

The Worst Part of Censorship is ~~XXXXXX~~

On the Topic of Censorship pg 6

Victory, Valentines, and Vaginas pg 8

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THE JOURNAL

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

THE HEIGHT OF WINTER



Marlon Solis 2010

SMUSA ELECTIONS

PG 4 & 5

Candidate Bios for 2010 Elections

SPORTS

PG 12

SMU Track and Field Open Season Strongly

PERSPECTIVES

PG 3

Who knew cycling had so many benefits?
By Mayor Peter Kelly



Saint Mary's University Students' Association



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
CAMPUS CALENDAR LEGEND Presented by SMUSA Sporting Event / SMU Athletics Academic Event or Presented by SMU Alcohol Available No Entry Fee for SMU Students No Minors (19 years+ only) Gorsebrook Special To get your event added to the Campus Calendar, send an email to marketing.manager@smusa.ca					
		February 10 OPEN MIC NIGHT The Gorsebrook Lounge 9:30 pm 50/50 Draw for Haiti Relief BACARDI RAZ PROMO!	11 DIRTY BINGO All Ages Welcome! Student Centre Cafeteria 7:00 pm - 9:00pm \$5.50 DOUBLES The Gorsebrook Lounge	12 I.D.S. TRIVIA NIGHT The Gorsebrook Lounge 7:00 pm MEN'S HOCKEY UdeMvsSMU @ 7:00 pm Halifax Forum	13/14 MEN'S HOCKEY Sat: STUvsSMU @ 7:00 pm Halifax Forum
15 BOARD OF CANDIDATES FORUM Students' Centre First Floor 1:00 pm	16 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE McNally Main Theatre 6:00 pm 	17 VOTING DAY Campus Wide OPEN MIC NIGHT The Gorsebrook Lounge 9:30 pm MEN'S HOCKEY QUARTER FINALS Start here	18 VOTING DAY Campus Wide 	19 WOMEN'S HOCKEY DALvsSMU @ 7:00 pm Alumni Arena	20/21 SPRING BREAK!

Graduates

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smusa - Upcoming Events

MINI TRIVIA @7
 TREVOR BORIS & EDDIE DELLA SIEPE @8
 ALL AGES, Wet/Dry & FREE!
 in Gorsebrook lounge
*for SMU Students, \$5 for all others

VIDEO ON TRIAL
TUESDAY FEB 9
 Student Centre Cafeteria @7.
FREE!

Dirty Bingo
THURSDAY FEB 11

SPEAKER SERIES
JASON MEWES From Zack and Miri Make a Porno, "Jay" from JAY & SILENT BOB
 7pm - McNALLY THEATRE
FREE!

MONDAY FEB 15
for SMU Students, \$10 for all others

smusa - Winter Events

FREE SKATE 11:00AM - 2:30PM
 ALUMNI ARENA

TUESDAY FEB 9

DodgeBall
 a TRUE tournament

SIGN UP @ THE INFO DESK

TOURNAMENT LASTS FROM 1PM - 4PM IN THE TOWER FIELD HOUSE... If You Do

TEAMS OF 6*
 *\$5 registration fee

GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY
 Feb 10/11

FUN da mental

FESTIVAL: WELLNESS FOR THE MIND, BODY AND SOUL

Winter Carnival and Wellness Week EVENT CALENDAR

Wednesday Feb 10th 12:00 - 1:30 - Wellness Booth at Dockside - Dockside Dining Lounge - Information booth on healthy food choices and Erica Savage (Dietician) will be available for questions. 2:30 - 3:30 - Time Management Workshop - L179 - A Time management workshop with Chris Harman. It is a 1-hr workshop on the basics of time management, which Chris uses as a start point for a larger, 3-hour session. (Capacity:30) 1:00 - 4:00 - Dodgeball - Tower Field House - Dodgeball tournament hosted by SMUSA	Thursday Feb 11th 10:00 - 1:00 - Be Comfortable in your own Genes - jean depot - Loyola - Don't change your body, change your jeans. Counselling services is supporting healthy body image and self esteem by accepting jean donations for LAING house and other local charities. Helpful information from the Eating Disorder Action Group will also be there. 11:00 - 2:00 - Dirty Bingo - Student Centre Cafeteria - Free to play! lots of prizes! Promotes safe sexual practices 1:00 - 4:00 - Dodgeball - Tower Field House - Dodgeball tournament hosted by SMUSA	Friday Feb 12th 2:30 - 4:30 - Mental Health 101 - Sobey Building - Tony Primer, an instructor with the Department of Health/Mental Health Services, will teach RAs and RSOs some basic responding skills with students in a mental health crisis.	Monday Feb 15th 7:00pm - Guest Speaker: Jason Mewes - McNally Theatre Aud. - Jay from the duo Jay and Silent Bob and Zack and Miri Make a Porno comes to campus to talk about life in the movies, drugs, and life after drugs. Jay is the COCA 2009 recipient of the Speaker of the Year award. <small>Free for SMU students, \$10 for everyone else</small>
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VOTING DAYS

Presidential and Board of Directors
FEB 17th & 18th

www.smusa.ca

PERSPECTIVES

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We Can Love The
Olympics and Still
Care About Human
Rights.JEFF CUSACK
Editor-In-Chief

There are a ton of shady things going on because of the Olympics. I'm not talking about anything to do with sports and doping either; the poor in Vancouver will be marginalized, and companies with questionable human rights records will be utilized as corporate sponsors. So for the next few weeks we'll probably hear a bunch of stuff about that.

It's important that these issues receive coverage so we can hold people to task for their transgressions, but at the same time, the Olympics are a valuable cultural event. A potentially positive experience that means so much to so many should not be ruined. Sometimes you have to focus on the positive, and in this case there are A LOT of positives. A big one is national pride. This is one of the few times where nearly everyone in Canada will be pulling for the same thing: the success of our athletes.

Not all the protests at the Olympics will be about the Olympics, they will also be about a thousand other things. Protest groups will inevitably feel that if they can steal just a modicum of the limelight shone on the Olympics, they'll be able to get some much needed exposure for their groups.

This lack of focus is a problem. The Olympics last two weeks, and it isn't worth ruining everyone else's positive experience of them by constantly reminding us of their dark side. During reading week, while some people protest the games, the Saint Mary's Habitat for Humanity Society will be building a home in an area ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Rather than focusing on their negative, this group is using their energy in a positive way that will change a life.

There are far worse sins happening around the globe and in Canada, than what are being committed at the Olympics. Those abuses will continue to occur long after the Olympics are over. Ultimately, the Olympics are small potatoes, and they're going to happen whether one likes it or not. For those who are interested, I've made a handy guide here so that those who feel the Olympic machine is worth protesting can also remember to avoid associating themselves with the following protest-worthy items.

- 1) Cell Phones, pacemakers, digital cameras – Cell phones contain coltan, much of which is mined in the Congo. If you use a cell phone, there's a good chance that you're helping to finance a civil war. Also you're indirectly killing gorillas.
- 2) Apple computers, most sneakers, credit cards, pretty much everything else – These fine products are all made in China, an autocratic society that has no free press or right to free speech. So that's what you're probably supporting if you've bought any-

thing in the last week.

3) Bananas – Well, not all Banana's, but a certain company with a logo that features a woman with a bunch of fruit in her hair, Chiquita Banana, is known to have financed Colombian terrorist groups in the past. Even now, the company is accused of committing flagrant abuses of worker's rights and hiring paramilitary groups. Bananas and terrorism, an unlikely combination.

4) Coke... Maybe they murder people? (killercola.org)

So if you use any of these things then you are contributing to war, murder, the success of an undemocratic regime, or terrorism.

You know who uses all of those things? I do (except the bananas). Unless I want to become a dumpster diving freegan, I'm going to have to adjust to the fact that I contribute to some of the world's darker projects. The Olympics also contribute to some shameful practices, but that doesn't mean that we should hate them. It's important that we look at the positives of an important event like the Olympics rather than focusing on the negatives, particularly since we're all probably supporting some pretty devious organizations in one way or another.

Of course, protests do have value, but they need to be focused. Claiming that the Olympics are bad because of a five hundred point list will do absolutely nothing. Amnesty International knows that there are hundreds of people around the world who need their help; but when they have a letter drive to free prisoners, they only focus on only a few. Why? It's Amnesty's focus on just a few people at a time, out of the many in need, that allows them to succeed. If people want to protest, they need to do so in a focused manner. Alternatively, instead of protesting people could try something positive, like the Habitat for Humanity Society is doing.

This article doesn't intend to be defeatist. Rather, in this society, everything is so interconnected that it is nearly impossible to walk through life without supporting some awful things. Instead of being negative about something which brings much joy, we can contribute to our society by making positive changes. For protests, we can focus our efforts on specific causes that allow us to cause real change, rather than getting mad at everything. Need a cause? Coca-Cola is a company that isn't going anywhere, they're a major supporter of the Olympics, and they're currently being accused of supporting the murder of labour leaders at their Colombian bottling plants. Oh, they're also the only drink distributor allowed to sell on campus. Sounds like a good target to me (www.nfb.ca/film/coca_cola_case_trailer).

So I won't get sued by an angry company: This article is for entertainment purposes only, and does not claim to be fact.

Who Knew Cycling Had So
Many Benefits?MAYOR PETER KELLY
Halifax Regional Municipality

Who knew cycling had so many benefits?

I suspect a lot of people didn't, until Roger Geller came to town.

Roger is the bicycle coordinator for Portland in Oregon and he visited Halifax recently as a guest of the U.S. Consulate to relay details of his city's two-wheeled achievements. Given Halifax Regional Municipality's own commitment to improving facilities for cyclists, his visit was keenly anticipated.

When you digest the information Roger shared with us, I'm sure you'll agree he's left us with much food for thought.

In the mid-90s, according to Roger, Portland had few cyclists and hardly any dedicated bike lanes for them to use. What a difference 15 years has made. Today, the city of 570,000 is recognized as one of the most bike-friendly in the U.S. In Roger's opinion, biking has gone from being a fringe activity to a defining feature of Portland's landscape.

Just look at these statistics: In 1992, Portland had about 133 kms of bike-ways registering 2,800 bike trips daily. In 2009, those figures had grown to 500 kms of bike paths supporting more than 16,700 daily trips. As well, of the city's 10 bridges, four are bike-friendly with cyclists accounting for 13 per cent of all traffic on them.

That isn't surprising, given that

eight per cent of Portland commuters recently identified the bike as their primary transportation to work. Surveys have also found a growing number of females are enjoying bike-riding on city streets.

Roger noted one of the reasons cycling is growing in popularity in Portland is a decline in car-bike collisions. This is partly attributable to motorists becoming more aware of so many cyclists sharing the road with them plus legislation actually banning vehicles from bike lanes.

In addition, Portland has taken major strides in making streets safer and more convenient for cyclists. It has begun a program of colour-coding bike lanes and bike boxes, special zones at intersections where cyclist can wait safely for the green light.

In some areas, the city has widened bike lanes and even introduced overtaking lanes! This has been achieved by removing a lane of traffic, designating streets one-way and making vehicles on one side park three metres from the curb.

Portland has removed parking metres in certain areas and given the spaces over to bike racks. Two parking spots can house more than 30 bikes. These "corrals", along with large ones near select tram stops, have brought increased business to local merchants, especially restaurants and coffee shops.

Because the fact is, when people bike, they're spending less on trans-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

SMU Habitat
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
TRAVEL TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI, TO VOLUNTEER
DURING THEIR SPRING BREAK

50 students from Saint Mary's University will volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, the week of spring break. The youth volunteers are participants of Collegiate Challenge, Habitat for Humanity's year round alternative break program.

Co-President's Laura Fitzpatrick and Kristen Gouchie, along with Lauren Hunter, Treasurer, and Hayley Inkpen, Secretary for SMU Habitat created the society in September 2009. "This is SMU Habitat's first year as a society, and we were very impressed with the interest of the student body. To have over 50 members in our first year as a society was a great accomplishment for us," says Lauren Hunter. Their intentions were to start a society in which the members would give back to their community. They wanted to start within the community and then work up to a global level.

The group participated in a local build in Spryfield, Nova Scotia in October of 2009. Seventeen members attended and were put to hard work. They were put into small groups that worked on various tasks such as painting, landscaping, and flooring. "Although we all found it physically demanding, it was a rewarding experience and lots of fun!" says Harleen Kang, member of SMU Habitat.

What next? SMU Habitat's goal was to build a house in a Hurricane Katrina stricken area by working with Collegiate Challenge. From February to April, Collegiate Challenge participants from across the Canada and the United States will volunteer

in 200 Habitat locations. In the past 21 years of the program, more than 168,000 Collegiate Challenge participants have volunteered with Habitat during their school breaks.

"Students have a number of options to consider for their school breaks, and we are so grateful for their interest in volunteering their time with Habitat," said Desiree Adaway, Habitat for Humanity senior director of Volunteer Mobilization. "Their efforts will help provide homes for so many families in communities across the country."

During the week of February 21st, SMU Habitat will help a family in need of a simple, decent and affordable home in a Hurricane Katrina stricken area. The students from Saint Mary's University will be arriving to Mississippi by a 40-hour bus ride. As the members of SMU Habitat are all students, it was very important to keep the cost at a minimum. As well as using a bus as transportation to keep costs down, they also spent a lot of the year fundraising. They have had bake sales, sold peeler cards, done multiple coat checks and a theme night at the Gorsebrook, and received many generous donations from corporate sponsors.

"I am so excited about the opportunity to spend my spring break making a difference to help a family achieve homeownership," says Hayley Inkpen. "This will really be a memorable spring break for everyone involved."

For more information on SMU Habitat, please feel free to email smuhabitat@hotmail.com.

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NEWS

KIMBERLEY DARES
News Editor



MLA Spending: Is It Fair?

KIMBERLEY DARES
News Editor

Last week many MLA's in Nova Scotia were called out for excessive personal spending with public money by the Auditor General of the Province. The report released Wednesday outlined the spending of many MLA's but not all those with questionable purchases were named. Some of the expenses outlined were office related - laptops and furniture - but others were of a more personal nature. The more personal items include several big screen TV's, espresso makers, and several generators installed in personal homes.

One of the unnamed MLA's in the report used taxpayer money to purchase eleven computers. NS Premier and leader of the NDP Party Darrell Dexter reportedly purchased two laptops at a cost of over \$5500 and a two thousand dollar camera. Reportedly, former Premier Rodney MacDonald also made some purchases that were questioned by the Auditor General.

Some have come forward and apologized to the public and many have repaid for the purchases. Others would not apologize, and instead claimed they had done nothing wrong. While it appears the purchases did not break any laws and were approved through the necessary channels, the misuse of

public money is not morally sound which is the defensive being used. Just because there is no law stating it is unacceptable does not mean it is acceptable. If individuals in private companies or lower ranking government jobs had made such purchases the consequences would likely have been much more severe.

“ THE MONEY USED FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES WAS PUBLIC MONEY, MONEY PAID BY NOVA SCOTIA TAXPAYERS. GRANTED THERE ARE EXPENSES THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED, ... BUT BIG SCREEN TV'S AND GENERATORS ARE NOT TYPICAL (OR NECESSARY) OFFICE FURNITURE. ”

The money used for personal expenses was public money, money paid by Nova Scotia taxpayers. Granted there are expenses that cannot be avoided, perhaps the laptops or furniture bought can be justified as "business expenses" but big screen TV's and generators are not typical (or necessary) office furniture.

This scandal is unique because it involves members of the three largest Nova Scotia Party's (NDP, Conservatives, Liberals) rather than from just one party. In the past MLA's have been charged for similar actions and have even been imprisoned on charges. In this case however it appears the public is supposed to accept the apologies being offered and move on.

The spending began when Rodney MacDonald and the Conservatives were in power and continued under Darrell Dexter's NDP. It is the first Auditor Generals report in nearly 15 years, and only looks at the period between June 2006 and June 2009.

This is really the first large scale problem the NDP has faced since coming to power, and it is leading to public doubt in the Party. Taxpayers have been warned a tax hike will be necessary in the future yet this story comes out and makes those claims seem very illegitimate.

There are still many questions that need to be answered. How was this allowed to happen? Why does such a faulty policy exist? People are fired for doing much less in lower level jobs so how is it acceptable for elected officials to blatantly misuse power?

Accountability is needed in this province. All three major parties have had members named in the Auditor General's report and thousands of dollars were misused. It has happened in the past, and can easily happen again if allowed to. This is an opportunity to make your voice count; write to Darrell Dexter and your MLA or stop in during their office hours and share your opinion. A list of MLA's and contact information can be found online at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/members/directory/alpha.html>.

This Week at SMU

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

A SMUSA Dodgeball tournament will be held in the Tower Field House. The tournament will run from 1:00-4:00pm and the entry fee is \$5 for teams of six.

SMUSA will also be holding Dirty Bingo Thursday evening in the Student Centre Cafeteria. The fun will start at 7pm and run until about 9:30pm.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12TH

The Alumni Association will be holding a Time for Wine 2010 fundraiser for the Alumni Single Parent Bursary Friday evening. The wine tasting and silent auction will start at 7pm in the Loyola Conference Hall and tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling 420-5420.

The SMU Women's Centre is presenting the Vagina Monologues again this year. Tickets will cost between \$7 and \$15. The show will be performed Friday & Saturday (13th) in the McNally Main Theatre Auditorium, doors open at 7:00pm and the performance will begin at 7:30pm.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2010/2011



Matt Anderson

Fellow students,

It's been a pleasure to serve as your President

this year and it would

be an honor for you to re-elect me for a second term. I am running because I still have much to offer to the students of Saint Mary's.

Next year will be challenging, and experience will be an asset. Students face the expiration of our tuition freeze and the Nova Scotia Student Bursaries which could result in an increase in your tuition. I cannot promise that I will lower your tuition, but if re-elected, I do promise to use every lobbying opportunity with any provincial government official and the resources of our provincial lobby group to advocate for the renewal of a tuition freeze and the Nova Scotia Student Bursary. This is my priority

As President my goal will be to improve the accessibility of scholarships and bursaries. I wish to dedicate funding to advertise scholarships and bursaries that are traditionally not applied for. Also, I will advocate and use my vote on the Academic Senate to change the criteria for achievement scholarships. I would like for the criteria to make the achievement scholarships accessible to the average academically qualified student by lowering the number of required courses per semester to four, which is the average course load for students at Saint Mary's.

To assist students through the academic appeal process, I would like to create a SMUSA academic commissioner. The commissioner would work at the beginning of the summer, fall, and winter se-

mester to guide students through the academic appeal process. By creating this position, students will receive a service from a person specialized in appeals. Also, this position would reduce a significant amount of workload on the Vice President Academic and allow the Vice President to be more focused on advocating for policy changes.

Over the past year, SMUSA has seen success increasing the quality of life on campus. Initiatives that were created this year were setting required semi-monthly all age events on campus. Often times there are a lack of activities for students who are underage where most events are at the Gorsebrook Lounge. By creating required semi-monthly all age events this allows underage students to be more active on campus.

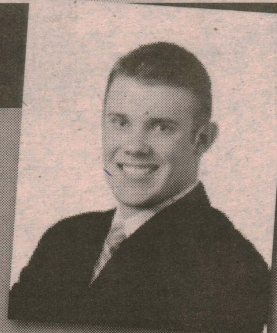
During the past year students had to cope with the H1N1 virus. Vaccinations were scarce for students but more specifically for international students because their SMUSA Health Plan did not cover the shots. This year SMUSA took the initiative of paying for all H1N1 vaccinations for international students in order to protect student health.

Lastly, I was given a strong mandate from students to improve communications to students about SMUSA, which I followed through on. SMUSA redesigned its website to provide more relevant information. SMUSA also reinitiated Café Santa Maria and created the Student Satisfaction Survey to gauge student issues and to determine how to allocate your resources to better serve you.

I would take great pride to earn your vote on February 17th and 18th.

Sincerely yours,
Matt Anderson

Jeff Mitchell



My name is Jeff Mitchell and I am a Presidential candidate with the qualifications and vision required to implement improvements that SMUSA drastically needs. I am a third year Criminology Honours student, who received the most votes to the Board of Directors in 2009.

My past involvement with SMUSA has taught me much about the inner workings of the association. I believe that SMUSA plays a vital role at Saint Mary's, what the association stands for is highly valuable. While I see SMUSA as an essential and pivotal component at SMU, from an operations level, SMUSA does not fully represent students, their interests or priorities.

Every year students are paying significant amounts of money to SMUSA, in turn the association is supposed to provide a valued student experience. This experience is made positive by investigating the true interests and priorities of students and bringing them to life. So what do students generally think about the return on their money that SMUSA takes? It's being mostly wasted. While SMUSA does provide some services that are useful to students, many of the organization's priorities are not seen as valuable to students, leaving many students with the sense that their student fees are just another mandatory cost of attending university. The truth should be that students actually see their money working for them, all the way from paying the President to do valuable work for students, to the frontline employees who operate the services and programs that students are supposed to value.

THE FACTS: We have a low voter turnout,

trouble getting students involved in events, issues engaging students, and for many students SMUSA is seen as a waste of money.

THE REALITY: Things need to change for the better. That can only happen with a President that can see the problems and actually has a desire to make positive change for the benefit of the student body, rather than themselves.

When asked how can SMUSA move towards becoming a workable mechanism to create a positive student experience for all students, I have the following answer: You need to trust and support students who want to make positive change. By voting for me you will be allowing for the implementation of a novel concept that has been lost at SMUSA: finding out what students want done, and then doing it! The Plan, which is the collection of ideas by students for students, is the first step towards experiencing positive change.

Get excited about this election; you have a part to play in change! On February 17th and 18th speak out with your vote and support a new concept, one that works for you.

Find The Plan at www.JeffMitchell.ca and join the Facebook group "Jeff Mitchell for President".

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! VOTE AT WWW.SMUSA.CA ON FEBRUARY 17 AND 18

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES 2010/2011



Ayesha Mashoodh

Dear Fellow
Saint Mary's Students,

My name is Ayesha Mashoodh, I'm a fourth year Accounting Major and I'm running for seat on SMUSA's Board of Directors. If elected I will be representing the voice of the student, to SMUSA.

SMUSA plays a important role on campus, as the main representatives of Saint Mary's students. SMUSA also provides services that enhance the student experience. If asked about the students' association,

many students around campus would answer that they are unsure of what exactly SMUSA does, and how exactly SMUSA serves them. This is an issue that needs to be addressed. I believe that with better communication between students and SMUSA, as well as an assessment of SMUSA's priorities, the association could more efficiently serve students.

By voting for me as a Director, you are voting for someone who will make students the priority. I will be dedicated to making sure that SMUSA serves the best interest of students.



Tim Villermet

As previously mentioned, my name is Tim Villermet and I am in my fourth year of my Political Science degree and am preparing for honours. Since the SMUSA election was postponed due to an illegitimate 'emergency' meeting which ultimately manipulated electoral policies after the publication of candidate biographies in The Journal and just three days until the official campaign period was supposed to begin, I and other concerned candidates are now forced to give up our civil right to freedom of association. Despite these distressing developments that undermine our democracy, my values have not been compromised, my resolve stays strong, and my commitment to the student body has only grown in these times of bureaucratic hypocrisy.

Nevertheless, I believe more than ever that SMUSA needs to take the priorities and initiatives of students as precedence. As an elected member of the board of directors, I will hold the president accounta-

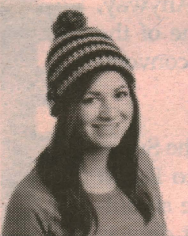
ble in responding to the issues that students care about. My unwavering priority has and will remain in what is in the best interest of students at Saint Mary's University.

I cannot encourage you enough to take part in the SMUSA election and the democratic process by voting for the representatives that will not only address your concerns, but also act on them. Your issues as students need to be heard and brought to the table. Moreover, your issues need to be resolved.

"If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it all." Despite what ones view of Noam Chomsky might be, his message is rings true and clear. Therefore, I think that you, the student body, will choose the right candidates to represent you and your needs come February 17th and 18th.

Sincerely,

Tim Villermet



Grace Kennedy

Hello!
My name is Grace Kennedy and I am a third year Commerce student from Winni-

peg, MB.

As mentioned in my previous biography, I enjoy outdoor activities, organized sports (you can find me at intramurals attempting to dig volleyball) and experimenting with tofu. I would however, like to step back from those exciting activities and represent my fellow students in SMUSA.

The Board of Directors is responsible for creating the end goals of SMUSA that reflect student interests. Many issues that students are concerned with may not be items the BOD directly addresses. So, instead of specifying promises which can indeed be very attractive to voters, I hope to gain your confidence by promising the following: integrity, positivity and my genuine interest in your wellbeing and your ideas for SMUSA.

One thing I would like to address as a board member is greater exposure of the board's agenda and activities so that students are more in-tune with where SMUSA funds are being used. I think it is safe to say that we have worked hard to make the investment in higher education and SMUSA, and I want all of us to see a great return on those investments.

My essential view is that academic institutions like SMU are most successful when students truly enjoy their experiences and receive the necessary skills for future endeavors. Simply put, if the SMU experience is remarkable for students, it creates a path for so much good to follow, including support for the school (monetarily and in a reputational sense). This will benefit us and future generations, which we should also care about. I hope that my contribution to SMUSA will help make this increasingly true at SMU!

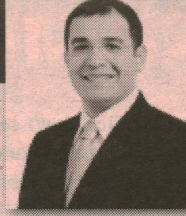
I urge you to get out and vote on February 17th and 18th, because you can!

What You Need to Know About SMUSA Elections

THE RECENTLY RESCHEDULED SMUSA ELECTIONS ARE BACK UP AND RUNNING. EXPECT TO SEE POSTERS AROUND CAMPUS AND ENJOY A BREAK FROM CLASS WITH MANY CLASSROOM TALKS FROM CANDIDATES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY FOUR SEATS AVAILABLE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SIX CANDIDATES VYING FOR A SEAT. THE COVETED SEAT OF SMUSA PRESIDENT FOR 2010-2011 HAS ONLY TWO CANDIDATES RUNNING.

WHETHER YOU ARE GREATLY INVOLVED WITH SMUSA OR ONLY KNOW IT FROM AFAR, THE ELECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO LIFE HERE AT SMU. IT IS EASIER TO HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD BY VOTING, THAN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW THINGS WORK OUT AFTER THE FACT. TAKE THE TIME TO READ OVER THE CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES AND DECIDE WHO BEST REPRESENTS YOUR IDEAS ON HOW TO IMPROVE SMU LIFE. THERE WILL ALSO BE A BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE FORUM NEXT MONDAY (FEB 15) IN THE STUDENT CENTRE AND THE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES WILL DEBATE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16TH IN MCNALLY MAIN THEATRE AUDITORIUM IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES IDEAS OR HAVE THE CHANCE TO ASK YOUR OWN QUESTIONS.

THE VOTING PROCESS IS SIMPLE AND CAN BE DONE ONLINE AT WWW.SMUSA.CA OR AT ON-CAMPUS POLLING STATIONS WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17TH AND THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18TH.



Ali Hamed

Dear fellow students,

My name is Ali Hamed. I am a third year Commerce student majoring in Accounting. I am running for a position with the Board of Directors of SMUSA for the upcoming year. I currently represent you in the Students Assembly of the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA) as part of the student delegates' team for SMUSA, and humbly help you at the Info Desk in the Student Centre.

During the academic year we all have our fair share of school work, socializing, and part-time or full-time jobs to help keep us afloat. The vicious cycle of work and education often takes its toll and we forget to keep an eye on what our money is contributing to other than our yearly agenda and UPASS. Considering this, I would like to represent you on SMUSA's Board of Directors in order to make sure that your association is doing its maximum to efficiently provide you with the best services you deserve.

Basically, I want to enhance and simplify communications between students and their association in a way that does not consume or interrupt their already committed time. I will do this by

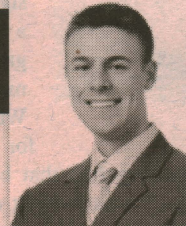
making sure your concerns, complaints, compliments and suggestions about your association are brought to the table, are heard and are considered in the decision-making, with SMUSA acting according to its mandate. Nonetheless, I will strongly advocate for a financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable campus.

Along my time in SMU, I have worked closely with many societies including the International Society, the International centre as a volunteer, and currently I am the president of the Heart and Stroke Foundation Society. In addition, I have worked for SMUSA at the Info Desk since September, 2008 which gave me the valuable opportunity to get to know and help many of you, as well as to get to know our association thoroughly. All of that plus being a full time student have made me to realize that a positive SMU experience comes through our association being engaged and approachable.

You don't have time to waste and your budget is tight, therefore I assure you I will be your loud voice inside the boardroom regarding all matters.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns via my email: ali.hamed@smu.ca

Good luck with school work and have fun!



Christian Hahn

Dear Students,

My name is Christian Hahn and I am a candidate for SMUSA's Board of Directors here at Saint Mary's University. I am a second year Psychology student and am looking forward to being in the honours program next year. I am a Halifax native with a strong desire to improve the day-to-day lives of all students here at Saint Mary's, and with your support, we can make that happen.

SMUSA is funded by students in order to represent the needs and wishes of students. As it stands, many students that I have spoken with are not seeing the benefits of having this organization, which they are funding, and consequently, are not feeling represented by their elected members of the Board. This is something that must change. If elected I plan to make myself, and all members of the Board more accessible to the student body. As your representative on

the Board of Directors I want all students to feel completely comfortable approaching me on campus with an idea they have that will benefit not only themselves, but their peers as well. In order for this to become a reality we need to change the way that the Board operates, our elected members need to be seen as our representatives, fellow students with the best interests of all students at heart. Not as a group of individuals, who you see once during campaigning and then never again during your years here at SMU. This is a very attainable goal, one which I will work tirelessly to achieve, but I can't do it without your support.

I sincerely hope that you will all seize this opportunity to bring about change come this year's election dates of February 17th and 18th. The power rests in your hands, use it.

Sincerely,

Christian Hahn



Jason Tucker

Hello,

To those of you who don't already know me, my name is Jason Tucker and I am running for a position on the SMUSA Board of Directors. I am a Criminology and Philosophy student here at Saint Mary's. During my time here I have been very involved on and around campus.

I have taken an active role representing students, sitting on different committees such as the food committee and also as a representative for our school at provincial ANSSA meetings, working to bring student issues to the government's attention.

I feel I would be an asset to the Board of Directors, not because I have all the answers, or because I think I am something above and beyond. Truth be told, I am an average student, just like you, but I have a genuine interest in what goes on at SMUSA. I have taken it upon myself, to keep up on the goings on of SMUSA,

I believe the students should have a representative who will hold SMUSA accountable to the students.

I will continue to be involved in SMUSA affairs because I feel strongly about it; I believe as a student, we should know where our money is going. If I am elected, it will however give me a stronger position to represent you as a student and your concerns.

If you ask anyone who knows me, they will tell you that I am very motivated and determined; I get results. In the past, a main issue I have worked towards, is more events on campus, especially all age events, to have a stronger community feeling on campus.

If you have any further questions or concerns, feel free to stop me in the hall after class, or heck look me up on facebook.

Sincerely,

Jason Tucker



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NICK MADORE
Arts & Entertainment



On the Topic of Censorship

NICK MADORE
Arts & Entertainment

Several weeks ago, schools in Southern California pulled the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary from its shelves after a student "accidentally" discovered that "oral sex" had an entry ("oral stimulation of the genitals"), prompting overly-sensitive parents to go into a tizzy. The sheer stupidity of the situation was soon realized, as the dictionary has recently been unbanned, but the issue of censorship still stands. Censorship is an issue that have plagued movie lovers, art aficionados, music publishers and writers since the dawn of their respective mediums. "Art should be free to express itself on its own terms!" cry some, while other plead that we "think of the children!"

A heated topic, for sure.

Who's to say what's right and wrong for everyone to see? Do some sensitive individuals bring things down for the rest of us? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that film and television ratings have grown more and more lax over the last 20 years. Is society becoming desensitized? What good is censorship if industry standards change every decade or two?

That said, it's worth mentioning that, despite instances like the example given in the opening of this article, North America is among the most liberal with their definitions and

standards on the issue. Canada even moreso than the States, given that many of the films rated 'R' south of the border is bumped down to a relatively harmless '14A' in the Great White North. Regardless, numerous countries of a variety of cultures have much more strict guidelines of what can and cannot be shown.

Given their oversized beers, tough

often don't see a number of releases for quite some time after release in other parts of the world (if they see them at all), but to have a number of great releases, namely many horror films, heavily censored or denied classification is a policy that needs to be changed. Certain politicians, along with a push from Australian media companies and public interest groups, are pushing for a change in the ratings policies.

In response, the government has opened the floor to hear public opinion on the matter. Gamers, for example, have until February 28 to voice their opinion and have have it heard by the powers that be. International video game retail chain EB Games has taken advantage of this opportunity, drawing up a petition in support of the new rating, garnering over 500,000 signatures. "This is not a call for violent video games," says EB Games' managing director, Steve Wilson, "but rather a call for a better classification

system that brings Australia in line with the rest of the world and other Australian entertainment industries, such as films."

In an effort to protect fragile minds from the rest of the world, the Australian Labor Party introduced in 2008 a bill to filter the Internet. Attempting to censor the Internet, a medium literally created to promote the free and open exchange of information, Australia takes a page from the Communist China playbook to introduce a blacklist of websites, the modern-day equivalent to book-burning.

Censorship will remain a hot topic until long after we expire. Further, it seems there will never be a global consensus on what is and is not acceptable, or for who it is acceptable. No matter what form censorship takes in its respective medium, at least we can all agree that it often leads to hilarious moments in horribly-censored R-rated movies made suitable for cable television. You know what I'm talking about.

The Worst Part of Censorship is ~~the fact that~~ ~~we have to~~ ~~live with~~ ~~it~~

outback environment and affinity for precarious pastimes like "knifey-spoonny," (okay, so the extent of my knowledge of the country extends as far as that classic episode of The Simpsons, but MAN! What an episode!) you wouldn't expect Australia to be a land of censorship and conservative sensitivity. The fact is, currently Australia has no 18+ equivalent ratings for games ('M' in North America), and are quite stingy with their 'R18+' rating for films, leading to many movies or games being either heavily censored or not released at all. It's bad enough that Australians

BITE SIZE ENTERTAINMENT

White Stripes ballet to premiere in Toronto

The National Ballet has announced that Chroma, a ballet to the tune of the music of the White Stripes, is to make its North American premiere in Toronto in the 2010-2011 ballet season. Made for The Royal Ballet in London, England, Chroma premiered in 2006 at the Royal Opera House. The one-act ballet features such orchestrated versions of White Stripes hits like "The Hardest Button to Button", "Aluminum" and "Blue Orchid", along with original orchestrations by British classical composer Joby Talbot. Chroma will play with two other ballets: Serenade and Emergence.

Also in the program for the 2010-2011 season are a co-production between the National Ballet and the Royal Ballet, the North American debut of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, James Kudelka's 2004 reimagining of Don Quixote, and Cinderella.

Super Bowl ads worth looking up

Being in Canada, we missed out on one of the things a lot of people watch the Super Bowl for: the commercials, known for their higher production values. Thanks to the power of the internet, we can at least look them up online. If you choose to go down that path, a great website to go to is SuperBowl-Ads.com. Anyway, take a few minutes to check out some of the better ones from this year. For your convenience, I've picked out a few:

Late Show With David Letterman - The Super Bowl aired on CBS, which is home to David Letterman's late-night talk show. The significance of this Super Bowl ad is that it depicts Letterman and Leno on the same couch watching the game, on opposite sides of Oprah Winfrey, obviously playing on their on-air feud over the whole NBC late-night talk show fiasco of the last couple of months.

Homeaway.com - Starring Chevy Chase reprising his role as Clark Griswald from the Vacation movies.

Audi - Spoofing the famous Cheap Trick song, "Dream Police," the ad depicts a fictional "green police," playing on the whole environmentally-conscious climate as of late to promote their eco-friendly Audi A3.

Noel Gallagher to appear in court to face attacker

Noel Gallagher, former guitarist of English rock band Oasis, has requested to appear in court for the sentencing of Danny Sullivan. During Oasis' set at the 2008 V-Festival in Toronto, Gallagher was attacked by Sullivan, resulting in three broken ribs. Attorney Ruth Kleinhenz made a statement Friday that Gallagher expressed intent to read his victim impact statement in person to his attacker in court. This prompted the sentencing to be delayed until a date that Gallagher could make an appearance.

The band was forced to postpone 5 shows after the attack.

Gallagher recently announced his first solo concert since leaving Oasis back in August, playing for the Teenage Cancer Trust at a benefit concert in London, England. He also has a solo album, planned to be released in July. While the remaining members of Oasis are forming a new band, they have recently announced that it will not be called "Oasis".

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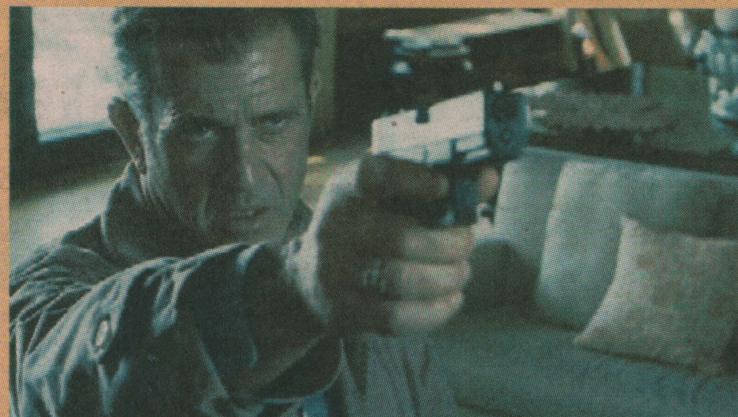
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Edge of Darkness: Review



ALEX CLARKE
Features Editor

Edge of Darkness is an emotionally-charged action thriller set in the middle of a huge conspiracy involving politics and big business. We all know Hollywood loves adapting TV shows, and Edge of Darkness is

no different. The movie gets its roots from a British TV movie and follows the plot very closely. The pace is a little uneven and it does begin to lag towards the end, which is a shame, but director Martin Campbell (Casino Royale) has packed the movie full of intensity and tension which works really well. Edge of Darkness is a solid thriller that provides an engrossing story line with plenty of

gun-toting, blood-splattering action. All of the actors in the film are able to hold your attention right up to the spectacular ending. Considering Mel Gibson's recent real-life behavior, it's difficult to think of him now as anything more than a misguided caricature. Gibson, however, plays a stunning role as a single father and a veteran detective whose whole life surrounds the well-being of his only child, 24 year-old Emma (Bojana Novakovic). His life is turned upside down when his daughter is brutally murdered in front of his eyes on his door step. Everyone assumes it was a botched attempt on his life but Gibson claims he has no enemies. (How a police officer can have no enemies is beyond me.) Determined to find out who killed his daughter and why, he sets out on a one-man mission to find those responsible. Gibson discovers more than he expected and realizes that his daughter was involved in a world

surrounded by government corruption, corporate cover-ups and murder. He completely dominates the movie in his usual vengeful form as a father driven by grief. During his vendetta he runs into government operative Darius Jedburgh (Ray Winstone), who has been sent by the government to clean up all loose ends. First and foremost, it's hard to believe that 2002 was the last time we saw Mel Gibson on the big screen. The past few years he has been more focused behind the camera and now has the opportunity to see he has directed major motion pictures. Gibson's portrayal of Thomas Craven in the film was with absolute passion and pain. Whether you like him or not is irrelevant; The man is without a doubt a genuine actor. His performance was excellent. He was able to connect with the character he portrays, showing both vulnerability and how the unforeseen death of his child forces him to be lethal.

However, despite being a movie that was obviously a vessel for Mel Gibson's return as a leading man, the title of the movie describes it perfectly. The only person left on the 'edge of darkness' is bound to be the audience. Very good action does not make up for a story that is full of holes or a plot that is unnecessarily hard to follow. Edge of Darkness will have your head spinning as it is filled with twists and turns with a bad guy and liar around every corner. With all the layers of lies and shady characters that you don't know whether to trust, Edge of Darkness becomes so much more than a revenge movie. It turns into a one man mission to right the wrongs of an unjust corporation and government. In summary, if you're looking for a good blockbuster Edge of Darkness is your pick. It does the job it was meant for, which was basically reintroducing Mel Gibson back into the leading role of an action movie.

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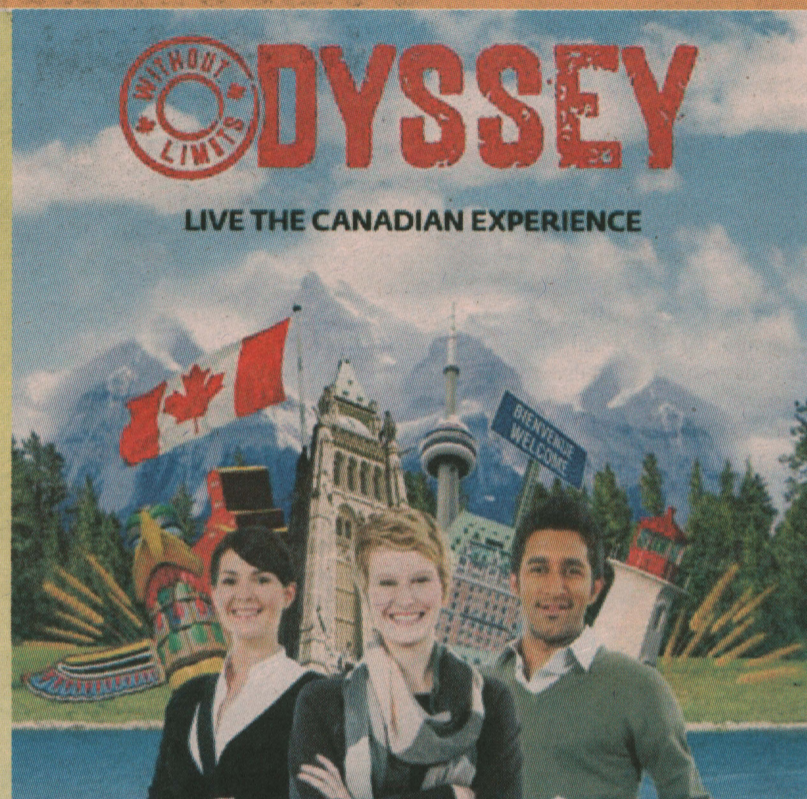
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Dr. Brad's quote of the week:

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FEATURES

ALEX CLARKE
Features Editor



The CRANKY Professor

THE JOURNAL, THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT SAINT MARY'S



Don't Let The Students Know!

If what I read in last week's Journal is accurate, part of the story goes something like this:

A candidate for the Board of Directors of next year's Saint Mary's University Students' Association complained that other candidates for the board and a candidate for SMUSA President were running as a slate, under the tag "Students First." The candidate made his complaint to the current Board of Directors, rather than to the election's Chief Returning Officer. The board referred the complaint neither to the CRO nor to a properly constituted appeals committee. Instead, it created an ad hoc appeals committee consisting of four of its members, which then met to consider the complaint.

This ad hoc Elections Appeal Committee found the complaint to have merit, despite agreeing that running as a slate violated no existing election or campaign rule. The committee held that running as a slate would put at risk the president's accountability to the board, perhaps decrease the diversity of the board, and unfairly disadvantage candidates not on the slate.

These reasons seem to be the reasons behind a rule already on the books, the rule according to which candidates may not endorse each other or include endorsements in their campaigns. It's not clear to me how running as a slate didn't violate this particular rule.

Finding the complaint to have merit, the committee ordered candidates to remove references to Students First from their campaigns.

In a letter to students at Saint Mary's, the Chair of the Board of Directors expressed his regret at the board's having to violate its own policies in order to deal with the complaint.

Sadly, current members of the board will not have to face the voters over their behaviour in this affair.

But what about slates of candidates? Should there be a rule prohibiting candidates from banding together or endorsing one another? No, of course not. Such rules are attempts to deny voters information that voters might find relevant. As such, they are anti-democratic and authoritarian.

One sufficient reason against rules prohibiting slates is just that such rules are impossible to enforce, or impossible to enforce without disrupting the election process. Candidates who want to endorse each other will certainly find a way to do so under any specific regulation. If to address this problem, regulations are left general and vague ("candidates may not explicitly or implicitly band together"), then they are open to abuse by candi-

dates keen to find violations.

Let's return, though, to the main critique of rules against slates, the critique according to which such rules deny voters information they might like to have. Suppose a voter agrees that the best board would be one that keeps the president in line. That voter would be worried about the independence of candidates for the board who are aligned with a candidate for president. Now banning slates does not remove alliances. It just makes them more difficult for voters to see. Rules against slates, then, deny to voters who want to split their votes information that would enable them to judge how best to do so.

They also, of course, deny to voters who want to link their votes information that would enable them to judge how best to link them. And that's a good thing, says the Chair of the Board of Directors. Maybe so, but here's where the rule takes on its authoritarian character. In giving this rationale for the rule, the Election Appeals Committee is promoting its particular conception of responsible voting. It is attempting to enforce on voters the concerns it deems legitimate.

It is the same thing with each of the other two reasons, diversity and disadvantage, that the board's chair gave for banning slates. Each of them is about denying voters information that voters might want. And each has as its rationale ensuring that the board conforms to current board members' ideals regarding SMUSA's character and purpose.

SMUSA is notorious for this sort of thing. As I noted a couple years ago, candidates for SMUSA office are required to submit campaign materials to the CRO for vetting. Candidates, that is, are bound not only by rules regarding how big their posters can be, how many they can post, and where they can post them, but also by rules regarding their content and how they present that content. These rules deny candidates the ability to say what they want to say how they want to say it, and they deny voters information regarding candidates' messages and judgement.

That these rules cannot really be expected to further their intended end—to keep out the riff raff—doesn't make them any less noxious to those who favour openness and democracy.

Next year's students' council should make reforming the electoral process a top priority. Among other things, it should streamline the rules, making sure none of them prevent candidates from getting out any messages they want to get out. And they should make sure that no rule prevents voters from attaining whatever information they might want to have, whether board members think they should have it or not.

If SMUSA continues to oppose openness, free expression, and democracy, students should demand that SMUSA be dissolved and its functions assigned to Student Services. Better to have no students' association than to have a corrupt students' association.

Victory, Valentines, and Vaginas

HEATHER MACLEAN
Women's Centre

Valentine's Day is upon us, and a production of *The Vagina Monologues* is taking place on campus, which is part of V-Day (the "V" stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina), a global movement to end violence against women and girls. The *Vagina Monologues*, besides celebrating women's various sexualities, also calls attention to gender-based violence. Every year, V-Day spotlights a different area of gender-based violence to raise awareness and funds for various causes (\$50 million to date). In 2010, the spotlight is on the women and girls of the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The war in the DRC has been called one of the worst emergencies to unfold in Africa in recent decades. The war ended in 1999, but the Eastern area of the country is still plagued by violence. In this war, as in all armed conflicts, rape was a weapon of war. Armed groups, even international actors like UN personnel, have been implicated in perpetrating gender-based violence. Many survivors suf-

fer from profound, long-term psychological and physical consequences. However, the health care system in the DRC is almost non-existent. Survivors also have difficulty obtaining justice. Many women and girls suffer in silence, fearing stigma and ostracism if their ordeal is made public. The stigma comes from the fact that

as work, because sex workers do provide a service. However, Canadian laws criminalize sex work, which fuels stigma and creates an environment where sex workers are subjected to violence and are sometimes killed. Often people don't take crimes against sex workers seriously, because sex workers are seen as operating outside the boundaries of normative sexuality. Stepping Stone, besides supporting sex workers, also aims to educate the public about sex work and fight for decriminalization.

The Saint Mary's production of *The Vagina Monologues* takes place February 12th and 13th at the McNally Auditorium. There is also a February 14th performance at The

Company House, 2202 Gottingen Street. For all performances, doors open at 7 and the show starts at 7:30. Tickets are available at the SMU Women's Centre and Venus Envy, or call 496-8722 or e-mail vdaysmu@gmail.com. Advance tickets are \$7 for underwaged, \$12 for fairlywaged. Tickets at the door are \$10 for underwaged, and \$15 for fairlywaged. Besides seeing great theatre, there will also be spoken word from Sara Assyyed and music by Catherine McCormack, not to mention chocolate vagina pops!

“THE SAINT MARY'S PRODUCTION OF THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES TAKES PLACE FEBRUARY 12TH AND 13TH AT THE MCNALLY AUDITORIUM.”

in the DRC, as in most places in the world, a woman who is raped is seen as 'damaged goods.'

At SMU, proceeds from the production are also going towards Stepping Stone, the only organization in the Maritimes that supports sex workers (Stepping Stone director Rene Ross is also in the production). Stepping Stone operates on a harm reduction model, and the staff don't try to stop their client's work, rather, they assist them in making as safe and positive choices as possible. Many sex worker advocates fight to have sex work seen

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Remembering Canadian Black Heritage

ALEX CLARKE
Features Editor

February is the month of love. Romance is in the air and couples all over are planning how to celebrate the upcoming weekend. However, students also must remember that February is the month of celebration of Black History for Canada and the United States. The remembrance was founded in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson and was chosen in February because it marked the birthdays of two people who greatly influenced the lives and social conditions of African American: former slave and abolitionist Fredrick Douglass and former President Abraham Lincoln.

African-Canadians have contribu-

ted to all areas, enriching the Canadian educational, political, business, religious, and cultural landscapes. Early contributors worked within the Black community, without much public recognition. Sometimes, a Black person would gain high office due to their skill, experience, wealth, or commitment that made their race less of an issue. Later, as more opportunities were fought for, or opened up, more African-Canadians could enter a wider range of public positions.

Those who went where no other African-Canadian have paved the road for the present. As co-workers, colleagues, and the broader community interacted with the new "coloured" person, the process allowed them to face head-on their own preconceived notions based on race and

possibly replace them with realistic knowledge about the individual's ability, interests, and strengths.

African-Canadians were at the forefront of the anti-slavery movement in the 1800s and were equally involved in human rights struggles in the 1960s and 1970s. Following the Black Power movement and the many incidents of violence directed at the African-American community through church bombings, and violent reactions to non-violent protests, African-Canadians were also compelled to look critically at this society and to seek justice. Canadian segregation was addressed, and dealt a severe blow through the Viola Desmond incident, but more work had to take place across the country to loosen the hold of negative laws, behaviors, and

practices. Those who worked to create change and who have taken a risk on behalf of the rights of others have helped to recast Canadian society.

One fact we can recall is that the first African arrival took place over 400 years ago with interpreter Mathieu da Costa. Since that time, Black people have been constantly coming into Canada helping to build it. Many people perceive that Black people have not "paid their dues," have not served in any military defense of Canada, that Black people are not pulling their weight or taking the level of responsibility that they should as good citizens of Canada.

However, the reality is that African-Canadians have volunteered in every case for active duty, and persisted even when they were not wanted. In order to help defend Canada, separate Black units were created, the first one, on the initiative of African-Canadian Richard Pierpoint. Black people have consistently defended the interests of Canada, or the British controlled territory of Canada from the time of the American Revolutionary War through to the Mackenzie Rebellions and the present. Whether they were born in Canada, or newcomers supporting the direction that Canada was taking, African-Canadians have been ongoing defenders of this nation, allowing us all to experience the freedoms that we have today.

It is obvious that such a month still sparks a controversy and annual debate about the continued fairness of forcing a month dedicated to the history of one race. Many still wonder if it is still relevant. However, the reason Black History month must still be a subject of study is because

of the impact it has had on all races not just blacks. Due to this argument, the Journal decided to sit down with the Saint Mary's University Black Student Advisor, Avrian Dolcy, to discuss the role of black students in the student body.

The role of the black student advisor is to provide education, support and referrals to students of all races. Students who need help in dealing with course information, student services financial aid, program tutorials and job opportunities can set appointments and meet to resolve all issues. The Advisor helps to resolve any concerns insuring that a permanent relationship exists between the governing body of Saint Mary's University, and the resources that are available to Black students. Avrian explained to me that Black History month is very important to him and the advisory centre. He is using this opportunity to show students that it is a hub that can provide multiple resources for all students.

The centre is currently putting together a Black Student Database to distribute information concerning scholarships, job opportunities and other areas pertaining to black students. The Black Student Advisor centre will also be presenting an information table in the student centre on Wednesday giving away prizes and offering refreshments. One of the most anticipated events to look out for this month will be the filming of Amistad through the Saint Mary's University Film Society next week Thursday. If you are interested in attending the film then you can sign up to be on the mailing list this Wednesday (today) in the student centre at the information table.

Dinosaur Comics

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SMUSA STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY 2009-2010 Results

1. Have you ever participated in Orientation Week?

Have you ever participated in Orientation Week?	
Yes	114
No	91

Here are a few statements to evaluate and indicate whether you agree or disagree.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
SMUSA is an effective Student Association	47	107	25	14	3
I feel that SMUSA is my student association	46	88	47	18	3
I feel I am a part of SMUSA	23	52	59	53	13
I see SMUSA as a place to go for help if I had a concern at Saint Mary's	38	71	54	29	10
SMUSA acts in the best interest of students	41	101	45	7	4
Volunteer opportunities at SMUSA are accessible to me	38	56	54	20	11
SMUSA is the voice of the students and advocates on their behalf to the University Administration.	51	90	40	11	3
I think SMUSA is well managed.	43	85	44	8	4
I think SMUSA spends student money responsibly and effectively	38	67	46	15	5
I feel SMUSA contributes to a more positive experience for Saint Mary's students	66	91	32	7	4
I feel well informed about SMUSA and what it does.	45	52	39	35	26

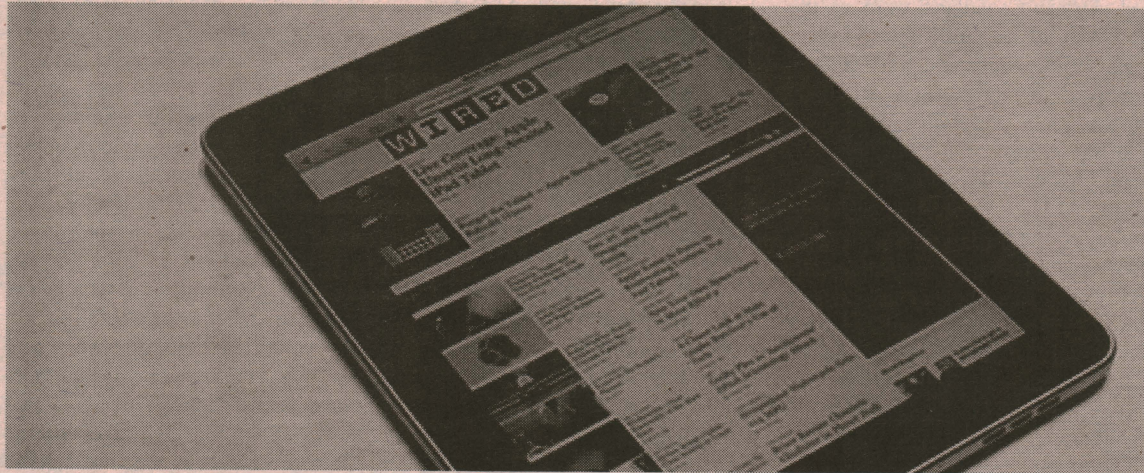
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BUSINESS & SCIENCE

MONIQUE JOHNSON
Business & Science



Taking a Page from Steve Jobs' Book



MONIQUE JOHNSON
Business & Science

It's becoming more evident that Apple is indeed monopolizing the technology sector. I am not a huge fan of Macintosh (Mac) laptops, and the Personal Computer (PC) versus Mac commercials were quite corny—they never seemed to end. I'm a PC fan and I love its convenience. I'm sure Mac users are convinced of their computers as well. By virtue of upgrading, I did jump on the Apple bandwagon and purchase an iPhone. It's everything you dream of and more. Convenience, touch screens, high definition, oh my!

Apple is all about setting a trend. It revolutionized computers and digital media; now it's the iPad, which will be launched at the end of March. The iPad is a mixture of a laptop and iPhone. It is definitely a tablet for your thoughts. Don't get too excited though, it does not have a camera and it's not a phone. It can only run one application at a time. I'm sure Jobs will be able to fix such shortcomings as time goes by, as Apple spearheads the innovation of technology. Some learning institutions are paperless and in a few years I would not be surprised if the iPad's applications take the place of textbooks and notebooks. Major bookstores will be jumping on the iPad bus sooner or later. As we move to the paperless world, magazine and newspapers are feeling the

burn and revenues are decreasing at a substantial rate. Still, there are some companies who would rather pay for the print media, in efforts to preserve the earth's treasures. (explain. Doesn't digital save trees?) It was mentioned that The New York Times would have an application on the iPad when it launches.

Some companies are still a bit leery about jumping into business with Mr. Jobs due to the monopolization of the iTunes and its exclusivity. Record companies did not make as much money as they thought they would through the digital media device because Apple is in full control of pricing and distribution through the iPod. The tablet idea was attempted and put to rest (BY who?). Mr. Bill Gates himself even attempted the idea, but at the time the iPad did not draw any attentions. The negative outweighed the positives: high prices played a huge role in the resistance from the public. Mr. Jobs also attempted to introduce the iPad but the thrill or need was not as high. (are you talking about the past or the current iPad? How do we know the need is not as high?) It is amazing how Mr. Jobs is able to dazzle the public with his designs and creativity. We are a society where information at our fingertips is getting more and more crucial to our well-being. We want internet while in transit, the ability to check the score of a sporting event, and rock out to your music downloaded from iTunes.

The iPad is cashing in at \$499 US for the basic version and \$829 for more memory. Innovation in technology has made the iPad inexpensive. Other features included a touch keyboard and the use of both fingers to size and crop pictures. This is the future of technology right here. It's staring us in the face. I'm curious to see what the competitors come up with. Computers, intercoms, and media will never be the same. The fact that it's all in one device raises Jobs above all.

Though this device looks like the end-all and save all, I'm not sure if I'm totally onboard with it. Though somewhat equipped, it does not replace the capabilities of a laptop. Though pricing may not be an issue for some businesses, it would be a waste of time to buy the iPad in addition to your work or personal laptop. What about compatibility? Other hardware? What if you're a PC user? Apple did attempt the launch of Newton in 1993, but it was not accepted with open arms: it was a flop. Then there was the Kindle, the Nook, the Skiff and the Que—sounds like musketeers and stoogers. The iPod and iPhone have been successful due to the fact that it succeeds the industry it is in. I'm not so sure that the iPad will be as popular because of its limited capabilities. The hype leading up to its launch has been plastered everywhere. I hope it meet and exceed everyone's expectations.

The Customer Is Always Right... Not Always

MONIQUE JOHNSON
Business & Science

In efforts to preserve customer relations, if you work in the retail world it is imbedded in your brain that the customer whom you are serving is always right. In most cases they are not. It's amazing how some customers would go out of their way to make the lives are some customer service representatives a living hell. Though you think they deserve the treatment because you as the customer know it is their job to "serve" you, but for the most part some customers take advantage of this opportunity because they know to some extent that they can get away with it. Some customers assume that you will always be cordial to them no matter how much they swear at you and treat you rudely.

Tim Horton's in St. Andrew New Brunswick has banned a customer from its establishment for life. Jimmy Craig complained multiple times to the local Tim Horton's that the decaffeinated coffee was burnt. Craig is also banned from the neighboring Tim Horton's in St. Andrew N.B. Craig went as far as to meet with the store manager and corporate owner, Edwin Dow. Dow mentioned that the employees upon request catered to

Craig's needs and brewed him a fresh cup of coffee, but this still was not enough for him.

Craig is a paramedic and this is the only haven he has of visiting the Tim Horton's. If he's on the job as medical personnel, he will be allowed to order as much coffee as he needs, but as a private citizen he is banned from the stores. It is uncertain if this ban is just a provincial one, but Craig has definitely got some making up to do with the Tim's crew in New Brunswick. Craig fired back and added that he brews his own coffee at home, so he has not need to purchase that of Tim's; however he has hired a lawyer to have the ban removed. It seems like all sort of parties came out as winners in this story, but there is a lesson to be learned in regards to customer service and how to treat individuals with respect.

Tim Horton's is a franchise and the food and drinks do differ in taste at some establishments. The food at the Tim Horton's on Spring Garden is different from that of the Tim's on Barrington Street and the one in Scotia Square Mall. I practically live in Tim Horton's and I find the coffee reasonably priced compared to its competitors. Though I think Second Cup has a tasty Vanilla Bean hot chocolate, Tim's on a larger scale satisfies my need for caffeine.

Social Media Friends Versus Real Friends

MONIQUE JOHNSON
Business & Science

In the media world we are bombarded with the social networking way of meeting and greeting new people and connecting with them. When you add someone on Facebook, MySpace, or follow someone on Twitter there is some connectivity to that individual as you are now allowing them to see who you are and they have more access to your life than your parents may ever have. There could be a negative side of this access in regards to hackers and subjective photos used inappropriately, but to a certain extent we have been able to connect with high school friends we have not seen in decades. We've all heard the stories of family reunions via Facebook or finding that long lost relative who is friends with one of your friends on

MySpace.

There are privacy settings that are updated on a regular basis to protect users for the most part from those whose intentions are of ill will.

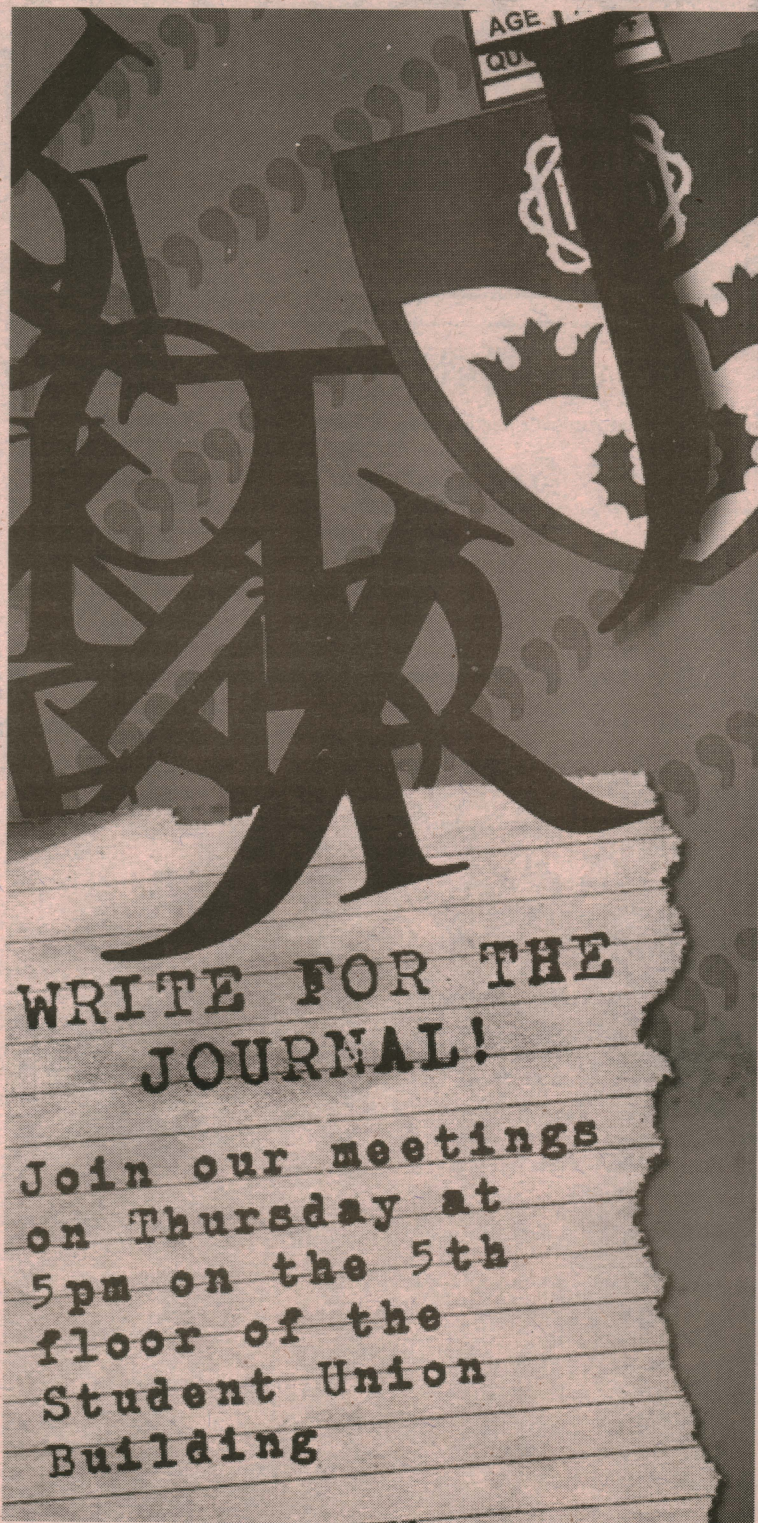


Are these digital friends your real friends? Can you do a random selection of five of your social networking friends and set up a lunch or dinner date? Some of you may answer yes, but depending on the selection one friend may not know the other or in

fact may just be enemies. Though social networking is not in the business of matchmaking, we have to keep in mind that compatibility does play a major part in "friendships" through our digital world.

Social media is an advertisers' dream in the modern era. Facebook make a hefty penny on just advertising alone, giving the term "friends with benefits" a new groove. I had someone add me to Facebook who I've never heard of. He was the promoter of a restaurant in downtown Halifax. I responded to his request inquiring if we should meet somewhere and I may just not remember who he was.

His reply was that he's a restaurant promoter and the more individuals he informs about the restaurant, the more popularity it will receive. It's pretty much that easy to get the attention or promote a business via social media.



Who Knew Cycling Had So Many Benefits?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

portation which means they have more disposable income for other things. Roger estimates cycling represents an extra infusion of \$800 million annually for the Portland economy. No wonder local businesses have become strong backers of council's bikeways program!

And the economic benefits of cycling don't stop there. Studies done in bike-friendly Denmark have found for every dollar invested in cycling, there's a 200-per-cent return in savings to the health-care system. Considering Nova Scotia's overstretched health care system, cycling as an alternate mode of transport translates into big dividends indeed.

According to Roger, Portland has invested some \$60 million so far in bikeways and related infrastructure. That's an eye-popping figure - until you put it in context. Today, \$60 million would build just one mile of urban freeway!

While Halifax Regional Municipality may not be as bicycle-friendly as Portland's, not just yet anyway, we certainly aren't standing still. Our

commitment to encouraging more two-wheeled traffic - including declaring a special Bike Week each spring - is ongoing and I support this effort.

The more people we can assist to use bike lanes to and from downtown, the more beneficial it will be, health-wise, for everyone, including the municipality at large. Fewer vehicles on our streets mean less carbon emissions and a better, more sustainable environment for our youth and for our grandchildren.

If you'd like to learn more about what we've achieved so far with our bikeway implementation program, along with what we hope to accomplish, you'll find details at: <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/090407cai02.pdf>.

I welcome your thoughts on this, or any other issue related to life in Halifax Regional Municipality. Reach me here at City Hall at kellyp@halifax.ca or by phoning 490-4010.

Royal Bank of Canada

MONIQUE JOHNSON
Business & Science

Who do we blame when the market crashes, or an investment of ours is lost in the mindless matter of the financial industry? We have seen investments go horribly wrong. We have CEO's using the money of their company for personal gain and the retirement plan of their employees disappears like heated butter.

Royal Bank of Canada, one of the largest and most respected banks in Canada is currently being sued because an employee, Earl Jones, mismanaged investments of clients. Those whose money and investment were affected are seeking to file a class-action lawsuit against Royal Bank. As a customer my experience with Royal Bank has been everything a customer wanted. Their service is impeccable and they definitely cater to the needs of clients.

I am not receiving an endorsement deal from Royal Bank, nor are they buying me a condo in the new Trilium Building on South Park Street, but that would definitely be a nice gesture. I am just saying that of the three banks I have dealt with in the past Royal Bank know how to keep a lady happy. On the other hand no industry is perfect and where there are money transactions, in some cases, there is a little devil peeking over someone's shoulder.

Virginia Nelles is leading the lawsuit because her mother and brother lost close to \$1 million investing with Jones. The lawsuit was filed in the Quebec superior court. It is alle-

ged that Royal Bank's Beaconsfield Branch in Montreal and its employees knew about Jones misuse of the accounts he was involved in. They're also alleging that this activity dates back to 2001. Jones was adored at the bank and also in the community. It is uncertain whether his high status clouded the judgment of the banking officials that he work with, but according to the legal documents filed, it was mentioned that his transactions were not examine as closely as they

penny. With funds totaling this much, one ponders, how was he able to get away with such a thing for so long? How fast can your mouth Enron and Arthur Andersen? Are we placing too much trust in the banking industry? The other option is to hide our money under the mattress or dig holes in the ground to hide it. However, with all the construction in HRM someone is bound to find it.

Royal Bank itself is going into the fetal position and jumping on the victims' bandwagon, as they were deceived by his actions. The reputation of the bank is also in question because its personal letterhead and name was used. Whether they can win back the trust of employees and clients is up to each individual, but I still see its financial institution as one of the best. As per Royal Bank, the 25-year in-trust account that Jones operated, did not have



should have been. In this case it is the intention of the lawsuit to hold Royal Bank accountable and prove that they were negligent, as the misuse of the money would not have been possible if the personnel of the bank were more attentive.

The lawsuit is demanding that the funds be returned to the account, where the funds were deposited between 1981 and 2001. If Royal Bank were to lose this lawsuit, similar cases like it may arise when the investigation goes deeper. As per the Earl Jones Victims Organizing Committee, the total amount of all the claims is... Drum roll please... \$40 million. The 30-year circus act of Jones will cause Royal Bank a pretty

as much restrictions to begin with, but the transaction activity of this particular account is monitored as much as other accounts. My question is probably the same as yours: then how did this happen? Jones did plead guilty to the charges brought against him: two counts of fraud estimated at \$50 million and is expected to be sentenced on February 15th.

One hundred fifty-eight clients: \$50 million
Amount deposited in the account over 25 years: \$40 million
Zero money recovered so far and banks' reputation: priceless

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SPORTS

JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor



SMU Track and Field Open Season Strongly

JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor

One of the least well known varsity teams at Saint Mary's had a strong start to their season last month. At the Moncton Open January 9th Garrett Ramey of SMU did great in both the 7.26 kg shot put and the 35 lbs weight throw. Ramey placed 2nd in both events with a 13.83 meter throw in the shot put and a 11.83 meter throw with the 35 pound weight. Also placing well for the Huskies was Sidney Doucette who placed fifth in the men's 600 meter run with a time of 1:29.86, and was only 5.25 seconds behind the winner, Jean-Marc Doiron of UdeM. SMU track was well represented by cross-country runners Brad Orchard, Brad Palmer and David Knowland who placed 4th, 7th and 11th in the men's 1000 meter run and by Tyson Churchill who placed 6th in the 1000 meter event. In the men's 60 meter dash Glen Downs placed 3rd in the final heat with a time of 7.33, trailing just .29 seconds behind the leader. SMU's Nick Moore closed out the finals with a time of 7.46 seconds.

Ashley Ryer was the sole woman to place from Saint Mary's, she won both the 1000 meter run and the 1500 meter run, besting huge St. FX teams.

The track team competed on January 17th at Dalhousie University in the last

“THE TRACK TEAM WILL NEXT BE AT THE AUS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT UDEM AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, IF THE ATHLETES PLACE THERE THEY WILL MOVE ON TO THE CIS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT WINDSOR IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCH.”

meet before the AUS championships at UdeM. Ashley Ryer once again led the Huskies, winning the women's 1000 meter event in a time of 2:53.3, 3.4 seconds ahead of the next closest finisher. Katie Myatt competed well in the 600 meter event trailing less than 25 seconds from the leader. On the men's side Nick Moore had an impressive 37.9 second 3rd place finish in the men's 300 meter dash, finishing ahead of all St. FX runners and trailing only behind two runners from Dal. Sidney Doucette from the

Huskies had a close second place finish in the 600 meter run, finishing close on the heels of Dal's Matthew Reddy. The Huskies also had 3 solid finishes in the 1000 meter run, Brad Palmer and Tyson Churchill finished in 5th and 6th place, essentially side by side with Corwin Trottier following close behind in 9th. Though the Men's 3000 meter run was dominated by Dalhousie and St. FX the Huskies had two top 10 finishers with Joel Bergman and Brad Orchard. David Knowland came in in the middle of the pack while Kai Seltner rounded out the field. Once more in the throwing events Garrett Ramey placed well, coming in second with a 13.32 meter throw in the men's shot put and Emilee Bendell won the women's shot put event with her 10.59 meter toss. Both SMU throwers also placed well in the weight throw, Ramey won the men's event and Bendell came second in the women's.

The track team will next be at the AUS championships at UdeM at the end of February, if the athletes place there they will move on to the CIS championships at Windsor in the middle of March.

Huskies at Home

Friday 12 Feb
Men's Hockey UdeM @ SMU
7pm

Saturday 13 Feb
Men's Hockey STU @ SMU 7pm
Volleyball StFX @ SMU 2pm

Sunday 14 Feb
Volleyball CBU @ SMU 1pm

YOU CAN FIND SCORES AND MORE AT WWW.SMUHUSKIES.CA

Women's Hockey Team Double MTA

JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor

The Huskies have secured a play-off berth with their 4-2 win over the last place Mount Allison Mounties. SMU have a record of 12-8 and are tied for 3rd with St. Thomas and trail the conference leading X-Women and Aigles-Bleues by nine points. The Huskies are tied in scoring with St. FX but have had more than twice as many goals scored on them.

The Huskies played in front of a crowd of 25 fans at Huskies Arena and defeated MTA 4-2. Kayla Oakley scored first for the Huskies, 10:10 into the 1st period with assists from Leah MacLennan and Sarah Maynard. SMU's 2nd goal was an unassisted short-hander by Kori Chevarie, scored early in the second on a holding penalty to Jocelyn Campbell. MTA scored their first less than a minute and a half later, an even strength goal by Jenna Briggs. The Huskies rallied back late in the 2nd and midway through the 3rd scoring two power-play markers, Kori Chevarie and Melissa Young were the goal scorers with assists from McCusker, Mosher, Dawson, and MacDougall.

Jillian MacIssac made 15 saves on 17 shots. The Huskies out shot the Mounties 36 to 17 and generally out-played the Sackville NB team. The Huskies have 4 games left before the AUS championship at UdeM and will be using those remaining games to improve their seeding at the tournament.

Check out Huskies Sports photos at WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/JASON_MACDONALD

SPORTS in a minute

Men's Basketball:

The men's basketball team won a pair of games this weekend when they played the UPEI Panthers on their own court. The Huskies began the weekend with a record of 9-5 and were ranked 3rd in the AUS, the Panthers on the other hand had a record of 3-8 and were ranked 6th, only leading Memorial University and UNB by one win. The wins extended SMU's 3rd place hold to 11-5 and moved them to 12 points behind St. FX and 14 points behind CBU who are currently 1st in the AUS and 4th in the CIS. The Huskies won their first game by a margin of 13 points. Joey Haywood and Mark McLaughlin scored the majority of the Huskies 97 points with 68 points and 3 rebounds between them. The Panthers scored 84 points and played well but the Huskies controlled the ball and play. Manock Lual and Mitchell McQuade scored most of the Panthers points but despite their best efforts were unable to come back against the Huskies who outscored the Panthers in every quarter except the 4th. The Huskies 2nd game was on par with the previous nights; The Huskies won 84-74, Joey Haywood scored 21 points with 12 rebounds for a total of 59 points and 14 rebounds. Ikeobi Uchehbu scored 27 points and had 11 rebounds in the Huskies win over the Panthers. Matt Fennell and Terrence Brown scored most of the Panthers points. The Huskies are not back at home until February 27th when they play the Tigers.

Women's Basketball:

The 4th place Saint Mary's Huskies defeated the last place UPEI Panthers 68-38 twice on their road trip to Charlottetown. The Panthers are currently winless with 15 losses this season. The Huskies are currently 10-8 and only four points behind the 2nd place St. FX X-Women. The Huskies out-played the Panthers in every aspect of their game. Kelsey Daley and Justine Colley were the scoring leaders of the game with 36 points and 8 rebounds between them. Kelly Debow was the Panthers scoring leader with 9 points. The Huskies never trailed the Panthers at any point during the game, scoring the Panthers total in the first half alone. The Huskies will not be back at home this season, closing out their regular season on the road.

Men's Hockey:

The men's hockey team had a successful end to a four game road trip that began in a less than stellar way, the Huskies defeated the Aigles-Bleues 3-2 in overtime in Friday nights game. Mike Danton forced the game into over-time when he scored the Huskies 2nd goal 6:33 in the 3rd period. Justin Munden scored the game-winning over-time goal for the Huskies 6:35 in the over-time period with assists from Colby Pridham and Ryan Rorabeck. Also scoring for the Huskies was Cam Fergus. The game was fairly light on penalties with only 8 minutes being given to each team including an interference penalty to Brandon Verge and a too many men on the ice penalty that was killed off effectively by the Huskies. The second game of the weekend was a 5-2 win over the St. Thomas Tommies. Patrick O'Keefe led Huskies scoring with two goals, Morrison, Munden and Smith scored the other Huskies goals. Leading the assists were Colby Pridham and Andrew Hotham. Neil Conway was solid in net for the Huskies saving 25 of 27 shots. The Huskies are back at home for the last two regular season games against UdeM and STU.

Volleyball:

The Huskies clinched a play-off berth this weekend with wins over UdeM and UNB. The Huskies defeated the Aigles-Bleues 3 sets to 1 Kerri Smit and Allison Beaver led the Huskies with 20 and 18 points respectively while Keisha Muise kept plays alive with 19 digs. The match was fairly evenly matched with 33 tied scores and 20 lead changes.

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