

SMUSA ELECTIONS FEB. 7TH AND 8TH



THE JOURNAL

GO VOTE.



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Reasons to vote? Got 'em!

BY MARK LAYMAN

It's that time of year again, so get out your lie detectors and your notebooks. If you have yet to notice, SMUSA election campaigns are in full swing. All the giant posters you are seeing slapped on bulletin board and walls are part of the annual chaos that makes people yell, scream, cry, and whine. To friends, to family, or to just anyone willing to listen, the candidates running for SMUSA exec offices will be irritable and edgy, all the while trying to smile politely and win your vote.

For SMUdents (oh yeah... I said SMUdents) near and far, this campaign means a great deal to most of you. These elections will determine what issues get addressed next year, who will be addressing them, and most importantly, what MAY NOT be addressed next year. If there's something or anything you want said, heard, or acted upon, you need to contact your candidates and find out what their plan is. Your action can and will affect the outcome of the elections, and decides who will receive the giant salaries next year. If you weren't aware, your vote also determines who merits the jobs and the money. These positions pay very well, I may add, so make sure your candidate isn't applying for an office and a paycheck. We

can all understand the desire for a nice big office and a cushy wad of cash every two weeks, but is that really the kind of candidate you want running the show here next year?

Make informed decisions, and talk, talk, talk! If a candidate can't give you five minutes to talk about what they stand for, analyze their response to your appeal for just five minutes. If they don't have time for you now, will they have time for you next year? Can you remember last year's campaign ideas for open-door policies and listening to students? Take a good look at this year's executive, and ask yourself how you spent last year's vote. Was it worthwhile? Do you feel you made the right choice? You have 8700 peers that are able to vote in this election, so get involved and make a frickin' difference. SMUSA elections' voter turnout has been flailing in recent years, with student apathy running wild and elections seeming to be internal popularity contests.

You graduating class folk will move on and away from SMU and SMUSA, but your experience with SMUSA makes you

wise to what is required in student leaders. As Frosh, you have three more years to go here so make sure you choose your leaders wisely. As part-time students, your needs are harder to address because you're working 35 hours and can't spend the time making the difference you know we need. You get one vote each year. Spend it wisely. Encourage your friends to do the same. SMUSA's tag line is

Do yourself a favor, and do me a favor. Vote, tell your friends to vote, and tell people you don't know to vote.

'students working for students' so assure yourself the work will be done properly. Are they running for you, the students, or for the benefit of their own pockets and resumes? I'll definitely be voting this year, next year, and all of the following years as long as takes for me to get this dang degree. I'm proud to know I cast my vote and did my part to make this school better. Do yourself a favor, and do me a favor. Vote, tell your friends to vote, and tell people you don't know to vote. It's hardly a democracy when only 18% of us bother to vote. The power is yours.

**GO VOTE
Feb 7 & 8th**

Who's bad?

BY DAVEY LALONDE

The "King of Pop" (sorry bud, not anymore...), Michael Jackson, showed up in court on Monday to begin his child molestation trial. The media has had their fun with this story since Jackson was initially accused of child molestation in November 2003 and eventually charged back in April of last year. The latest allegations have been gobbled up furiously by the public. Not only is Jackson an incredible success-gone-wrong, but this is the second time he's been accused of such a crime. This is an obvious recipe for public scrutiny.

Demand for seats in the courtroom is high. Rumour has it that well over 1000 applications for the media's access have been filed in hopes of covering the trial from a first-hand point of view. It's not clear how long the trial is going to last, but CBC is saying that it will probably be at least three months.

In the early 1990s Jackson was first accused of molesting a child. Jackson managed to avoid a lengthy battle by settling out of court. Various reports claim that Jackson paid the accuser millions of dollars to make the pending lawsuit disappear. This second time around 46-year-old Jackson didn't pay off his opponent, and his trial has now begun.

Michael arrived at the courthouse on Monday looking like he usually does - wearing a white suit, black shades, and holding up an umbrella. His

fans were waiting outside of the court and they cheered their hero on as he marched into the building surrounded by a team of security guards. There were no dance moves on the roof of his limo, but Jackson did flash a peace sign to his mob of fans and he smiled for the cameras before entering the building.

Though many former fans are angry with him, Jackson has friends and family who have stayed loyal, at least publicly. His followers claim that Jackson is innocent. He just happens to have a lot of money, and accusing him of a crime that he's already been associated with could potentially be an easy way to put money in an accuser's pocket, and it could end up sending Jackson to prison for quite awhile.

Unfortunately for Jackson, he's been accused of more than the molestation of the 13-year-old. There are accusations of Jackson feeding the boy alcohol, along with charges of extortion, false imprisonment, and conspiracy involving child abduction.

Jackson, aware of how his public image is being torn to shreds, released a video statement pleading with his fleeting fans to not be so quick to judge him. "I deserve a fair trial like every other American citizen. I will be acquitted and vindicated when the truth is told."

CBS aired an interview with Michael's mother, Katherine, saying "I know my son and this is ridiculous". Jackson's father has also publicly defended his son.

SRC Elections

Executive Elections

Positions for candidacy: President, VP Internal, VP External, and VP Academic. (VP Finance is an appointed position.) *Board of Governors & Academic Senate seats available*

Nominations Open: • Jan. 23rd
Nominations Close: • Jan. 28th
SRC Campaigning Begins: • Jan. 30th - Feb. 6th
SRC Voting: • Feb. 7th - Feb. 8th

Council Rep. Elections

The Regular SRC Positions are: Arts, Commerce, Engineering, Science, Students /w Disabilities, Mature, First-Year, Off-Campus, Residence, International, Part-Time, Grad, and Senior Undergrad.

Nominations Open: • Feb. 28th
Nominations Close: • Mar. 4th
SRC Campaigning Begins: • Mar. 6th - Mar. 13th
SRC Voting: • Mar. 14th - Mar. 15th

Bursaries

Winter 2004 - 2005 Bursary Applications

Are now available at Student Services
4th Floor, O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre

Bursary Workshops

(Not mandatory, but recommended if you have any questions about the application process)


Drop-in on Friday anytime between 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. to ask questions
Room 411A in the Student Centre

Dates:

January 28, 2005
February 4, 2005
February 11, 2005

Deadline for Bursary applications is
Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

Reminders

Feb 14: Valentine's Day 

Feb 19-27: Winter Break, No Classes.

School Closure Information:

For closure/cancellation information call the new SMU closure/Cancellation Hotline: 491-6263 or Visit www.smu.ca.

Would you like to know what your VP Academic is up to? Check out: <http://vpacademic.blogspot.com>



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**Beach Party!!
Thurs. Feb 3rd**



JOURNAL

NEWS

Survivors remember Auschwitz

BY DAVE LALONDE

On Thursday January 27th the world remembered what happened in Auschwitz on the 60th anniversary of the surrender of the Nazi Party. For the somber anniversary, several world leaders as well as many survivors and their families gathered at a ceremony at Birkenau, which is the largest of all the Nazi death camps.

The world leaders attending the ceremony included the U.S. Vice President, Dick Cheney, Britain's Prince Edward, presidents of both Germany and Poland, as well as the King of Belgium and the Queen of the Netherlands. Several leaders took turns giving speeches to the crowd that had gathered. As they left the ceremony, the representatives of the various countries left behind burning candles at the Holocaust monument that rests at the death camp as a reminder of all the lives that were taken by the Nazis.

Reporters at the scene talked to a few of the survivors, who recounted horror stories from their days trapped in the Nazi death camps. Some of them spoke of the painful brutality they had to personally endure, while others spoke of family members and friends who were tortured and killed at Auschwitz.

One survivor told CBC reporters: "People died like flies. We used to carry home from work going back at night at least about 10 to 20 guys that were dead. You needed two guys to carry them, you know. They were dead."

Another survivor of the camp who talked to CNN says: "I am not here to talk about what happened. My only aim is to light a candle for my mother, whose ashes are who knows where in this camp."

There were some that felt that it is still very important to keep the dreadful memories of the Holocaust alive. Reuters reported the Polish president as saying: "These commemorations are intended to promote knowledge of Auschwitz as widely as possible and bring the truth about the camps to the younger generation." While the remaining survivors are all getting on in their years, some

feel it's important that those who were not around during the Holocaust understand what horrors can result from anti-Semitism.

The anniversary has raised the issue of current-day anti-Semitism. Some survivors are urging the younger generations to think about the issue carefully. They claim that it's important to be aware of the past, in order to prevent it from being repeated. 60 years ago six million Jews were killed. The ceremony taking place at Birkenau remembers those people, and those in attendance hope that nothing with the magnitude and monstrosity of the Holocaust will ever happen again.

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To schedule an interview please contact Bob Siff at bobsiff@msn.com or (954) 915-8560. You may apply online at <http://trcamps.com>

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SMUSA ELECTIONS 2005

Zach Churchill President

Experience:
 • Rez Rep 2003/2004
 • Arts Rep 2004/2005
 • Frosh Leader 2003 and 2004
 • Student Rep on SMU Board of Governors 2004/2005
 • Campus Ambassador to CASA
 • Member of 8 different SMUSA committees

Objectives:

- To strengthen SMUSA from within so our money is going towards a more efficient organization.
- To find new innovative ways to increase SMUSA's revenue so we can lower student fees (i.e. by re-vamping our current health plan)
- Fight to ensure our issues (i.e. student loans, rising residence fees, and international differential fees) are addressed at the administrative level with a strong voice.
- To ensure that we the students are the priority here.
- To make sure this position is not only characterized by strong administrative capabilities, but also by strong student leadership and an active role in the university community.

Alberto Medina President

As a student and as a member of the SMU community, I have been able to experience and understand the necessities that a student at SMU has. This is why today I have taken the decision of trying to change and improve the SMU community starting with the needs of every individual. Yet this can only be possible with your collaboration. Help me improve your student life; help me make SMU the place you always wanted it to be, a true home where you can achieve your dreams. I want to help, that is why I want to be your president. Help me by voting for me so I can help you. Alberto is authentic passion for SMU.

Josh Vining President

Are you tired of people promising change and nothing ever comes of it. I myself can say I am. To me a promise is something which should never be broken. The only thing that I can promise students is that I will put my heart and soul into this position should I obtain that privilege. I also promise that I am not one who takes the answer "it cannot be done" easily, if I feel in my heart that it "can be done". I have never backed down from a challenge worth fighting for, nor do I ever intend to do so. I will not use any more words to convey what it is I wish to accomplish. The major issues at hand are tuition, and fairer treatment of single mothers. Education is a right, not a privilege. Change is accomplished through action; there is only so much words can do. If you feel the same way, Vote for Vining on Election Day.

Josh Weston President

My name is Josh Weston, I am currently a second year student in the Commerce Faculty, and I want to be your Saint Mary's Student Association President. I want to be president because like you I want a better Saint Mary's experience. I am running for president because I feel that we are missing out on something bigger. Our school events have been lousy at best, our frosh week makes a paint drying convention look like

a rock'n good time, and parties on res. are limited to four people in a room with jock jams volume 1 quietly playing in the background. All this said, if elected President, there's going to be a few changes around here.

Ali Al-Sayed VP Internal Affairs

From day one, I noticed the potential this place has. With your trust and our voices working together, we WILL realize that potential.

Let us make our experience at St. Mary's one we will remember for years to come. I ask you to put your trust in me, and you WILL see that happen.

...do what you say, say what you do, and deliver more than you promise.

Vote: Ali Al-Sayed as your VP Internal Affairs

Andrew Arbuckle VP Internal Affairs

Hello all! My name is Andrew Arbuckle and I am running for VP Internal. I am a 4th year Arts student with a major in Psychology and History. I have been involved with SMUSA for 3 years, with experience in frosh week, student gov't (SRC and BOG), volunteering and as an employee. I am dedicated to improving student life and the university experience for SMU students. I have great ideas on how to improve existing services and create new ones. The pub will be brand new in the fall, there for creating the right atmosphere and booking entertaining acts will be a key focus for me. I take pride in being a facilitator of a good time and would like to help the student's association plan and run successful, fun, events for all students. As for new services; creation of a video rental service for students could be very beneficial.

Ian Britto VP Internal Affairs

As a candidate for VP Internal, I'm asked one question by all students: Ian, what can you do for me? To all SMU students, there are three reasons why I want YOU to vote BRITTO for VP Internal. First, every student at SMU faces some issue with money – rising tuition and expenses. As your VP Internal, my first action will be to increase the amount of bursaries handed out. We all want money, we all need money. By increasing the bursary budget, more students will qualify. Along with this, INTERNATIONAL students, I'm also going to set up a 'volunteer' bursary program for you since you are not allowed to work off campus. Second, I'm going to improve school spirit by setting up more events like wet/dry events and movie nights in auditoriums. Finally, my goal is to bring SMU up-to-date by bringing in wireless internet all over campus.
BRITTO FOR VP INTERNAL

Jeff Lohnes VP Internal Affairs

Experience
 - Two years experience working with the VP Internal, coordinating SMUSA events
 - Freshman of the Year 2003-2004
 - Member of various SMUSA

committees

- Vice President of Park View Education Centre Students' Council
- Residence Assistant (RA) 2004-2005
- SMUSA Ambassador to the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities national conference

Goals

- More on campus jobs for students
- Parking pass subsidy for students
- More on campus concerts and events
- Make sure all students' opinions and ideas are heard

I feel that with my direct experience with the VP Internal, my commitment to SMUSA and commitment to entertainment on campus, I would be the best person to represent you, the students, as your Vice President Internal. I will work to make sure all of your ideas and opinions are looked at and that SMUSA fight as hard as it can for what students want.

Emeka Chinabu VP External

The state of the union demands a dynamic, virile and progressive administration to achieve success Vote Emeka Chinabu for VP External for an effective, dynamic, progressive and innovative leadership that will ensure a strong advocacy for:
 - Tuition freeze and reduction in international differential fees,
 - Increased bursary, grants and other student funding,
 - Accountability and transparency in student unionism,
 - Better student representation of in the senate with respect to external affairs,
 - More student job opportunities by liaising employers

Vote your altruistic and effective advocator who will represent and defend your interests at all levels...
LET YOUR VOTE COUNT.

Michael Hughes VP External Affairs

My name is Michael Hughes and I am a 2nd year Arts student studying Political Science and History. I am running for VP External in this round of SMUSA Executive elections. I have been passionate about politics and policy for several years and I feel that this background helps to make me a good candidate for this position.

My platform consists of three very important principles: Community, Commitment, and Communication. If elected VP External, I will be dedicated to improving SMU's interaction and reputation with the community, improve the lives of students by fighting so that they receive the money they need without being seriously punished financially upon graduation, and improve communication and interaction between students and SMUSA so that SMUSA is an open society that demonstrates it is fully committed to the students.

On Election Day, I encourage everyone to vote and make their voices heard to SMUSA.

Adam Lordon VP External Affairs

Hello everyone, I'm a 3rd year Management and Marketing major. I want to be your next VP

External because I feel I have a plan for success and the experience that will allow me to best represent you, the students of SMU.

As VP External I would:

- Expand and improve the SMUSA Volunteer Program
- Lobby government for increased and more accessible education funding, and monitor issues regarding the MOU.
- Further involve SMUSA in the community of Halifax
- Improve communications to students about SMUSA events and services
- Provide rolls of quarters at the SMUSA info desk for laundry

Some of my experience includes:

- Being an RA in Loyola for two years
- CASA Campus Ambassador for SMU
- Coordinating residence Battle of the Floors 2004 and SMUSA Winter Carnival Reality Night
- Developing a Volunteer Program and 3 years of High School government

Nat Smith VP External Affairs

My name is Nathaniel Smith, I am running for VP External, and I am a third year history student. Since 1998 I have been working with various groups to further the rights of students in Nova Scotia and I would like to continue that here at Saint Mary's. There are three areas that I would like to tackle; 1) The Cost of University – I do not support the Tuition Cap as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding and I will work towards getting students at the table to renegotiate this agreement. 2) A Voice in Our Community – I have over 6 years experience dealing with all levels of government and I believe that I can adequately represent SMU when dealing with these groups concerning student issues. Finally, I would like to tackle student services, working with the university to make things easier and faster for us. Vote for Nat Smith!

Heather Esling VP Academic

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!!!
 Develop an understandable and detailed document that covers all aspects of plagiarism (so students clearly understand university policy).
 • Create faculty friendly pamphlets specifically designed for your needs
 • Strive to make sure all SMUSA events are advertised 14 days in advance
 • Be an active voice for all students on Academic and all other issues
 • Implement a liquor policy for wet/dry events where underage students are not segregated from older students.
 • Offer two Academic Fairs
 • Improve accessibility and efficiency for the Tutor Database by moving it online
 • Generate more effective communication between the Executive and the students
 • Clearly identify the areas of student need regarding academics and take assertive steps in order to satisfy those needs

Olivier Jarda – VP Academic
 If elected, I will actively seek to

identify student concerns and use my position to amplify issues deemed important by the student body. Here are some issues I wish to address.

Students should be informed of changes in program requirements, as many potential graduates are caught off guard by unannounced changes.

I move for revitalization of the book exchange by delivering the necessary improvements needed to supply an efficient and viable option for students purchasing/selling books. The level of advertising needs to be heightened in order to improve accessibility and to meet student demands.

Also, many students aren't aware of the financial aid opportunities available. Increasing awareness regarding opportunities and deadlines should be a priority.

SMUSA should openly provide assistance to students in need of accommodation from professors in the event of unexpected grievous circumstances. It should be second nature for students to approach the VP Academic during difficult times.

Cheers,
Olivier

Just to be clear - we didn't edit this stuff. What you see is what they gave us.

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Game Over

BY SIMON MACKIE

Recently the Entertainment Software Association concluded research that video gamers are, in fact, just like everyone else. Go figure. Gamers have been trying to push this point on the public and media ever since video games came into the home and became more popular with younger generations. It always amuses me when a big corporation spends a load of money telling people something they already know—or in this case, something that is obvious, but that people are unwilling to accept.

Many myths surrounding gamers were destroyed by the study—though, chances are pretty good that most will still not accept these “new findings.” First and foremost, it was concluded that gaming likely does not contribute to obesity, as 79% of the surveyed gamers exercised for 20 hours a month or more. It was also observed that more than half of the gamers surveyed practice religion and attend cultural events.

Being a gamer myself, I find the need for such a study insulting. I'm not even sure how some of these myths arose in the first place. It goes to show how misunderstood gamers are. Being absorbed in a video game is just like being caught up in a good book or being captivated by a film.

Of course I realize that not all gamers play in moderation, and some forget that they're

back in the real world once they've turned off their console, but from all the gamers I know, I would say that they are a minority.

Unfortunately, it has been this minority that has been targeted by angry parents saying their children have been turned into zombies, and ignorant organizations who immediately blame all the person's problems on video games. It never occurs to these people to examine how the gamers' lives were before the introduction of video games. Poor parenting skills couldn't have anything to do with it, right? Bullying at school couldn't possibly affect someone, right?

I believe it partly stems from the fact that gaming still isn't widely accepted. Therefore, if you game, then you're immediately branded “odd” or “abnormal,” no matter your character.

Paul, a gamer, had this to say in response to the study, “gamers knew they were normal, unfortunately (sic) it does take a study like this to get the point across.” Another anonymous gamer felt that, “some people just need that ‘standard’ to judge themselves by because they are insecure.”

But the question remains: will people begin to accept gamers into the community, or will we only find comfort from our pixelized friends?

Hold Tight Halifax: THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS ARE BACK

BY NEIL PARTINGTON

The most commercially viable electronic beat makers have returned and they instruct us to Push the Button. I suggest you do too, because it is chalk full of standout hits. The first single is “Galvanize” which brings together the chemical sound with the most laid back and stylish MC ever: Q-Tip (please see A Tribe Called Quest if you are not familiar). The video for this track is also worth hunting down. The second track, “The Boxer,” is more of what you would expect from the Brothers (Tom Rolands and Ed Simons) because it is more of the traditional Chemical sound (fuzzy build-ups, layered drum tracks, and real vocals—instead of annoying sound clips used over and over). I previewed the disc while snowboarding, which was perfect because you do not know what is coming next. In the middle is a full-fledged rap tune, “Left, Right,” which brings out anti-war sentiment in the hands of MC Anwar. “Come Inside” reminds me of Felix da Housecat's neon-futuristic album, Devin Dazzle and the Neon Fever (which I can only describe as a guilty pleasure). The track “Close Your Eyes” is a nice relaxer, and for those who love big break-downs and build-ups, check out “Hold Tight London” and “Surface to Air.” For fans of the duo, this album is a must, and for those new to the Chemical Brothers, I suggest checking out their collection, Singles 93-03. Recommended downloads to further your Chemical education: “The Test” (feat. the vocals of Richard Ashcroft from The Verve), “Get Yourself High,” and “The Golden Path,” (which has a funny video and features The Flaming Lips' frontman, Wayne Coyle).

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Battle Royal Finds Alpha Flight Still Standing

BY GOMEZ

When Process says, “Alpha Flight is straight Jack without the chase,” he isn't frontin'. Alpha Flight's *Battle Royal* is further proof that Halifax hip-hop is alive and well, despite the common misconception that local rap began and died with Buck 65. Alpha Flight has GhettoSocks and Mr. Bix handling the raps and the production, with Jabba the Cut and Y-Rush on the decks. On this album, Bix's hard rhymes (photon beams gleam and freeze your weak spleen/aftershock ripples leave cats with gangrene) contrast nicely with GhettoSocks' more playful and laid back style (you against me don't even try to compare/cause y'all ain't got shit like an Amish science fair). Guest appearances by other MCs and producers such as Yosuki from Japan, Process, and Highneken provide the album with additional depth.

Battle Royal's nineteen seamless tracks, clocking in at just under an hour, provide the listener with an earful of inventive brag raps, breakfast raps, Japanese raps and illustrations of the daily rat race all over smooth organic beats. Do yourself a favour and peep this album. The style's ridiculous.



Studying Abroad?

Application deadline for
Homburg International Mobility Awards
and
AVP/SMUSA International Mobility Awards is
Tuesday, March 15!!

- For eligibility and application, visit www.smu.ca.
(Go to International Learning and click on Funding & Awards)
- For additional information, contact
Miyuki Arai, International Activities, Tel: 496-8725 E-mail: mobility.international@smu.ca



Studying Abroad?

Application deadline for programs starting in
September 05 and January 06 is
Monday, February 28, 2005!!

- For more information, visit www.smu.ca.
(Go to International Learning and click on International Learning Opportunities)
- For additional information, contact
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FEATURES

Anatomy of a Tsunami

BY ASHLEE STARRATT

With the death toll rising steadily each day on the evening news, the international community is slowly coming to grips with the human cost of nature's fury in the South Pacific. As the holidays drew to a close very few people suspected that the New Year would be rung in with such devastation, or that so many individuals would not live to see its dawn.

As survivors, aid workers, relief agencies and international organizations struggle to cope with rescue and reconstruction efforts, members of the scientific community have been pelted with questions from various news networks who seek to reconcile the sense of helplessness felt by all in the wake of such a force of nature with the possibility of a stable coexistence for those living in such high risk areas. The number one question posed is: can there be put in place a comprehensive and effective warning mechanism, which can hold the potential to save countless lives?

In order to address this issue of detection and prevention from a realistic standpoint, one must first understand the root causes of such a geological phenomenon and the problems it presents to such an endeavour. The region of Sumatra, where the epicentre of the quake hit, lies along the world's largest underwater fault-line, even larger than the on-land fault-line located in San Andreas, California. Registering a 9.0 on the Richter Scale, the force of the quake caused the underwater tectonic plate to be pushed downward, slamming into a wedge running along a second plate lying underneath.

This second landmass was then thrust 15 metres upward and then fell back down, causing the giant tsunami or 'harbour wave' in its English translation to come crashing down with it. When viewed on television, the effect was not one of a monstrous wave hundreds of feet high looming over the shore, rather it was as though the tide was quickly coming in, in a rapid torrent and failed to stop at the beach line, consuming everything in its wake.

This is because during the impact of the plates crashing together, over one trillion tons of water was displaced by the resonating shockwave and thus became compressional, rising simultaneously as the many waves came together to form one. This created the illusion of deceptively placid

conditions since the sea level rose collectively all over the affected region, but then came rushing back down.

The force of the tsunami was so great in pressure that it caused the Earth's radius to slow on its axis by several milliseconds. This is because when a change in mass occurs within a moving object, such as the ocean did with the Earth, its speed changes along with it. Some nations such as Japan may experience somewhere in the vicinity of ten tsunamis of varying fortitude in a single year. This is because the landmass of Japan is also situated upon one of the most active underwater geologic locales on the planet.

This brings us back to the issue of detection and damage control within such target areas, and the best answer offered by the scientific community is that there is no definite answer. When it comes to such things as meteorological, oceanographic or geologic phenomena, there are no cut and dried indicators as to the expected severity of a given episode. The most widespread method, popularized by its use in Japan, is that of a seismic indicator, accompanied by warning sirens to alert residents of coastal and low-lying areas of an impending wave.

Obviously there are limitations to such devices, as there is no way to tell how long occupants will have to vacate before the tsunami strikes, thus increasing the potential risk for loss of life as families must assist young children, the infirm, and the elderly to safety.

The most important thing that a nation's government and citizens can do help is to donate clothes, money, or volunteer their time to the multitude of accredited relief agencies such as the Red Cross, in an effort to help rebuild the lives and environment of those impacted by the devastation.

It is with great pleasure that St. Mary's University is donating a portion of the proceeds from its Winter Carnival to the Red Cross Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund, and any and all individual donations are greatly appreciated. For every person touched by this disaster hope is all they have left, and that is a wellspring that we must never allow to run dry, as it is the common link of our humanity - one that is forged and strengthened through determination and kindness.

February is Black history month

February is Black History Month, officially recognized by the Parliament of Canada in December of 1995. The motion was introduced by the first black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine, M.P. for Etobicoke-Lakeshore. At the time she was Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and is currently the Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Status of Women). The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons. For more information on black history in Canada check out http://www.edselect.com/black_history_month.htm

There will also be a booth at SMU to celebrate Black History Month. The booth will have lots of information on black history and lots of goodies, so drop by and take a look. There are many events planned around the metro area. The Halifax Public Library will be hosting events all month long to celebrate Black History Month. Check out their website for more information <http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/ahmonth/index.html>. There will also be Black History Month programming on TV, check out this website for a list of the different programs. http://www.blackcanada.com/news_114.htm.

Student services wants to know how the Black Student Advisor position can be better utilized to foster a stronger presence as an on campus resource for the SMU community. If anyone has any idea, please feel free to contact Barbara Van Tassel in her office, room 221-A of Burke, or by e-mail blackstudentadvisor@smu.ca, or by phone at 496-8743.

I hope a everyone has an opportunity of enjoys some of the black history month events.

- Barbara Van Tassel



This Week @ Saint Mary's

SOBEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS JACKETS

The Commerce Society will be pre selling Sobey School of Business Jackets beginning Tuesday, February 1st, 2005 from 12:00pm-4:00pm at the Commerce Society office, located on the 2nd floor Loyola. The jackets will be sold at \$75 a piece with a \$50 deposit. The jackets are black with the white Sobey School of Business logo on the left head side. If you have any question is or wish to purchase a jacket please drop in to the office, call 496-8799 or email smu.commerce@smu.ca.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

JANUARY 31ST- FEBRUARY 4TH

Join the Saint Mary's Community in our weeklong program dedicated to international development. This is an opportunity for students, staff, and the community at large to learn about international development issues and Saint Mary's involvement worldwide. It is also an opportunity to learn about Saint Mary's exchange abroad programs and international internship opportunities. Societies will be set up in the Conference Hall in on the second floor of the Loyola Building so come check out the fun!

SEEING STARS? WOULD YOU LIKE TO?

Saint Mary's has the prestigious opportunity to host the APICS Undergraduate Physics and Astronomy Conference the week of February 4th-6th. The astronomy department urges everyone interested to come out and observe the presentations and debates of their fellow students as well as those students from schools all across the country. There will be cash prizes for those registered participants who give the best presentation or have the best display. Booths will be set up and activities will take place in the Conference Hall on the second floor the Loyola Building.

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SPORTS

Predictability©

BY BILL HUGHES

The 2004-2005 NFL season opened with some high expectations from the kick-off of the preseason weekend on August 9th. Now, just shy of six months later, the NFL schedule has paired down the league to two teams that will battle this Sunday in Jacksonville (7:25pm AST) for football supremacy.

With all the talk of pro sports parody, the Super Bowl marks a rare occasion when two consensual preseason favourites, the NFC's Philadelphia Eagles and the AFC's New England Patriots, will take to the field on the final weekend. The luxury for fans lies in that these are without a doubt the two best clubs and should therefore provide for an excellent finale.

Due to the typical two-week layoff between the conference championship weekend and the Super Bowl, media types have managed to conjure up a slew of potential storylines, many of which will have little to no bearing on the game's actual result.

The biggest of which is the possible return of All-Pro wideout Terrell Owens. The feeling here is that Owens will have little influence on Super Bowl XXXIX. Owens, as he often does is creating his own hype, and may defy his doctor's advice to play on Sunday. Bill Belichick and the Patriots staff have it on good advice that if he does suit up on Sunday evening, he will be mostly ineffective due to an injured leg.

Eagles replacement WR Freddie Mitchell also managed to create some controversy when he made reference to the 'no-name' nature of the Patriots secondary, while speaking negatively specifically of Patriots hard hitting safety Rodney Harrison. Mitchell's comments were untimely, and rather typical of his brash nature. They were for the most part disregarded by the Patriots.

On a smaller scale, discussion of the Patriots as seven point favourites, the departure of their two coordinators following the game, and the Eagles finally being able to advance to the big game have also kept the media well armed. These stories too will have little effect on the game itself.

Super Bowl XXXIX will come down to execution and creating flawless game plans is Patriots coach Bill Belichick's specialty. He shut down QBs Peyton Manning and Ben Roethlisberger on six days notice, so you can be assured that Eagles QB Donovan Mc-

Nabb could be in for a long day. Execution is Patriots QB Tom Brady's strength. His undefeated playoff record and two Super Bowl MVPs highlight his growing resume.

Although the Eagles are an excellent all-around football team, probably better balanced than both of the Patriots two previous opponents, my feeling is that they will suffer a similar fate to that of the Colts and the Steelers. The Eagles defence is strong, and their offence is highlighted by an excellent line that provides McNabb with ample time to sit in the pocket and find open receivers. He has also been known to use his running ability as a weapon, but will have very little opportunity against the speed of the Patriots outside linebackers. The Eagles will need monumental performances from McNabb, WR Todd Pinkston, RB Brian Westbrook, and LB Jevon Kearse to have any shot at ring-bearing victory.

Conversely, the Patriots simply have to execute as they have for the past two seasons. As they do week in and week out, they will look to Brady, RB Corey Dillon, WR Deion Branch, WR David Givens, K Adam Vinatieri, and a strong offence line when they have the ball. On defense you'll see LB Teddy Bruschi, LB Willie McGinest, and the aforementioned Rodney Harrison. The Pats will look to try first and foremost to stop the run and then take advantage of the Eagles inexperienced receiving corps to produce the necessary turnovers.

The end result after Sunday's game will be yet another Patriots Super Bowl banner. After that the focus shifts. The talk will no longer be about a repeat or even a dynasty. Those will be certainties. The focus will immediately shift to next season. The Patriots have very few free agents, have managed their salary cap room well and will field an even better team in 2005-06 after healing some injuries. The debate on the Sunday panels next season then shifts from dynasty to best ever. They deserve all the accolades.

New England 30
Philadelphia 17

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

BY BILL HUGHES

"I've held women and babies and jewels and money, but nothing will ever feel as good as holding the Cup."

-Wayne Gretzky

Huskies fans take good with bad

BY ADAM COSTELLO

All season long the Saint Mary's Huskies hockey team has been notorious for playing in tight games usually decided by one goal. The only problem is that at one time, a time seemingly farther and farther away as weeks pass, they were the team that would come through and manage to turn that one goal margin into a victory. Not anymore.

Maybe it's due to the loss of co-captain Kurt MacSweyn, or maybe it's simply because this young team who was not expected to make any noise this year is running out of gas. Whatever the case may be, this hockey team was flying on what seemed to be a jet engine and since the loss of MacSweyn, the engine has sputtered, sending their expectations spiralling toward the unforgiving ground.

As you may have guessed, the Huskies lost all three games last week, including a 3-2 overtime loss to Moncton, a team that beat them the week before, to pull into a first place tie with our once surging Huskies. They also had a rematch with St. Thomas on Friday (the second to last team in the league) that also beat them the preceding week, and they dropped that game too by a score of 4-3. They also lost to St. FX last Wednesday by a score of 3-1, a team that when they last played, the Huskies were able to score in the dying seconds of the game and come away with an incredibly exciting win in overtime. This time they again played great against St. FX, outshooting them 27-17 and playing physically all game, but it just seemed like nothing went their way. Bad bounces, missing the net and taking undisciplined penalties is all the Huskies could really muster, with the exception of a goal by Gordon Bell.

This team isn't by any means done. If they'd played as great as they did before the Christmas Break, then it's logical to say they can play that well again. The problem is they're running out of time to right the ship.

The women on the other hand are playing exceptionally as they handed the previously unbeaten St. FX X-Women

their first loss of the season in a 4-2 win last Friday. The two teams were tied 2-2 after two periods, until Joyce Spruyt and Lindsay Taylor struck for third-period power-play markers to secure the victory. The women then continued their domination of the Dalhousie Tigers and won 6-3 the next day as they moved past St. FX and into top spot in the AUHC. Taylor had a goal and three assists, earning herself the distinction of SMU athlete of the week, and Spruyt added another two goals as SMU doubled the Tigers. St. FX does have a game in hand, therefore they aren't celebrating their advancement into top spot just yet, but the way this team is playing, I'd put money on them staying there all season.

The women have a chance to extend their lead on St. FX as they play in Antigonish on Friday evening. Following Friday night's affair, they play host to St. Thomas at Alumni Arena on Sunday at 1pm.

As for the men's club, they enter their second to last week of play, as they take to the road for all three of their games this

week, taking on Acadia on Wednesday at 6:30pm, Dalhousie at 7pm on Friday and then a rematch with St. FX on Saturday at 7pm. Although the Huskies have already clinched a playoff berth, this week will play heavily on their level of confidence as they head toward the playoffs.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Jan. 30 SMU 3 MUN 1
Jan. 31 SMU 3 MUN 1

THIS WEEK:

Feb. 5 ACA @ SMU 6pm
Feb. 6 SMU @ ACA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jan. 29 MUN @ SMU (PPD.)
Jan. 30 MUN 59 SMU 58
Jan. 31 MUN 77 SMU 67

THIS WEEK:

Feb. 5 UNB @ SMU 6pm
Feb. 8 SMU @ ACA

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jan. 29 MUN @ SMU (PPD.)
Jan. 30 MUN 74 SMU 71
Jan. 31 SMU 74 MUN 73

THIS WEEK:

Feb. 5 UNB @ SMU 8pm
Feb. 8 SMU @ ACA

INTRAMURALS:

Loyola vs. Rice Hockey Challenge

(In memory of Rhian Mood)

Friday, Feb. 4th, 2005
3:00-5:00pm \$2 charge



Huskies At Home

Basketball The Tower

Saturday, February 5 vs UNB
Women 6pm. & Men 8pm.

Women's Hockey Alumni Arena

Sunday, February 6 vs STU - 1pm.

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www.smuhuskies.ca

GAMES FREE TO SMU STUDENTS WITH ID
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Mark says, "Hey Bill: If the Patriots lose you have to suck all of their dicks, but if they win I'll give you \$5 bux."

SMUDENTS, LISTEN UP!!

The Transition to Banner

Saint Mary's is moving towards the implementation of a new administrative system that manages student registration, grade audits, grade listings, self-serve degree navigation, and more! The new system is called SCT Banner and is already in place at many other universities across Canada.

The first phase of Saint Mary's implementation of SCT Banner Student "goes live" on April 1, 2005. This is near the end of the winter term. Does this "go live" mean you have to switch from using SATURN, Degree Navigator, and other traditional services just as exams are about to start?

No!

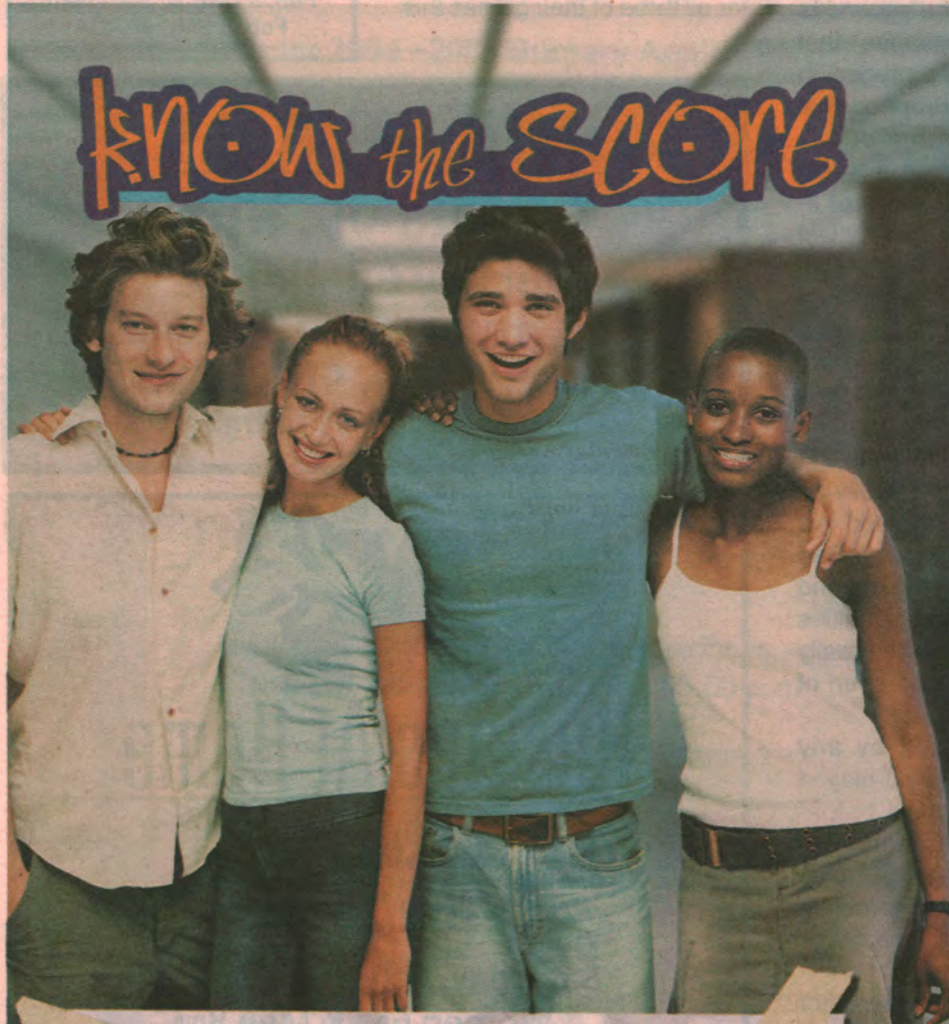
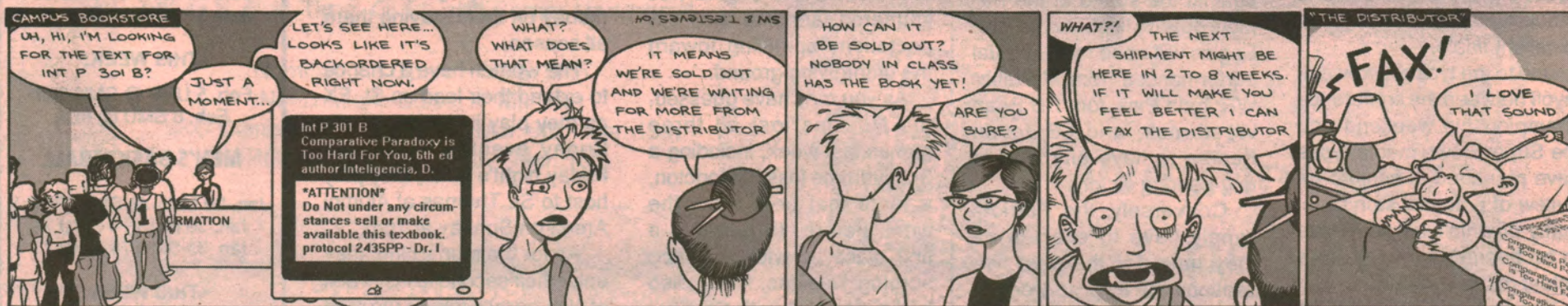
You will continue to use SATURN and other services to manage your Winter 2005 classes. In fact, the old student information system (SIS) will be kept running through spring convocation. This means that the tools for graduation audits, grade checks, and other access to information will not change for students about to graduate, or for faculty advisors trying to ensure that students are eligible to graduate in May 2005!

So what *does* happen on April 1, 2005?

Students will register for 2005 summer sessions using Banner Student. Banner "self-service". Summer session courses will use the new four-letter program codes, and four-digit course numbers. (e.g. MAT 210.1 becomes MATH 1210.1). The (relatively) small summer session registration will help us to be sure that key Banner Student services are functioning properly in preparation for the 2005-06 academic year. To summarize, remember that Banner Student "going live" on April 1, 2005 will impact on summer session courses first. It will be business as usual for faculty and students in their Winter term courses. Students want to be mindful though because they can be potentially checking their Winter 2005 course grades through their SATURN accounts and registering for Summer 2005 through the new Banner system.

Note: Existing students will also be given new nine-digit student numbers to allow them to register using Banner Student come April 1, 2005.

<http://www.smu.ca/whatsnew/nexus> | <http://www.smusa.ca>



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TIME: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
PLACE: Student Centre Cafeteria

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