



THE JOURNAL

Est. 1935 · Vol. 75 · No. 5 · September 16, 2008

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



Making SMUSA accountable to you

by Matt Risser, VP External

SMUSA has problems and everybody knows it. It is an organization we often get frustrated with but it's also the only organization on campus that is completely ours. We aren't alone, most of the complaints I've often heard about SMUSA could be just as easily made about student governments nationwide. The difference this year is that SMUSA is looking many of our underlying problems straight in the face and trying really hard to fix them.

Many of the things I've heard include, SMUSA doesn't listen to students, the Executives sometimes don't follow through with their promises, it's inefficient, nothing ever changes, and the list goes on. Now the criticisms aren't entirely unfounded but let's also keep in mind that SMUSA provides health and dental insurance, runs the Gorsebrook Lounge, advocates to governments which provided students with a Tuition Bursary Fund and Low Income Grants, and instituted the U-Pass.

This doesn't mean however that we don't have problems that need serious fixing. It's nobody's fault and the system we've got

isn't intentionally unaccountable but there are problems. Year after year our staff and elected officials try to make changes that students want but are bogged down in unnecessary regulations. Recognizing this, last year SMUSA created a working group to totally review how it governs itself and recommend improvements.

What the working group found is that SMUSA needs to make substantial changes in order to be more accountable to students. So the working group has drafted new by-laws which create much needed changes to SMUSA. These changes will be voted on in a referendum during the fall SRC elections so it's really important that students know what they're voting on.

So let's talk about the changes and the reasons we want to make them. Our current governance model lacks role clarity, has ambiguous authority, lacks accountability, and creates inefficiency. We've researched best practices for not-for-profit organizations for six months and have outlined a new system which is clear, efficient, accountable, and creates unambiguous authority.

They are designed to ensure that the President and other Executives are accountable to students through the Council. This doesn't work practically right now because the Executives dominate the Council's agenda, not intentionally, but just by being its most experienced members. A second aspect is giving the President full authority and control over the Executive. This way there will no

arguments the Executives can't resolve, which in past years has crippled the productivity of the organization. The last major aspect is making sure that students see the changes they voted for in the year they voted for them. What we've created now are elected offices with no power, for example when the new President takes office, the Budget for their year in office has already been set so they typically cannot fund the changes that students are looking to see from them and as a result students think SMUSA does nothing. The amendments to the Constitution designed by the working group will fix all of problems just described and make it more effective.

I would urge everyone to vote YES in this referendum because ultimately the entire purpose for this review was to make SMUSA genuinely and unavoidably accountable to you the students and your interests. If you have any questions about details on the structural changes this referendum would make don't hesitate to contact myself at 496-8716 or vpexternal@smusa.ca or your other Executives and Council Representatives.

smusa NEWS

Students'
Representative
Council

VOTE

Sept 24th and 25th

smusa

Saint Mary's University Students' Association

Attention Potential Grads
Graduation Pictures

About iMage will be on campus
October 9th and 10th in the Loyola
Private Dining Room (PDR)

smusa

Saint Mary's University Students' Association

Call 429-1977 to book an Appointment
to guarantee your grad photo in the yearbook

About iMage Photography Co.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Positions Available With
Info Desk

Husky Patrol & Yearbook
Marketing & Communication

FOR MORE INFORMATION
COME TO THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE
STUDENT CENTER

smusa

Saint Mary's University Students' Association

D250

smusa

Saint Mary's University Students' Association

Free Concert

Featuring

Bill Scarlett
& Guests

Monday, Sept 22

U-Pass available at the Information Desk on the 5th floor Student Centre

HAPPY HOUR

Monday To Friday 4:30 - 6pm
Wednesday and Thursday 9-10:30pm

2 \$ DRAFT

WEDNESDAY

September 17th

**OPEN MIC
NIGHT**

THURSDAY

September 18th

**LIVE
At The
LOUNGE**

FRIDAY

September 19th

**HOME COMING
DANCE
PARTY**

SATURDAY

September 20th

**OPEN FOR
BOOKINGS**

SUNDAY

September 21st

**OPEN FOR
BOOKINGS**

MONDAY

September 22nd

**WORLD
SPORTS
LOUNGE**

TUESDAY

September 23rd

**POOR
STUDENT DAY
\$3 FOOD SPECIALS**

the
Corsebrook
since 1974
lounge

PERSPECTIVES

Did the Youth Population Student Develop ADD?

Guest Editorial by Robbie Nauffts

Everywhere we turn, politics are being shoved in our face. American politics are on TV plus Canadian politics, and most importantly local politics. So what do most youth do when confronted by this media onslaught? Change the channel. Watch shows like "So you Think You Can Dance? Or "Family Guy."

Why not watch politics? Do we want to be entertained and watch Peter Griffin be politically incorrect while insulting minority groups. There is

plenty of entertainment in watching the leader's debate and someone making a statement that they are going to regret immediately. Or better yet, watch a potential Prime Minister get stumped by a simple question that was not rehearsed. Two of our journalists this week have touched on politicians encouraging to get out and vote with catchy slogans like "More Canadian Youth are DOING IT?" So politicians know how to get our attention, but the problem is holding our attention. Did the youth population suddenly develop ADD?

The problem our journalists at SMU have pointed out is the fact that politicians are not addressing our issues. For example, we need more funding at the University level to lower tuition. The politicians want the youth to hang on their every word about economics, who to trust, who not

to trust, and so on. The youth pay attention and then get bored when they are not being addressed. Then the potential voters stop paying attention.

But here is the real issue that most youth are missing: we are being lazy and waiting for the politicians to address us. Politicians are not known for coming to you and asking your problems. They come to you and state what they think the problems are and what they intend to do about them. When our issues fall through the cracks and don't see the light of day again, it is easy to blame someone else, and not take responsibility ourselves. Then as things fall apart for the next four years and don't go our way, we can easily say "I didn't vote." We sit quietly with our mouths closed, wishing we had opened them more in the first place.

Here is what we need to do as the youth population: get out and challenge the political parties and hound them with our issues. If politicians want us to vote, they need to listen to what we

are saying and asking. We cannot sit back and wait for candidates to address us. Sitting back with your friends and talking politics can be enlightening, but if you really want to learn, go out to a rally. Ask your questions and state your demands. Put simply, raise all hell. The smart politicians will embrace us, work on our issues, and then be rewarded with our votes. We cannot sit back and allow one or two University Students to represent all of our needs and wants.

The DAL Gazette was blasted for causing trouble at the Harper Media Conference last Friday and was banned for asking their questions. If politicians want us to vote, why do they get upset when we challenge what they have to say? That pushes potential voters away. Politicians should be embracing these challenges because it gets the youth interested. Instead we get sucked into reality television and distracted from real events that will decide the next four years of our country.

Where is the fun of watching reality Television when you can live it?

Young Voter Apathy Is So Un-Cool

Scott Hart

Welcome! September is an exciting time in Nova Scotia as thousands of students converge to our several campuses across the province. It marks a time of reunion for those returning, or a new beginning for students new to Saint Mary's University.

In Nova Scotia, youth policy is kind of an anomaly. Nova Scotia is bleeding youth to Alberta, especially from our province's rural areas. This is juxtaposed by a significant percentage of our post secondary students coming from outside the province. Given this dichotomy, September is also an important time for community groups to reach out and forge ties with new students in the hope that they will stay and contribute to our communities and the economy of the future. Given rising tuition, fears of student and consumer debt, low wages and job prospects more and more young people are forced to move west. Education policy is distracted by the perception of increased youth violence in the Halifax area, suggesting a form of frustration with the realities of our economy. The solution to this problem must be answered by getting more young people involved in the political process. Instead of being known as the Ipod generation, we need to become the Ivote generation.

Some may be familiar with Democracy 250. It is the celebration of the 250th anniversary of when democracy was granted to Province House in the then-British Colony of Nova Scotia and it became the model of Canadian democracy when our nation was formed at Confederation in 1867. As part of the Democracy 250 celebrations the Government of Nova Scotia facilitated several youth town forums across the province where high school students were invited to discuss politics. As a young person involved in politics, I was given the absolute privilege to help facilitate some of these discussions and it became extremely clear to me that young people do have opinions on politics.

The reality is, however, that young people are voting in lower and lower numbers. In the last federal election 1.2 million Canadians under the age of 25 did not vote.

As the Nova Scotia Young New Democrats' campus coordinator I am writing to make a non-partisan pitch for Saint Mary's students to investigate the political clubs and societies on campus and get involved. With a municipal vote scheduled this fall, and minority Governments at both the provincial and federal level, it is very possible that we will have an opportunity to vote in up to three elections before this school year is over.

It is becoming clear that apathy is no longer cool. In fact, we have a wealth of examples of just how easy it is to make a difference. I celebrate youth action – like "the pink shirt boys" from an Annapolis Valley high school, who donned pink shirts to stop bullying in their school and gained national recognition for their action – and students at Mount Saint Vincent University who campaigned for, and achieved a new crosswalk on a section of Bedford Highway when a student was hit by a car there last January.

The Young New Democrats applaud young people who get involved. When we work together – good things happen in our community. Youth leadership is a

main theme of our upcoming YND AGM to be held October 4th, at Halifax's Bloomfield Centre, featuring community leaders who have proven that age is not an impediment to facilitating change, and that apathy is so un-cool. If you support New Democratic values, we invite you to this exciting event and to work on the issues that matter to us – the environment; tuition and access to education; good paying local jobs; the cost of monthly bills such as the proposed 20 percent increase to electricity; or the gouging fee rates of the banks, ATM's and the cell phone companies.

If you do not agree with the New Democrats, I urge you to investigate the different political clubs on campus and learn more about them. In these times of potential environmental, economic, social and energy insecurity now is not the time for apathy to consume our leaders of the future. I have a great deal of respect for young people who are involved, regardless of their partisanship or party affiliation. It would be a pleasure to debate you at two swords length at Model Legislature, where each spring Young New Democrats, Liberals and Conservatives meet in Nova Scotia's historic Province House to practice the legislative process. Opposing viewpoints and freedom of speech are rights we must not take for granted, as they are the basis of our freedom. As Saint Mary's students return to university and enjoy the freedom of independent thought in our classrooms, we must not lose site of the fact other young Canadians are fighting abroad to protect these rights. We must not squander this privilege. No matter your viewpoint, what you think matters and young people getting involved can make a difference.

Scott Hart is the Chair of the Nova Scotia Young New Democrats Campus Organizing Committee.

For more information on the YND Annual General Meeting held October 4th in Halifax, email getinvolved@nsynd.ca.

The Candidates Want Our Vote; They Just Don't Want to Talk About Us.

Jeff Cusack

Every election the public hears how voter apathy is at an all time low among youth, and the candidates always give a few sound bites about just how important our vote is. In the case of the Conservatives, this probably isn't true, because not that many youth tend to actually vote for them. In the case of the NDP, the Bloc, the Greens, and the even the Liberals to an extent, our vote should matter, because they all tend to track younger when voter demographics are analyzed. Despite our importance we youth have been largely ignored this election. Over a million Canadian youth didn't vote in the last election, more than enough to influence its ultimate outcome (to be fair, voter turnout is low in all demographics.) In part the media can take some blame for not bringing youth and student issues to the candidates, but the candidates themselves must also make our issues prominent by committing to action on them in their platforms.

Jack Layton and the NDP seemed to have made a small effort by committing to increasing funding for nursing and medical schools, but is this announcement really for Canada's youth? Nursing and medical students tend to be the oldest of university students, with sta-

tistics generally pegging them from around twenty nine to thirty two years of age on average. In addition, many universities, (such as Saint Mary's,) don't actually have nursing or medical programs. So Layton's announcement, while relevant to the extremely important issue of massive labour shortages in the medical community, doesn't actually have anything to do with youth.

The Greens have talked about tuition control, but have focused more on fighting the injustices they face than on making any real commitment to students.

In Halifax on Friday Stephen Harper said that he has invested in sciences and engineering, but whether any of this went to students is not particularly mentioned. (If any readers know how funding for these two faculties has been affected at any university you've had experience with, please email the journal.) The arts, however, did not get any mention from the Prime Minister, possibly because during his first years as Prime Minister he has mostly cut funding for arts faculties, which probably is not a good way to get votes from that particular demographic.

To all the candidates for every party in Halifax and beyond: If you want youth votes, then you should

THE JOURNAL
SUITE 517, STUDENT CENTRE
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3H 3C3
902.496.8201
THESMUJOURNAL@GMAIL.COM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
AMANDA WENEK
THESMUJOURNAL@GMAIL.COM

NEWS EDITOR
KIM DARES
NEWS.SMU@GMAIL.COM

SPORTS EDITOR
DANNY CAREW
SPORTS.SMU@GMAIL.COM

BUSINESS EDITOR
LAURA MACINTOSH
BUSINESS.SMU@GMAIL.COM

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
RESSA PETERS
ARTS.SMU@GMAIL.COM

FEATURES EDITOR
TOM WESTOLL
FEATURES.SMU@GMAIL.COM

ART DIRECTOR
ASHLEY LEBLANC

AD-MANAGER
KALINA MCCRAIL
SMUJOURNALADS@GMAIL.COM
902.496.8203

BUSINESS MANAGER
ADAM KHALFALLA
JOURNALMANAGER@GMAIL.COM

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
DANNY CAREW

WEBSITE MANAGER
ELIE KHOURY

THANKS TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

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

ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT PIECES OF WORK FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JOURNAL. THESE SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOON ON SUNDAY THROUGH THE PROVIDED EMAIL ADDRESSES. SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THESMUJOURNAL@GMAIL.COM OR AT WWW.SMUJOURNAL.CA. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR MAY BE NO MORE THAN 400 WORDS. ALL SUBMISSIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO EDITING.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROOFREAD, VISIT THE OFFICE ON MONDAY MORNINGS. ALL PIECES ARE SUBJECT TO THE JOURNAL GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION. (AVAILABLE ON REQUEST). THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE JOURNAL ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND NOT NECESSARILY OF THE JOURNAL OR SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY.

**LSAT MCAT
GMAT GRE**
Preparation Seminars

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Personalized Professional Instruction
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

Oxford Seminars
1-800-269-6719 / 416-924-3240
www.oxfordseminars.ca

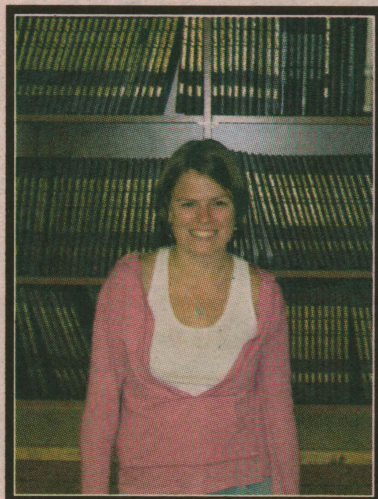
VOTE SEPT 24 & 25

SMUSA Students' Representative Council, WUSC and

VOTE ONLINE September 24th and 25th at WWW.SMUSA.CA

GRADUATE

Caitlin Dix



Hello Fellow Students

My name is Caitlin Dix and I am running to be this year's Graduate Student Representative. I am originally from Orillia, Ontario and completed my undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies at Memorial University, SWGC. Here at Saint Mary's I am in my first year of the Masters of Arts programme in International Development Studies.

I am an organized, energetic and creative person. I believe that I will be able to bring a strong voice to council, and represent the graduate student body with determination and maturity. I look forward to the opportunity to be the link between the graduate student body and the SRC.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to obtain your vote.
Sincerely

Caitlin Dix

GRADUATE

Zhenfeng Zhao



My name is Zhenfeng Zhao. I am running for Graduate Representative in SMUSA. There seems to be so many great opportunities in Saint Mary's University. I want to help students to take advantage of those, while making this university better for those who will attend in the future.

I am a graduate student in Master of Applied Science in Computing Science. I have been one of the main organizers of Halifax Charity Performance for Wenchuan China Earthquake at SMU, and have coordinated many other large events at SMU. I am not only active in student life, but also my academic performance is good (GPA 4.0), receiving two-year full scholarship/fellowship. I am working with a local company on lots of cool stuff, such as couple patent software/electronics development and innovation, 2D-to-3D video conversion, the first sailboat GPS device worldwide finding optimal routes.

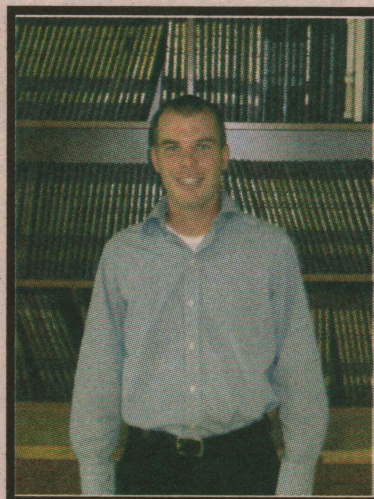
I appreciate your support and ask for your vote.

Regards,

Zhenfeng

GRADUATE

Ian MacInnis



Greetings!

My name is Ian MacInnis. I am an MBA student who is running for the position of Graduate Representative during 2008/2009. Through my paid work and volunteer activities, I have undertaken various leadership roles and sat on many governing bodies, thereby allowing me to champion important causes. It would be my pleasure to serve you, the student body of Saint Mary's University, and to champion ideas on your behalf.

If elected I will:

- * Be a strong voice to foster communication between graduate students and SMUSA
- * Work diligently towards organizing more inter-disciplinary graduate social events
- * Lobby to further Saint Mary's and SMUSA's sustainability practices
- * Address student ideas addressed at Café Santa Maria
- * Strive to provide increasingly accessible and improved services for students (student advising, career counseling, personal counseling, etc.)

On Wednesday, September 24th and Thursday, September 25th, vote IAN MACINNIS for Graduate Representative.

REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

YES or NO



Students of Saint Mary's,

The Saint Mary's University Students' Representative Council has voted to bring two questions to the student body this year. The first of these questions is for a Constitutional Referendum that focuses on the Governance of the organization. Because of the scope of these changes the student body is the only voice strong enough to make the decision to move forward or not, as written in our current Constitution.

The second question that is being proposed to students is for the World University Service of Canada's Saint Mary's University Chapter. It is to implement a levy of two dollars to full-time students and one dollar to part time students per year.

The constitutional referendum question and the levy referendum question will both be on the ballot along side the candidates for the vacant council positions.

Please get yourself informed on the issues that are being discussed and on the candidates that are running for the positions.

All the best,

Chris MacDougall,
SMUSA President

YES or NO



the SMUSA Constitutional Referendum

VOTE ONLINE September 24th and 25th at WWW.SMUSA.CA

To the Students of Saint Mary's University,

In the last fiscal year (May 1st, 2007 to April 30th, 2008) the Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA) Students' Representative Council (SRC) commissioned a report on its governance practices. It struck a working group which over the summer reviewed how SMUSA operates compared to the best practices of the governance field. The Working Group, through consultation with experts in organizational governance, found that there were significant problems and has recommended a variety of changes that would ensure SMUSA operates as effectively as possible.

After reviewing the recommendations put forward by the Governance Working Group, the Students' Representative Council voted unanimously in favor of asking the Yes or No question to the student body, "Do you approve the amendments to the constitution proposed by the SRC on September 14th 2008, which would take effect May 1st 2009 and Govern the 2009 Spring Election." These amendments are to ensure that SMUSA is accountable, efficient, flexible, and most importantly responsive to students needs.

The amendments include designing a clear line of accountability that includes the Student Body > the Students' Representative Council > the SMUSA President > other SMUSA Executives and Staff. This clear line of accountability doesn't currently exist. An example of this problem is inherent in the relationship between the Vice-Presidents and the President. The Vice-Presidents sit on the Students' Representative Council, which clouds who is accountable and responsible for what. Another example of the lack of accountability is the President sitting as an active member of the SRC, when in reality they should be reporting to the SRC.

The Council would also be elected at-large so that SMUSA would only need to have one election per year and no student would be ineligible to run based on not being a member of a particular interest group. This would also reduce the costs of elections significantly and allow the student body to focus on the efforts, achievements and failures of the SRC rather than continuous election platforms.

Lastly, the President would have the authority to distribute the resources in the Budget under the supervision of the Council. Under current practice the budget is set when each President takes office but the Working Group found that this took away from student control because the goals they voted for could not be accomplished in the year they expected to see the results.

Please inform yourself and your fellow students on this Constitutional Referendum. It is important to the organization and to the Student Body that you make an educated decision and determine for yourself the way you will vote.



YES or NO

World University Services of Canada Saint Mary's is asking the students to stand up for change, to make education possible for everyone, to make equality possible. We need the students to VOTE YES to a student levy of 2 dollars a year that would provide a student studying in a refugee camp the ability to come study and Saint Mary's University.

WUSC's motto is "Education Changes the World." One way it strives to achieve this is through the Student Refugee Program (SRP), established in 1978. This program enables a student with refugee status the opportunity to resettle in Canada and attend a Canadian post-secondary institution. Through this program over 1000 refugee students have been sponsored to resettle in Canada and attend a university or college. WUSC and the SRP have been at Saint Mary's since 1983, and over the last 25 years 24 student refugees have been sponsored to attend the University. The Sponsored Students come from refugee camps or urban centres in Kenya, Malawi or Thailand, and originate from a host of countries in Africa of which some include: Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. Sponsored students are sponsored for one year, with the help and contributions from the University, SMUSA, Aramark, Residence Life Office, Book Store, the Saint Mary's University Faculty Union, and the International Centre. The WUSC Local Committee, and its Staff and Faculty representative, play a vital role in supporting the Sponsored Students as they adjust to their new life in Canada.

We are asking our fellow students to stand up and help WUSC through an annual contribution of two dollars. For less than the price of one coffee, you can help a student from a refugee camp come and study at Saint Mary's and change their life.

VOTE ONLINE September 24th and 25th at WWW.SMUSA.CA

Please Send Questions or Concerns to president@smusa.ca

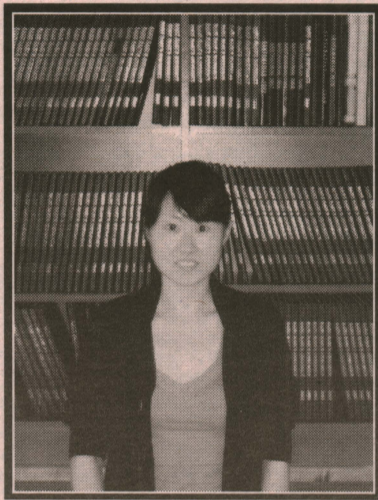
smusa VOTE

Students' Representative Council Election

Your Representative Candidates for the Vacant Council Positions

MATURE

Chen Wan



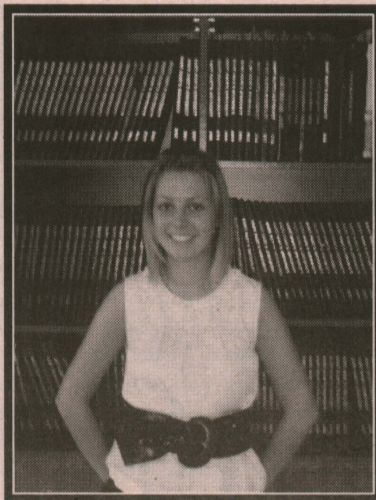
My name is Chen Yan, and I am running for the current mature representative in SMUSA. I want to help Saint Mary's students to take advantage of incredible opportunities that Saint Mary's University has to offer, all the while making this institution better for those who will attend in the future.

I am a Master of Finance student. I have been involved in Chinese Student Association, since my first year. I am hard working and am not afraid to stand up for what I believe. I would like to use my finance knowledge to devote for all the mature student of the Saint Mary's University.

I appreciate your support and ask for your vote.

RESIDENCE

Brittany Geneau



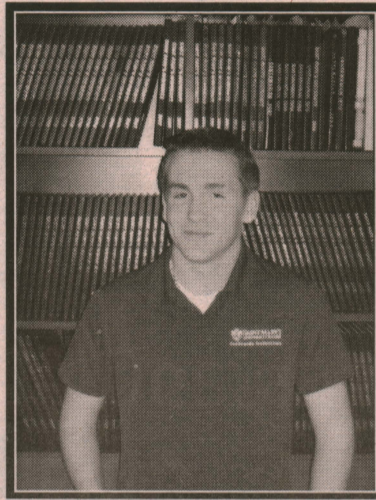
It's that time of the year when would-be leaders scramble through their classes and hallways of their residences, trying to scrape up last minute votes for the upcoming elections. And when the dust settles at the end of this hectic week, I hope to be chosen for the job of Residence Representative.

My name is Brittany Geneau and I am a first year business student from Moncton NB. It was through my high school's leadership program that I discovered my passion for helping my fellow students. I consider myself to be an average SMU student, and I am more than willing to speak on behalf of the student body on issues that are important to all students. I promise that if elected, I will give my all working on behalf of my fellow students. I am outgoing, easy to talk to and willing to dedicate the time and effort necessary to properly represent YOU.

Brittany Geneau
For Residence Representative

FRESHMAN

Jason Tucker



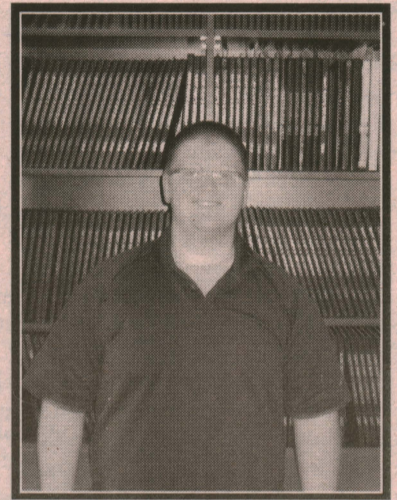
Jason Tucker is a first year student at Saint Mary's University and is still getting used to the big city, and university life. His first two weeks have been great; the university is full of such a variety of people. He enjoyed taking part in all the Frosh week activities and meeting all kinds of new people.

He has been quoted saying "Frosh week is over, but we still have the rest of the year; let's make the most of it!" He believes not just in doing his studies, but in getting evolved in his school and meeting new people. He thinks he's up to the job of Freshman Representative, not because he has opinions to express, but because he's interested in listening to all kinds of ideas, and making sure that the first years make an impact!

When he's not in classes, or hanging with friends, you can often find him volunteering within the community, with groups like cadets, or any other cause that needs a hand. He's always up for meeting new people, so if you have any ideas about some issues within the school, or you just want to say "hi," stop him in the hall, or join the SMU Frosh Group (facebook); or email him directly at Copper_wolf72@hotmail.com.

FRESHMAN

Todd Caines



Hello my name is Todd Caines and I am a in my first year at Saint Mary's and I'm studying Commerce. I was born here in Halifax but was raised in a small town called Bridgewater about an hour and twenty minutes away from Halifax. I enjoy many different things such as sports, films, and meeting new people.

I applied to Saint Mary's because it was the only university that I felt was right for me. I'm currently running for the position of Freshman Representative on the basis that in my short time that I have spent here I can already proudly say that I love it here, the atmosphere, the city, and the people.

I find that I'm very approachable and easy going making it easy for people to talk to me so that I can help them with whatever they would need. I'm a dedicated worker and enjoy challenges that make me think and allow me to work in a group or independently to obtain a solution.

In closing I would like to wish the best of luck to my competition for this position and I would like to thank SMUSA and the student body for allowing me this opportunity.

Thank you,

Todd Caines

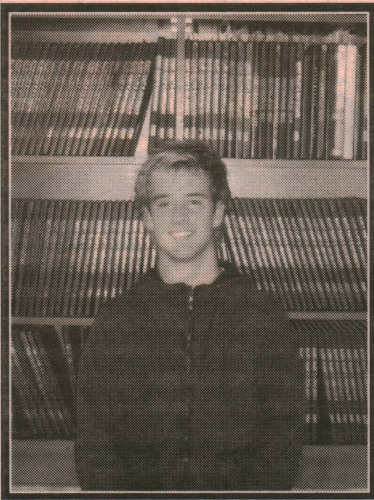
FOR COUNCIL

For The 2008 - 2009 Academic Year

VOTE ONLINE September 24th and 25th at WWW.SMUSA.CA

FRESHMAN

Jake MacDonald



To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Jake MacDonald aka "Frosted Tips" or "The Green Monster" and I am running for First Year Representative.

This position first appealed to me after receiving numerous comments from fellow students regarding my school spirit and my ability to humor others, but at the same time, providing the right elements required from a leader.

Many of you may only know me as one of the "Frosh Boys", ready to do anything to make others laugh, but you may not know the serious side, composed of a strong work ethic with the willingness to help others.

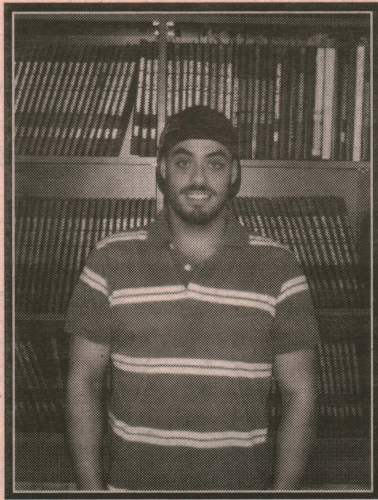
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in advance, and I look forward to providing an fun-filled year for all. Also, come check out my Facebook Group, "Jake for First Year Rep." to show your support online.

Yours Truly,

Jake MacDonald

SR UNDERGRAD

Simon Hodge



Hello fellow Saintmarians,

My name is Simon Hodge and I am running for the position of Senior Undergraduate Representative for the Students' Representative Council. I am a 4th year undergraduate student here at SMU. My major area of study is Political Science with a minor in Psychology. As many of you can probably relate Saint Mary's has given me much in the form of knowledge in the classroom and life experience outside the classroom.

Saint Mary's is where I have made lifelong friends, and developed life changing ideas. To say the very least, Saint Mary's has become a major part of my life. It is for these reasons that I feel the need to give something back to the students of Saint Mary's, and to the school itself. If you elect me for this position I will do everything in my power to have your interests heard and acted upon. It is my sincere hope that you find me to be a suitable candidate to represent you.

My best regards,

Simon Z. Hodge

SR UNDERGRAD

Stephanie McLelan



My name is Stephanie McLelan,

I'm a 4th year Management major - Certificate in HR management, and I am running for the Senior Undergraduate Representative position. I feel that through my various activities, committees and friends, I can easily relate to our graduating student body.

This year I'm a returning Lab Instructor for the Management Dept., and Student Marker for Stats. I've been a frosh leader the last 2 years with Orientation Week. Additionally, I'm a member of the Commerce, Marketing and Anthropology society. In November 2007, I had the pleasure of travelling with the school to Toronto cheering on our football team.

This year I want to:

- See some of the best grad events yet
- Work with grads, improve relationship with SMUSA
- Hold SMUSA accountable

Voting days are Sept 24th & 25th, get out there and vote! When voting Senior Undergrad Rep, vote Stephanie McLelan.

SR UNDERGRAD

Colleen Barrington



Hello fellow SMU students!

My name is Colleen Barrington and I am a candidate for Senior Undergraduate Representative. I am in my final year in Psychology with my Human Resources Certificate.

I have previous Student Representative Council experience from being First Year Representative in 2004-2005. This in depth knowledge of SRC policy and procedure will aid me as a returning councilor. I am an outgoing and approachable individual with commitment to listening to and communicating with students.

If elected I aim to:

- Advocate for the needs of senior undergrads,
- Work closely with the Grad Class Society to provide student input,
- Help the Grad Class Society communicate important dates and events for graduating undergrads, and
- Be an accessible councilor with access to the information that my constituents need.

Thank you for your time and I hope to have your vote on September 24th and 25th.

NEWS

PM Comes To Halifax

Jeff Cusack

The Prime Minister came to Halifax on Friday, and spoke to a packed hall as the honorary speaker of the city's Chamber of Commerce. The breakfasting crowd was completely pleased with the Prime Minister's words as he spoke, laughing regularly at the many jokes that peppered his speech. Of course, Canada is having an election, and so the man was not simply there for entertainment value.

The centrepiece of the PM's speech was an announcement that he intended to make a slate of moves allowing for more foreign ownership of Canadian companies. Changes he would introduce include allowing up to 49% ownership of Canadian airlines, allowing for a foreign company to own rights to Canadian uranium sites, and particularly emphasised was the raising of the threshold needed for review of a foreign takeover from \$295 million dollars per deal to \$1 billion per deal. The Prime Minister also added that all reviews would now have a national security component to them. Canada is currently the only country which does not conduct national security tests on its foreign takeovers, something which became a prominent issue last year when an American company tried to take over the Canadian aerospace company MDA, maker of the Canadarm 2.

Further into his speech, the Prime Minister noted that the raising of the threshold needed to review a takeover was largely a symbolic move, as the MDA deal is the only takeover a government has stopped in recent memory; in most cases the review is basically a rubber stamp. The Prime Minister's choice of Halifax for the announcement of an opening of the uranium mining sector to foreign investment came under some scrutiny, as Nova Scotia has a ban on uranium mining. The Prime Minister initially seemed to hesitate when asked about this, but quickly recovered and claimed that this was a strictly "national announcement" and that he felt such announcements are suited to be made in Halifax because of the city's increased prominence within Canada. Returning to the newly announced national security test for foreign investment, the Prime Minister reiterated that he is strictly committed to free trade and free enterprise. His



Photo courtesy of www.blackjackinc.com

emphasis on free trade was likely said to alleviate fears that the new test would be used for protectionist measures as a similar national security test in the United States often is (national security is one of the few reasons a country is generally allowed to overrule any free trade agreements). The Prime Minister also took several shots at the Liberal and NDP parties during his speech and in the subsequent press conference. He claimed that both their environmental plans would cause major damage to the Canadian economy, and in particular to the Atlantic economy. This sentiment was also shared by Conservative Premier Rodney Macdonald, who introduced the Prime Minister.

Harper made no mention of his own green plan, which has come under increasing scrutiny lately, as he has failed to divulge the costs it will take on Canadians, with some economists predicting that it will do far more harm to industry than Dion's as it targets them directly. Harper also made mention of his credentials as an economist several times throughout his speech (he has his masters degree), asserting that he had the best expertise on how to handle Canada's economy. This allows him to counter the several independent economists who have endorsed Mr. Dion's green plan as being economically sound.

The Prime Minister finished his press conference answering a speech by a member of the Canadian Press. The member asked the Prime Minister about the curt and often evasive answers his MP's frequently gave in the last parliament, and wondered if the Prime Minister would do anything differently if he had the chance. The Prime Minister refuted the reporter's assertion that his

MP's were evasive or displayed bad behaviour, claiming that during question period 'the answers were better than the questions in most cases.' He went on to attack the quality of both the candidates and the sitting MP's of the Liberal party, and said that his candidates were of a much higher quality. As evidence he pointed to a Liberal candidate who recently had to apologize for making inappropriate comments. Mr. Harper did not mention his own troubles in that regard; the Prime Minister has had to apologize for an ad which had a puffin pooping on a picture of Mr. Dion, and had to fire his chief spokesman after he disparaged the father of a soldier killed in Afghanistan.

Mr. Jeff Goes to a Press Conference.

Jeff Cusack

On Friday I went to the Prime Minister's speech and press conference at the Marriott hotel, and there I had my first lesson in just how weird the relationship between politicians and the media truly is.

My day started early, it was just after seven a.m. when I went to the media table to register. Although The Journal had been invited to cover the dinner by the Chamber of Commerce, the people handling media registration did not seem ready for us. Myself and the Editor in Chief (EiC), were quite scrutinized by the staff, other media came with five thousand dollar cameras and seven thousand dollar video cameras... and here I was with my mom's digital camera.

After taking our names and looking them up in-depth, a staffer came up to us, chest puffed out, and declared, "You know the Dalhousie student paper is banned from this event, they caused a disturbance and are now banned from all Conservative events." "But we aren't from Dalhousie, we're from Saint Mary's," I replied, "And we won't do any of that sort of thing."

"But you belong to the NDP don't you?" The staffer accused me, having looked up my record. From her tone, NDP could have easily been substituted with Al Qaeda or the IRA. I assured her that I had let my membership expire, and that even if I was still a member it would have no bearing on my professionalism. I was then allowed into the media corral, and warned several times not to go outside of it.

The media corral is an interesting place, where people from competing papers and stations seemed perfectly happy to get along with each other. I chatted with a few people but was mostly ignored. It was kind of annoying seeing SMUSA's President Chris MacDougall, and VP External Matt Risser dining on bacon and hobnobbing with power while a media handler told me "You can't sit there", "you can't stand there", "people will be in that spot later, so move", and my favourite: "you can go stand in that corner." I finally ignored them and took a place at the front and centre of the media corral, where three different people tried to get me to move because I was in a place for "photogs only". I showed my tiny digital each time to get them to leave, although the final scrutinizer seemed doubtful as to whether my little Kodak Photosmart actually qualified as a camera. At this moment I felt extremely jealous of the NSCC students and all their high tech equipment.

The Prime Minister's body guards were really nice people, and they were everywhere throughout the hall. One was assigned to the media, and I talked to him for a while, so after he got two copies of the Prime Minister's documents he gave one to me. I suddenly became very popular with all of the other journalists as they wanted to know what the Prime Minister would be doing for the rest of the day. Finally, power!

After the PM's speech was over the media went over to

another room where the Prime Minister was holding a press conference. I went early so I could get a prime seat in the front row. I had no idea why, but everyone sat on the side of the room opposite me except for one woman who was behind me. The moderator of the conference announced that they would be taking questions, but the other journalists were so quick there was no way I would get a question in. So I sat and listened ... And Listened. And then the woman behind me stood up, started yelling "I love you Stephen Harper!", and was arrested and dragged away by police. She was revealed to be comedian Gerri Hall from this hour has 22 Minutes, and because of her, within a few hours my image was on youtube, on CBC, and in the Toronto Star, me, the lone person who didn't know not to sit on that side of the room, looking utterly confused as Geri was dragged away, I was thinking one thing... Politics is insane.

Teach English Overseas



- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Teacher Placement Service
- Money Back Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

OXFORD
SEMINARS

1-800-269-6719 / 416-924-3240
www.oxfordseminars.ca

I'm a Feminist,

now what?



Would you like the opportunity to have your voice heard within the University community?

This is your chance!!

The Saint Mary's Women's Centre is seeking a diverse group of women to represent the women of Saint Mary's. If you are interested in being a part of this year's Board of Directors, and are dedicated to improving the experience of female students at SMU, please pick up an application at The Women's Centre (5th Floor Student Centre), or E-Mail smu.womenscentre@gmail.com for more information.

Your input is just as important as your output.

Aliant CA Designation
We're smart enough to learn from you.

If you're looking for a fresh alternative to traditional CA training programs, Aliant is for you.
Our emphasis on sharing ideas ensures the challenges you enjoy.

Come see us at:
Loyola Private Dining Room (L-PDR), Tuesday Sept 23rd, 11am-1pm

Visit bell.aliant.ca/careers for more information.



here. for you.™

Aliant 

**THE JOURNAL IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS!!
IF YOU HAVE THE DESIRE TO REPORT ON GROUNDBREAKING SMU AND
COMMUNITY NEWS, THEN COME TO THE 5TH FLOOR OF THE STUDENT
CENTRE, OR EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO [THESMUJOURNAL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:thesmujournal@gmail.com)**

Bad professors

"The Cranky Professor"

The Journal, the student newspaper at Saint Mary's

Mark Mercer
Department of Philosophy
Saint Mary's University
Halifax, NS B3H 3C3
(902) 420-5825
mark.mercer@smu.ca

Have you ever had a bad professor? You haven't? Well, neither have I.

Some professors I've had have been better than others. Yet I can't remember any I would say were bad. And I've taken courses from at least thirty different professors.

A university professor is simply a person who has thought long and hard about some aspect of the world and gets paid to convey her or his thoughts about it. So it's not really surprising that bad professors are few, if any. If you've thought long and hard about something, likely enough you're going to have something interesting to say about it. Anyone prepared to listen attentively is going to learn from you.

Still, every once in a while we I hear rumours of a bad professor. Jones goes too fast, someone complains, or Smith goes too slow. McDale talks the whole class long, McDain lets students talk forever. Now I've been in courses with professors rumoured to be bad. My experience has been that while the descriptive part of the complaint might be true (yes, Jones does go fast), it doesn't support the complaint itself. I've acquired much of value from both the fast and the slow professor, and I've learned something about the art of thinking from both talkative and quiet professors. (I prefer slow and careful professors and I'd rather hear from the professor than from classmates, but that's just me.)

I wonder whether those few students who have actually judged a professor to be a poor teacher have a narrow or false view of what a university professor is supposed to do or how she is supposed to do it.

I wonder, that is, whether students who find their professor bad have misconceived either the professor's role or, more importantly, their own.

A student at a university aspires to be an intellectual. She is intent on acquiring the abilities of an intellectual — an ability to think through a matter deeply and from all angles, an ability to let evidence and argument, rather than desire or convention, guide her thinking, and an ability to live comfortably with doubt and uncertainty even as she strives to find and understand the truth. A professor at a university is a tool for the student to use in acquiring these abilities. The trick is to discern just what sort of tool the professor is.

If your professor is a hammer, then don't waste your time in her course trying to get some sawing done. Instead, find a nail and a board, and use that hammer to drive your nail. Of course, maybe you would rather saw than hammer. Fine. But your professor is a hammer; trying to use her as a saw is just going to bring you frustration and grief. Anyway, you don't really know that much about hammering yet, at this stage of your career. Perhaps by doing some hammering you will come to want to do more. Most importantly, an intellectual needs to be able to handle a hammer as well as a saw. Your professor is your opportunity to acquire or to develop an important skill.

A serious student takes seriously her responsibility to her professor and to the course. That is, she attempts to discover just how best to use her professor, just what she can best — and what she cannot best — get from him in her pursuit of becoming a skilled intellectual. A serious student who isn't enjoying her professor will ask herself whether she has got a handle on what's going on in her course and on what her professor is trying to do before judging that her professor isn't very good.

One used to hear that there are no bad kids, just kids who are misunderstood. That's almost certainly false. To bring it closer to the truth, though, just substitute "professors" for "kids."

-30-



The Moon Festival

Crystine (Cuiping) Zhang
31st Aug, 2008

The Moon Festival or, the Mid-Autumn Festival falls on 14th September this year, which is the 15th day of the 8th month in the lunar calendar.

With more than 3,000 years of history, the Moon Festival remains to be one of the most popular traditional festivals in East Asian societies. It firstly became a fixed holiday in China's Tang Dynasty (618–907AD), then it was prevailing as a folk festival during the next dynasty, Song (960–1279AD). After the Mongols ruled the country for several decades, known as Yuan Dynasty (1280–1368), a rebellion was connived: before the Mid-Autumn Festival, moon cakes were distributed in the city with a piece of paper inside: "Kill the Mongols on the 15th day of the 8th Moon". Then on that night, the rebels successfully overthrew the government and established the Ming Dynasty. Henceforth, the Mid-Autumn Festival was celebrated on a national level.

Originally, the day when the moon at its fullest and brightest in a year was a time for celebration of abundance of the summer's harvest, as well as for appreciation for the Gods. Gradually, people regard it as a joyful day for family reunion and friends gathering. And traditionally, people would eat moon cakes of many different varieties and pomelo, carry colored and lit lanterns, and burn incense in reverence to deities, etc. Customs vary from regions to regions. For example, Chinese eat round moon cakes, while Vietnamese eat square moon cakes; Korean exchange gifts as westerners do on Thanksgiving Day, while Taiwanese have barbecue parties outdoors.

Nowadays, as reviving the lost tradition attracts world-wide attention and interest, Asian countries attach more importance to their cultural festivals. The Moon Festival brings about resonance in the heart of people (originally) from East Asia. As a very famous Chinese poem implies, "Although miles apart, we would pray for each other's longevity and a share of this graceful and beautiful moonlight".

G SPOT Mr. Big

Question: Is it wrong to sleep with a guy because he is well endowed?
By: NN Ginger Snatch

So a little birdie told you that his birdie wasn't so little? Now you want to verify that fact and take him for a test drive to see how he handles a bumpy ride.

You enjoying a man whose cup runneth over is fundamentally no different than someone only dating a man because he has nice arms, a pretty face or any other preferred physical attribute. Your attraction, no matter what the reason, is still an attraction like any other. There is nothing wrong with pursuing someone who meets your preferences. You should enjoy exploring this attraction but be aware that just because you get to light his big fuse it doesn't mean that there will be fireworks between the two of you. You may not get quite what you expected nor wanted.

Big, large, massive, gigantic, and humungous are subjective descriptions of size. What one woman may call Everest another may call Citadel.

Describing a man's package as large doesn't give information like shape or whether it is large because of length, width or both. If by chance this man does meet your size standards then you must remember that it does not mean that he will know how to put it to work. This isn't being said to discourage you in any way but actually to prepare you.

I will forever be partial to the surprise though. Getting what I like behind that zipper is like opening a present I got for my birthday and getting exactly what I had always wanted. We all have our own preferences though and whether you prefer the manaconda or the garden snake variety you should never feel ashamed to be seeking out that preference.

If you have a question, then send it in to smu.gspot@gmail.com

Early Birds with Summer Internships

What does a summer holiday mean to you? Beach, sunshine, or ice cream? There are probably more than thousands of different feedbacks. But for today's university students, putting a positive spin on all summer experiences is essential to their future. A summer internship is exactly the one.

An internship mostly is a way to follow a student's interests and further his/her skills. April Bateman is a graduate in May this year with double majors in Political Science and French in SMU. She is now taking her 6-month internship at the United Nations Development Programme in Hanoi, Vietnam, a project undertaken within the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy and funded through Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). April was so passionate about issues of human rights, corruption and civil society that she finds this internship deepens her understanding of many UN reports that she has studied during her undergraduate studies. "Through it (this internship)," she said, "I am seeing first hand how these reports are put together and I even have the chance to add my own contributions." Completely conquered culture shocks and adjusted to the new environment, April is confident that, upon completion of the internship, she will make skills sharp in teamwork and partnership building.

April is lucky to have the opportunity to take her internship out of the country, so do others who take it at home. Maeve Mungo at her 2nd year of M.A in International Development Studies, who just finished her internship at Plan Canada (formerly known as Foster Parents Plan) in Toronto for a period of three months, told The Journal that she had learned more about the inner workings of an NGO (non-governmental organization) which will prove invaluable for her future career in international development.

An internship is not merely for practical

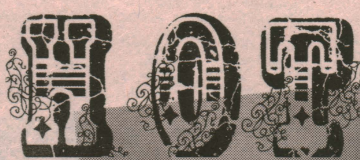
purposes, but for a different and valuable life experience. After all, all academic work and no fun make for a dull student. As Jinbo Chen, expecting his degree in Computing Information System from SMU, finds his summer internship in Keane Inc. interesting and meaningful, "the experience of working in a team more than 10 people and offering consultancy service world-wide is important to develop my communication and remote networking skills; equally importantly, it makes this summer particularly enjoyable!" Also, Amy Floyd, an intern as a project assistant for the Health Foundation of Ghana summarized her first month in Accra that "there is never a dull moment". She also encourages students to come to Accra for travelling, for intern or work, as it is a good place to start and "can be a gateway to help prepare for more difficult African destinations".

Talking about how to get an internship, we have various answers based on personal experience. Amy recommends to visit the International Activities office at the Oakes (behind Loyola) or to know its activities on SMU's website. "The staff will gladly share information and help you create a strategy, without which," she specially points out, "finding the right internship can be a bit daunting without some help." And, April finds it important to have a good supervisor from whom "you are well informed of the projects".

Coincidentally, Maeve and Jinbo put much emphasis on personal connections - "As they always say 'it's who you know.'" Maeve said. But she also added that "cold calling/e-mailing an organization" is quite worthy, because "many times they are interested in hiring students or recent graduates but do not advertise as such."

Overall speaking, these interns are thinking early about their career and future life and taking action right off. Their view of integrating valuable summer internships with academic studies set them ahead of the game.

They are undoubtedly the early birds, which will get the proverbial worm!



Layering
Steel

SMU Dance Team

Sizzzpop.com

Farmer's Market

Double sided printers

Brenda and Kelly

Skype

Hockey moms



White after labour day
Black

So You Think You Can Dance Canada

Ebert and Roeper

Spending millions to move to the waterfront

Cover pages

2.0

\$130 cell phone bills

Lipstick wearing pitbulls

thesmujournal@gmail.com

Society Spotlight: The St. Mary's University Caribbean Society



Photos courtesy of AJ Levine

The Details: The St. Mary's University Caribbean Society (SMUCS) serves to unite the Caribbean students of SMU, and also to allow a cultural exchange between these students and the wider Halifax Community explains Society Secretary Natalia Knowles. SMUCS often works with local charities as well.

Major Events: The Society has two major events during the year. One is Cultural Weekend which includes a Fashion Show among other social events. The second major event for SMUCS is "Caribanza" which is a semi-formal Caribbean dinner and show that centers around a chosen theme.

How to Get Involved: Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in getting involved check out their Facebook group "St. Mary's University Caribbean Society" or add SMUCS Halifax as you friend. Not on Facebook? You can also email smucaribbeansociety@gmail.com. SMUCS is open all members of the SMU community.

Special Thanks to Natalia Knowles
Pictures courtesy of SMUCS



Want to see your society featured in the next Society Spotlight. Drop us a line at features.smujournal@gmail.com

Who Watches the Watchmen?

Dawn Davis

When Watchmen was released in 1985, it became known as the graphic novel that could never be turned into a movie. It was too dark, too smart, and while graphic novels have tackled themes like those in Watchmen since, it is still an unparalleled piece of art in more ways than one.

The story takes place in a parallel universe of sorts where vigilante super heroes arose in the wake of the Superman initial publication in the forties. The second generation of these heroes were going into their prime when they were cut off by the Keene act, making masked justice illegal. The story begins when the Comedian, a first-generation hero and public favourite, is murdered and tossed through his window. Masked detective Rorschach (my Intro to Psychology textbook tells me you pronounce it "ror-shok", but that's not how it sounds in the interviews for the movie) stumbles in on the scene and ends up caught in what he thinks is a massive conspiracy against vigilante heroes.

On top of Rorschach, we also have Laurie Juspecky, the second Silk Spectre since her mother preened her for the position since childhood. Also DanDreiburg, the Nite Owl, a bird fanatic who ends up feeling lost since the Keene act forced him to put his funny costume away. There is also Ozymandias, Adrian Veidt, who quit being a hero before the Keene act and kept his popularity in tact. He is now very rich from making biographies and toys. Lastly is the only real superhero to date in the Watchmen story, Dr. Manhattan. He's the big blue guy who can do practically anything, and walked with the tanks in Vietnam to actually bring the USA out on top of that war.

Watchmen is very surreal, as most fiction is, but at the same time it can come very close to truths we've all experienced. Each of the vigilantes is a little bit out of their mind in one way or another, except for Jon, Dr. Manhattan, who is so in the moment, but cares so little he might as well be a sociopath. If these heroes were real, this is how it would happen. Even several of the characters manage to walk a very fine line between 'hero' and 'villain', which makes the ending quite a mystery until you get there. The ending itself is so logically sensible and yet, like the rest of the story, solemnly chilling. The biggest complaint about Watchmen is it's deep, dark, and horrifying whole. It pulls no punches and is not for the faint of heart. That said, it is still possibly one of the most moving masterpieces I have ever read. Watchmen reads like deep fiction. There is no way to read it in less than a week, and it requires multiple peruses to pick up everything. I hope the movie does it justice.

Since the trailer was released for Batman: The Dark Knight, enthusiasm about the movie has been stunning. The adaptation is in the hands of Zack Snyder, the loyal director who turned 300 page-by-page into a film. Since the success of that project, Watchmen production began. While I know people are excited, I think it's clear that the movie will probably be a faithful adaptation. Dark story, grimy plot and infamous ending in all. It may be safer to take a look at the book before you try the movie.

Review: RocknRolla

Jean Brunet

Whether you're having a good or bad day, it's time to stop what you're doing and relax because it's time to ROCKNROLLA! Director/writer Guy Ritchie's latest action-comedy kicked off the Toronto International Film Festival with a big bang! Light flashes lit up the sky in front of the Elgin Theatre as fans and photographers snapped pictures of the stars as they walked in on the red carpet.

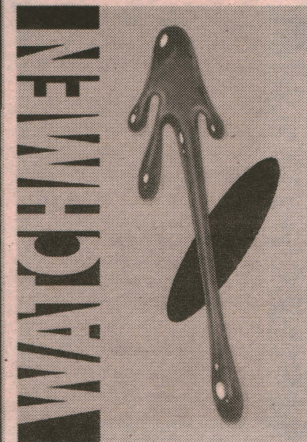
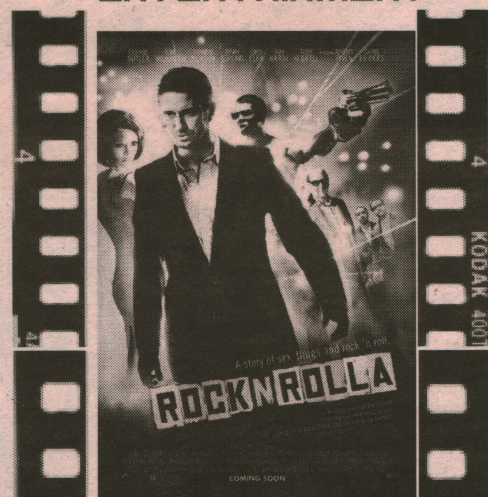
Producer Joel Silver (The Matrix, Lethal Weapon) introduced the cast and director to a sold-out audience. Gerard Butler (300, P.S. I Love You), Thandie Newton (Mission: Impossible II, Run, Fatboy, Run), Idris Elba (American Gangster, 28 Weeks Later), Chris 'Ludacris' Bridges (The Fast and the Furious, Crash), Toby Kebbell (Control, Alexander), Jeremy Piven (Old School, Smokin' Aces) and director Guy Ritchie (Snatch, Two Smoking Barrels) were in attendance for the TIFF Gala premiere while Oscar-nominated Tom Wilkinson (Michael Clayton) was not able to make it. Warner Bros.' RocknRolla takes us into London's underbelly, where the city is on the rise. Property values have skyrocketed ever since the new wave of immigrants arrived. The Russians are trying to make a land deal with Lenny Cole (Tom Wilkson), London's old school top dog, but there are so many ways the deal can go wrong with every thug in the area looking to get a cut on the cash. The true winner of this deal is Lenny's junkie rock star stepson, Johnny Quid (Toby Kebbell), who is presumed dead but is really full of life.

The intro really sets the tone and pace for the rest of this movie with its rocking tunes and rapid fire roll-out shots. RocknRolla doesn't miss a beat as its jokes are bang on time! A majority of laughs come from homophobic One Two (Gerard Butler) and Bobby's relationship.

For those looking for a sex scene with Gerard Butler and Thandie Newton, I'm sorry to say, but you're out of luck! The day the sex scene was to shoot, Newton refused to perform because Butler was sick. Ritchie ended up doing some editing to create the scene. Butler, on the other hand, had a surprise. To help him get well, Ritchie's wife Madonna fixed him up with some vitamin shots in the rear, but to his surprise, they didn't make him feel any better. The only downside to RocknRolla is its excessive use of narration. Film is suppose to be a story told through images and action, not through words. The narration in the introduction was needed to setup the story, but after that, the film should have been self-explanatory or at least left to our imagination.

If you're looking to have a fun entertaining night and forget about all your worries, RocknRolla is the film to see! This action-packed comedy about sex, thugs and rock n' roll will have you laughing and will keep you on the edge of your seat with its twists and turns. RocknRolla opens in New York, Los Angeles and Toronto on October 8th and will be rockin' in theaters nationwide on October 31st! Sit down, relax...because it's time to RocknRolla! For more movie reviews by Jean Brunet, please check out Sizzling-Popcorn.com - Your home for the latest movie news and reviews.

BITE SIZED ENTERTAINMENT



IN HALIFAX THIS WEEK

- Friday 19th**
 - 04 Olympics: Breathes Burles at the Palace \$5
 - Panic & War, Oboydian, United Breath and Striker at The Pavilion \$7, starts at 6:30
- Saturday 20th**
 - The Real Mackenzie plays at Caci Pub \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.
 - Praxis & The Lotus with Ryan Cook and Sunny Acers at the Seahorse \$8. Events begin at 7pm.
- Sunday 21th**
 - Real Corned Blues Jan at Beady's.
 - Jeff Goodspeed and Friends at Stages 5, 6pm.
- Monday 22nd**
 - Keith Andrews at Pogo Pub starting at 8:30
 - Steven MacNeil at the Economy Slice Shop 11pm to 2am.
- Tuesday 23rd**
 - Autumn Gold
 - Phonixfire Thursday and Friday (copying over Tuesday at the Beach) Pogo Social \$8 at 8:30pm.
- Wednesday 24th**
 - Soul Kitchen at the Pogo Pub starting at 9:30pm.
 - Jazz Night at the Angle Bar & Grill.



- AMHERST**
Amherst Centre Mall
142 South Albion Street
669-3388
- DARTMOUTH**
121 Ilsley Ave.
468-3388
Mic Mac Mall
466-3388
Penhorn Mall
463-3388
- GREENWOOD**
Greenwood Mall
936 Central Ave.
760-3399
- HALIFAX**
201 Chain Lake Dr.
455-3388
5693 Spring Garden Rd.
492-3388
- NEW MINAS**
County Fair Mall
9256 Commercial St.
681-3388
- SACKVILLE**
405 Sackville Dr.
865-3388
- SYDNEY**
484 Grand Lake Rd.
564-9400
- TRURO**
Truro Mall
893-2288
- YARMOUTH**
Yarmouth Mall
742-3388



- HALIFAX**
Rogers Video
16 Denith Rd.
477-8848
- ANTIGONISH**
Motion Communications
19A James St. Plaza
836-5888
- BEDFORD**
Excellular Communications
752 Bedford Hwy.
457-1144
- BRIDGEWATER**
World of Wireless
533 King St.
543-6363
- DARTMOUTH**
Rogers Video, Cole Harbour
4 Forest Hills Parkway
435-5696
Rogers Video, Woodlawn
114 Woodlawn Rd.
433-0994
- LIVERPOOL**
Memory Lane
1 Gorham St.
354-5486
- NEW GLASGOW**
Motion Communications
60 Archimedes St.
752-5888
- PICTOU**
Motion Communications
239 West River Rd.
485-5888
- SACKVILLE**
Rogers Video
857 Sackville Drive
252-3351
- WINDSOR**
Sam's Cellular Service
40 Water St.
798-2025
- PORT HAWKESBURY**
Motion Communications
634 Reeves St.
625-5777



- HALIFAX**
Halifax Shopping Centre
455-1778
- BEDFORD**
Bedford Place Mall
1658 Bedford Highway (kiosk 11)
832-4875



GET UNLIMITED TALK AND TEXT WITH 10 FRIENDS

PLUS FREE UNLIMITED INCOMING TEXTS FROM ANYONE



NOKIA 6086 **\$1999*** SONY ERICSSON W350a **\$2999*** SONY ERICSSON W580i **\$3999***
*on select 3-yr plans. *on select 3-yr plans. *on select 3-yr plans.

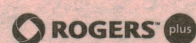
MY10™ STUDENT PLAN¹
 NOW FROM **\$25/MO.**²

plus \$6.95/mo. System Access Fee and other fees.

LIMITED TIME
 OFFER

rogers.com/my10

JOIN CANADA'S MOST RELIABLE WIRELESS NETWORK*



Offer ends November 3, 2008. 1 Offer available exclusively for high-school or post-secondary school students; valid student identification required. Unlimited local calls, text, picture and video messages applicable to the 10 phone numbers designated on the MY10 list. Long distance, text to landline and roaming charges are extra where applicable. MY10 terms of service: Only 10-digit Canadian-based phone numbers are eligible for the MY10 service. Customers' own Rogers Wireless phone number, voice mail retrieval number and special numbers such as 1-800/1-900 are not accepted. One MY10 update per calendar month is allowed via rogers.com or Rogers Customer Care or on select phones. No credit applied for numbers entered incorrectly. Excludes premium messages (roaming, international, MSN alerts and promotions). 2 A \$6.95 monthly System Access Fee (non-government fee), a monthly 50¢ 911 Emergency Access Fee and a one-time \$35 Activation Fee apply in addition to the monthly service fee. Local airtime over the allotted monthly minutes in the plan, long distance and roaming charges and any additional service options selected and applicable taxes are extra and are also billed monthly. Pricing is based on subscription to a 3-year term service agreement. Early cancellation fees apply. *Most reliable network claim refers to call clarity and dropped calls test results as conducted by Rogers and a recognized third-party research company in the majority of urban Canadian centres within the Rogers Wireless GSM footprint, comparing voice services of major wireless providers. ¹Trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc. used under license, or of Rogers Wireless. All other brand names and logos are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2008 Rogers Wireless.