocked the city of Halifax on December 6th, 1917 forever

changed Halifax. It brought the tragedy of war closer to home, and created a sense that Halifax is not as distant as previously thought. Still, in the face of inexplicable tragedy the city banded together and prevailed to re-build and start fresh.

Times are different now, there is much more technology, more regulations on shipping, etc. But no society is immune to tragedy. It is better to hope that the lessons and tales of strength and bravery that can be learned from the Explosion and its aftermath are never forgotten and that should the need ever arise the people of Halifax would once again help each other out.



NEWSFEED



Australia Gets New Prime Minister

Kevin Rudd, leader of Australia's Labour Party won the top seat in the Country's National Election. Rudd's victory ends eleven years of Conservative rule.



Peaceful Protest Receives Violent Reaction

Over 5,000 Hindu demonstrators took to the streets in Malaysia campaigning for equal rights. The protestors were met with tear gas and water cannons from police forces.



Cruise Liner Explorer Struck Iceberg

The Explorer collided with an iceberg off the coast of Antarctica Nov.24th and passengers were forced to abandon ship. The 154 passengers spent over 5 hours in the freezing waters before being rescued.



Indonesia Hit By Earthquakes Again

The region was first struck by a 6.1 Magnitude quake, and then hours later by another with a magnitude of 6.7. The region suffered a tragic Tsunami in 2004 following a quake and is plagued by earthquakes.



Syria to attend Middle East Peace Summit

16 Arab nations, including the late joiner Syria, as well as the Arab League will sit down with leaders of Israel to discuss Peace for the first time in almost 7 years. The meetings will take place in the United States.



Wildfire Ravages Malibu

Over 4,650 acres in Malibu, California have been damaged by out of control wildfires. The fire has burnt 51 homes, and damaged close to 30 others. 1,700 firefighters have battled the blaze.



Former Pakistan PM Comes Out of Hiding

Nawaz Sharif, a Former Prime Minister of Pakistan has returned to the Country after 8 years in exile. Sharif and another formerly exiled past PM Benazir Bhutto hope to return to power in 2008.



'Shut Up' Ringtone Breaks Record in Spain

The King of Spain, Juan Carlos, spurred a phenomenon in his country after telling Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to 'shut up' during a confrontation. Over 1/2 a million people have downloaded the ringtone.

Photos: Australia: AAP; Paul Miller, Protests: Associated Press, Explorer: Associated Press, Earthquake: Must Irahm/European Pressphoto Agency, Peace Talks: Associated Press, Malibu: Associated Press/ Getty Images, Pakistan: Associated Press/ Getty Images, Spain: Reuters

The Great Taser Debate

KIMBERLEY DARES

In a few short weeks two people have died in Canada as a result of being tasered. A 45 year old man died in a Burnside Jail Thursday November 22nd after being tasered twice by Halifax Regional Police. Howard Talbot Walden Hyde was arrested November 21st after police received a call Hyde had assaulted his common-law wife.

Hyde was tasered after he jumped a desk and bolted for the door at Police Headquarters in Halifax. He was charged with assault, assault with a weapon, three counts of resisting arrest, and one breach of a court order in relation to the Tuesday night assault.

Hyde, a paranoid schizophrenic, had stopped taking his psychiatric medications. He struck Karen Ellet, his common-law wife with a telephone receiver. Ellet did not want to press charges because he was not, in her opinion, criminally responsible.

The use of tasers has become extremely controversial over the past few months as it seems many

deaths have been caused as a result of tasered.

Another recent Canadian case making news is the tasered of Robert Dziekanski, a Polish immigrant at the Vancouver Airport. RCMP tasered Dziekanski for behaving strangely while waiting in the Airport.

Amnesty International is calling for a review of the incident as a video recently surfaced illustrating an entirely different story than RCMP originally told. Many witnesses have claimed officers were preparing to taser the man before actually approaching him.

Taser guns used by Canadian Police Officers shock a body with 50,000 volts. They are meant to be used as a manner to subdue people that appear to be a dangerous threat to Officers or the public. Since the RCMP began carrying tasers 17 people have been killed. In Nova Scotia, since 2002, the RCMP have recorded drawing their tasers 239 times. In approximately 70% of cases drawing the weapon is enough of a threat to gain compliance.

There is a great divide in Canadian public opinion as to whether police should be allowed to use the weapons, and when. It seems the choices made by officers about when to use the weapon is the issue of greatest divide. There are other ways to gain control of a violent or otherwise uncontrollable suspect.

Tasers do their job well, in the majority of cases being tasered is better than being shot. And for Law Enforcement Officers using Tasers is a better option than, say, Pepper Spray or Mace as neither are guaranteed to be effective and also there is a much higher risk of the officer also being affected.

Before tasers, officers could either choose to use their baton, or shoot violent individuals. Both of these options have also raised criticisms over time.

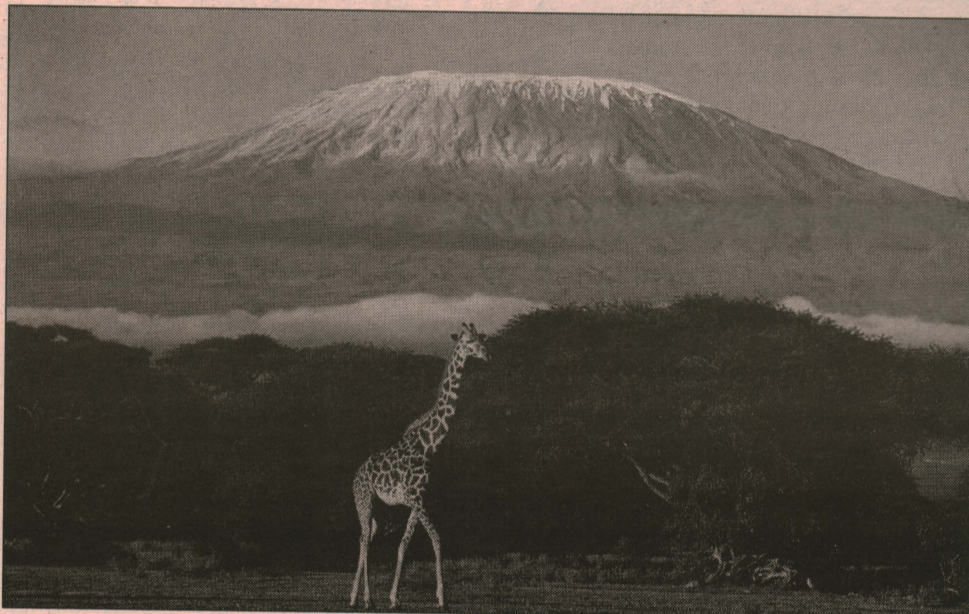


Photo: Associated Press

The use of Tasers do not always lead to death; like other weapons it can depend on whether the suspect is under the influence of drugs or suffering from a psychiatric attack. There have been many suggestions made to prevent anymore deaths from tasered; a review of the regulations, or to have paramedics on stand-by before using the device improved

records of the use of tasers. It is a matter of personal opinion at the moment. No changes have been made as of yet, although an inquiry as been launched into the death of Dziekanski. It will probably be a while before a solution to this problem is found.

SMU Alumni "Climb 4 Kenya" in Efforts to Raise Money for IHF



TOM WESTOLL

Two Saint Mary's alumni are making the trek to Kenya in order to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and raise funds for a worthy cause.

Jenny Walker, from the class of 2003, and Jeff Brittain, who graduated in 2000, are moving to Nakuru, Kenya in January to spend five months volunteering for the International Humanity Foundation (IHF) as the co-directors of the orphanage.

While in Nakuru, Jeff and Jenny "plan to develop educational programs for the children, and ... coor-

minate community based programs including monthly 'famine feeds' for the tribesmen and women of the Kenyan East Pokot region" says their press release.

They hope to raise money through personal donations and corporate sponsorships that will go towards funding the project as well as a six day, 5895 meter climb of Kilimanjaro, the tallest freestanding mountain in the world.

"IHF is a grass-roots volunteer organization [that is] based in San Diego, California which mobilizes volunteers worldwide to help the poorest of the

poor."

After researching countless volunteer organizations and opportunities, Jeff and Jenny are steadfast that IHF is who they want to donate their time with. Through 'Climbing 4 Kenya,' individuals, community groups, and companies can sponsor the couple's initiatives online or by mail, [as] they hope to raise \$15,000 by January 1st" explains their press release.

Go to their website at www.climbing4kenya.com to donate if you can.

Photo: www.kathylopervents.com/kilimanjaro/images/v031108.jpg

Take A Stand Against Climate Change: Join Millions on The Global Climate Day of Protest

KIMBERLEY DARES

Saturday December 8th marks the midway point in United Nations climate talks in Bali, Indonesia and has as a result been named Global Climate Day of Protest.

Across Canada labour, peace, environmental, and student groups will be participating in demonstrations. The main purpose of these demonstrations is to pressure the Canadian Government to remain loyal to the legal commitment it made to begin following the Kyoto Accord now, as well as to take more immediate decisive action to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions. Over five million Canadians will be represented by groups involved in this day of action.

Worldwide over sixty countries will be involved in protests on December 8th. There are demonstrations planned in 17 Canadian cities. These cities include: Halifax, Charlottetown, Toronto, Ottawa, Edmonton, Kamloops, and more.

The number of protests and demonstrations planned for De-

ember 8th has already tripled the total from 2006 and there is hope many more cities will be added to the roster as the date draws nearer.

More than 120,000 people participated in the events in 2006 so if the increase in the number of events is any indicator these demonstrations should be quite difficult to ignore.

What happens at the climate talks in Bali will illustrate how leading world powers plan to deal with the global climate crisis. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will be issuing a report this week aimed to alert the Canadian Government, as well as others that are taking minimal action to create change.

Putting pressure on the Canadian Government about following Kyoto has become an even more pressing issue following the Throne Speech which announced a plan to disregard Canada's previous commitments to the Accord. In the Speech the Government stated its plan to abandon Kyoto and focus on other methods to reduce

emissions. The Government also went on record saying the emission reduction targets outlined in Kyoto are unfeasible.

The case against the Conservative government has been increasingly strengthened by Prime Minister Harper's adamant stance to avoid any binding commitments to target greenhouse gas emissions during a meeting November 24th with Commonwealth leaders. Harper said in a statement, they are looking for "a framework that includes everyone." The Conservatives are looking for an agreement that targets all countries equally.

In Halifax the Ecology Action Centre is hosting a Street Theatre. If you are interested in getting involved in this or attending it, email janice.ashworth@ecologyaction.ca.

There are events worldwide to accommodate all those interested. Visit www.globalclimatecampaign.org for more in-depth information on the demonstrations planned in other cities.

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BUSINESS

Balancing a Student Business

LAURA MACINTOSH

In a school of many commerce students and young entrepreneurs, it is no wonder why Saint Mary's has so many young business owners. From jewelry to fight wear, photography sites to martial arts, Saint Mary's students are in the thick of the Halifax economy.

To own and operate a business while attending university is no easy feat, but it can certainly pay off, just ask Bill Gates. One major problem many student business owners run into is time, there's just not enough of it on this 24-hour clock. A lack of time to complete both business and academic tasks leads to an increase in stress, and sometimes problems within the business arise. When having to balance the delicate worlds of academia and business fronts, one, or both can suffer greatly. If the business grows to fast, academics are sure to suffer; but if the academics are pushed and the business left to fend for itself, a lack of quality will most likely follow.

A recent news article by Globe and Mail columnist Mark Healy highlights some growing trends among small businesses. Healy suggests tips to watch for which can determine if a small business is growing too rapidly; the same warning signs that arise when student business owners aren't winning the balancing act between work and school.

The first and most obvious sign that shows struggle balancing



workloads is a slip in quality. When academics eat up so much of a student's time, there is less to spend on creating or

merchandising quality products. This is especially true of home made products such as jewelry or soap products. Another problem associated with a lack of quality is a lack of funds and service. Quality customer service is what makes small business thrive in our local economy, and slipping product quality is a way to turn off customers. If you are a small business owner and experience a slip in quality, step back and evaluate. What is the reason behind the slip in quality? If it's associated with school, maybe you should take time away from the business to catch up in your studies, and then you can offer better service to customers. It's not fantastic, but it is better than treating your consumers to lacking quality.

Stick to your passion; don't go off-brand. Bringing in more variety can be a great thing, but only if it makes sense. Many small businesses bring in products that don't fit the homey vibe of a small business to keep revenue



Student entrepreneur Ryan Saunders knows how to balance passion and academics

high. Girly clothing boutiques selling UGGs just to make a profit is a great example of what not to do. Off-branding undermines the customer that you are trying to create a lasting relationship with. Many student business owners have a tendency to off-brand, especially during high stress times or upcoming academic crunches.

Another big issue facing student business owners is who to hire. There needs to be reliance that assistant managers or whoever is to take over during your high

stress times is capable of running the business. Hiring friends may seem like a good idea, but many of them too have other commitments. Don't hire all fellow students, high stress times are shared amongst them.

Make sure you're making smart business decisions; that's how to grow a student business into one you can continue and make flourish post graduation. To be the next Bill Gates, you need to make smart moves now that will set up your business for the future.

Keeping It in The Family... Kind Of



Photo: www.anb.ca

LAURA MACINTOSH

Recently it has come out that the Irving's; you know that super rich New Brunswick bunch, are splitting the family fortune.

J.K. Irving is handing down the family business, and it seems there is a riff in the new generation. The Irving Empire began with a single sawmill owned by founder J.D. Irving of Bouctouche, N.B. The business was greatly expanded by his son K.C. Irving, who passed it on to his sons, J.K., Arthur and Jack. Now they have five sons working in the business. Through the generations, fathers and sons became brothers and cousins, now the family tree is spreading further. Each father has a portion of the business to be in charge of; oil, forestry, transportation and food. As it stands; once JK and Arthur step down their sons will take over. Jim Irving (son of J.K.) will run the forestry, transportation and food sectors while Kenneth (son of Arthur) will control the oil.

Sources close to the Irving family have said that a rift between Jim and Kenneth has made it all but impossible to carry the 'family run' aspect into the future of Irving. The two are at odds over the marketing angle and strategic direction of their two very different divisions. Sources suggest that the tradition of handing off the company to future generations may be in jeopardy.

The friction between sons seems to have had an impact on the fathers as well. J.K., Jack and Arthur seem to be at odds over the future restructuring. "The ties that bind these men are not as strong as they once were. They understand that they are moving in different directions and their families want to have more control over their respective spheres," said a source familiar with the family's planned restructuring.

The restructuring would see J.K., Jim and other

immediate relatives take over J.D. Irving Ltd.; the business wing dominated by the plagued forest products division, which is reeling from the high Canadian dollar. Jack, along with Arthur and son Kenneth would gain dominant control over Irving Oil, the energy business, which is currently surging.

It's easy to see that the Canadian economy can have a serious effect on how friendly the two sides are with one another. One of the company's major strengths was the diversity; when one half of the company was down (such as the forest products), the other was more than compensating. With the divide, this will cease to be, and the Irving Empire as we all know it stands to change dramatically.

We may be saying goodbye to Blue Canoe banana bread and a top off of supreme before we're ready.

Fearing a legal battle similar to the early 1990s battle that tore apart that other New Brunswick business family, the McCains; the fathers of the uncivil bunch began the process of dividing the assets. Sources said dozens of Irving family members now receive income or capital from the trusts. Sources say dozens of Irving family members now receive income or capital from the company trusts, trusts that will likely be abolished. Instead, those family members will be offered cash or business interests. There is no plan to sell any part of the company to outsiders, so Irving will still be a family owned business, just not quite with that homey family vibe.

The process has to go through lawyers in New York and London as well as courts in Bermuda (where the trusts are held for tax reasons). It should be a rather lengthy process and the families are hoping to remain close enough to continue to function to the businesses best capabilities until the split.

Charge It

LAURA MACINTOSH

Have you ever set up monthly bills on your credit card? How about auto-withdrawal from your banking account? You can pay plenty of bills through these methods in today's world of brain free banking, from power and rent to monthly memberships for Nubody's and newspapers.

The payment plan option is fantastic for cutting down time; saving money on stamps and making sure your payments come out on time. On time payments build credit, another plus; it seems like a fantastic option for consumers.

But there's always a buyer beware; this option was created by corporations, and just like most things, it can work better for them than for you. Make sure to read the fine print before signing up for any auto-payment plans; many companies won't let you cancel subscriptions or service before the agreed upon date through this option; meaning you could be stuck paying for phone service after you move, or locked into that year long membership at that nasty gym. That's exactly what happened to a Regina native recently. The woman thought something wasn't adding up right in her accounts so she checked her credit card receipts to find that a gym she had cancelled service from 7 months before was still charging her monthly fees.

After signing up for a year long membership using her credit card number the woman was unhappy with the facilities cleanliness and service, so she terminated the membership. Problem was; the facility said that she broke her agreement and therefore they could still legally charge her. Normally, if the member were to go into the gym and pay per month they can terminate the membership for a small fee, but the credit payment option (which gave the facility account information) meant that the fees would automatically come



out for the length of the original membership. Many companies use tricks like this when offering the credit plan option, so make sure you read the fine print and know what you're getting yourself into.

Giving account information is always dangerous, but many people think that online is the most dangerous place to give out our info. In reality, it's just as dangerous to give information to a person; customers get ripped off all the time. This happened when I was working at a pizza place that offered over the phone credit card payment. We would punch in the credit card number given to us by phone, to ensure there was enough credit to cover the cost of the pizza. One dishonest employee was caught taking those numbers and charging over \$1,000 to customers cards. How good would you expect that \$1,000 pizza to taste?

These are just a couple of horror stories associated with giving out credit information. There are plenty more of both in person, on phone and online horrors. So next time you think about giving those sacred numbers away be prepared. Check your credit and bank account information regularly for bizarre transactions, read fine print before signing any contracts and take precautions with ordering from websites. Double or triple check security options on websites and check comments posted by other consumers before purchasing online. Be safe with your money!

Student Entrepreneur Of The Year: A Chance to Win \$11,000

JAIME HURLBUT

Nominations for the 2008 National Student Entrepreneur Competition will be accepted until 5pm EST on Friday, December 7th, 2007. If you are a successful entrepreneur attending university or college, or you know someone who is, this is your last chance to submit a nomination.

This award celebrates the incredible commitment, determination and achievements of student entrepreneurs from across the country with a series of competitions taking place provincially, regionally and nationally. The award is open to full-time students at Canadian universities or colleges who are also running their own businesses. Nominating a student is simple and the nomination form is available at www.acecanada.ca. Eligible students are also encouraged to nominate themselves.

A panel of provincial judges will review written application forms and will select the provincial champions. These champions will go on to compete in a regional competition where they will be given the opportunity to present their company live to a panel of judges. Regional champions will be selected to move on to the final round of competition at the 2008 ACE National Exposition, May 12th to 14th, 2008 in Toronto. All finalists will have their travel expenses paid to each event and regional champions will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize. The National Student Entrepreneur Champion will be named in May and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize and will be invited

to represent Canada at the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards if he or she qualifies.

"We have been impressed with the quality and number of nominations we have received so far this year," comments Amy Harder, President of ACE. "But with that said, we also know there are many other student entrepreneurs across Canada who have not yet applied or been nominated. These amazing student entrepreneurs deserve to be recognized for their hard work and dedication, so we strongly encourage everyone to nominate all qualified candidates!"

To be eligible for the award, students must meet the following criteria:

- *Be a full-time undergraduate and/or graduate student at a Canadian university or college for the 2007-2008 academic year;
- *Be a founder and have at least 50% ownership of the company and be principally responsible for its operation;
- *Have been in business for at least the past six months (as of September 4th, 2007); and
- *Have not competed in the final round of the National Student Entrepreneur competition in the past.

Deadlines: Friday, December 7, 2007: Nominations/self nominations close, Friday, January 4, 2008: Applications due

Some info about ACE: Founded in the mid-1980s, ACE is a national,



not-for-profit organization that is igniting young Canadians to create brighter futures for themselves and their communities. Working in partnership with business and higher education, ACE operates a team-based program, Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) and an individual-based program, Student Entrepreneur. Through these two programs, ACE is a catalyst in the development of university and college students who make a meaningful contribution towards a better country, as entrepreneurs and business leaders.

Operated by ACE and proudly presented by CIBC, the Student Entrepreneur Program is the only national program to focus solely on full time Canadian post secondary student entrepreneurs. It is a program that strives to enrich participant's lives through recognition, networking opportunities and unique educational tools.

ace



Wedding Woes



LAURA MACINTOSH

The day every little girl dreams of is quickly becoming the day every engaged couple fears... financially that is. The average cost of a US wedding is over \$26,000, the average Toronto wedding is \$30,000 and the average Halifax wedding is hitting the \$15,000 mark. These numbers might seem staggering in themselves but there's more; these numbers don't include honeymoon, engagement ring and bachelor/bachelorette parties!

With the cost of weddings soaring, it's a wonder why we don't all become fabulous wedding planners (that's where the money is). Planners usually charge 10-15% of the total wedding cost; meaning \$3,000-4,500 per Torontonian wedding! As a retailer who's seen their fair share of blushing (and frustrated) brides, I can tell you the cost of having a perfect dream wedding is taking a serious toll on young couples in North America. The dress can run you an easy thousand, and then there are alterations and fittings on top of that. Shoes can run upwards of \$300 in Halifax shops, even more if you order those perfect white pumps online. Then we have the accessories; the veil, the jewelry, gloves, crystal tiara or whatever else you have your heart set on. Next is hair, makeup, that day at the spa with the brides maids, all of this can add up to thousands more.

Oh, and don't forget the groom! Tuxedo, shoes, a hair cut, teeth whitening (gotta look good in those photos!), now the two most important people are taken care of.

Next there's the venue, flowers, food, staff, cake, candles... what centre piece should be at the mother-in-laws table? When the average setting costs about as much as the average wedding gift, suddenly inviting 200 people for those toasters and dish sets doesn't

seem so fun!

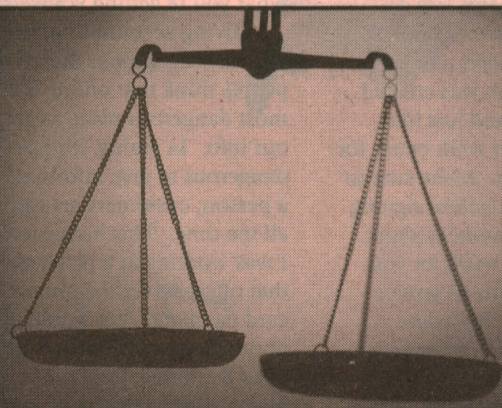
Don't forget the marriage license, insurance for the wedding, rings and honeymoon, car rentals, time, energy and stress. Oh and everything for the brides maids and grooms men.

According to jewelers the engagement ring should cost a third of the groom's annual income, four months pay for a rock! Where's the money for rent, food and other bills coming from that year? Young couples today stay engaged for much longer than in previous generations, mostly to save up money for the wedding. Weddings have come a long way in expenses, something fueled by the markets and corporations. 30 years ago brides would have little to nothing to do with their weddings, leaving the planning to family and friends so that they could stay relaxed. Now we have the term bridezilla... maybe there's a connection to high divorce rates; anal brides lead to crazy wives?

Now every little detail must be in place, and the accumulation of said details usually leads to an over the top, really tacky wedding. If you don't have millions to burn, don't try to have a Hollywood wedding!

Television, jewelry stores and retailers who specialize in all things weddings may tell you that bold is beautiful and more is the way to go, but beware. Money + time + energy = stress, and those \$30,000 weddings don't look much different from the \$3,000 ones when you're too stressed to remember any of it.

The most memorable weddings are some of the simplest. Weddings in the hospital so that the family can attend, at the army base pre-departure, and in the backyard or local church hall with close friends and family tend to have the most sentimental value; not the consumer monstrosities we've become accustomed to.



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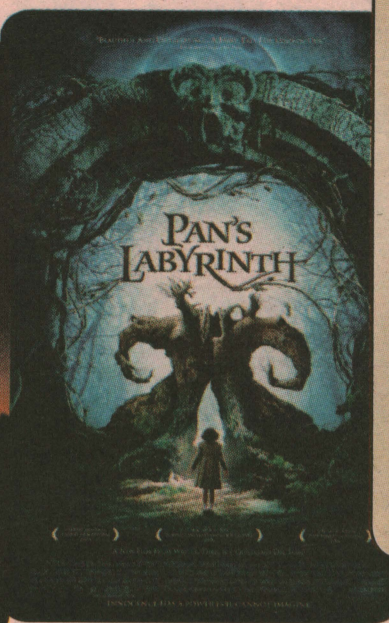
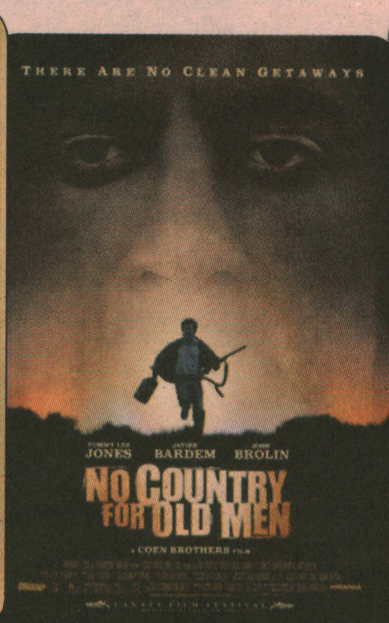
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Best Movies of 2007



Photos: www.rottentomatoes.com

RESSA PETERS

10. Hairspray

"People like me are gonna have to get up off their fathers' laps and go out and fight for it." Yes, John Travolta is in drag, but it works. Christopher Walken as Travolta's gag-loving husband, Michelle Pfeifer as a WASP queen, Zac Efron and James Marsden as teen heartthrobs and brand new Nikki Blonksi as peppy Tracy Turnblad, the girl who just wants to feel the rhythm all work. The feel-good musical about being yourself and including everyone sounds cheesy, and it is, but it's also a great time. Just try and not to get at least one of the songs stuck in your head, try.

9. Knocked Up/Superbad

"You sound like Jabba the Hutt dying" You may not recognize Judd Apatow's name yet, but you should and you will soon for sure. The creator of beloved dramedy Freaks and Geeks and The 40 Year Old Virgin has created a new genre of comedy that's simultaneously sweet and crude, heartwarming and side-splitting. You never knew comedies about unplanned pregnancy or two painfully uncool guys could be this fun, but he did it and it's hilarious. The comedy is off-color but it's never mean-spirited or discriminating. The talented young actors from Seth Rogan to Michael Cera to Jonah Hill are all pitch-perfect and every note rings true.

8. The Simpsons Movie

"Smithers... I don't believe in suicide, but if you'd like to try it, it might cheer me up to watch." It took eighteen years to get to the big screen but it was worth it. Some of the best writers from the show's prime teamed up with all your favorite characters and guest voices from Albert Brooks, Tom Hanks and Green Day. Oh, and Spiderpig a.k.a. Harry Plopper. It was all that classic Simpsons wit; sight gags, pop culture references, one-liners and all that stuff they could never show on tv. If you had any doubt that the Simpsons could still be funny, here's your evidence to the contrary.

7. Zodiac

"Before I kill you, I'm going to throw your baby out the window." The genre of genius game-playing serial killers one step ahead of the cops has been played to death in the last ten years, but Zodiac gets it right because this is the one time it was real. It spans the twisting, maddening and ultimately fruitless search to uncover the identity of a brutal serial killer over several decades. Director David Fincher sets the perfect pace and mood using uneasy music, long scenes with minimal dialogue and stark shadows. Jake Gyllenhaal delivers as a cartoonist who falls deep in over his head and loses his life in obsession.

6. Grindhouse

"If anyone comes to this door that's not me, shoot them. Shoot them in the head like in your video games."

Two of the most unique directors of recent years team up to give us a giddy thrill ride ode to awesomely bad movies. Robert Rodriguez's Planet Terror follows a rag tag group of misfits trying to survive radiation zombies, rapists, the military and Naveen Andrews (Sayid from Lost) castrating people. Quentin Tarantino's Death Proof has two groups of young sexy women stalked by Kurt Russell and his 'death proof' stunt car at adrenaline-pumping speeds and ending with one of the best car chases ever. In between you get faux-trailers that are better than most movies from Rob Zombie's Werewolf women of the SS to Halifax's own Jason Eisner's masterpiece Hobo With a Shotgun. It was well worth the money to see it in theatres.

5. Pan's Labyrinth

"My mother told me to be wary of Fauns" A terrifying Fairy Tale from Hellboy director Guillermo del Toro. Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) races within two parallel worlds: one of a dark fantasy realm and her real life in Spain during Franco's reign after the Civil War in 1944, both frightening in their own ways, to save her mother and baby brother from her tyrant of a stepfather. From the creepy Pale Man (Doug Jones) with eyes in his hands to her Army Captain Stepfather (Sergi Lopez I Ayats) who ruthlessly interrogates and executes rebels, danger lurks around every corner. It'll hold you from the dream-like beginning to the shocking end.

4. Hot Fuzz

"You wanna be a big cop in a small town? F**k off down to the model village." Both celebrating and parodying the buddy-cop action genre, Simon Pegg and Nick Frost have a ton of fun investigating the perfect crime in the perfect English country-side village. Laughs aplenty come from the cast of quirky cops and villagers along with a generous helping of gory deaths and a climactic gun battle taking place in the town square, the supermarket and a model village. Some of the best British actors from previous generations co-star as the inhabitants of Sandford, Gloucester's "Village of the Year" but the title comes at a price. Escaped Swans are the least of Sgt. Nick Angel's (Pegg) problem when he shows up in Stanford from the London Police force.

3. Eastern Promises

"Forget any of this happened. Stay away from people like me." David Cronenberg has made a career out of disturbing things happening to the human body in such films as Videodrome, The Fly and Scanners. Eastern Promises does feature blood and body parts, but the mind games go beyond that. Naomi Watts is Anna, a London midwife who finds a Russian diary on a young girl who died giving birth. The diary leads Anna into the seedy underworld of the mob and human trafficking. Viggo Mortensen is a mysterious mafia hitman who warns Anna about the world she is sinking

into. The plot may seem slow moving to those used to no-brainer shoot em up action thrillers, but this movie never panders or insults your intelligence. The mood is made for uneasiness peeking under one of the world's most beautiful cities to the ugliness underneath. It contains the most memorable fight scene of the year involving Mortensen, two assassins, two knives and a bath towel.

2. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

"Things at Hogwarts are far worse than I feared!" It must have been no small feat adapting an 870 page book into a movie of just over two hours, but they managed to do it without losing any of the importance of the plot or characters. Lord Voldemort is back and once again he's after Harry, his friends, Dumbledore and good wizards everywhere but the Ministry of Magic denies his resurfacing. Harry and the others not only face Voldemort and his supporters but a sadistic new Hogwarts headmistress who's mad with power and still (but not as bad as the last movie) their own teenage feelings. The Order of the Phoenix is a rebel alliance of wizards featuring Professors Lupin and Moody, Harry's Godfather Sirius Black and exotic young Nymphadora Tonks. The talented young blood playing Harry, Hermoine, Ron, Neville, Ginny and new Luna Lovegood engage in an unrelenting showdown at ministry headquarters that will change their lives forever. Dumbledore's battle with Voldemort is visually astounding.

1. No Country for Old Men

"I won't tell you you can save yourself, because you can't." The Coen Brothers return to excellent form doing what they do best; period pieces, crimes gone wrong, conflicted heroes, taciturn killers, unusual but not over-the-top characters and clever dialogue. 1980, Texas, Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin) stumbles upon a bloodbath aftermath of a drug deal gone sour and helps himself to 2 million dollars in a suitcase, not knowing it'll change his life forever. The minimalist music and long set pieces make for alarming tension. The cast includes several well known actors with the likes of Tommy Lee Jones as a world-weary Sheriff, Woody Harrelson as a soft-spoken bounty hunter, Scottish actress Kelly MacDonald as Llewelyn's wife, but the standout is Javier Bardem. Spanish actor Bardem shines as quiet but menacing Anton Chigurh. I don't want to give too much away, but Chigurh and his odd haircut will haunt you long after the credits roll.



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Smalltown DJs hit Small Town Crowd

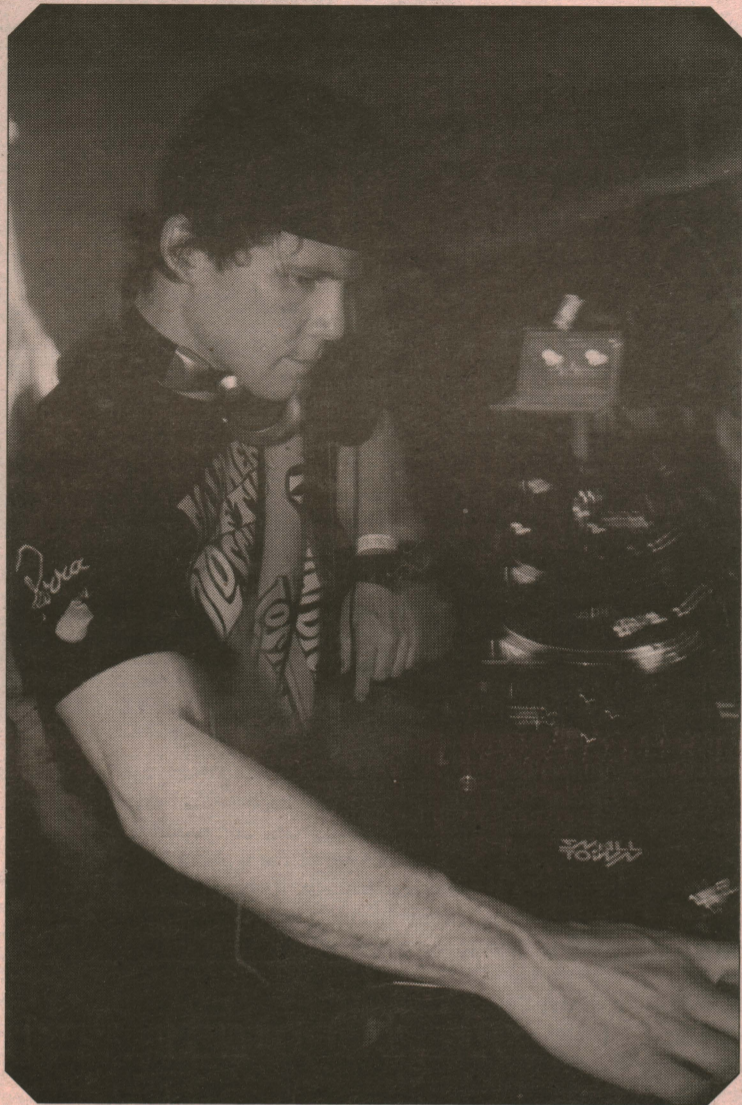


Photo: Loukas Crowther

AMANDA WENEK

The Marquee hosted the second edition of Fast Times Halifax this past Thursday night. For anyone with the unfortunate luck of not making it out, the night turned out to be a stellar success.

A showcase of painting by Halifax's own Laura Dawe and Dallin Ursenbach was spread throughout the bar, and always had admirers standing close by. The paintings were brightly coloured, and quite large. Laura put together a new collection specifically for this night, including a portrait of one of the hosts himself, Saint Mary's own Brett McDermott.

Rich Aucoin played a set that was sure to get the crowd pumped for the evening to come. His EP is synced with Dr Seuss' 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas', a technique he admired of Pink Floyd's synchronization with 'The Wizard of Oz', and his performances often involved donning a green Grinch suit. Playing a selection of quite danceable tunes, including a fan favourite, "At War With the Cynics", his set was high energy with a mass of bodies and instruments on stage. Donning all white, and with a voice like his, it was impossible not to be mesmerized by Rich Aucoin.

DJs Double A and Gordski,

also known as Famous Players, opened up the turntables with an hour long set of music ranging from indie to electro to rap. The dance floor was packed by now in anticipation for Small Town DJs.

Mike Grimes and Pete Emes are the powerhouse DJ duo that is Smalltown DJs. They came to us from Calgary and hanging with these guys on any given night you will hear funk, pop, dancehall, rock, hip hop, house, breaks, and club, and Thursday night was no different. With such a wide array of musical styles the DJs attracted a variety of music lovers. The shared passion? The need to dance. The one rule? No pretension allowed.

Smalltown DJs have recently been given a monthly residency at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, they've released several mix CDs and vinyl 12"s over the past few years, and in 2006 they were featured on Much Music's segment, Going Coastal. This

duo is doing big things. Based on the cheering fans and the packed dancefloor, they did not disappoint Halifax, and Halifax, although a not so big city, welcomed them with a big city feel.

Brett McDermott felt nothing but excitement regarding the event, "This Fast Times was extra special for me because the dudes of Smalltown were the ones that first peaked my interest in the type of music and parties I listen to and attend now. I don't think we had as many people out as last time because of schoolwork and what not, but there were a lot of people that came out early which is usually unheard of in Halifax. All in all I would say it was a super fun time!"

Fast Times is proving itself to be an unstoppable force, and if you haven't jumped on the bandwagon yet then I suggest you do; don't risk missing out on what's going to be the best monthly night in music Halifax has to offer.

"Well It's Time to Switch to Whiskey, We Been Drinkin' Beer All Night"

BILLY RAY BROOKS

Saturday evening hundreds of fans packed the Marquee night club to hear the country-folk music of Corb Lund and The Hurtin' Albertans. Before his entrance to the stage the crowd had already begun beckoning him to appear chanting, 'Corb, Corb, Corb'. To the delight of his fans he opened with his popular hit "Hair in My Eyes like a Highland Steer". It did not take more than a few verses before the crowd began stompin' their feet along in unison.

Growing up on the prairies and in the foothills of the Rockies the first half of his life Corb spent riding horseback, chasing cattle and rodeoing. He comes from four generations of Canadian ranchers and cowboys and the hard-working ranching theme resonates from his hits such as "The Truck Got Stuck" and "Roughest Neck Around".

An avid reader of stories of the U.S. Calvary and author

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Corb has developed a cult like following among a mix of fans from young and old. Concert-goer Joel Robichaud said "Corb Lund is one of the best singer/songwriters Canada has to offer. It is easy to identify with his music."

When asked who he would most like to collaborate with in country music, he confidently replies, "No one". He reasons simply that his style "is different then the rest of country musicians". This independence is what sets him apart from other artists of his genre.

Dressed in a blue top hat and a blue jacket from the era of the American civil war Corb blasted out more hits such as "I Wanna Be in the Calvary" and "Family Reunion". After his second encore appearance back to the stage Corb and The Hurtin' Albertans concluded the night with fan-favourite "Time to Switch to Whiskey".

Babyshambles: Shotter's Nation



Photo: www.luger.se

JOHN FIELDING

Former Libertines co-lead Pete Doherty's sophomore band's sophomore album, *Shotter's Nation*, is something of a mixed bag with some great tracks, some not so great tracks, and some tracks that don't quite fit, making for an uneven listen.

The disc opens up looking to start things off with a bang with a trio of rocking tracks. *Carry On Up The Mountain* does an alright job starting things off with a groovy. *Delivery* definitely delivers, borrowing a riff from The Kinks' classic *You Really Got Me* but making it their own. And then *You Talk* starts off well, but then falls apart with Doherty's grating vocals ruining it towards the end.

A well crafted, quiet mid-tempo track, *unBilo Titled*, puts things back on track again, but not for long. *Side of the Road* starts well enough, right up until Doherty starts aping Jack White just past the 30 second mark. It could have been a fine b-side but as a part of this album it just feels out of place, and the same goes for the next track *Crumb Begging Baghead*. While hardly

a stellar track it's not particularly bad either, but the heavy Doors influence on it doesn't quite fit with the rest of the album. Book-ending this pair of oddly out of place tracks is another quiet mid-tempo ballad, *Unstookie Titled*, which itself does a decent enough job getting things back on track again.

French Dog Blues is anything but the blues, instead a grooving low-key melodic rocker that's a perfect segue into the jazzy *There She Goes*. *Baddies Boogie* continues on with some up-tempo rocking, followed by some more mid-tempo grooving on *Deft Left Hand* before finally making way to a quiet, slow album closer with *Lost Art of Murder*.

Overall the album is a decent enough listen, although its flaws are glaring. The band has put together a signature sound, a grooving melodic indie-rock with classic-rock influences, and the album suffers whenever they stray too far from that sound even if the track in question on its own isn't half bad. Unfortunately as it stands, the album as a whole is less than the sum of its parts when listened start to finish.



Corb Lund plays Saturday night at the Marquee.

Inquiring Minds

Every week I ask three questions. You (and I mean you! Anyone!) send your answers to arts.smu@gmail.com (don't worry, they'll be anonymous) and they'll appear in next week's issue.

This week's questions:

- What movie are you most looking forward to in 2008?
- What new album/tour are you most looking forward to in 2008?
- What new show/season are you most looking forward to in 2008?

Last week's answers:

What's the most you've spent on an entertainment purchase (movie, videogame, DVD boxed set) independent of the systems needed to run it?

- Band of Brothers box set \$80
- the No Doubt b-sides/rarities/dvd concert and video set for about \$70
- about \$200 total for the complete Friends series
- \$574 for Dance Dance Revolution and the PS2 to run it
- \$70 for Six Feet Under season 1

What book have you read so many times your copy is falling apart?

- 1984 by George Orwell
- The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings Series by J.R.R. Tolkein
- The Shopaholic series by Sophie Kinsella
- Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
- Shooting to Kill by Christine Vachon

What artist/band would you travel to the ends of the earth to see perform live?

- Tool
- Counting Crows
- Bon Jovi
- The Spice Girls
- Ayumi Hamsaki
- Kiss and Aerosmith

People of the World..Spice Up Your Life

JOURNAL STAFF & FRIENDS

Get ready to feel eleven years old again with the release of the Spice Girls greatest hits, then feel really old once you realize that you still know all the words to these songs that came out a decade ago. I'll tell you what we want, what we really, really want; new songs that don't suck. All the old classics still bounce and shake with life from the opening of "wannabe" that everyone, even our Sports Editor could sing along with. The vivacious tunes of "Say you'll be there" and "Spice up your life" are dance-happy and amazing as you'd expect or remember. They blend in perfectly with the slow, soft heartfelt ballads of "Mama", "2 become 1" and "Viva forever". All the greatest songs were from the first two essential albums "Spice" and "Spice World". One of the other songs from this period is "Move Over" also known as "Generation next" or "the Pepsi Song". "Move Over" is even less memorable than you'd expect a product jingle to be. If you're going to give Sporty something to belt out, and you should because she's the best singer, give her something better than "yeah, yeah, generation, yeah". And the girls' chants of "dedication, celebration, phenomination



(which isn't a word), good vibration, motivation..." bring to mind The Kids in the Hall's Tammy parodying pop songs with "segregation, penetration, integration... and dance!"

The post - Geri songs are less memorable. "Let love lead the way" and "Goodbye" come off as dull and uninspired. The new dance songs are hard to listen to; they try too hard to regain the spice they've obviously lost over the years. "Holler" contains a hip hop beat none of the girls can follow and truly atrocious lyrics trying to be sexy

but coming off as clumsy and juvenile.

"Come and let me take you to my fantasy room/you're gonna like it there/and all the things that I do". "Voodoo" makes a decent club song but that's about it, it won't stand up to listening in any other circumstance.

Voodoo is still pretty awesome... compared to Headlines anyway. The girls went back to their roots with a pop song where they don't sing more than a sentence at a time. It's not a great note to end a career on, but it is a better way to leave things than

"Holler". But what is a great note to end the Spice genre? Personally, we think proving to the world that although they lip synced Stop at that Victoria Secret thing; the ladies of Spice still know how to dance. Mel B has proven that the girls weren't just a dance routine machine, as she has kicked some serious ballroom booty on ABC's Dancing With The Stars; which ended just in time to fly to Vancouver and kick up the Spice with the Greatest Hits on The Return of The Spice Girls Tour.

All the best songs of the Greatest Hits come from the first two albums, so if you already have those, you can save your money, you aren't missing much.

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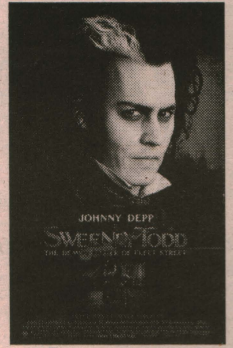
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For further information, contact:
Miyuki Arai, Project Manager - International Mobility
E: mobility.international@smu.ca



Application Deadline: February 11, 2008

Bite Sized Entertainment



Movies opening over break:

- Nov 30th: Blade Runner: The Final Cut, Awake
- Dec 7th: Atonement, The Golden Compass
- Dec 14th: I am Legend, Alvin and the Chipmunks, The Kite Runner
- Dec 21st: Sweeney Todd, National Treasure: Book of Secrets
- Dec 26th: There Will Be Blood



CDs out over the break:

- Dec 4th: Carnival II: Memoirs of an Immigrant by Wyclef Jean
- Dec 11th: Oh By the Way (box set) by Pink Floyd, 8 Diagrams by Wu-Tang Clan
- Dec 18th: Shoot to Kill by G-Unit



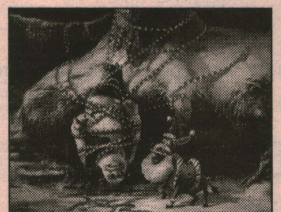
Elf at The Oxford

Sunday December 16th at 1pm, the Oxford Theatre will be showing the Will Ferrell comedy Elf. The event is pay what you can with proceeds and optional food donations going to Feed Nova Scotia



Akon on MJ

Rapper-writer-producer Akon (of "Smack That" Fame) will lend his voice and talents to Michael Jackson's next album. There's no release date yet.



TV Geek's pick of the Week:

Shrek the Halls
Wednesday November 28th, ABC 9pm. Shrek and the gang are back for an all new Christmas special set to be a perennial favourite. Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy and Antonio Banderas all lend their voices.

Photos: <http://baltimore.broadwayworld.com>, www.wikipedia.org, www.allposters.com, www.allposters.com, www.animated-news.com

FEATURES

Travel From Your Own Home: Be a Host

TOM WESTOLL

An age old tradition among recent university graduates has been to take off on a self exploratory travelling excursion. For this generation of young travellers the reality of huge debts can sometimes feel like an impediment to their travelling dreams and it seems that in order to be able to afford to travel, one would have to work for a while to accumulate enough money for a real trip of any real amount of time. Then the catch 22 factor sets in, where it may be necessary to quit the new job you got in order to take that trip you have been dreaming about and end up losing your position. What is more important: the job or the trip?

This is where international groups based over the internet such as the Hospitality Club or Couch-Surfers comes in. The idea behind these non profit organizations which are all run by volunteers, is that people will be able to come together from all types of different cultures when travelling and give travellers the opportunity to meet locals, on the flipside, locals have a chance to meet and host travellers,

so in a sense, they can feel like they can travel the world without leaving their home. In the Hospitality Club for example, there are over 328,000 members in 207 countries who are either travelling the world or hosting travelers from around the world.

One member related her initial doubt about such organizations because free accommodation seemed a little too good to be true. She assumed that most people offering to have strangers into their homes would be those with no friends (for good reason) in their own cities or unsavoury characters looking for a non-monetary payment (wink). With those assumptions she stuck to hostels until she happened by chance into a large gathering for members of the hospitality club. To her surprise no one there fit her image of a creep or weirdo and in fact many of the people were actually types she found herself becoming friends with. For the next two months of a European trip she stayed almost exclusively with Hospitality Club members. She has also hosted a few travellers since returning and has not had an unpleasant experience to report.

Recently, two travellers from Germany stayed at her house for two nights. As a person who is hosting road weary traveller's, it is a good idea to make it clear on the website profile what you can or cannot offer. For example, this particular member makes it known to potential travellers that her apartment is small and that they must buy their own food, use a calling card for long distance calls, wash their own dishes and so on, very similar to what it would be like staying in a hostel. The only difference of course, is that hostels cost money and the accommodations from Hospitality Club or Couch-Surfers is completely free.

People host for a variety of reasons: some are travellers who are looking for reciprocation but many are in school or work jobs with very little vacation time and simply want to engage in a little vicarious travel by hearing the stories and seeing the pictures of someone who has travelled different places than them. There are forums for people who speak many different languages and sometimes hosts are also looking for a little practice

with their English, which they will freely admit when arrangements are being made.

Similar to the Hospitality Club is the Couch Surfer's website, which claims to have over 350,000 members in 224 countries. The goal of the web based group is to change the way people travel by connecting them to people in the places they go to. "CouchSurfing is not about the furniture, not just

options for student travel are available; one does not have to look any further than Travel Cuts, the travel company with a focus on students and budget travelling. They have developed and offer structured programs such as the GAP year abroad or SWAP working holiday, both of which are designed to allow maximum interaction with locals wherever you go and to give you volunteer or actual work experience.

“To her surprise no one there fit her image of a creep or weirdo...”

about finding free accommodations around the world; it's about making connections worldwide" the website states.

For students who are looking to travel and perhaps go beyond the comfortable boundaries of staying at all inclusive resorts or for students who have considered including volunteer experiences into their travels, the Hospitality Club and Couch Surfer's organizations are worth exploring. Of course other

These types of programs do not generally allow for a large area to be covered, as they will have you situated in one location because of the work associated, so if you are looking to do some backpacking and keep on movin' on just like the littlest hobo, free accommodations and the freedom and flexibility that they provide might just be up your alley.

Learning English at SMU: A Cross Cultural Experience



Photo: Tom Westoll

From left to right: TESL Students- Ayami Iwata, Rie Sudo, Yu Beppu, Rena Terayama, Nozomu Kusano, Chikako Okamoto

TOM WESTOLL

Saint Mary's University is home to the Teaching English as a Second Language Centre (or TESL as it's more commonly known) which is one of, if not the best and most renowned English learning centres in the Atlantic Provinces. Among the estimated 6 or more schools that specialize in teaching English as a second language in Halifax, the TESL centre stands out from the rest as it is the largest and most widely recognized.

Recently, I had the chance to sit down with a group of students from the TESL Centre and talk about some of the things that being an international student attending a Canadian university encompasses.

Six students from Japan took a moment to speak with me and fill me in on life in Halifax. Chikako Okamoto, Nozomu

Kusano and Rena Terayama are from Hakodate, which just so happens to be Halifax's sister city and is complete with a citadel fort in the centre of town. It's located on Japan's northernmost island, Hokkaido, while Ayami Iwata, Rie Sudo and Yu Beppu are from the city of Fukuoka, a city with a metropolitan population of 2.5 million people, which is on the island of Kyushu. All six are here at Saint Mary's to improve their English skills at the TESL centre through arrangements with their respective institutions back home in Japan. Chikako, Nozomu and Rena are all from Hakodate and attend the TESL Centre through an arrangement between Hakodate University and SMU.

As a result of the sister city arrangement between Halifax and Hakodate, the two universities have an exchange agreement in place that allows students to study abroad. Faculty can even participate in exchanges and turn their experiences into course material upon their arriving home, as Dr. Millward has done in the geography department for example, with his

course on the geography of Japan.

The goal of the English speaking programs at the TESL centre is to better integrate non-native speakers into an environment where speaking English is a regular part of the way they communicate. You might think that overcoming cultural and language barriers would be one of the biggest obstacles for international non English speaking students, but according to the 6 students I spoke to; they almost unanimously said that the high cost of taking the program and the high taxes in Canada are more scary than being in a city on the other side of the world. Aside from the expenses of living and studying abroad, the other thing that has been the hardest to overcome so far has been the weather. For Ayami, Yu and Rie, the northern climate has taken some time to get used to. Fukuoka sits at 33 degrees north of the equator compared to Halifax at 45 degrees, so winter in Fukuoka rarely falls below 0 degrees Celsius and the average temperature through the year is around 16 degrees Celsius, so needless to say, a Canadian winter is feared by those who have not experienced it. On the other hand, for Rena, Chikako and Nozomu winter is not as feared. While Hakodate may not get a lot of snow, Hokkaido is sometimes regarded as Japan's winter playground with a plethora of resorts and legendary amounts of snowfall.

In Japan efficient mass public transit is synonymous with the urban structure Japan has become known for in the last half century or so. Indeed, one of the major differences that Yu suggested between Fukuoka and Halifax is the level of transportation options. Fukuoka for example is serviced by boats and ferries, high speed trains, subways and buses.

One difference that Ayami noticed between SMU and all

female university she attends in Fukuoka is that "our teacher [in Japan] doesn't sit on the table..." when delivering a lecture. Everybody agreed that the style of classes at SMU and the TESL Centre are more interactive. Where students are able to discuss and debate topics during class with their professors here at SMU, in Japan the professor gives a lecture and the students are expected to take notes and pay attention, but not necessarily give their own responses.

Regardless of the expense and the cold weather it is worth it in the end for these students. All six said they plan on returning to Japan when they are finished their English studies here at the TESL Centre, and Ayami says she expects her time here to be beneficial because the international experience will help when she returns to Japan. For Rie who has hopes of working as a travel agent when she returns to Japan, the experience of living abroad is almost like training. She says learning English and being able to speak it fluently will help her to find a job when she returns home.

Both Nozomu and Rena would like to be English teachers at the junior high level in Hakodate so the benefits of learning English in Halifax are fairly obvious for them. And as Chikako says, "upon returning to Japan having English will help to make getting a job easier" in a field where some level of English skills will come in handy.

All six of the people I talked to said that this was not the first time they had done some traveling or studying abroad.

Yu for example, was an exchange student when she was in high school and spent four months in Vancouver. Some of the other places they have studied or traveled to include the Philippines, Australia, the United States, Denmark and the Netherlands as well as China. There was a group consensus that the year abroad would not "set them back" at school or in searching for work when they returned home, but rather it would give them an advantage as being a fluent English speaker and the personal experience of having lived in another country will outweigh any of the obstacles and hurdles that they have to overcome.

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Only the Lonely: Shotgun Jimmie's New Solo Album



Photo: www.shotgunjimmie.com

TOM WESTOLL

"I'm awake, I'm awake, I'm ready to go/by the way you're lying there no one would know" are the opening lyrics from Bedhead, one of the more catchy numbers on Shotgun Jimmie's brand new solo album, *The Onlys*.

After staying out late for his self described "big fancy CD release party" held recently at the Seahorse, the morning rolls around a lot faster than you would like it to, and this reporter found that by putting that song on first thing it got him up and out of bed in the brightest of moods.

Sackville, New Brunswick's Shotgun Jimmie plays honest and authentic 'lo-fi' rock. His lyrics are usually straightforward and often, they refer to everyday things, humour is often a part of what he writes about. Take one of the album's key tracks, Janitor's Luck, a song that plays out as a commentary on the struggles of the artist to make a living. The songs title, says Shotgun Jimmie is an old adage between he and a couple friends who were janitors at a nightclub in Toronto.

"The definitive definition that I remember is you find a five dollar bill... but it's in the toilet...Janitors Luck!" Jimmie says recalling his custodial days. "I can just barely write songs," he says, "I don't really have much of a choice what they're gonna be about or whatever, I just start doing them and then they end up the way they are. The community of friends that I have there (in Sackville) and people that I hang out with completely shape it."

The record is the first to be released so far on Delorean (you know, that car from the Back To The Future movies) Recordings, a new label that is being run out of Maynard Street by Stephanie d'Entremont, drummer and half of The Superfantastics, and Matt Charlton, of local publicity company, Pigeon Row Public Relations. This is not Jimmie's first solo record, though. He has self recorded and released solo records before, the latest one before *The Onlys* was a 2004 effort called *The 6000 True Stories of Love*; of course, he is best known for co-fronting the now defunct Shotgun & Jaybird. They broke up in 2006 after the release of *Trying to Get Somewhere*, somewhat ironic perhaps, because by the release of that album, Shotgun & Jaybird had received

national attention. The dissolution of the band hasn't fazed Jimmie though.

"I've been kind of doing it all along, you know" says Jimmie about writing, recording and releasing solo work. "It's just been on a smaller scale, never with, like, a proper publicist, or record label or anything. I [was] doing recordings in my parents basement all through high school and putting them into albums and then just giving them to my friends...as well as playing shows with other people under the name Shotgun Jimmie, so it was a continuation of that, but there is a lot of Shotgun & Jaybird in there too because that's all I was doing up to that point."

At this point in time, Shotgun Jimmie is basically just looking ahead. Currently on a fall mini tour that will take him across the Maritime's and then out to a string of shows on the prairies opening for Toronto's Baby Eagle, his only plans for the time being are touring and promoting the new album. "I think I'm gonna do a cross Canada tour in the summer. My brother just got a car and he said I could borrow it for a month and drive across the country" says Jimmie, who is no stranger to adventures with cars. In fact, car misadventures may be what led Jimmie to relocate to Sackville from Dawson City, Yukon where he was before and Ajax, Ontario, where he is originally from. His first trip to Sackville was to visit his brother at Mount Allison and leaving proved to be harder than he had hoped. Three times the engine blew up after faulty diagnoses and after exhausting his life savings trying to get the car on the road, he ended up staying a couple months. Then, a few years later, when he and Fred Morello, co-founder of Shotgun & Jaybird, were driving to the first Stereophonic festival in Sackville during a freezing and windy night that was blowing the snow around, the car got written off after losing control and fishtailing on some black ice and rolling into the ditch.

After dealing with the police and arranging for a tow truck, "on the way to the wrecking yard, Fred was like, 'do you want to just move to Sackville?', and I was feeling exactly the same way.... There was a clarity to it [the moment] and it was like being in Sackville would be right and it would be cool, we were both so excited to be there and, uh, we got a bus ride to Sack-

ville and I think that was about 5 years ago."

The new album was recorded entirely at an old farm house Jimmie lived in just outside Sackville called Windmarsh Farm during the February to July period of this year and so far, it's been received warmly with favourable reviews. The farm

house location ended up being as much a part of the recording process and end result which all show up on songs from the album. The mini ramp that is shown in the CD's packaging was built during the time when Jimmie was holed up inside the house recording, and perhaps subconsciously, skateboarding had a bit of an influence on the album. With a song called Pop Shovit to Disaster that starts with a sound clip of a skateboard session in the backyard.

"I totally feel like that skateboard ramp is...it's hard to explain, but I feel like it is the album... the two [projects] finished at the same time almost, and there were all these parties all summer, I'd look out the window and everybody's like, you know, drinking beer and blaring tunes and stuff and I was just totally inside by myself being like, Johnny Work Ethic" says Jimmie, possibly partially explaining the title of *The Onlys*. The name of the album is taken from the name of a painting that almost appeared on the cover of the album. The painting that Jimmie ended up choosing for the cover had a different name, but Jimmie liked *The Onlys* so much he stuck with it.

"I wanted to keep the name; I just thought it made sense, being a solo album. It kind of sounds like lonely or something, I was feeling it," he explains, "it just fit really well."

The True Meaning of "Christmas"

MARK MERCER
The Cranky Professor

People who would ban Christmas decorations and celebrations from public places are moved by the thought that to celebrate Christmas publicly is to privilege one tradition and the constellation of values around it over all the other traditions and constellations of values current in Canadian society. Celebrating Christmas, they think, disparages other holidays or traditions of celebration, and that, in turn, marginalizes or excludes everyone outside the Christian tradition.

One point we must keep in mind here, though, is that Christmas is not an exclusively Christian holiday. For at least a couple generations, Christmas has been evolving into a secular holiday, a holiday that for many of us has no religious significance at all. Christmas is a celebration of good will, generosity, and peace among nations. It is a time to appreciate and enjoy the company of family and friends. Children are central to Christmas—partly because it

our traditions or authorities would have us do. In this sort of society, no celebration is by everyone for everyone.

In another sort of multicultural society, some celebrations or holidays are public events—events funded and organized by or through civil authorities acting on mandates from the federal government. These holidays would, of course, have to honour values important to most people in the country and to honour them in ways the people find congenial, or else they would attract few participants. In this second sort of multicultural society, a few holidays, maybe only two or three a year, belong to all the people. They are times when everyone gets together to enjoy themselves and to enjoy each other.

The second sort of multicultural society is much more attractive than the first sort. The people in it enjoy whatever group identities they have and they are free and welcome to honour them. But they also see themselves as citizens of a country and view their neighbours as fellow citizens. In the first sort

"Children are central to Christmas... because they are strange and clever people of whom we are fond."

is to them that the future belongs, mainly because they are strange and clever people of whom we are fond.

Now for the Christians among us, Christmas marks the birth of Jesus and, so, is also an occasion for worship. But it isn't any such occasion for the rest of us. And while the activities and symbols through which we honour and celebrate good will, generosity, peace, family, friends, and children derive from Christian traditions, they now have a life of their own independent of those traditions. They don't put us in mind of any values or doctrines specifically Christian.

Now, in one sort of multicultural society, no celebrations or holidays are public celebrations or holidays. There are, perhaps, statutory holidays, or maybe each of us just gets a certain number of days off work each year to take when she chooses. Each of us congregates with others of her group when according to her traditions or authorities it's time to honour something, and we do with members of our group whatever

of multicultural society, though, people see themselves merely as residing among their neighbours, not as connected to them through projects of citizenship.

What might be a holiday that all of us can celebrate together simply as Canadians, a holiday whose values touch us all? An obvious candidate is the secular holiday known as Christmas. If we want to have a few holidays that belong to all of us and that all of us can enjoy, I say we make Christmas one of them.

So let us say "Merry Christmas" to each other and to decorate Christmas trees in public places. And let us explain to anyone who worries that our behaviour will offend or exclude someone that while Christmas does have its origins in Christian traditions, the Christmas we celebrate is not at all a Christian or a religious holiday. Christmas now belongs to all of us, it privileges no particular religious or other tradition, and no one is excluded from it.



LET'S GET BAKED WITH MAT AND DAVE

Hey, wake and bake with Let's Get Baked! Making your own breakfast cereal from scratch has never been so much fun. This is guaranteed to get you off on the right foot as you start the day. Make sure you tune in to Lets Get Baked on CKDU at 5 pm on Thursday's to hear Halifax's favourite radio baking program.



Photo: Mat Dunlap

Breakfast Cereal for any time of day. Shotgun Jimmie and friend enjoy a large bowlful.

Good Morning Duder!!! Hearty Cereal with Shotgun Jimmie



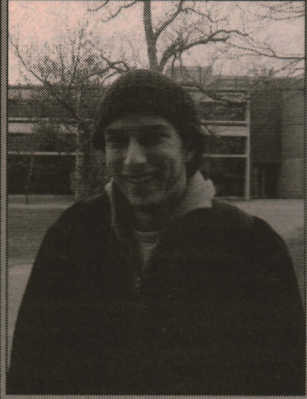
- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 cups oats | 1 tsp vanilla |
| 3/4 cup chopped dates | 1/2 cup chopped crystallized ginger |
| 1 apple, chopped | 1/4 cup brown rice syrup |
| 1/2 cup almonds | 1/8 cup maple syrup |
| 1/2 cup cashews | a gentle dusting of cayenne |
| 1/2 cup hazelnuts | handful of chocolate chips |
| 1/4 cup raisins | sprinkle of coconut |
| 1 tbsp cinnamon | |

Mix all ingredients in a cake pan, bake them up and add a small handful of chocolate chips along with a sprinkle of coconut half way through the baking time. Make sure you let it cool, find your biggest bowl and pour on some milk and enjoy!

THE JOURNAL PRESENTS AA ASKS....


Q & A with Amanda & AJ

What are your plans for Christmas break?"




TYLER MACPHEE
4TH YEAR SCIENCE

"I'm going to go back home to Cape Breton and spend time with my friends."




ERIN STROUD
4TH YEAR PSYCH & FRENCH

"I'm going to work at Bubble's Mansion, and then take a trip home to the big city of New Glasgow."



JONATHON MACINTOSH
4TH YEAR PHYSICS

"I'm going to get a job and then work."




LAURA MACINTOSH
5TH YEAR PSYCH &
ROBERT HARRIS
3RD YEAR GEOG.

"We are going to Las Vegas to see the Spice Girls!!"



JEN SCHWARTZ
4TH YEAR ENGLISH & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

"After I go to Vegas to see the Spice Girls with my two best friends, I'm going to celebrate Jesus' birthday."



ALISHIA MACRAE
2ND YEAR CRIM

"I'm going down home to Cape Breton. My cousin is in the RCMP, and is coming home from Manitoba so I will see him."

Photos courtesy of Amanda Wenek

SMUDOKU

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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HOT OR NOT

- Leggings
- Last week of classes
- Being friends with your roommate's significant other
- Best of Open Mic
- Playing Mafia on Vanier bus trip for 20 hours
- Sleeping with a teddy
- Turtle necks
- Intuition
- Advent calendars

- Pants
- Finals
- Trying to break them up so you have a shot
- Feast concert the same night
- Potentially hitting a deer on same bus trip
- Sleeping in a teddy
- Poorly covering up hickeys
- Venus
- Eating the chocolates before it's December

G SPOT

Randy Blue's Favourite Gifts for XXXmas 2007

SS RANDY BLUE

By now you've all probably seen and heard all about Oprah's favourite things. Well, this week I'm going to write about more practical favourite things that you can buy for your special someone this holiday season. They may not be LCD televisions but you'll get much more pleasure and enjoyment out of them, if you know what I mean. While I have come across many fun and exciting potential gifts this year, I've narrowed it down to my top 5.

My first favourite thing for this year would be the butterfly vibrator. This vibrator has a remote control so your partner

can decide when to give you a shot of pleasure. While Seal may not agree, a kiss from a butterfly is always more pleasurable than a kiss from a rose. Shop around online and you can find one for less than \$50 from www.extremerestraints.com.

My second favourite thing for this year would be a set of Spank Leather handcuffs. What better way to keep your lover, than to cuff them to a bedpost. If you're feeling a little extra randy, splurge on some bondage tape to complete the ensemble. Remember bondage tape only sticks to itself, never to your skin. Both the cuffs and bondage tape can be purchased from Venus Envy for \$30 and \$10

respectively.

While you're at Venus envy investing in a decent pair of cuffs, pick yourself up the sensual "Weekender Kit". It's my third favourite thing and it contains everything you'll need for an extremely pleasurable and sensual weekend. It contains a container of Honey Dust and applicator feather. Honey Dust can be sprinkled on your lover and tastes amazing when you lick it off. The kit also contains both massage oils and an aromatic bathing gel for that romantic two person bath you and your lover will need to have in order to clean each other off after a wild weekend.

My fourth favourite thing

is something a little more light-hearted. It's available from the Naughty by Nature online store and is called the Peekaboo Pole Dancing kit. This kit includes everything you need to pole dance for your significant other, including a spring loaded pole. It has an instructional DVD, how-to guide and 100 Peekaboo dollars, in case you want to do some role playing. This gift is sure to please any man or woman on your Christmas list because let's face it, who doesn't want someone sexy dancing on your pole. The entire kit retails for \$300.

My fifth and final favourite thing for this holiday season is the Sex-Scratchers book. This

book contains 100 sex scratch and win tickets. There's a sexy game under each ticket and every ticket is a winner. This gift is a perfect stocking stuffer and can introduce many new sexual experiences into your relationship. This book is available on many online sex sites and retails for around \$9.

If, after receiving some of these gifts your partner doesn't get the hint (if you know what I mean, and I think you do) just buy him, or her, a box of assorted condoms. They're cheap, practical and leave no guess work for how you want to spend your holiday season.

Until next semester, keep it gift wrapped, and email questions to smu.Gspot@gmail.com

SPORTS

The Question on Everyone's Mind, What if Erik Played?



Photo: Laura Macintosh

DANNY CAREW

What if Erik played? That's the question that has been pondered by sportswriters, fans, and players. Jody Jewers of the Daily News asked the question this past Sunday in his article. It's a question I've been contemplating over the past weekend, as I've compiled statistics and projections based on the result of the Vanier Cup. I would like to explore the Glavic factor: a simple look at the numbers Erik has put up over the past two seasons to illustrate how the result of the game may have gone in SMU's favour if Erik actually played.

First of all, this comparison

is just a comparison. Obviously, anything can happen in a game of football, no matter who plays. This comparison is nothing against Ted Abraham. In my opinion, Ted played a great game. He kept the team in the game, he was unfazed by the Bisons' pressure, and he made some key throws to give Saint Mary's a chance to win.

While Ted threw three interceptions he didn't throw four like Michael Faulds of Western did in the previous week against the Manitoba defense. The point is that the Manitoba defense is no slouch. Maybe if Ted didn't throw the picks, SMU may have had a better chance, but this defense could

cause any quarterback to commit turnovers. Ted knew his role in the game and he told me, "I'm here to manage the game. I'm not the Hec Crighton winner, Erik Glavic is." Here are some arguments as to why Erik would have made the difference in the big game if it wasn't for his bad knee.

Erik Glavic is 9-1 as a starter for his career. In his one career loss, Saint Mary's only lost by a touchdown. Saint Mary's lost by two touchdowns in the Vanier.

With Erik at the helm, the Saint Mary's offense averages 529 yards per game. Against Manitoba, the offense put up just 303 yards.

The Saint Mary's defense al-

lowed an average of 252 yards per game on the year. Manitoba put up 430 yards versus Saint Mary's in the Vanier. If Erik played, the offense may have put up more yardage which would have kept the Manitoba offense off the field.

Erik threw five interceptions on the entire season; Ted threw three interceptions in the game. Erik completed 64% of his passes on the season; Ted completed less than 50% of his passes in the Vanier.

Erik Glavic was sacked twice in the entire season; Ted Abraham was sacked four times in the Vanier Cup.

Turnovers and pressure were the keys to the Bisons victory. Manitoba was able to send numerous defenders after Ted because he isn't as mobile as Erik. Manitoba could ill-afford to do this if Erik played, because he would simply drop back, avoid the rush and pick apart the defense. When Erik runs outside of the pocket he not only makes defenders miss, he affords the receivers ample time to get open when he's rolling out. Defensive backs can only cover receivers for a certain amount of time before they break down and are unable to watch the quarterback and the receiver at the same time. Erik deems it necessary to run with the ball when a receiver isn't open. By doing this, Erik has the green light to either dump off a pass to an open receiver or to keep it himself and run for a first down. Since Erik is a dual threat he has less of a margin for error as opposed to someone like Abraham who has to rely on quick reads and his arm to make the right decisions.

There are numerous reasons as to why the Glavic factor would have played to Saint Mary's advan-

tage in the Vanier, but regardless, the season is over and it's up to Erik to heal so the Huskies can be back and ready for 2008.

"I'm going to get surgery in early December. From there, I won't be able to run but I'll live in the gym. I'll get stronger, bigger, and continue to improve my game. I'm a hard worker, I will not stop working," says Glavic, when asked what he needs to do to get ready for the 2008 season.

On prospects for the 2008 season: "We're going to come hard. This loss kills you. Our team is going to remember how it is to lose in the Vanier Cup. Everybody hates it; you don't want to lose in the Vanier Cup. We're returning a lot of guys. We have a veteran group. We'll be back, we'll be back here next year."

If anybody has doubts about the team, just listen to "Mr. Hec" himself. Conventional wisdom says that a quarterback should slide and avoid the big hit. To be honest, Erik relishes it. The same could be said about Chris Flynn who was unable to play in the 1988 Vanier Cup because he suffered a skull fracture the game before. Big game quarterbacks not only rely on their athleticism and instincts, they also play on adrenaline. I'm sure Coach Summarah will caution Erik to run out of bounds and avoid the big hit if at all possible. But Saint Mary's wouldn't have made it to the Vanier if it wasn't for Erik and injury is part of the game that is synonymous with pain.

Get well soon Erik. The Huskies will be vindicated if they win the Vanier Cup next year. Thanks to all the Huskies who have helped make this season a season to remember.

Erik Glavic Wins the Hec Crighton Trophy

DANNY CAREW

Erik Glavic is one heck of a player, which is why he has been named the 2007 winner of the Hec Crighton Trophy, an award recognizing the CIS outstanding player of the year. The last Saint Mary's player to claim the crown as the "King of Canadian Football" was quarterback Chris Flynn, who won the

award three consecutive years in row from 1989 to 1990

Erik edged out Bishop's running back Jamall Lee, University of Ottawa quarterback Joshua Sacobie, and University of Regina quarterback Teale Orban.

Glavic, a 6'6" passer from Pickering, Ontario, led the Huskies to a regular season mark of 7-1. Glavic is equally as lethal throwing the ball as he is running it, as evidenced by his impressive numbers. Glavic threw for 1,995 yards, 17 touchdowns, and five interceptions on the season. Glavic ran the ball for 478 yards on only 62 carries, good for an average of 7.7 yards per carry. Glavic administered the number one offense in CIS football, a team which averaged an impressive 529 yards per game. Glavic toyed with defenses all season long; he was only sacked twice on the season and his completion percentage of 64% was good for second in Huskies history behind Chris Flynn's percentage of 66.3%.

While Erik is flattered to be considered the best in Canada, he values victories over personal accolades. "I wouldn't put this award over championships; winning is everything, not winning awards. It's definitely special. I'm very honored. We need to put the award aside and go and win championships," says Glavic, who was un-

able to play in the Vanier Cup due to a torn ACL which he sustained in last week's stunning victory over the Rouge-et-Or in the Uteck Bowl. "It hurts 100% not to be able to play. I'd trade this in 100% to be able to play."

Erik has been a quarterback since he was eight-years old. He's a natural leader, a characteristic essential for a player who conducts the offense. Despite being in obvious pain sitting on the sideline for the second-half of the Uteck Bowl, Erik stayed upbeat and optimistic, cheering on his teammates and relishing that he would in fact

play in the Vanier. Despite being in crutches during the awards ceremony, Erik would drop them and jump into action for the Vanier if doctors deemed he was eligible for action. Erik knew he wouldn't be able to play. "The

injury is unfortunate, but you just have to support the team. We're a tight-knit group. I have all the confidence in the team." Spoken like a true hero, more importantly, a true player.

While Ted Abraham led the charge against the Bisons, expect Erik to be back next season in an attempt to lead the Huskies to back-to-back Vanier Cup appearances. "Hopefully we can win two more Vanier cups. I just want to win, and hopefully we will."

How did Saint Mary's land a Hec Crighton winner? Well, Erik believes the Business program and

the history of Huskies success in football were the chief reasons as to why he came to Halifax.

"I'm happy to win the Hec Crighton, but I want a Vanier," asserts Glavic. While the Huskies did not win the Vanier, Erik will have every opportunity to get another chance at the Vanier.

Erik is the epitome of a champion and a great ambassador for Saint Mary's University. Thank you, Erik, for electrifying the fans and making us all proud to be a part of Saint Mary's.

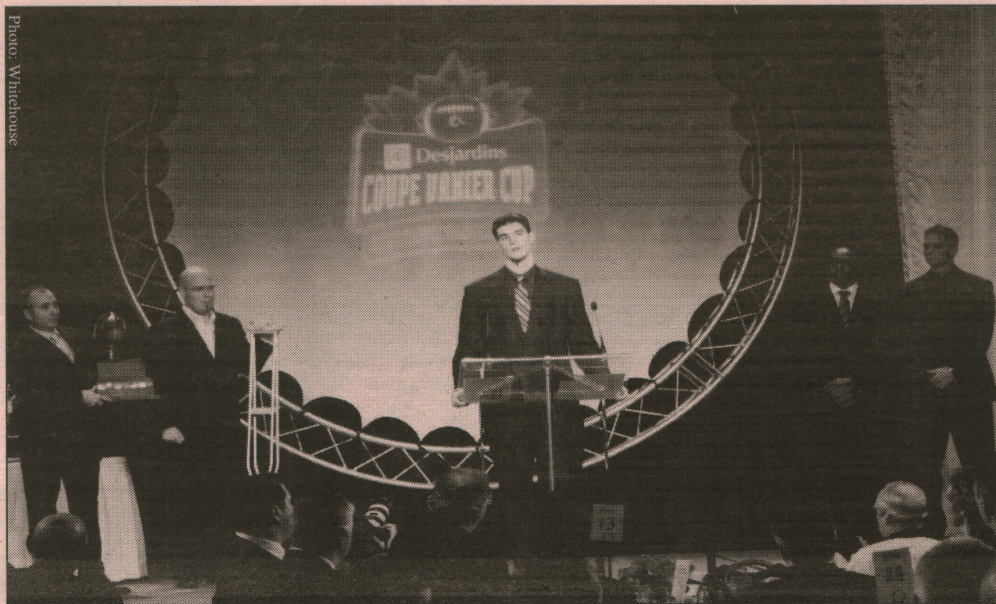


Photo: Whitehouse

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Tim St. Pierre is Huskies' Own Saint

DANNY CAREW

All running backs are aware of Saint Mary's linebacker Tim St. Pierre. Tim punishes offenses whenever he's on the field, hitting them with all of his force. However, Tim might actually hit the books harder than he does his opponents.

Tim not only excels on the field, he's also a champion in the classroom. While Tim, a criminology and psychology major, maintains great marks, the transition to becoming an academic was not an easy one. "It's tough to learn; it has been a learning process. When I came into the university I really had a hard time getting in; I didn't do well academically. The whole university expects excellence. I apply the same work ethic on the field as I do in the school." The work ethic has paid off. Last year Tim received the President's Award at the Saint Mary's Awards Banquet. The award is given to a Saint Mary's athlete who exemplifies excellence in both athletics and academics. Tim has a GPA around 4.0.

The numbers Tim has put up on the field have been phenomenal. The Huskies defense ranks number one in the CIS in yards allowed, conceding only 252 yards per game. Tim ranked number five in the AUS in total tackles with 39.5 on the season. Tim was named the Uteck Bowl MVP after recording five tackles, two sacks, and recovering a fumble for a touchdown. Tim was named to the AUS first-team all-defense; he was a finalist for the President's Trophy, an award for the top defensive player in the country; he was also named to the Second-Team All-Canadian defense. The achievements are impressive. The game is not just about stats; there is much more to it.

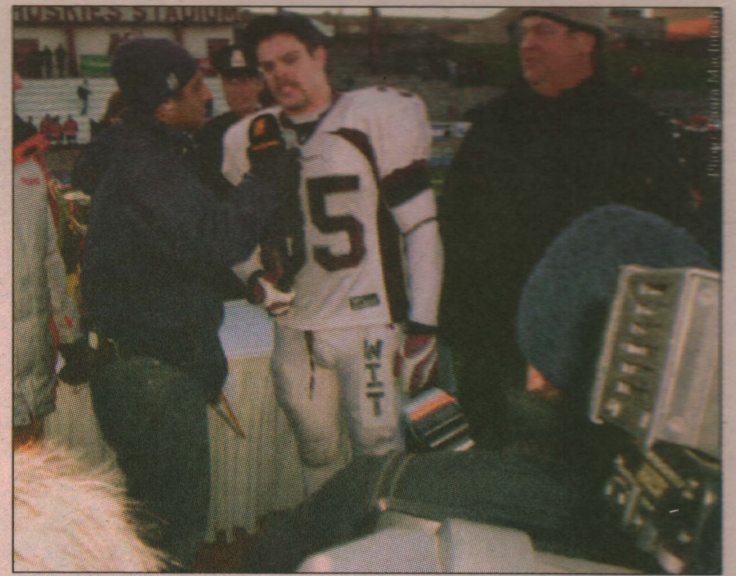
"I played pee-wee football as a kid; I got away from it because I was involved in other sports. When I got into High

school, I got drawn to my coach Dave Walters. He helped me get focused on this game. Everything I have now I can thank him for: work ethic and dedication are all drawn from him," says St. Pierre.

What does Tim get from playing Football? "I could give you a huge list but discipline and a good work ethic would be most important. Belief- there's a lot of times you go through hard times but you have to believe in others and in yourself. You have to be disciplined at all times." Tim certainly believes in his teammates and in his school, which is why Tim and his teammates made sure to send a letter to the school, via The Journal, to make sure the fans came out to support the team against Laval. The letter asked fans to be loud when the Laval offense was on the field and to make sure to be quiet when the SMU offense was on the field. The result: a birth to the Vanier Cup thanks to the teamwork between the team and the fans.

Tim describes his experience as a SMU student and why he decided to attend SMU. "Unbelievable. I had coaches in Hamilton who played at Saint Mary's so I was pushed this way. I kind of always knew that I wanted to go here. I came here to win championships, and finally I get an opportunity. The students, the athletic department, everyone is supportive. It's a small community, a small school. Overall, everything has been great."

What's next for Tim? "I have aspirations of going to the CFL next year. We'll see how it works out; if not, I'll be happy to come back and play." Tim is short a couple of credits after this season in order to graduate. He still has one more year of eligibility, so it would seem like a win-win situ-



Tim speaking with reporters after the Uteck Bowl win.

ation for Tim and Saint Mary's University. But then again, the man is a winner in the first place.

But if Tim doesn't end up playing in the CFL, instead of making tackles on the field he would like to tackle crime. "I want to play this game for as long as I can. I love it. The game has shaped my life. With Criminology, I could see myself becoming a police officer or a member of a SWAT team."

I don't think anyone would have a problem with Tim protecting our country. Let's just all be thankful that Tim is a part of our university, and that we do not have to play football against him.

Spotlight on National Hockey



LAURA MACINTOSH

It's time to get caught up with what's happening in the NHL. Let's start with the Eastern Conference.

As expected, the league-leading Ottawa Senators are kicking butt and taking names this season. With only five losses tarnishing their record the club has played outstanding in front of net minder Martin Gerber. Gerber is on top of the leaderboard for wins this season, and is sitting in the top five for save percentage and goals against average. The solid play of Gerber is a fantastic sign for Sens fans, following last years debacles. Alfredsson, Spezza, and Heatley are the top three, as expected, combining for most of the team's offensive production. The only negative to be said about the club is in their losses they have one lazy period, a trend that will have to stop by playoff time this year if they hope to hold Stanley.

Second spot in the east (at time of print) goes to the Carolina Hurricanes, lead by Canadians Cory Stillman and Eric Staal up front with Cam Ward in nets. An offensive powerhouse; six players have broken the 20 point marker in the clubs first 24 games of the season, and the Hurricanes hold top spot in the goals for category.

The biggest surprise from the East is the Buffalo Sabers who currently sit at .500 and share second last place in the East with the mighty Toronto Maple Leafs. The Sabers need more offensive power as well as a boost on the blue line if they want to help out star goalie Ryan Miller (who's save percentage is at a healthy .909%).

But back to the buds; for their fans...

There's always next year! For a team that keeps saying their building towards the future, Leafs you might want to take a few tips from the Penguins! I'm not sure how

to put this kindly but when your future is Matt Stajan and Alex Steen (both with an unimpressive 11 points on the season), you have some scouting issues. The Leafs have the highest goals against in the league (by far) and should probably invest in a goalie that's not Raycroft sometime soon.

The Penguins are sitting just ahead of the Buds at this point, but they're a team that really is the future of the NHL. Goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury is finally starting to shine like he did in the Q league, and 20 year old captain Sidney Crosby is currently sitting second in league scoring. 13 of the 22 starters are babies of the 80's and their top two scorers are under 22! Now there's a team for the future; and if last years playoff run is any indication, the future may be now.

Before we skip over to the west coast; a word on the Montreal Canadiens. The Habs have had a great start to the season, sitting fifth in the conference. Roman Hamrlik has been the rock on defense, leading the team in +/- . Up front Kovalev and Koivu have been playing well enough to keep the team in check. Hopefully net minder Cristobal Huet will continue to be strong between the pipes.

Time to jump to the West! Is anyone surprised that Detroit is leading the conference? The Red Wings sit just behind the Senators for second in the league, lead by Henrik Zetterberg on the left wing and good ol' Nicklas Lidstrom on defense. There's not too much to say about the Wings, they're solid as always and kind of boring to

watch, like most of the West.

Leading the Northwest division is the Minnesota Wild. With two top forwards on the injured reserves; Mikko Koivu and Pavol Demitra, the Wild have found a way to get the job done. The scoring has been spread throughout the team, and they are one of the best four line teams in the league. Minnesota has found a way to rally and become a real threat from the West.

There's not much to say about the Canadian teams of the West,

ranked bottom three in their division behind the Wild and Avalanche. The Oilers are sloppy all around and are only beating the Washington Capitals in league standings.

Calgary is too dependant on their offensive trio of Iginla, Tanguay, and Langkow. The Flames are over aggressive and need to stay out of the box, and they need a better jump to their power play if they want to make the cut come playoffs.

Vancouver is in the mix, being

lead by the Sedin twins. Roberto Luongo has had an off season to this point, hovering around the .500 marker for win/loss and stuck with a GAA of over 2.5. The team will have to pick up their play in front of the net and stop those big rebounds if the Canucks hope to stay in the mix.

Detroit and Minnesota look to be the biggest threats from the West, followed by the Dallas Stars, San Jose Sharks and defending Stanley Cup Champion Anaheim (no longer Mighty) Ducks.

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