

CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
BEGIN TRADE TALKS PG 5

RANDALL KENNEDY TAKES IT TO A
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THE JOURNAL

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The Student News Paper of Saint Mary's University · Halifax · NS

**The Vagina's Have Come!
Check Out Pg 9 for
The SMU Women's Center
Production of the
Vagina Monologues**



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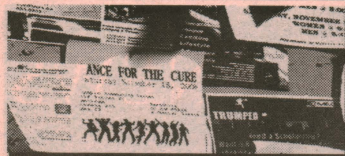
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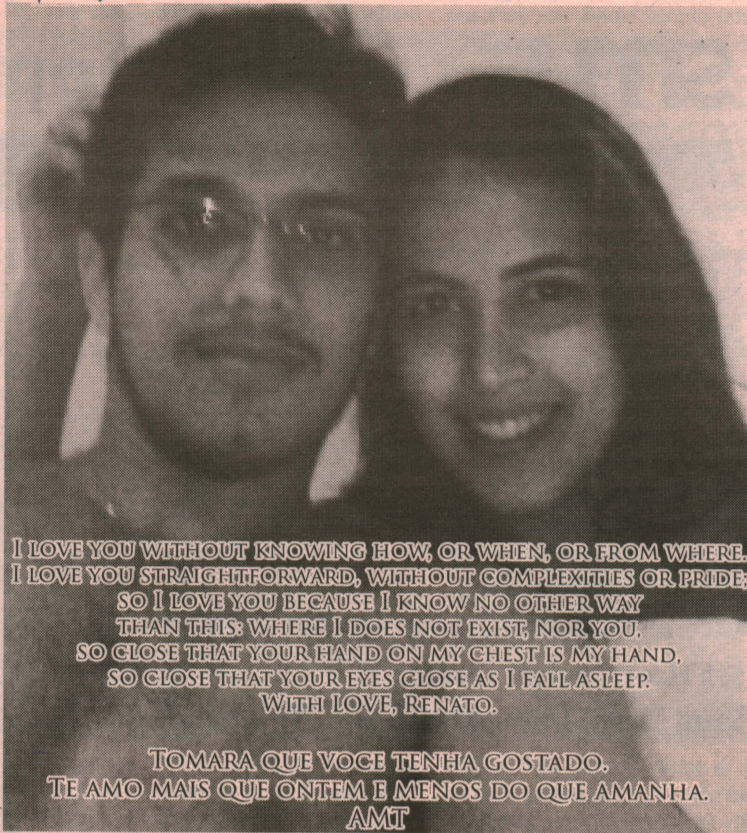


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The Journal would like to take this space to make a special declaration of love... that's just too cute!



RESPONSE TO HOLLY TAYLOR

JULIE CULSHAW
Submission

Given the fact that Ms. Taylor never heard anything that Jojo Ruba had to say, I wonder how she can make any of her statements? The one I find most unfounded is her claim that Jojo compared women who have abortions to Nazis who killed Jews. Never in any of his talks did Jojo ever make that comparison. If Ms Taylor had listened to his talk, she would realise that the comparison made between abortion and the holocaust is done so on the basis of the following points:

1. the number of deaths involved; in both cases we are talking millions
2. the victims of both abortion and the holocaust are/were not considered human
3. the bodies of aborted babies and those of the Jews are/were used for experimentation
4. they are/were killed in centres

set up for killing (in abortion - clinics and hospitals; in the holocaust - concentration camps and gas chambers)

5. their bodies are/were disposed of as waste and not given the burial "human beings" get

As Mr. Ruba said, if the unborn are not persons, then the comparison simply does not hold; but if they are persons, then the analogy is frighteningly accurate. And he then went on to show that the unborn are indeed human beings/persons and, as such, deserve human rights.

Mr. Ruba is not guilty of discrimination against anyone; what he did do was challenge the established opinion that abortion is a woman's right; if that cannot be challenged on a university campus, where can it be? Ms Taylor, in obstructing such a presentation, is guilty of preventing free speech.

Letters To the Editor
PRO-CHOICE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

GEORGIA SCHURMAN
Co-coordinator, SMU Women's Centre

The Saint Mary's Women's Centre would like to clear up any confusion there may be about what the term pro-choice means. When the highly charged issue of abortion comes up, as it has on our campus in the last few weeks, many terms get thrown around. Terms like pro-choice, pro-life, anti-choice, anti-life, anti-abortion, pro-abortion etc. After having conversations with students, staff and community members, it has come to our attention that there are many people who are confused about what it means to be pro-choice. Much of the confusion lies in the misunderstanding that when "pro-choice" is on one side of an issue and "pro-life" another, it can be easy to position them as opposites, but this is not the case.

It is important to examine how women who make either choice are treated and supported in our society and our university. How do we as a society support mothers, particularly single mothers? How easy is it for a single mother to raise a child and still go to university? Who supports her? If a woman chooses to have an abortion will she be provided with a safe and healthy method of doing do? Regardless of whether women want to make a choice, they may face the difficult situation where they will have to do so. Each woman who is faced with an unwanted pregnancy must make the difficult decision about what is best for her. Does she have the resources to care for a child? Does she have the support system in place? Does she have the support of the father?

Pro-choice does not mean pro-abortion. Pro-choice does not mean encouraging women to "just go get abortions". Instead we are supporting women who are faced with making a very difficult decision. We believe that women should have all of their options open to them to make an educated choice about what is best for them. Pro-choice means respecting and supporting a woman's ability to be the expert on her life, her situation, and the best course of action for herself. Pro-choice means supporting a woman no matter what choice she has made or will have to make about her body. It is about recognizing how incredibly difficult "choosing" any path can be when it comes to an unplanned pregnancy. Pro-choice also does not mean anti-child or anti-life. The Women's Centre supports families- we are in fact pro-child. It is nevertheless crucial to respect women's ability to have children at a point in time when they are chosen and supported.

In many of our discussions about this issue, we have noticed that there are a number of myths and misconceptions about the reasons why women choose an abortion. Choosing an abortion is never easy. It is a difficult, emotional decision made by a woman in a difficult situation. These women, no matter what choice they make, need our support.

The Women's Centre has always been vocally pro-choice because part of our mandate is to support all women to the best of our abilities. This means supporting women through all of their decision processes and choice's. These include ones they have already made, are faced with now, and may have to face in the future.

We at the Women's Centre have put a pro-choice sign on our door so that all students will know that there is a space on campus that openly supports all Women's Choices. It only makes sense that a women's centre would do so.

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Newsfeed

A man beat up a Kangaroo on Monday. Beat Ettlin woke up to find his child screaming "There's a Roo in my room!" Mr. Ettlin ran into his son's room and saw what he thought at first was a ninja, reporting that the creature moved like Jackie Chan (who is actually Chinese and thus not a ninja). Realizing it was a Kangaroo, Ettlin put it in a headlock, dragged it through the house and through it out the door.

The B.C. government has passed a bill that will restrict trans-fats. The bill will restrict restaurants, bakeries, delis and other institutions from using over 2% trans-fats in their oils and over 5% in their other foods.



Trooper Marc Diab of the Royal Canadian Dragoons was killed in Afghanistan on Sunday. The roadside bomb which took his life also injured three other Canadians. Trooper Diab is the 112th Canadian to die in Afghanistan.

The International Court of Justice has issued a warrant for the arrest of Sudan's President, Omar al-Bashir, on charges of human rights violations. In response al-Bashir expelled several aid organizations, including Doctors without Borders, and then held a celebration. Aid organizations are worried that without their help thousands of Sudanese citizens could die.

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DISSIDENTS' TACTICS HIT CLOSE TO HOME

LAURA MACINTOSH
Editor-in-Chief

Recently, Saint Mary's University sent a group of student peace makers to the Belfast region of Northern Ireland. While many of us were catching up on sleep over the reading break, these individuals were getting a whole new perspective on war and peace. These students spent their days working with countless youth and children (from 4 to 21), teaching them ways to resolve conflict in their daily lives and bringing a message of peace.

As someone who has partaken in the Conflict Resolution Project let me tell you; peace is an interesting concept in Northern Ireland. For just over 10 years, the country has been living in relative peace, with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in April, 1998. Previous to that Northern Ireland was a country severely divided, with battle lines drawn between Loyalist and Republican paramilitaries. Civil war; car bombs, shootings, stabbings, mass murders, kneecappings were all a thing of normalcy in the region during "The Troubles", a 30+ year spree of violence, often sectarian in nature. Since the signing of the accord, both sides have been in and out of a power sharing agreement within parliament, and essentially the political situation remains rather new and especially fragile.

Just prior to our students departure, a nearly 300lb car bomb was found at an army base outside Belfast. This bomb was the work of an extreme

Republican paramilitary group called the Real IRA (RIRA). Thankfully this particular bomb was diffused without incident, however, many of the authorities began to get a little on edge; as the stench of The Troubles seemed to loom in the air. It is worth while to mention that the RIRA was also responsible for the worst atrocity during the Troubles - the Omagh bombing which killed 29 innocent civilians which ironically took place 3 months after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement.

It has been less than 2 weeks since our students have returned, and although shrinking in numbers, the RIRA (Real IRA) have shown they can still mount deadly attacks - designed to derail the peace process. While receiving a pizza delivery; four British soldiers and two delivery men were gunned down outside the Messene army barracks outside Antrim, a mere 13 miles from Belfast. Two gunmen were waiting in a car and opened fire as soon as the gates were opened. After the first round of fire, the soldiers and civilians hit the ground for cover. One gunman approached the group and opened fire again, essentially executing two of the soldiers and injuring the other four men. This is the single worst act in the region in 12 years.

And interesting concept of peace indeed. Thankfully both authorities and the people of Northern Ireland seem appalled by this violent act; with many politicians saying it shall not "derail the peace process". A vigil was held Saturday for the dead and

injured, which was attended by many, representing all communities and all faiths. Many fear that the rage might spill over into the streets of the city as it had in the old days. All are on edge, waiting for one wrong move of revenge, hoping against hope it does not come to be.

Many civilians spoke to the idea that they thought this type of violence was finally over, something for Afghanistan and Gaza to deal with; not something that would happen in their back yard, not again. Ironically enough, the soldiers involved were due to ship out to Afghanistan at the beginning of this week. The rest of their squadron has shipped off, with the memory of their mates close at hand.

Speaking to several students from this year's trip, as well as coordinator Bridget Brownlow; we all seem more affected by this tragedy than many others we can read about in the paper on any given day. The experience of being there, talking to the people who are both regular civilians and in some cases extremist gang members; one gets a whole new perspective on war and peace in the area. Anything surrounding this country and violence is like walking on egg shells; we all have this unnerving feeling that one wrong move will sacrifice years of hard work and dedication. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those individuals and families involved in this recent tragedy, as well as to the people of Northern Ireland; may peace withstand this test.



Scene at the army base, where a vigil was held for killed and injured soldiers near Belfast.

Photo Credit: www.bbc.co.uk

PETER MACKAY THE NEXT SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO?

JEFF CUSACK
News Editor

Defence Minister Peter MacKay could be the next Secretary General of NATO when the current head retires soon. MacKay has been coy about his desire for the job, stating that he is very busy in Canada, but his statements on the issue show his real feelings on the issue. MacKay has repeatedly told reporters that he hopes that geography and nationality will not play a factor in who is chosen as the next Secretary General. The position usually goes to a European to counter the large military role the U.S. plays in the organization, and

because the current head of NATO forces is an American, a European appointment to the chief position seems even more likely. In order to get the top position, MacKay would need to find a way to overcome his nationality.

MacKay may yet be triumphant due to some American Help. U.S. Vice President Joe Biden was apparently lobbying for MacKay's appointment when he travelled to NATO headquarters Brussels. Biden reportedly offered to give two top positions controlled by the U.S. to France in exchange for votes for MacKay. There is currently no 'consensus candidate' in Europe, with top politicians

from Norway, Denmark, and Poland all vying for the job. MacKay could therefore 'come up the middle' in a split-vote situation as a compromise candidate.

Canada's performance in Afghanistan is reportedly a major reason the Conservatives feel comfortable pushing MacKay's name forward for the job. Unlike many European countries which only fight in 'safe' areas during specific 'safe' times, Canada has fought in the most violent area of the country and lost 112 soldiers in the conflict under the NATO led mission.

HAPPENING @ SMU

Thursday, March 12: The SMU Drama society opens their run of MacBeth with a "pay what you can" night. Tickets cost whatever you can afford. The doors open at 7:30 and the play starts at 8:00 in McNally Main Auditorium.

Friday, March 13: Sharada Srinivasan, Assistant Professor of International Development Studies at York University, will be giving a lecture on "Childhood Experiences of Daughter Elimination in Tamil Nadu, India". The lecture starts at 12:00 in McNally Main 208.

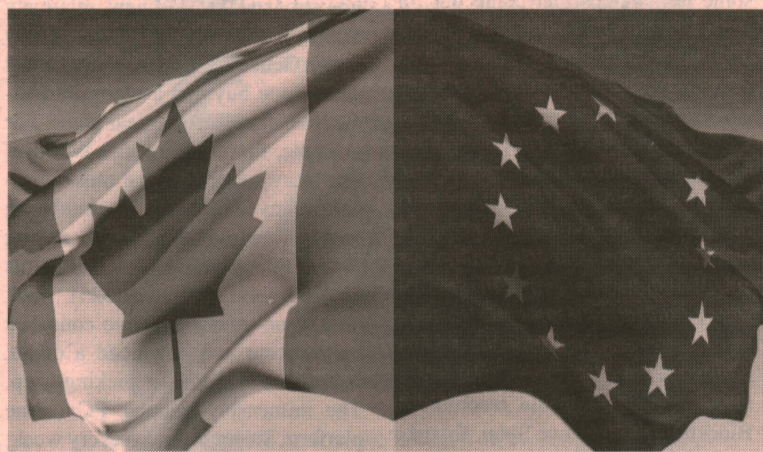
Friday, March 13: Auschwitz concentration camp survivor Philip Riteman will be giving a lecture on his experiences in Burke Theatre B from 1:30 - 3:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Friday, March 13: The annual Cyril

Byrne Memorial Lecture will be held at 7:30, location TBA. The lecturer is one of Canada's most celebrated writers, Dionne Brand. Ms. Brand will read from her book Inventory: Notes on a Poem. Following the reading the Dean of Arts will hold a reception featuring the ECMA award winning band Los Primos. Admission is free.

Friday, March 13: Today is the last day to nominate a professor for the Father Stewart teaching award.

March 13, 14, 15, 17, 18: The Saint Mary's University Drama Society is proud to present Shakespeare's MacBeth. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$7 for students. The doors open at 7:30 and the show starts at 8:00 in McNally Main Auditorium. Yours truly sometimes plays a drunk guy.



CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION BEGIN TRADE TALKS

JEFF CUSACK
News Editor

Canada has begun discussing a free trade agreement with the European Union after months of pre-negotiations. The deal is largely thanks to the efforts of French President Nicholas Sarkozy and Quebec Premier Jean Charest, who have already completed economic deals.

The agreement could may also include clauses allowing for mutual recognition of technical qualifications. This would allow European immigrants to come to Canada and practice in their chosen disciplines (medicine, etc.), rather than ending up driving taxis (like many do now) because they are unable to have their credentials recognized. The need for more medical professionals will grow sharply as more health problems begin to affect aging Baby Boomers, so the quick accreditation of immigrant doctors could become vital.

Once the agreement is completed, Canada will be the only developed nation to have such an agreement with both the EU and the United States, giving it a valuable position as a hub with full access to both economies. Access to the much larger American market through Canada is the major incentive for the EU to move forward with the deal. Because free trade agreements require a partial revision of labour, privacy, and other laws in order to move forward, a free-trade agreement between the

U.S. and the EU is seen as politically impossible by those on both sides of the Atlantic.

Canada's trade with Europe currently represents just a quarter of its trade with the United States, but it is triple the amount it trades with China. Canada currently has a significant trade deficit with the EU, one which will likely increase if the agreement is completed. Canada tends to export commodities to the EU, while importing technological and scientific goods.

One danger to the agreement comes in the form of Danny Williams, who is protesting the EU's impending ban on Canadian seal products. Seal hunting is an important industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. The EU will only pursue the agreement if all provinces are on board. Since Quebec was the instigator of the project, it will likely not be the hold-out it often is.

A completed agreement could add 12 billion dollars to the Canadian economy, which already trades heavily with the EU. In 2008, two way trade between the two regions totalled over 90 billion dollars, up 7% from 2007. The agreement is seen by some as the completion of Pierre Trudeau's famous "third way" trading system, in which he advocated increased trade with Europe as well as the United States, rather than the near total reliance on the U.S. that Canada has now.

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RECESSION GAMING

NICK MADORE
Writer

With the economy circling the drain coupled with the fact that we're all poor, starving university students, it's getting harder and harder to afford new games nowadays. I'm here to let you in on a few tips that can help keep you gaming while on a tight budget.

1) Buy older games. There are PLENTY of great games that have come out in the last couple of years, and chances are you don't have them all. Look around in Future Shop, Walmart, or EB for discounted games. 2007's Assassin's Creed, for example, is priced at \$20 at Walmart, and the game was certainly not bad. There are even some new games that come out for a pretty great price. Just last month, LocoRoco 2 came out on the PSP. It's now one of my favourite handheld games, and brand-new it's only \$25. This past fall's critically-acclaimed Banjo-Kazooie: Nuts and Bolts is priced at \$40. Also be on the look out for "Greatest Hits" titles.

2) Buy used. EB, Blockbuster and now Future Shop all sell used games at a reduced price. Be sure, also, to check out prices online at sites like Kijiji or eBay. I would recommend Blockbuster or Future Shop, though, as the stickers they use come off the case more easily than do the ones they use at EB (if you care about that sort of thing). For that matter, if you're looking to pick up a new gaming system, you might as well try to find one at EB. Just be sure to inspect it before you leave the store for any major scratches or dents or anything.

3) Trade in or sell old games. EB, Future Shop and Blockbuster all let you trade in your old games for credit toward new ones. If you've got a few old games that you are either done with, haven't touched in forever, or just don't want anymore, you might as well trade them in for some-

thing you actually want. TIVs.ca is an AMAZING little site that shows you the trade-in values for the current console generation's games, along with dates indicating when the entry was last updated (if it hasn't been updated in a while, it may not be accurate). You could also use Kijiji or eBay (or whatever online site you want to use), which could get you more money but may or may not sell, and would obviously take longer. At least if you trade it in at a brick-and-mortar store, you're guaranteed to get something right then and there. Keep in mind, though, that if you trade it in, it's only for store credit.

4) (a) Downloadable games. The 360, PS3 and Wii each have their own online services that add new, relatively cheap downloadable games every week. Generally, they're more casual games one buys on a whim, but sometimes there's some real gems. For example, the WiiWare title World of Goo may be one of the most original, creative, and visually stimulating games I've played in quite a long time, and costs only 1500 Wii points (a 2000-point card costs \$25). Look around on your respective console's online store and download a demo. If you like it, consider picking it up. The immensely popular PC online platform Steam has sales every week; be sure to look into them, as well.

(b) Downloadable content. A lot of games nowadays have downloadable content like new maps, characters, cars, levels, whatever. Try looking on your respective console's online store for any DLC. It may be just the thing to breathe life into an old classic. I'm sure by now you've seen the TV advertisements for the new GTA IV expansion: The Lost and Damned. If you have GTA IV on the 360, do yourself a favour and buy this. Hours and hours of new content to play through at a fraction of the cost of a new game.

Under the Kilt

KOREY MACINNIS
Hungry Enthusiast

This is important to all of the unhappy students out there: the message of the week is to wake up to the sunny side of life, and there isn't a lot to this concept. Simply, it is time to take on the winter blues with full force.

If campus life has hit a wall then fight the brain drain! Hey Res kids: smoking weed isn't cool anymore (it never really was, was it?). If you seek greener pastures, go back to a simpler time; School should not be about slaving away and then crawling back into a hole, waiting for the next assignment.

Sure, we all have the essay to write and the lab to hand in but that is a superficial obligation – it is not what you'll be doing in 5 years. Spring is sneaking up on us so its time to pick up from where we left off, if you find yourself under the weather...be glad! Life is budding all around.

Just get out and explore a bit! Recreate yourself and stay adventurous, brave scholars. If you're really shot for ideas—go harass the parrot at the Maritime Museum, talk to the old timer in Tim Hortons about the good ole days, make fun of the psychics inside Little Mysteries or set rabbit snares in Point Pleasant Park. On an academic note: hold study session at the Gingerbread Haus! Baked goodness... I'll leave you with this: Saint Mary's should be more than just the

flatbread of universities. The baker's choice of schools should be a place that will enrich your life and make you aware of sweeter possibility.

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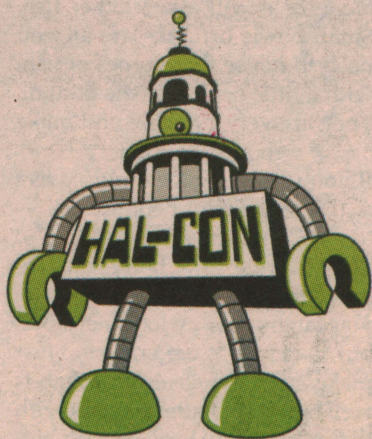
DAWN DAVIS
A & E Editor

Last weekend marked the holding of the sixth annual Animaritime, an anime convention hosted in Moncton, New Brunswick. The Delta Beausejour hotel was crawling with excited nerds, dressed up and scurrying from the panel on Kaijuu movies to the Tetris DS tournament. Compared to other anime conventions which take place over Canada, Animaritime may be the smallest, this year excitedly breaking over 1000 attendees from all over the maritimes.

Taking place in the geographical centre of the Atlantic provinces, Animaritime began as a 'convention' between members of Mount Allison's anime fan club, and the website lists its original attendance at 58 people. Each following year doubled in population nearly every year, except for its jump from 800 attendees in 2008 to over 1000 in 2009. It's a pretty good turnout for a city with a population of 126,000, and full of wandering anime fans from Halifax.

At the closing ceremonies of the convention, the managers of the

events mentioned they had trouble receiving guests for the con, actually having no celebrities or artists whatsoever. They revealed that it takes about two years to achieve big-name



guests, and therefore they announced that Animaritime 2010 will be a one-day thing, (fondly called 'Animitime') and will be followed by a massive Animaritime in 2011 with spectacular guests from all over.

So what about Halifax? With our art schools and population over twice the size of Moncton's, what's a geek

to do in the city to get her nerd on? Halifax has never had an anime convention. There is one sci-fi/fantasy convention to take place in April this year - Fleetcon. However the huge event stealing the scene at the con front has been Hal-Con, a sci-fi/fantasy/comic convention to be held in October of 2010. On the guest list we can already see Walter Koenig, the actor who played commander Chekov in the original Star Trek series, and comic book artist Michael Golden, co-creator of Marvel's Rogue character as well as the co-creator of Bucky O'Hare. There are plenty more actors and writers already scheduled to attend the event.

As for anime, Haligonians have been left high and dry. Fans admit to each other how one should definitely happen here, however no one has the time or energy to invest in arranging one. Instead, we are forced to make a pilgrimage to Moncton or further in order to enjoy some relevant geekery. So for SMU's business students: there is an audience here for this kind of thing! Someone should put together an anime convention for your fellow nerds.

COMIC BOOK "NERDS" HAVE TAKEN OVER THE MOVIE INDUSTRY

JOSHUA TOBIN
Writer

As a self proclaimed comic book aficionado, reading Batman comic books at the tender age of ten, I would have never guessed that a little over ten years later that the creation of Bob Kane and Bill Finger would be one of the highest grossing movies of all time (by February 2009 having surpassed the one billion dollar mark). When I was ten, comic books were about as reputable as an art form as the National Enquirer was for its news. Now, at the age of twenty four, having a copy of Y: The Last Man in your hands could potentially get you noticed, and not in a bad way. So what happened?

Former president of Marvel Comics Stan Lee and his strong hold on

the youth of North America is what really started the comic book to movie blitz. With the instant success of Spider-Man in 2000 and X-Men in 2002, Marvel had only scratched the surface of a newly emerging golden age for comic books and movies alike. By the end of 2008 Marvel had twenty modern adaptations of their own comic books that made it to the big screen including several popular X-Men and Spider-Man sequels, and the immediate box office success of Ironman, with the troubled Robert Downey Jr. at the helm, which grossed \$ 582,030,538 worldwide. It's easy to see that Marvel has done more than forge itself a new genre in movies; they have completely carved one out with Wolverine like precision, and other comic book companies would replicate this box office delight, with such titles as Sin City, V for Vendetta,

and Wanted.

Now studios are aware of their demographics, and when they have a potential summer blockbuster on their hands, the first place the eyes of the masses get a quick glimpse is Comic Con, because the studio executives know that the "nerds" of San Diego have the ability to give their movie platinum status.

With the recent release of Watchmen and the upcoming summer release of Wolverine Origins, no longer are we "nerds", we are the elite of movie goers. This new metamorphosis in the movie industry is not just beneficial for those who grew up reading Spider-Man comics in the dark when they should have been sleeping, it's positive for everyone else too. Now movie watchers have the possibility to become fans of literature that they might not have previously looked at.

Plus, let's not forget that we're all getting shiny movies of vivid color, and explosions, which hold our attention for two hours and (at least for now), stand the test of time.

With great power comes great responsibility and now that we "nerds" have taken over we'll take our job very seriously, and even though we don't have super abilities like the heroes on the big screen, our strength is ubiquitous.



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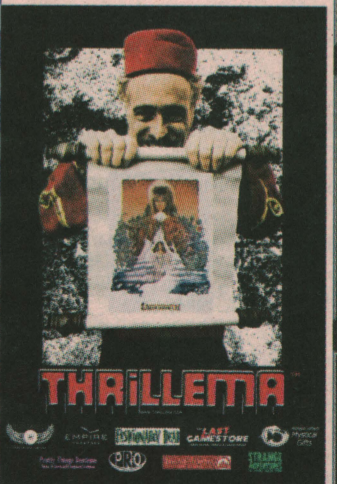
Kick Some Ass While Dancing!
The SMU Women's Centre is holding classes on Capoeira for Women. On Fridays from 10:30 to 11:45, this dramatic martial art is what inspired break-dance. Check out these lessons in the Group Fitness Room, and learn how to dance and surprise some pervs next time you're at the bar with a kick to the throat.



All You Ever Wanted Between American Idol Episodes
The first American Idol star releases a brand new album this week. "All I Ever Wanted" is Kelly Clarkson's fourth CD on shelves on the 10th. You can listen to it while waiting for the next episode of American Idol to come on.



The Biohazard Continues
The newest installment in the Resident Evil series is released this week: Resident Evil 5 comes out on March 13th. The new survivor-horror uses RE4's beautiful refined controls and expands on it with co-operative play and beautiful graphics. The game comes out for the Xbox 360 and the PS3, but if you're eager to give it a go, there are free demos available for download.



Dance, Magic, Dance!
The Thrillema shows its next show at last, with David Bowie's classic: The Labyrinth. Come out to the Darmouth Portland St. Empire 6 to see his fantastic package jiggle on the big screen, on 35mm film! The show starts at 9pm and will cost you \$7.



THE CRANKY PROFESSOR DISRUPTING A TALK

MARK MERCER
Columnist

What in the world were the people who disrupted Jose Ruba's presentation thinking to accomplish?

The certainly meant to cause a disturbance and, perhaps, to shut the presentation down. They got what they wanted on those scores. But what good could they have reasonably supposed might come from causing a disturbance or shutting down that presentation?

Those who disrupted the presentation were moved by the awful thought of women being forced to remain pregnant and to deliver babies against their will. They were moved by the terrifying thought of women maimed or killed while having abortions illegally. Fine. Maintaining and extending abortion rights is a noble cause. Yet how could someone expect that cause to be advanced even an iota by disrupting a pro-life presentation?

By disrupting his presentation, the protesters expressed their contempt for Jose Ruba. Not their contempt for Ruba's views—but for Ruba himself. They expressed their contempt for Ruba's audience—for pro-choice members just as much as for pro-life and undecided. And they expressed their contempt for a wonderful way of life, the way of life central to which is coming to form one's views and emotions and plans—and allowing others to come to form their views, emotions, and plans—through the force of argument and example. The disrupting protesters, that is, were happy to bully people out of asking certain questions or pursuing certain discussions as they wish.

Well, maybe, at least now and again, acting contemptuously toward somebody or other is just what's called for. Maybe an important cause can be advanced effectively by bullying people—and without that bullying causing damage to a social fabric otherwise marked by respect for individuals and unimpeded discussion. Again, that pregnant women not be forced to remain pregnant and that women not die are certainly important causes.

Yet whatever cause might be advanced effectively by shouting people down, abortion rights isn't it. First, in Canada today, abortion rights are not in peril. We must remain vigilant, of course, and there's much work still to be done to make abortion easily accessible to all women, both in Canada and elsewhere. But serious restrictions on abortion are not in the offing in any direction. Second, and most important, the work we need to do protecting and extending abortion rights requires patient discussion. A couple well-wrought questions or well-considered anecdotes in the period following the presentation would have been much more likely to have had a good effect than shouting down the speaker. And asking these questions or offering these anecdotes would have been consistent with respect for

individuals and for our social fabric. The disrupting protesters, so far from advancing their cause, actually squandered an opportunity to advance it.

Still, even were abortion rights in Canada under some threat and even were shouting down a speaker an effective tactic in meeting this threat (I can't for the life of me imagine how this could be true, but let's just suppose), the good achieved would have to be at least equal to the harm caused for the use of that tactic to be justified. So what's the harm? Respect and liberality are not only wonderful in themselves, but they are also our best hope for identifying and solving fairly whatever social problems we face. And yet, despite these facts, respect and liberal attitudes are not easy to foster and maintain in a community. It's hard to think disinterestedly about matters of value or public policy. It's much simpler and more immediately gratifying simply to react without thinking, to follow the like-minded herd. Disrupting a speaker, then, puts at risk much that we value, much that we value both for its own sake and for the goods it makes possible.

Think for a minute about democracy. One thing to value about democracy is its fairness. When a decision is made democratically, even those who think it the wrong decision can accept it as fair and, thus, as legitimate, as binding on them. But a decision isn't made democratically when some people are prevented from trying to change minds by presenting their views. To shout down pro-life speakers, then, is to subvert democracy and, thereby, to render pro-choice customs and institutions illegitimate. We love democracy for its own sake, of course, but we also prize it for the peace and security it brings, peace and security that are threatened when people are denied public avenues through which to influence policy.

Those who set out to disrupt Jose Ruba's presentation must have known all of this. They understood that contempt was their tactic. They understood that this tactic wouldn't serve the cause of protecting or extending abortion rights. They understood that their tactic would put at risk our fragile commitments to disinterested thought and dispassionate discussion, and would coarsen the social fabric here at Saint Mary's and beyond. And yet they chose contempt and shouted down the speaker.

All they could reasonably have thought to accomplish, then, was to display to the world their self-righteous sentiments. That's not politics. That's cawing and strutting. How pathetic, how ugly.

Students and faculty members at Saint Mary's who sympathize with the disrupting protesters either have failed to think hard about the matter or are just as disdainful of respect, discussion, and democracy as are the bullying roosters themselves.

PETS 101: PETS FOR STUDENTS

LAURA MACINTOSH
Editor in Chief

Many university students living away from home need a little extra love in their lives. The thing is, when midterms and finals roll around, we often forget about taking proper care of ourselves, let alone another living being. Then there's what to do if you're moving around every year... that's certainly stressful on a dog or cat. Still though, a pet is something many students long for, something to entertain them, love them, something to nurture. So here are a few options for student level pets.

1) Fish

Ok, these can be boring I know. Beta or gold fish make great pets that are still fun to play with. Beta's and goldfish will follow the end of a pencil or your fingertip around their bowl, and you can have fun making them swim in circles until you are dizzy. They require minimal care, flake food and a water change. Goldfish are more finicky, they die quickly if you don't have the right conditions for them, so I suggest sticking



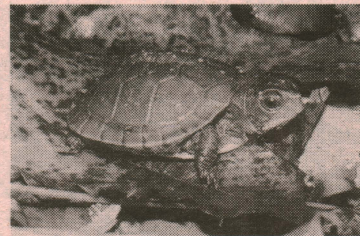
with a more colourful Beta. Beta's

(aka fighting fish) should be kept alone or it will attack other fish. Small bowls or tanks are all you need to house these types of fish, with a little gravel on the bottom. They are very portable and make good starter pets.

If you're looking for multiple fish try guppies or neon tetras.

2) Turtles/Frogs

They're cute and fairly easy to look after. Baby turtles eat pellets you can buy at any local pet store, but many frogs eat crickets. Just make sure you clean your hands well before and after playing with them. They will need a much big-



ger home than a fish, a 40gal fish tank compared to a 5gal tank or fishbowl. You must keep a land and sea area set up for turtles, since they live in both, where frogs need plenty of rocks in their water habitat. You will also need a heat lamp for turtles to keep the tank nice and warm. Frogs aren't as needy with conditions, but feeding them crickets is an interesting task.

3) Rats/Hamsters

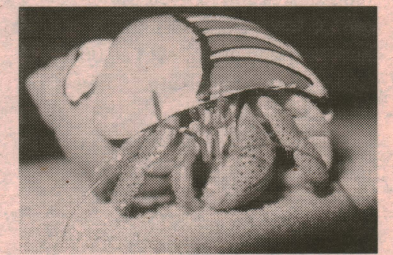
Again, you're looking at a bigger tank and commitment. These guys need wood chips or flakes on the bottom of their cages, and require you to change that up



a lot when they #2. You need water feeders, ladders and play things and all sorts of toys to keep these pets occupied. These guys can also make a lot of noise when you're trying to study.

4) Hermit Crabs

Just ask us Journal staff, these guys are a lot more hard work than we thought. TJ, our office pet, is doing quite well in his 5gal plastic terrarium; however he'll have to be moved to a bigger home at the end of the month. These little guys are cute as a button to some, and ugly as sin to others. If you like them, their tank conditions need to be closely monitored and kept warm and humid. Water and food needs to be changed daily, but the sand only needs cleaning



every month or so. They pinch, but as long as you know how to handle them, these make great pets. They like to have company, so it's best to buy two.. Also, they need weekly bathing, but that's a pretty funny experience in itself. I've found with hermit crabs, it's best to do your own research; the pet store thought I was crazy trying to buy saline solution for my little guy's water, but my species of crab needs salt to survive... so unless you want crab for dinner, buy a book or check the web.

Beta Fish: <http://collegeishard.tv/blog/2008/08/got-snake.html>
 turtle: http://www.ttpg.org/images/babyturtle_art4.jpg
 Rats: http://www.exotictropicals.com/encyclo/featured_pets/Critters/Darla/BabyAndMom.jpg
 Hermit Crab: http://myskitch.com/micamonkey/spencer_s_new_hermit_crab_with_a_colorful_new_painted_house_on_flickr_-_photo_sharing_-_20071121-163535.jpg

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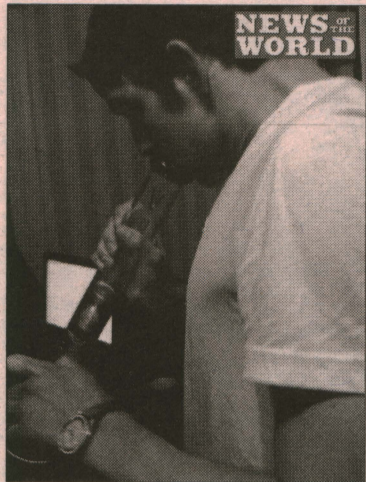
Interested in writing for The Journal? Join our meetings on Thursday at 4pm or Monday at 10am in The Journal office on the 5th floor of the student Union Building.

DOUBLE STANDARDS: HOLDING CELEBRITIES TO HIGHER STANDARDS THAN WE HOLD OURSELVES TO

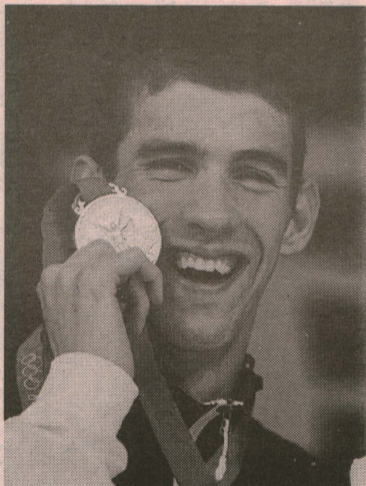
KIMBERLEY DARES
Features Editor

In the past few weeks, months or even years celebrities in the realm of music, movies and sports have faced increasing criticism of their lives and personal choices as a result of the rise in gossip blogs, celebrity magazines, even respectable news sources pay too much attention to faux-pas that when put in perspective are usually not that big of a deal.

Most recently USA Olympian Michael Phelps who won eight gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics,



made headlines for his personal behaviour. Early this year photographs of Phelps with a bong surfaced and the scrutiny began. He is twenty-three years old and yes he is a public figure, and role model but he is still twenty-three and *gasp* likes to party once



and a while.

Phelps is just one of many young celebrities who have been put on a pedestal of morality mainly to provide the media lots to cover when they make a misstep. Yes, smoking pot for recreational purposes is illegal, yes Phelps is a role model and in the public eye whether he likes it or not, but chances are most students at SMU have themselves smoked pot at one point in their lives or know someone who has. That also doesn't excuse the behaviour, but it levels the playing field a little. It is not a socially acceptable behaviour for anyone to partake in, yet many people do and upon discovery of this fact it is unlikely you will lose a job, or face intense scrutiny

of all aspects of your past.

It is as if Phelps' accomplishments for his country were meaningless all of a sudden. He won eight gold medals, broke records and all at the young age of twenty three. So he made a mistake, he acknowledged his level of celebrity and issued an apology for the behaviour. That should be more than sufficient, but people still seem to want more from him. He cannot undo the behaviour, nor is it entirely fair to expect any twenty three year old to be perfect. He handled it in an appropriate and mature manner.

Because they are in the limelight and essentially easy targets, stars are subjected to much harsher moral judgment for their behaviours than a non-celebrity would be held to. It is almost as if as a society we see behaviours we disapprove of in ourselves, manifested in celebrities and instead of focusing on improving ourselves we focus on tearing them apart.

There are many young celebrities who have risen to fame, not based on talent or skill but on money and a lack of clothing. Is it easily arguable they party too much? Of course, but if you are allowing your child, cousin, younger sister/brother to grow up under the impression Paris Hilton or Lindsay Lohan are good role models that is more a faux-pas on your part than a mistake made by Paris Hilton.

Last year Disney starlet Miley Cyrus aka Hannah Montana made headlines for a "racy" photo shoot in Vanity Fair taken by famed photographer Annie Leibovitz. The pictures depicted Miley without a shirt on with her back bare to the camera and her chest area completely covered. She was fifteen when the photos were taken. They were in good taste, although perhaps a little old for her age, but the criticism she received was based on the fact she is a role model for young girls. Last time I checked Vanity Fair was not a magazine frequently read by pre-teen girls so really unless they are seeing them online on a gossip site, which has nothing but inappropriate content, they really shouldn't be seeing them at all. Furthermore if young girls are to see the pictures they can see that what needs to be covered is covered and she actually looks decent.

Since that scandal Miley has been caught up in more, with photos of her making out with older boys and of her in a bra leaking online. High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens was seen nude online and she didn't lose her Disney contract. These girls are making mistakes yes, but they are the same mistakes young people with too much freedom are making all over the world, whether they think Miley would approve or not.

Britney Spears has a mental breakdown following a rough couple of years and shaves her head creating huge media buzz and people are shaking their heads and calling her crazy. Yet lots of people go through rough

patches and do outrageous things without even realizing how outrageous they are. Some people felt sorry for her others felt she deserved it, no one seemed to be able to relate to any of it, when really it's a story that has a lot of relatable detail. She got mar-



ried, had two kids she adores, got divorced, lost custody and then fell in with a "bad crowd". None of this is hard to understand and could to some degree happen in the lives of non-celebrities easily enough.

The problem is we fail to see celebrities as real people, they are these creatures to be gawked at and judged for their clothing, appearance and oh yeah.... their talent. By placing them on this pedestal we can critique their every move and instead of seeing parallels between our behaviour and theirs we just see them as terrible people and ourselves as something morally superior.

THE SMU WOMEN'S CENTER PRODUCTION OF THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

KIMBERLEY DARES
Features Editor

I will be the first to admit I am a little bashful when it comes to talking about things of an intimate nature, but when a friend suggested we check out the Vagina Monologues my curiosity of the event and its popularity outweighed my discomfort. So we rounded up a few other female friends, some who were familiar with the Monologues and others who weren't and headed to SMU Saturday night to watch the annual production.

Held in the Loyola Conference Hall and performed to a modest crowd, twelve women took to the stage to deliver powerful monologues based on a series of interviews with women of all ages, races, religions and sexual backgrounds. The tone and topic of each of the Monologues varied, some were humorous, others were easily relatable, and all were extremely profound and moving in their own way.

The Vagina Monologues were written in 1996 by Eve Ensler and developed into a stage production shortly after. In 1998 as interest in the Monologues began to grow Ensler created V-Day, a day of global action and unity against actions of violence towards women and girls. Across the globe V-Day events including productions of the Vagina Monologues are held to raise funds. The money is used to promote education and an end to violent acts against women and girls. Each year a spotlight group is chosen to benefit from the funds.

The 2009 focus group is the women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as they face acts of rape or assault in their daily lives as part of the raging war in the country. Survivors of these atrocities are often scared into silence in order to protect themselves from exclusion by the community. Physically women and young girls are left with genital lesions, fistulae and other serious injuries and at risk for unwanted pregnancy, STI's or HIV infection. Those committing the-

se atrocities nearly always get away with it. The conflict in the DRC has been declared the "worst humanitarian crisis in the world" and since 1996 more deaths have occurred than in any conflict since the Second World War.

In addition to supporting the official V-Day Spotlight group, the Women's Centre Production donated most of the funds raised to the Avalon Centre in Halifax which works toward eliminating sexual assault and abuse and providing support for those affected. Every day in the HRM a sexual assault is reported, that is 365 a year and makes up a very small proportion of those that actually occur as most acts of sexual abuse or assault go unreported to authorities.

I will admit despite moments of discomfort with the subject matter I was amazed by this weekend's presentation of the Vagina Monologues. I learned so much more than I expected and felt a strange sense of unity with women around the world. The actresses all did fantastic jobs conveying the emotion and reality of the Monologues they were presenting. Although the Monologues are over for another year I strongly encourage you to go see them next year. How often is it really acceptable to ask yourself or a friend "What would your Vagina wear if it could get dressed"?



Photo Credit: Laura MacIntosh

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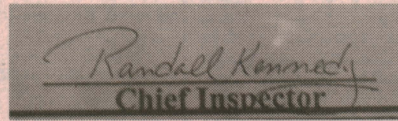
RANDALL KENNEDY TAKES IT TO A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL

NICK SIMARD
Science & Business

I know many of you read the title and recognized the name, but didn't know why. Others among you may be like me, having an instant realization of your connection with Randall Kennedy. One thing is for sure, though, and that is that your life will never be the same after having read this article. For those who enjoy riddles, allow me to give you some clues as to where you may have seen the name "Randall Kennedy". Pressing buttons, you'd come across Randall. Looking up, in silence, you would encounter Randall. Sharing a small space with other people, Randall would become part of your life. Yup, that's right! Randall Kennedy is the name you see on those pieces of paper in elevators, that certify their safety. Welcome to a brief look into Randall Kennedy... the myth, the man, the legend.

I used to make jokes about the high incidence of the name, when looking at the safety certifications. I would say, in jest, that my building's eleva-

tor didn't have a current certification because he was only one man, and so it would take him some time to ensure that ALL the elevators were safe. Over the weekend, I wondered aloud (to some friends, and not just myself) whether this could really be the case. Having no Internet access at the time, I used my Blackberry to Google his name. The first search yielded hundreds of thousands of results, so I added the words "nova scotia" and "elevator". I was beginning to uncover pieces of the mystery that is Randall Kennedy. I found a link to some workshop where he was a speaker. Having highlighted his name, my Blackberry informed me that the topic of discussion was "What's New in the A17.1 2007/CSA B44-07". That sure is a catchy title. My curiosity had been piqued and I needed to know more about the man whose name I have seen in countless elevators across the city and province. What makes Randall Kennedy tick?



Who is he? What's his story. The next link told me that Mr. Kennedy is the Chief Inspector for Elevators and Lifts Inspection Services for the Nova Scotia government. Wow. There was his email address, right in front of me. Should I contact him? What would I ask? Could I find out more via the Internet? There wasn't much time before we had to put this issue together, after all. I figured I would keep the contacting option on the back burner for now. What

might I be able to discover via Google?

You'll be pleased to know that our elevators and lifts are being inspected by a man whose work (along with his team) earned the Malcolm Sparrow Award for Excellence in Regulatory Practice from Nova Scotia Environment and Labour's Competitiveness and Compliance Initiative (2007). Wait. He has a team? Might this team also do inspections? Could it be that

the Randall Kennedy signature I had come to love and rely on was just a stamp that represented NSEL? No, it couldn't be. I want to continue believing that Randall Kennedy himself personally inspects every elevator and lift in the entire province of Nova Scotia. Kind of like a Santa Claus figure, ya know? And then, like a miracle, I saw the next link via Google and it was from a MySpace profile where I saw that Randall Kennedy is the guy who inspects all elevators in Eastern Canada. Damn! He's bigger than I thought! I didn't dare verify this, in case it wasn't true. So I'm going by Mike's (age 26) MySpace profile. Apparently, we have a friend in common. How wrong could he be?

Apparently, I'm not alone in my quest to uncover Randall Kennedy. Back in 2005, a video installation by Halifax new media artist Elizabeth Grant, explored the nature of power structures, gender roles, and searching for the elusive elevator inspector, Randall Kennedy. It was called Inspector In Spectre, and I am officially jealous of that title.

THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE WORM

KEELYN BERGSTROM
Writer

How many students here at Saint Mary's University are from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick? The reason I am asking is related to a report which has just been released by the Conference Board of Canada stating that out of Canada's ten provinces these are the only four provinces who are reporting any economic growth this year. Alberta has reported a recession for the first time in twenty years after a substantial drop in the value of oil has affected a decline in oil sands spending. The sharp decline in demand for American automobiles has had a catastrophic effect in Ontario. Both Ontario and Quebec's manufacturing sectors have been hit by slowing demand for their products from the American market. With a 2.6 percent decline in economic growth related to a worldwide slowing demand for oil

as well as the closures of paper mills, the economy of Newfoundland has been hit the hardest. In my own home province of British Columbia the economy has been adversely impacted by its trade dependent sectors in mining, forestry and manufacturing. With a bleak international economic forecast tourism will be negatively impacted across Canada affecting many service industries this summer.

With layoffs, high unemployment and a stock market which has become a casualty of a global economic slowdown many sources of education dollars are drying up for students. Parents who have in the past contributed funds toward education may be unable to in these hard economic times. The value of education savings plans have also been negatively impacted by our markets reducing their value and now requiring a further injection

of funding. When we hear our government talking about the investment of billions of stimulus dollars into our economy you will notice that no mention has been made about the plight of students who will be hard hit. It is imperative that this issue be addressed sooner rather than later as it will not only make it difficult for students to continue their education but also have a potentially negative overall effect on enrolment for universities. The government would do well to note that educating Canadians is fundamental to continuing our leadership role as a global economic leader. Investing taxpayer dollars into this area is an investment in the future of all Canadians.

With this news in mind many of us needing to find summer employment to support the cost of our education

for the upcoming school year will see the summer months looming ominously in front of us. Almost all sectors of our economy have been adversely effected by our current economic crisis leaving many of us wondering what summer job prospects will be available to us. With unemployment on the rise there will be a lot more competition for summer employment opportunities. It will be important to act sooner rather than later in terms of conducting job searches. Many of us may have to show some initiative in coming up with our own opportunities when all other avenues of employment have been exhausted. Offering IT support, providing youth summer camp experiences, tutoring, house painting and yard work are a few of the areas where there will still be a demand for student workers. New applications for student loans will be on the increase and applying early will be essential. Don't forget that the early bird catches the worm!

WHO SAYS CBC ISN'T WORTH WATCHING?

The Disappearing Male

"The last few decades have seen steady and dramatic increases in the incidence of boys and young men suffering from genital deformities, low sperm count, sperm abnormalities and testicular cancer. Some researchers say that declining male fertility rates could be the first sign of extinction."

This is well worth watching, if you're at all curious what chemicals are doing to our bodies. Bisphenol A is one of those and has recently been detected in 96 per cent of soft drinks tested. If there was no reason before, now might be the time to kick your soft drink habit.



http://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/doczone/2008/disappearingmale/gfx/disappearingmale_title.jpg

Strangers in Paradise

"Strangers in Paradise is the story of the lure, seduction and potential addiction of creating a "second life" online. Imagined lives in a virtual world, where users can make their dreams come true — what could possibly be wrong with that? For some, a lot. Some players would rather spend more time online in this virtual world than living their real lives."

If you're at all concerned with the pervasiveness of online lives and personas, and their effect on us, then I highly recommend checking this out. When does interacting on the Internet become detrimental to REAL life. What is real, anyway?



http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/2008-2009/strangers_in_paradise/images/strangers_in_paradise_inside.jpg

Top Gun

"On the 2008 Thanksgiving weekend, Steve and Angelika Crisp confiscated their son Brandon's Xbox. The Crisps could not have foreseen the tragic consequences. Brandon retaliated by running away from home — his body was discovered three weeks later. Brandon's death became a national news story — he was not just another teen runaway."

The issue of whether video games lead to violence among users has been around for a long time. But what about gaming addictions? Is it the gaming industry's responsibility or should parents be more involved in their children's extracurricular lives?



http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/2008-2009/top_gun/images/top_gun_inside.jpg

The Truth About Liars

"The truth is ... we are all liars. Scientists say that by the age of four we have all learned to lie. We lie to protect ourselves and others. We lie to protect others' feelings, and to get what we want and need. Most of us fib in one of every four conversations that last more than ten minutes. One study showed that university students lie to their mothers fifty percent of the time."

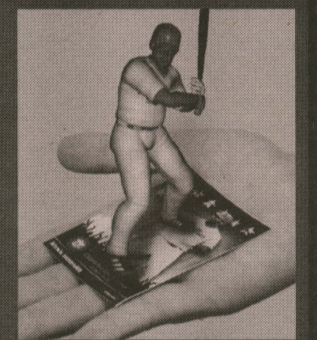
Wow. I'm not condoning lying or saying it's cool to make excuses because "everyone's doing it", but this definitely eye-opening. Do YOU lie to your mom half of the time?



http://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/doczone/2009/truthaboutliars/gfx/truthaboutliars_title.jpg



Apple's App Store has more applications to download than Microsoft (NSDQ: MSFT)'s Windows Mobile. The company said that as of Monday there were 27,131 applications in the store that can be downloaded for an iPhone 3G or iPod Touch. The number of mobile programs is staggering considering the App Store has been open for about a year



Topps has new baseball cards that allow fans to take the cards, hold them in front of a webcam and on the computer screen they see a 3D avatar of the player on the card, which can be used to play basic games like batting, catching and pitching. I think the idea is pretty terrible and won't get kids to buy, but that's just me.

fack

After a sizeable number of photographs hosted on the social network disappeared over the weekend, Facebook explains in a blog post it was a temporary hardware problem. Uh oh, better back up all those embarrassingly personal photos of you getting shit-faced. Wouldn't wanna lose THOSE forever!

Muziic

Muziic, created by teen developer David Nelson, has built an iTunes-like interface on top of YouTube. The service enables users to stream YouTube's music to their PCs without fiddling with videos. Users can build playlists and organize songs in a way similar to iTunes.

Photo Credits
Apple: <http://blogs.digitalmediaonlineinc.com/TechUniverse/resource/apple-logo1.jpg>
Topps: http://images.dailytech.com/nimage/10546_toppsbaseballcard.jpg
Fack: http://justgiving.files.wordpress.com/2009/01/facebook_logo.jpg and edited Muziic: <http://www.muziic.com/images/headerbg2.jpg>

TLC OFFERS A TON (AND A HALF) OF LEARNING

NICK SIMARD
Science & Business

This weekend, someone told me that TLC had shows called Half Ton Dad, Half Ton Mom and Half Ton Teen. Not only this, but the shows were apparently back-to-back-to-back. 3 straight hours of livin' large! Damn! I wasn't quite sure what to make of this. Since I was in the car, I decided to Google it on my Blackberry. I saw a small image of a very big man in a bed, and kind of put it aside for the rest of the weekend. Last night I was looking for something to watch for a little bit, to distract myself from an annotated bibliography assignment, and I saw in the interactive guide that these shows did, in fact, exist. And sure enough, they ran consecutively. Since I haven't seen it, I can't really comment on the show's content. I will, however, speak a little on the concept of these programs, and the idea of a person attaining such gargantuan proportions.

I don't mean to sound insensitive, as I understand that many people struggle with their weight. Hell, I gained 50 lbs in a matter of years, and I would love to work on becoming healthier. I just don't understand how a person reaches nearly a thousand pounds. According to an article I found online, (as of May 2008) Kenneth Brumley – the half ton dad – had a daily calorie intake of 30,000 calories. That's nuts! That's what an

average-sized man would consume in about 2 weeks. The same article also claims that over 2 million Americans weigh more than 560 lbs. Kenneth admits to eating a lot of fast food and watching TV all day, everyday. At his size, I can see how life could become a living hell, and consoling himself with tasty food and distractions would help. But how does a person get to that weight to begin with?

Not to sound like an asshole, but maybe having a 3-hour block of this sort of programming isn't the best for getting people OFF the couch! It stands to reason that many of the people watching this may be in similar situations or at the very least overweight. It's pretty much a fact that we eat more when just sitting in front of a TV. Maybe they're casting for future seasons, and they want to increase the qualified applicant pool? Was one of these three shows not enough? Does it attest to the fact that we over-consume and become gluttons? I don't know, but one thing I'd like to feel fairly confident about is that if I ever reached even 300 lbs that I will do something about it, to avoid weighing a half ton. Easier said than done for some people, I guess. It's safe to say that a portion of the 2 million quarter ton Americans will double their weight at some point. If you're sitting down...get up! Be glad that you can.

COMPATIBILITY ISSUES

NICK SIMARD
Science & Business

WARNING: The following is a pissed off rant about some products that I have recently encountered. There will be some disgruntled language and a lot of personal opinion, but much of it based on facts.

1. JVC Everio 60GB HDD Camcorder from Future Shop

As part of another job I have, I shoot videos and edit them into short clips. This past weekend, I went away for a youth leadership getaway and had a chance to use (for the first time) this camcorder. My boss asked me which camera she should buy, I did some research, and came to the conclusion that everything in this price range had negative aspects. I recommended a different brand but that one was sold out, so she went with this one. It's a nice, small camcorder that is easy-to-use and produces decent quality footage. That's the end of the positive things I have to say about this asshole of a product.

For some unknown reason, JVC decided to save the files in some propriety .mod format that sucks! I have Final Cut Express AND Adobe Premiere Pro and neither one of them will open this damn format. I read online that Sony Vegas won't even do it. I have searched for converters (for the Mac) and have yet to find anything free that doesn't leave a watermark. How the hell is a person supposed to DO anything with the footage once they have it? Even VLC Player (which plays just about everything) didn't know what to do with it. On my Windows computer, I was able to view it, but I do my editing on the Mac. I tried converting it ON the Windows machine using a program called Super, but all I got was audio. I would try the two programs that my friend just recommended but the Saint Mary's network won't let me online. Why can't shit just work?

2. Comstar 2.5" 320GB External Hard Drive

On the way back into town, we stopped to pick up an external hard drive (once again at Future Shop). Trying to avoid spending too much money, and looking for one that didn't have to be plugged in, I came across this great deal. Sweet! I got home, plugged it into the Mac and it didn't let me do anything. Great, another frigin' product that would piss me off. I Googled how to make it work, and figured out how to make it compatible. BUT when I did that, it would no longer open correctly on the Windows computer, and I use both. Sigh. I downloaded a program called Macdrive for Windows (which works great) but it's only a 5-day trial version.

So the option is to buy this program or return the drive. Oh wait, my boss is out of town now and I don't have the receipt. Downloading a torrent of the program would solve the problem, but I can't endorse that. With the program, at least I could access the .mod files from both computers, even though they're currently useless in their current format.

Moral of the Story

Trying to save money seems to lead to shitty products and despite having both a Windows laptop and a Mac laptop (both of which are pretty decent) and video editing software, I can't seem to conquer JVC's stupid .mod format. Oh wait, that's not really a moral at all. That's pretty much more ranting. But that's what this process has inspired in me. Could also be that my weekend sleep deprivation has taken its toll on my sanity. Oh wait, here's a lesson. Do research and make sure you know what you're getting into before buying electronics.

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SPORTS

THEY MEET AGAIN

JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor

Flash back, March 2008, SMU Huskies, UNB Varsity Reds game 2 in a best of 3 series at the Forum. Game tied, 2nd over-time period, crushing defeat thanks to an erroneously awarded penalty shot.

In a dramatic replaying of last years final series the long time rival Huskies and Varsity Reds will be suiting up to face each other once more to decide the 2009 AUS men's hockey champions. The Huskies and Reds

ranked 2nd and 1st both has the bye to the semi-final rounds, the Huskies beating UdeM in 4 to advance and the Reds downing Acadia in 3.

The Huskies-Reds rivalry has been brewing all year with most games getting fairly chippy and roughing around the net being a requirement to play in the game. The finals games should be fast and furious and the calibre of play should be unlike any AUS hockey we've seen before.

The series only has one game in Hali-

fax, see Huskies at Home for details, so let's cheer on the boys as they lay a major ass-kicking on the kids from UNB.

On another hockey note, the women's team were knocked out of competition following a 5-4 OT loss to Dalhousie at the AUS women's championships at UPEI. Despite best efforts the women were unable to convert, we look forward to seeing them all next season for some more exciting women's hockey action.

MEN'S BASKETBALL HANDLED TOUGH LOSS

JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor

The Atlantic University Sport Men's Final Six Basketball Championships took place Thursday, Friday, Saturday at the Halifax Metro Centre and these championships were the site of the biggest upsets in the 2008-2009 AUS season. The Huskies who were last year's AUS champions and sitting well in 4th place with a record of 12 and 8, respectable in a 20 game season, were knocked out in the quarter finals by the 5th place Panthers. The Huskies have split their two previous meetings with the Panthers, each were close games and were a good indication of how the game Thursday night would progress.

The Huskies and Panthers were both out to prove themselves on the regional stage and both teams came out firing on all cylinders. The first quarter was full of back and forth play, each team answering point for point, UPEI threw down some big dunks when left alone by SMU, forcing the Huskies to scramble to hold on to their two-point lead at the end of the quarter.

Ahead by two going into the 2nd the

huskies kept the pressure up, driving hard to the net and shutting down some big chances for UPEI. However, a couple of bad turnovers on the Huskies part helped the Panthers stay in it, working well down low and putting up 19 points in the quarter.

Going into the second half the Huskies trailed by one and were poised to come back if they could maintain pressure on the Panthers who were having an excellent defensive game.

With 18 points in the quarter the Huskies tied the game at 51 a side with 10 minutes to play.

As good as the Huskies were, all the hard play they had thrown at UPEI went out the window in the 4th quarter. Taking twice the number of fouls to PEI the Huskies started to look tired and got sloppy with their play. The Huskies aren't to blame for the fouls though, the officiating was questionable with the Panthers hitting 13 of 19 in the 2nd half to the no free throws given to the Huskies. Had it not been for all the free throws the huskies would have been contenders in the game but the biased manner of officiating made it difficult for them to compete properly.



Photo Credit: Jason MacDonald

Assholes of the Week!

SMU Faculty of Arts for failing to appreciate the commitments students may have that would prevent them from attending the Dean's List Ceremony before Spring Break. Those fancy key awards should be mailed to every student on the Dean's List if you are going to celebrate them so much in the hallways. Wednesday afternoon a lot of students have to go to class to stay on the Dean's List, this doesn't mean they should not be recognized for their achievements.

People who call out a professor for being wrong when they make a small typo in the notes they are writing on the board. If it doesn't affect your learning or better yet, if you can figure out what they mean on your own, keep quiet and don't interrupt the flow of a lecture for petty shit like that.

People who take a re-useable cup to Tim Horton's but still take the Roll Up The Rim cup, I don't care what you think you aren't doing anything to help the environment.

Asshole of the week submissions can be sent to sports.smu@gmail.com and it does not need to be sports related. Assholes can be found anywhere!

Huskies at Home

Men's Hockey

Mar 15
Game 2 in Semi-final series
SMU vs UNB
Forum

You can find scores and more at smuhuskies.ca



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