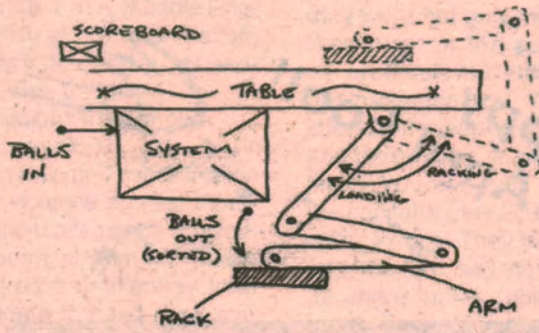


THE JOURNAL

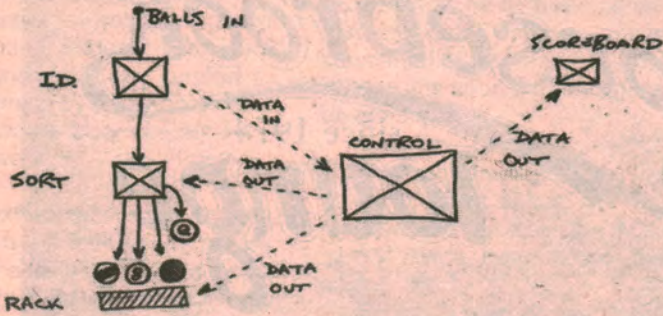
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THE NICE RACK

GENERAL SETUP:



SYSTEM COMPONENTS:



MARCH 30TH, 2005 VOL. 70 #24

- 1 TEAR THIS OUT OF THE PAPER
- 2 SIGN IT
- 2 AND A HALF GET YOUR FRIENDS TO SIGN IT
- 3 LICK IT STICK IT SEND IT IN

Nice Rack

BY SIMON MACKIE

Some inventions are for the betterment of humanity. Some technological advancements are made to facilitate living conditions. Still, some creations are just plain cool. Take, for example, The Nice Rack. A team of six students at Dalhousie have constructed a machine that will automatically sort your pool balls for you. Proving the power of creativity, the students began their project armed with a computer, webcam, garage door opener and windshield wiper motor. The mechanism is attached to the underside of the pool table and stays out of your way while you're playing your game.

Each ball is identified by the webcam as they are sunk. The balls are then guided by a variety of mechanisms to ensure that the balls are set up in their proper positions. Then, when the game is over and you're ready to start anew, the balls will all be ready to go. Though, one team member does admit that it might be a little "faster to do it yourself."

The students also built an electronic scoring system.

The five main components of The Nice Rack are as follows, as taken from the project's website:

"Ball ID System - This system identifies each ball, and tells the sorting device what type of balls it is.

The Sorter - The sorter arranges the balls into their correct order in the rack. The balls will be guided into their specific groups, and then directed into the proper placement in the rack.

The Racker - This device will grip/hold the balls while the arm is in motion.

The Arm - The arm will take the rack and sorted balls from beneath the table to the pool starting position on top of the table.

The Controller - This system will take all the inputs/outputs from all the other systems, and direct them accordingly. This is the driver that will make everything work together." For more information on The Nice Rack, visit the project's website at http://www.me.dal.ca/~dp_04_3/index.htm

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Reduce Tuition Fees

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS
 Suite 111 - 1657 Barrington St - Halifax, Nova Scotia - B3J 2A1 - Fax (902) 425 4256

Petition to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia Assembled

We, the undersigned residents of Nova Scotia, draw the attention of the Legislative Assembly to the following:

Whereas post-secondary education has become a basic need for Canadians and for the future development of Canada;
 Whereas tuition fees in Nova Scotia have more than doubled in the past decade, making Nova Scotia's tuition fees the highest in the country;
 Whereas tuition fees are anticipated to climb another 12.2% over the next three years, to an average in excess of \$6,700;
 Whereas continued tuition fee increases will deny many qualified students the chance to achieve a post-secondary education;
 Whereas skyrocketing student debt levels will continue to adversely affect long-term youth retention in Nova Scotia

Therefore, your petitioners call upon the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia to:

- Make a considerable re-investment in core funding to Nova Scotia's post-secondary institutions
- Tie increased core funding to progressive reductions of tuition fees at Nova Scotia's public post-secondary institutions
- Implement a system of needs-based, non-repayable grants;

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FIGHT THE POWER

BY SIMON MACKIE

"I firmly believe what's being done to this generation of students is unfair." So says Linda Van Esch, president of the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT). She's talking about the incredible amount of money that Nova Scotians are paying for university and how tuition fees are still going up. Already fees are averaging at just under \$6000 per year, the highest in the country by far. The average debt for an undergraduate degree is \$35 000. That's \$10 000 more than the national average.

According to a recent poll, 80% of the Nova Scotians surveyed believe that tuition fees are too high. The bar graph—affectionately known as "the finger"—shows one tall column in

the centre, marking "Too High," surrounded by little stubs of columns for other answers.

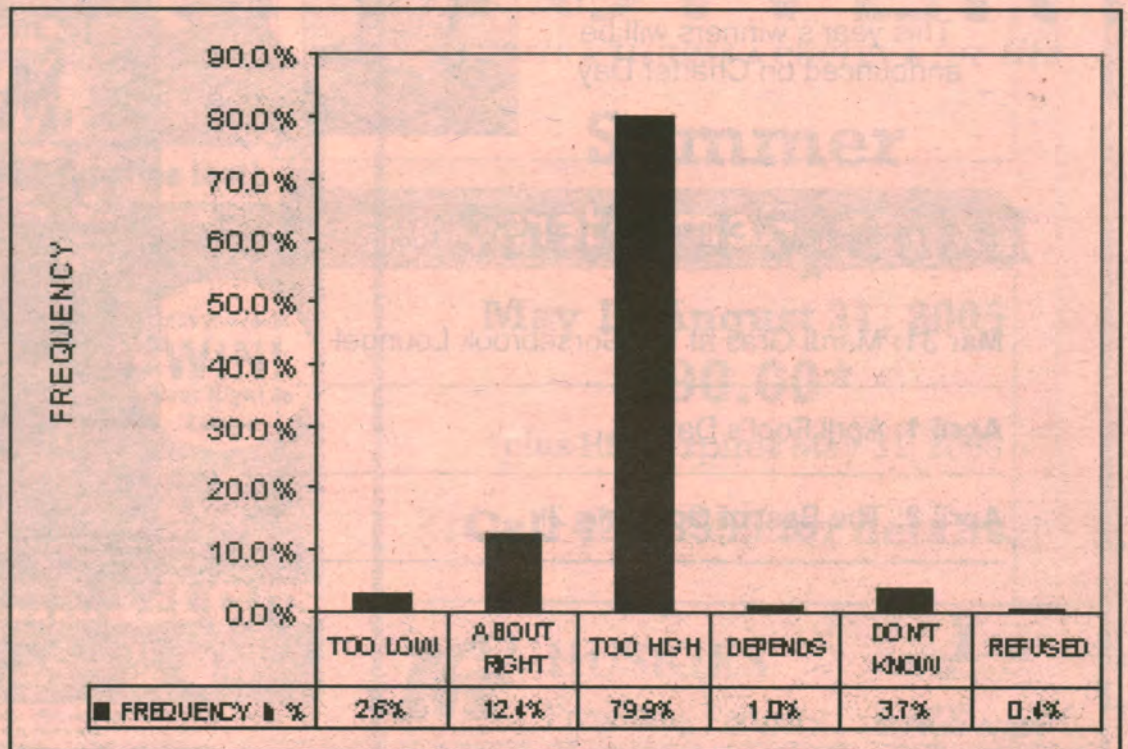
Dal students are presently protesting against some major tuition hikes. Last Tuesday about 300 students showed up to silently oppose the proposed tuition increase for Dal's dentistry, law and medicine programs. A 9.28% increase is currently being proposed. While undergraduate tuition cannot increase more than 3.9% per year, fees for the professions and international students are not affected by this cap. If the proposed increase is approved, those who are affected will have to pay anywhere from \$700 to \$1100 more per year.

Van Esch wants to see an immediate tuition freeze or reduction, as well as the return

of needs-based grants which haven't been offered in Nova Scotia since they were cut 11 years ago. She thinks what's being done is "morally wrong." On the other hand, Premier John Hamm says, "I'm not aware that the student loan program is not making university accessible." Van Esch encourages those who want to make a difference to start acting, by writing to your MLA, for instance.

For more information on ANSUT's fight against tuition increase, contact Linda Van Esch in SB 210, where you can also find ANSUT's petition to freeze or reduce tuition fees.

Have a story filled with woe, debt and a constant battle against "the Man" that you'd like to share with us? Keep it under 200 words and we'll print the best one next issue!



SMUSA PAGE



Great News!

The Student Centre Cafeteria will now be open Sunday through Friday evenings for studying and group work until MIDNIGHT! Pack up your textbooks and pencils and head on over.

Official Election Results

U-Pass: The U-Pass program will continue to be in effect next school year after 88.94% voted in favor of the program.

SRC:

- Arts Representative:** Amanda Stone
- International Representative:** Cristina Lopez
- Science Representative:** Danielle Hiscock
- Commerce Representative:** Michael Keating
- Off-Campus Representative:** John Vo
- Part-Time Representative:** Patricia Toner
- Students w/ Disabilities Representative:** Jennifer MacNeil

About iMage Photography

Did you know your Yearbook is already paid for? Guarantee your place in the "Santamarian" SMU yearbook with a graduation portrait by About iMage Photography, Saint Mary's Students' Association's preferred photographer. Photographing on campus March 24th, March 31st, and April 1st in the Private Dining Room in the Loyola Building. Call today to book your appointment, 429-1977.

Deadline for submissions May 20th, 2005.

Charter Day

Charter Day is coming up on Saturday, April 9th. For more information, please visit the SMUSA web site at www.smusa.ca

Academic Award Winner

SMUSA Teaching Assistant Award Winner for last year, 2003-04 was:
Professor Delthia Miller
Department of Sociology and Criminology

This year's winners will be announced on Charter Day.



Reminders

Mar 31: Mardi Gras at the Gorsebrook Lounge!

April 1: April Fool's Day!

April 8: The Best of Open Mic 2!



the **Gorsebrook**
since 1974
lounge



**Wednesdays
Open Mic**



**Thursdays
Wing Night**

MARDI GRAS

**The Party Is at
The Gorsebrook
9 - Close
March 31st**

The Gorsebrook is open only to SMU students, SMU Alumni, and their guests.

OPINIONS

ARE LIKE ~~ASSHOLE~~ EVERYBODY HAS ONE - LET US KNOW YOURS: THEJOURNAL@GMAIL.COM



Editor-in-Chief
 Kate Ross
 thejournal@gmail.com
 496-8203

News
 Simon Mackie
 simon.mackie@gmail.com
 496-8201

Arts and Entertainment
 Bryan Winters
 bryan.winters@gmail.com
 496-8204

Sports
 Bill Hughes
 billyuqtr@yahoo.ca

Features
 Ashlee Starratt
 sabreforce88@hotmail.com

Business
 Aaron Johnstone
 aaron.johnstone@gmail.com

Art Director
 Kate Ross

Ad Manager
 Kate Ross
 thejournal@gmail.com
 496-8203

Contributors: Nelson Mac-Donald, Danny Melvin, Jenna Murphy, Laura Costello, Kahryn Fox.

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The Journal
 Suite 517, Student Centre
 Saint Mary's University
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 B3H 3C3

Advertising
 496-8203 f) 496-8209

LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES

BY: DENIS SMITH

I graduated from SMU in 2003. Having failed to be accepted into a Canadian university for a B.Ed. program I decided to go to the University of Maine at Presque Isle. I heard of 'the deal' between the two universities and thought this was a good deal. Before arriving in Presque Isle the university informed me that I would have to write a standardized test called the Praxis 1 in order to complete the program. I wrote the test in Halifax and passed all components. I went into UMPI thinking that was the end of it. I was wrong.

Before the first day of classes, the university got all the new Canadian students into a room and informed us that we would now have to write the Praxis 2. The Praxis 2 centres around content area, which means the students

wanting to teach secondary social studies would have to write a 200 question test on American history and American political science. Elementary students are also required to write a Praxis 2 test with American history and political science. The officials of the University of Maine at Presque Isle then informed then that the state of Maine did not provide them with enough time to inform me students until they arrived. That was a lie. The government of Maine made the decision to use the Praxis 2 by the 13th of May 2004. UMPI informed the government of Maine that it would inform all students accepted after that date. They lied to the Maine government because I know fellow students accepted in July 2004 that were not informed until September 2004.

The students starting in January 2005 were misled by UMPI. They received letters in the mail from UMPI that only students starting in September 2005 would have to write the Praxis 2. I have seen the letters. The university then told these students the situation had changed and that they would now have to write the Praxis 2. UMPI obviously knew these students would have to write the Praxis 2 and had an ample amount of time to inform these people of the situation.

The second issue is the summer accommodations at UMPI, promised to the students entering the education program. UMPI set up the program so that Nova Scotian students could take classes during the summer and get the full 60 credits required by the the province. The promise made by the University of Maine at Presque Isle was that all education students would be able to live on residence for free for the

summer session while they did their courses. This promise was made to the students entering in September and to the students entering in January. The University has decided to change the policy now that all the Canadians are here for the year and are trying to implement a policy where we would now have to pay around \$600 Canadian instead of nothing. The school knew before January that many more students would be staying in the summer due to rule changes in New Brunswick but they still decided to offer free accommodations for students applying for January 2005. This situation now means that there are graduates of Saint Mary's University who will not be able to finish the education program due to this increase in cost. I feel that the students of Saint Mary's need to know this information so that they will be better informed when deciding on where to continue their education.



Attention Off-Campus University & College Students

Are you moving soon?

Please be environmentally responsible when disposing of your refuse by placing garbage at the curb for collection on the proper pick-up day of the refuse collection week. Remember that for residential dwellings, there is a limit of **10 garbage bags/cans** on refuse collection week, plus **one** bulky item. For small apartment buildings up to six units, the limit is **5 garbage bags/cans** per unit and **two** bulky items on refuse collection week. Please place food and leaf and yard waste in your green cart; bottles, cans and milk containers - with caps off - in blue bag; newspapers, flyers and magazines in a plastic grocery bag; and flatten and tie cardboard boxes.



The following are collection weeks in Area 1 Halifax:	
April 11 - 15	Refuse & Recyclables Only
April 18 - 22	Green Carts & Recyclables Only
April 25 - 29	Refuse & Recyclables Only
May 2 - 6	Green Carts & Recyclables Only
May 9 - 13	Refuse & Recyclables Only

For other collection areas, or for further information call 490-4000 or visit our website at www.halifax.ca/wrms.



Get PAID to BE at The GAME!!

The Department of Athletics & Recreation needs to fill the following positions for the 2005/06 academic year.

Varsity Game Sports Marketing Assistants
Varsity Game Promotional Reps



Mascot



To find out more about these positions, visit the Athletics Department on the 2nd floor of The Tower or on line at smuhuskies.ca

Deadline to apply is APRIL 15, 2005.



Summer Sessions at Saint Mary's University 2005

Please visit:

<http://www.smu.ca/conted/summer/>

for

Important Registration Information and Current Course Listings

NEWS

Examining the examined

BY SIMON MACKIE

Exams are fast approaching, so the Journal took to the "streets" of St. Mary's to find out how students are dealing with exams.

It seems students are getting ready for exams right away. Natalie Polito, a 2nd year Psychology major, and Kal As-sadilari, a 2nd year Economics major are both planning to hit the books this week. Another anonymous student says she'll start "as soon as [she] can." On the other hand, Kristen Skinner, a 1st year Science major, will wait a while until "after classes are over. Probably two to three days before my first exams."

They all agreed that each course will require a lot of studying. Kal said he'll "probably [study] two hours a day this week, but more as it gets closer to the exam period." Natalie plans to study the most at four hours a day, while Jason Scott, a 4th year Psychology student thinks an hour would be sufficient. According to those surveyed, each course needs special attention and only subject is studied a day. "That way

I won't mix up information," Kristen says.

They were evenly split when it came to deciding where the best spot to study is. Kristen stays in her room so she has everything she needs within reach. Jason too will study in his room. On the other hand, Kal and Natalie both prefer the library. "It's silent," Kal says, "you can focus more. You can take a break and go get a coffee from Tim Horton's and go right back to studying. There are too many distractions around residence."

Some welcome the distraction of music, though. Most find it can be a nuisance sometimes, but Kristen believes that when she's "really into [her] work, [she] tunes it out anyway." Jason says it puts him in his "own little world. It tunes out everything but the music and the work."

For those of you who haven't been counting, only 14 days remain until classes are over. Time to put down the bottles and pick up the books (if you have them).



SMUDENTS, LISTEN UP!!

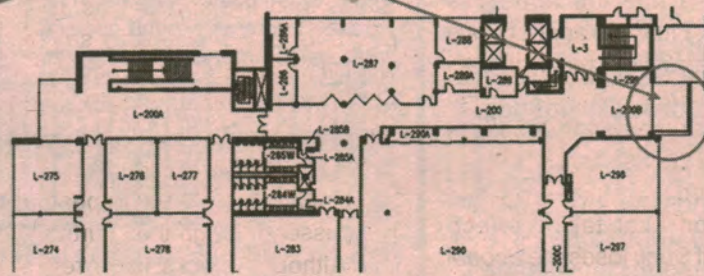
Banner Self-Service

April 1st is approaching, the day that the Banner Student Information system "goes live". On April 4th, Banner Self-Service will become available. Self-service will allow you to manage your personal information (change your mailing address, update your email address, etc.), register for courses (starting with the 2005 summer sessions), drop/add courses, monitor your student financial account, and much more.

To access Self-Service, a link will appear on the Saint Mary's homepage (www.smu.ca) on April 4th. You will use your new 9-digit student number (Axxxxxxx) and the PIN you received in the mail to login. Once there, the menus are easy to follow.

If you need some help with Self-Service, or just want to make sure you are getting the full benefit of the service, then drop by the Banner Help Centre! The Help Centre opens on March 22nd. Its hours are 9am-5pm, M-F. There you can ask questions, get help navigating Self-Service, and get any help you need with registration.

The Help Centre is located on the second floor of the Loyola Academic Complex, south of the student lounge



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

REFUGEE RIGHTS DAY


The Dalhousie and Saint Mary's World University Service of Canada Local Committees are hosting a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Refugee Rights Day on Friday, April 1st. This celebration will include a brief presentation on refugees in Canada, as well as local speakers on current issues. Local non-governmental organizations are invited to set up displays at the event and all are welcome to remain after the speakers for tea, coffee, and desserts. The event will start with an open house with NGOs at 4:30, followed by the presentation and speakers at 5:00pm, lasting until 6:30.

In 1985, on April 4th, the Su-

preme Court of Canada ruled that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the right of refugee claimants in Canada to life, liberty and security of the person, and that claimants are therefore entitled to an oral hearing, in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

All are welcome to come and celebrate the important contributions refugees have made to Canada. For more information or to get involved, contact smu_wusc@yahoo.ca, or wusc@dal.ca

Event details:
4:30pm-7:30pm
Friday, April 1st, Saint Mary's University, room Sobey 255.



alpha beta gamma delta....

The Sobey School of Business is proud to announce its affiliation with the Beta Gamma Sigma society. The newly formed Chapter is an honour society for the top students in business programs. Linda Van Esch, secretary of the Chapter here, explains, the "Beta Gamma Sigma society recognizes students' commitment to excellence." Only the top 10% of BComm graduates and top 20% of MBA graduates are invited to the society. This year 65 BComm students and 10 MBA students have been given invitations. As well, since this is the founding year, some of last year's graduates will be invited. To be accepted into Beta Gamma Sigma is one of the highest honours for a business or management student.



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BUSINESS

Stockwatch – SONY CORPORATION

Company: Sony Corp.

Ticker: SNE (NYSE)

Value: \$41.09 USD (as of 16:11 on March 28, 2005)

BY: AARON JOHNSTONE

Anybody ever heard of a PlayStation 2? I have and they are in big trouble in the United States! A court ruling today in San Jose, California, has decided Sony Playstation game consoles have been involved in a patent violation. Immersion Corp. holds the patents for two features present in Playstations.

The stay in the case means Sony will not actually have to stop importing or selling the PlayStation 2 console in the United States, and will not have to remove PS2s from store shelves while the appeal is pending. Financial analysts said there was little practical impact to the order.

There's no way that Sony is going to stop selling PS2s any time soon, so I don't see the injunction ever taking effect. Clearly if Sony loses the appeal they will pay the judgment and enter into a royalty agreement meaning the net result would simply be a loss in the amount of the penalties Sony pays totaling roughly \$90 million.

At issue is patents held by Immersion Corp. on vibration technology. The PS2's Dualshock controllers vibrate when players take actions in some

games, like firing guns. Immersion (up \$0.68 to \$6.43 today on the NYSE [March 28, 2005]) shares were up more than 11 percent after touching highs near 15 percent on the news. Sony Corp. (down \$0.01 to \$41.15 on the NYSE [March 28, 2005]) shares were basically unchanged.

Sony Computer Entertainment, Sony's gaming unit, is currently in the appeal process in the California Federal court to have the charges lifted. A Sony spokeswoman in the United States said the appeal was in progress but declined to say when it would be filed. However, a Sony spokeswoman in Tokyo said the company would be paying compulsory license fees to Immersion while the appeal progressed through the courts.

Although stocks have remained relatively unchanged since the announcement the real test will come after the appeal is reviewed. The appeal could change the outcome of the trial and cause a flocculation in prices of both stocks. The appeal has been announced but no date has been given for the launch of the appeal process.

THE MAJOR ISSUE : Global Business Management

BY: LAURA COSTELLO

Learning about how to do business from an international perspective, learning to understand and speak a new language, and gaining the knowledge and understanding about the history and culture of almost any country of your choosing. These are among the diverse courses offered while obtaining your Global Business Management Major. This is a major which is often overlooked when Saint Mary's students are contemplating which major to declare.

There are currently only approximately sixty students who have declared this as their major, and I can't help but wonder why. In a world where business relations are expanding across borders and into infinite countries reaching around the globe, and in a University which has such a large presence of international students, the only explanation I can come up with as to why this major is relatively unnoticed, is that students aren't aware that this major even exists. GBM as a major is one of the newest offered at Saint Mary's and students do not know exactly what it entails; therefore, it is my objective to share my knowledge and experiences of this major.

GBM differs from other commerce majors in that you must take a full year history course, language course, and as well, both international marketing and accounting. However, most of the other courses remain the same

as other business majors, and unfortunately this means that you still have to take Finance. On top of this there is still room for a few free electives of your choosing.

GBM requires some courses that increase knowledge of international business practices. First, International Organizational Behaviour takes basic OB and places students in an international setting. The courses is designed for students to develop an understanding of what customs and practices are acceptable across international borders. A primary focus is culture and the role culture plays when conducting international business. Second, International Marketing provides the necessities for comprehending cross culture product adaptation and advertising across borders. Many problems face international marketers, some hidden some exposed, but the course creates awareness of the essential do's and do not's. International Accounting provides a hands on experience of comparing the differences in accounting policies. Every country is unique and each country's accounting policies are as distinctive as the country. The course offers a history of when and where accounting began and explores the evolutionary process to where accounting is today. The course evaluates colonial inheritance of accounting policies and other factors influencing national accounting policies. The course is a welcomed break from traditional

accounting and the requirements of the course are limited to theoretical understanding. There are no mathematical demands for International Accounting. International Finance pursues Finance 360 and 361 in an international level introducing new factors such as exchange rates and currency conversions.

GBM is very similar to a management major with respect to future employment opportunities, and typically upon graduation you could work in any, but not limited to the following industries: government sectors, educational institutions, import/export organizations, banks, financial institutions, and the many careers offered in Business and industry.

As globalization is increasing, the importance of international knowledge and understanding is becoming an extremely important credential for success in the business world. GBM enables graduates to effectively communicate and interact and with both domestic and international business communities.

For many students a GBM major is taken concurrently with another major resulting in a double major. The fact that the global marketplace is expanding exponentially an the need for internationally well versed individuals means GBM is a necessity.

If you are interested in learning more about this major, we are currently working to get the Sobey International Business society ratified, so please send your emails to sobey_ibs@yahoo.ca, and new members are always welcome to join.

THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR

MARDI GRAS

AT

the Gorsebrook lounge since 1974



Thursday, March 31ST at The Gorsebrook Lounge

BEADS ★ HATS ★ MASKS

GOOD TIMES!

SOUTHERN COMFORT

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

SINFUL INTEGRITY

BY BRYAN WINTERS

I may be jumping the gun a little, but it's finally starting to look like they want to try making movies from comics, not just featuring comic characters.

The movie companies are even getting crazy and asking the writers for their input, instead of just buying the names and likenesses. I'm referring to Sin City, hitting theatres this Friday. The story is about an excessively violent surreality pulled from the darkest depths of Frank Miller's mind. To get an idea of what to expect, Miller was not only a key writer for both Daredevil and Wolverine (among others), but he is often credited as being solely responsible for the extremely dark reinvention of Batman. This is the guy who put the 'Dark' back into the Dark Knight. He's not only working side by side with director Robert Rodriguez on watching his gritty baby come to life, he's even acting in it.

For quite a while it seemed as though movie companies had no interest in what storyline they were perverting, they just wanted to make action movies featuring familiar names and (sometimes) familiar costumes.

Marvel has been especially at fault for letting these things happen and throwing artistic integrity out the window. One only has to try and sit through the 1996 TV movie, Generation X, to see what I'm talking about. The lack of respect for developed storylines and characters is appalling. Honestly though, they're

getting better. X-Men 2 hinted at some very memorable points from the comics that I hope they follow-up.

I've really gotten my hopes up, if you haven't been able to tell. It's just that I've always had a deep respect for Frank Miller and his ability to revolutionize every character he touches. He pries so deeply into the psychology of these characters, panel by panel, that it feels like a movie as is.

Paired with Rodriguez, who can peel a summer blockbuster out of a nothing budget, it really looks like a promising watch.

With an unbelievable ensemble cast, a cinematographic style true to the books, a heavy and suiting soundtrack, and effects to impress, I can't see how they could go wrong. I can only hope they intend to do the whole series.

All in all, I'm excited about a movie, and that doesn't happen very often. My only complaint so far is that they've brought Tarentino on as a 'Special Guest Director.' What the Hell is that? First of all, every single person working on a movie is a guest of sorts, it's not exactly a single from an album. It's as though our boy Quentin has decided he's not a director anymore, he's a brand. If it's violent, cool, and/or involves serious gunplay, he'll deem it Tarentino-tastic and throw down his stamp of approval.

Really though, I don't care, as long as there isn't some dancing cameo from John Travolta. I can't see him hurting this movie. Now all that's left is to wait and see.

THIS WEEKEND: THE DELEGATES

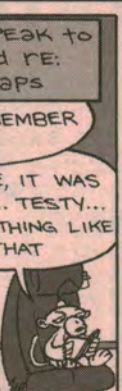
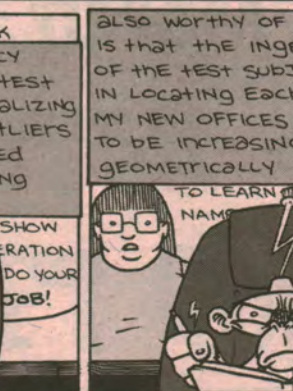
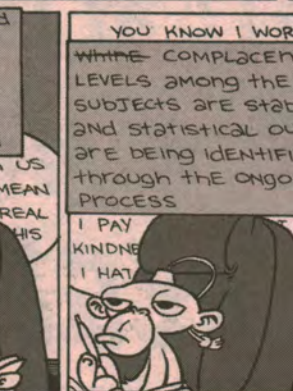
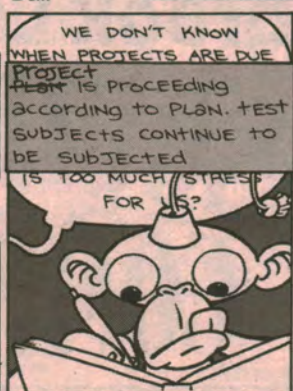
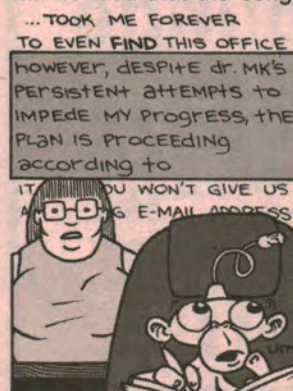
The Delegates, a Montreal punk/ska outfit, will be attacking Halifax this Saturday to promote their new EP, Cobra. It will contain two previously unreleased tracks and two from their upcoming full-length, *Makin' Many Happy*. With a darker sound than most contemporary ska, great backing horns, and vocals reminiscent of NOFX's El Hefe (circa The Longest Line) it should be a great show. The Pav (all ages) show starts at 7pm featuring *The New Breed*, *A Dying Race*, and *Raygunomics*. The 19+ show at the Attic starts at 11pm.

in your discman w/ KATHRYN FOX, NXET

I'm a very eclectic music listener. I can go from Audioslave to 50 Cent to Tony Bennett to Leonard Cohen in just a matter of minutes. For me, I guess, the music has to have a meaning. I really prefer a song with great lyrics that can move me, and of course, I have to be able to sing along...badly.

Right now I'm spending a lot of time listening to Soul. I have a double set that I picked up at Chapters one day not too long ago (Soul Collection, Dynamic Entertainment) and I'm loving the opportunity to get to know some of these songs more intimately. We've all heard classics like "Knock on Wood," and, "I Heard It Through The Grapevine," but I had no idea that the song "Ball

of Confusion," (that's what the world is today, hey hey) was a Temptations song before it got all 'Popped' up. So, I learned something new, and I got to listen to some great music. What more could you want out of life?



Great Canadian Films

BY NELSON MACDONALD

Canadian filmmakers gathered in Toronto on March 21st to celebrate the 25th Annual Genie Awards. For those of you who do not know what the Genies are, they are pretty much the Canadian version of the Oscars. Winners this year included *The Triplets of Belleville* (Best Motion Picture), *The Corporation* (Best Documentary) and Oscar winner *Ryan* (Best Animated Short). The Genies got me thinking about some of my favourite Canadian films. Here is a short list of some Canadian films I recommend.

The Barbarian Invasions (2003)- Written and directed by the great Denys Arcand (*Jesus of Montreal*), it is the sequel to his *The Decline of the American Empire* (1986). The film tells the story of a man battling cancer, and his friends, family, and ex-lovers who come to say their final goodbyes. It was the winner of the 2004 Genie Award for Best Motion Picture and the Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

The Sweet Hereafter (1997)- Another Genie Award winner for Best Motion Picture, *The Sweet Hereafter* is Atom Egoyan's adaptation of Russell Bank's novel about a small town torn apart by a school bus crash that devastates the community. One of the most

celebrated Canadian films, it was a multiple winner at the Cannes Film Festival and Genie Awards. It also earned Oscar nominations for Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay.

New Waterford Girl (1999)- Okay, maybe I am being a little biased since this is a story set in the town where I grew up, but this is my list after all. Best described as quirky, the story is about a teenage girl named Moonie who desperately wants to get out of her small town.

Neighbours (1952)- This is a classic short film from one of the most important filmmakers in Canadian history: Norman McLaren. The live action/stop animation film is about two neighbours who go to war over a flower that has grown between their properties. It was nominated for two Oscars and won for Best Documentary Short.

The Sweater (1980)- This animated short about a French Canadian boy who asks for a Montreal Canadiens jersey but instead receives a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey is a Canadian classic. This film is just one example of great Canadian animation.

Some of my other favourite Canadian films: *The Street* (1976), *Cigarette* (1997), *When the Day Breaks*

(1999), *Ararat* (2003), *Shake Hands With the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire* (2004), and *Ryan* (2004)

If you can not find these films at your neighbourhood video store try your local library or online at NFB.ca

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SPORTS

Ranting and raving NBA PLAYERS : WANTED FOR TREASON

BY BILL HUGHES

treason (tr z n) n. [Middle English, from Anglo-Norman treson, from Latin traditio, traditio, a handing over. See tradition.]

Pronunciation: 'trEz-&noun
Function: noun

Etymology: Anglo-French treason crime of violence against a person to whom allegiance is owed, literally, betrayal, from Old French traïson, from traïr to betray, from Latin tradere to hand over, surrender: the offense of attempting to overthrow the government of one's country or of assisting its enemies in war; specifically: the act of levying war against the United States or adhering to or giving aid and comfort to its enemies by one who owes it allegiance —treasonous /-s/ adjective

The Oxford dictionary defines treason as follows: "A violation of allegiance toward one's country... or by consciously and purposely acting to aid its enemies. A betrayal of trust or confidence."

That is what these six NBA superstars are accused of. They were all given the privilege to be drafted by expansion teams. Those that look at the glass as half empty, may suggest that this is a death sentence for a young player who is entering the professional ranks for the first time, or a new low in a series of otherwise thrilling events in the beginnings of a budding career.

Conversely, the glass can certainly be viewed as half full, as an opportunity to assist in forging a sport for which they have a passion, in a community where professional action has otherwise been absent. It is an opportunity to be among the first players to make an impression, either positive or negative, on a city that has welcomed them with open arms as it's NBA image.

But wait a second, stop the presses. We're not referring to a new team in New York, Texas, Florida or California. If that were the case then maybe this issue would be moot. The real problem is that the two expansion teams were established in the Great White North. In Canada, a far off land that many were likely forced to find on a map. It's cold there, why would we want to live in Canada, when we could stay here at home? The question was probably asked either publicly or privately by each and every one of these individuals.

The difference was that upon arrival, they were greeted like kings. Difficult for them to fathom maybe, but the vast majority of Canadian NBA fans were thrilled to have a few superstars of their own. It gave Canadian basketball an identity, through American stars, one that we had been unable to forge ourselves, on the international stage for decades. Superstars in the making, that's what they were. That is, after all, the purpose of the NBA Entry Draft, is it not? To welcome amateur players into the pro ranks, to jumpstart their careers, but to do so in a fashion that will assist the weaker clubs in improving their level of play. In this instance, to help a new club be competitive in their inaugural season.

Now some of these players may have thought to themselves

that this was all good and well, with the exception of the fact that they were not only interested in their play on the court. They, as professional athletes, are businessmen too. They were interested in selling themselves, and their image, to the public at large. You can only do that in the capitalist capital of the world right? Wrong. They had the rare opportunity to sell themselves to an entire nation (abid smaller) but to have 30 million Canadians buying their sneakers, their t-shirts, their jerseys and more importantly, their owner's tickets. They could have been those responsible for selling a nation consumed by the winter sport of hockey, the sport that they grew up crafting.

Last time I checked, neither Toronto nor Vancouver were the tiniest of cities either. Nor are their venues, namely the ACC or GM Place, the igloos of the NBA.

So let's recap here: the opportunity to grow their sport, to make astronomical amounts of sponsorship money, to be loved by fans of an entire nation, while making US funds. As a bonus, toss in playing in the surrounding beauty of two of our nations most culturally diverse and exciting cities, not to mention, in the confines of state of the art facilities.

This is old news. These stars have since moved on, either through trade demand, free agency, retirement or simply hold out. Their conscience can't be weighing on them too much, because their statistics haven't seemed to suffer much in their new American surroundings. Maybe it's the water, but I won't resort to turning this into a typical anti-American rant.

But that's not to say that their departure was left unnoticed. That is far from the truth. The fact remains that when these stars decided to call Canada quits, they left behind the carnage that is still evident today. It is no more evident than in Vancouver, where the irony remains that if

their team had produced one one-hundredth of the success that the company that adorned it's stadium name has, then they would still be in operation.

Having lost their superstars went a long way in producing seasons of misery, those of which their unstable fan base were no longer willing to endure. No matter how little a fan base knows about a particular sport, there's always three things in sport that are inherently identifiable: commitment, effort and winning. They got none of the above.

In Toronto we see a slightly different circumstance. A club that produced soaring success at the ACC for a time in the beginning, but also one that inevitably endured a similar fate. The thing that sits so uneasy with fans is

that management was not to blame. In fact, they used all of their resources to rectify what proved to be an irreconcilable scenario. Their superstar left too, and took with him any hope that he had produced in leading his team to the conference finals. His departure proved that as fans, we could no longer trust a man by his smile alone, let alone one named Vincent. The smile can be devious, and it clearly never indicated what was truly going on behind the mask. A man that at 28 years old, still let's his mother make his life decisions.

Now as fans we sit back and wonder what could have been. We caught a glimpse, and maybe that was enough to sustain life in Toronto's sports Mecca, with wealthy owners footing the bill. But if Vancouver was any indica-

tion, and with stars packing their bags to renew their romance with the South, how long will it be until reports indicate that the Raptors have had enough?

As we watch the NCAA Final Four this weekend, we can pay attention and try and choose the next player that will be drafted into Canada, only to leave years later, citing discontent. This tournament is about drama, excitement, but mostly hope. A hope that any team can win on any given night. If only this hope could translate to Canadian basketball. This does not sit well with me; in fact, I find it quite ignorant and bothersome.

Maybe I'm naïve, but being an NBA player in Canada sounds like a pretty good opportunity to me. But I value this place, so what do I know?



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HELMETS: reduce wallet strain & head injuries

BY KATE ROSS

If you're going to be rolling around the streets of Halifax on almost anything with wheels, you need to wear a helmet. If you have a skateboard, bicycle, in-line or even roller skates, hopefully you have a helmet to go with 'em.

In Halifax, it's illegal to ride your bike without a helmet. Obviously, people break the law everyday: axe murderers, shoplifters, even bicycle riders. It's up to you if you wear a helmet or not. People think helmets are annoying, hot, uncomfortable, and of course, they might mess up your perfect hairdo. They also prevent 85% of head injuries, and are a good place for stickers. If you get caught without a helmet it'll cost you big – the fine is \$128.75. Officers don't want to be taking money from students, but it's their job to keep everyone safe. The days of being able to say, "I didn't know, I'm a student from Ontario," and coasting away with a verbal warning are over. Tickets will be issued and you are expected to pay them.

HELMET TIPS:

- Fit is the most important thing. If it wiggles around too much it's basically useless.

- The helmet should sit firmly, about 1-1.5 cm above your eyebrows. You shouldn't be able to move it backwards, forwards or sideways.

- Make sure it is Department Of Transportation approved.

- If you have an accident, or even drop or kick it hard, the helmet might get damaged. Tell someone about the situation and see if they think it's time to replace the helmet. If you're going to wear one you might as well make sure it's going to actually help you.

- Finally, if you're going to be riding at night – maybe pick a light colour or something reflective.



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