

Abortion: A Product of a Corrupt Society?

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THE JOURNAL

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



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Abortion: A Product of a Corrupt Society?

Editorial by Jessica Woodman

I received a couple emails about Dr. Mercer's article on abortion. The basic idea was that the subject was treated with great philosophical care but that it did not touch on the serious emotional nature of pregnancy and the termination of pregnancy.

One feminist told me that birth control is a choice, but abortion is not a choice. Abortion is a way to deal with the aftermath of pregnancy.

Abortion may have to be a choice as a result of defective birth control. Broken condoms. Forgotten pills. Sometimes medication can dilute and render birth control ineffective. The woman may have no idea that this has happened. Or how about alcohol? A drunken mistake can put people into situations that have serious consequences. Don't lie! It has happened to a girl in every University.

Abortion may be a choice because we live in a society that does not look approvingly on women who have children outside of marriage. Abortion may be a choice because of economic reasons—it is not easy for a woman to raise a child if she is alone or if her and her partner are still students. Abortion may be a choice because the girl is too young and the parents are not willing to help. There are many reasons for abortion. It is not my place to say if these are morally

wrong or right—this is just a fact of life in Canadian society. Being pregnant is not easy for a girl in University. Relationships, while promising are not solidified. Babies interfere with studying and with keeping new boyfriends. Babies interfere with partying and having fun—which is the expected stage of University life for most 20 year old girls. Babies don't raise themselves. Some people believe that a woman is actually "damaged goods" and that she should be scorned for having children and not being able to keep the man beside her. It is almost like abortion is a way to deal with a corrupt society that is unable to deal with women who are not married and have children. What if you don't feel comfortable having an abortion? What if it really bothers you inside? What if you feel guilty for the rest of your life? It is not easy to go against societal norms. It is also not easy to deal with guilt if you really feel inside that abortion is wrong.

Religion does not even have to factor into a decision for abortion to be a painful choice. Unfortunately, I just wanted to include some of the things that may happen when one is forced to deal with pregnancy when it is not a good time to be pregnant.

Things you Don't Think about

Generally, you might find out you are pregnant when you first missed your period. However, an abortion cannot be performed until the fetus is at least 6 to 8 weeks—no matter what. Most girls immediately have morning sickness. What a treat to go to class sick, with your breasts aching, and full of hormones that can make you very emotional. For most girls they have to suffer for a month with all the symptoms of pregnancy. This is a long, long time to think before they are even able to get the abortion—if that is what they choose.

Some girls in University might want to keep the fact that they are pregnant a secret—especially if they are planning an abortion. No matter how liberal one wishes to be, it is not easy to tell the world you are having an abortion. You might tell your close friends, or the guy that is responsible but it is not easy. Try studying, getting good grades, and at the same time deal with morning sickness. I know some girls that dropped out of school for this very reason. It is not always easy to tell your parents, especially if they have strong ideas about abortion—either for or against. The topic of abortion can (but not always) bring out the worst side in people. My mother would kill me if I had an abortion and I could never keep it a secret from her—we are too close. Another mother might be angry at her daughter for not sticking to school and getting her degree. It is not always easy to predict how your family will react.

And the worst part of pregnancy for a woman—in my experience? What if the guy you thought was so great doesn't want the child and you do? Do you decide to become a mother and have a baby without a father? Do you have an abortion but secretly wish that your guy would wrap his arms around you, tell you he loves you, and you would run off and get married. To live happily ever after in happiness with your child? It doesn't always work that way. This can be devastating and while Canadian culture seems very uniform and similar—beliefs vary greatly from person to person about the morality of abortion.

If you decide to have the baby on your own then what happens to school? Do you try to keep going or do you drop out? How do you provide for the baby? What if the father doesn't want to see the baby? What if the father does want the baby but you are not on good terms? What if you have no family support? If you are in a difficult situation like these—go and get help. The Counselors on the Fourth Floor of the Sub Building at SMU are free of charge and want to help in exactly these kinds of situations. Most Doctors will provide immediate counseling services for women and men that are completely confidential. In this situation take advantage of these resources. Do not try to go through this alone.

And for guys? What if you love the girl? What if you want the baby? What if you totally disagree with abortion?

As far as I know, a man has absolutely no right to the fetus according to the Supreme Court of Canada. You cannot make any woman have a child if she doesn't want to. This can be heart breaking for men who really wanted to have that child. The right to choose is only in the hands of the woman. I tried to talk openly and honestly with smart about what you are doing girls. Don't trust someone else to provide birth control. You should pick the birth control and you should insist on it if you don't want to have children. Note to guys—be careful with the girl you are with. Don't put a girl into this situation because of carelessness. It is a choice to have an abortion but that is not always a simple situation. Or you could abstain from sex. I read about a small community near India where the men preferred to marry women that were already pregnant. The women were not necessarily pregnant by the husband to be. The culture was devoid of the issues related to our culture over paternity. This culture did not shame a woman for having children with whatever man she chooses. What a world this would be. I personally think that these beliefs would completely change the way we view pregnancy.

"Let the beauty we love be what we do

There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground." -Sufi poet, Rumi

Muslims around the world are observing the holiest month of the year—Ramadan, when Muslims try to attain an elevated spirituality through prayer and fasting.

Derived from the Arabic root word "ramida", denoting intense scorching heat and dryness, Ramadan is celebrated in the ninth month of the Muslim lunar calendar. Its start is determined by the sighting of the crescent moon indicating the beginning of a new lunar month. Muslims firmly hold that it was

in the month of Ramadan that the Holy Qur'an "was sent down from heaven."

During the month, observant Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. After sunset, they often have large meals breaking the fast, with special foods and sweets. Smoking and sexual relations are also forbidden. Through the exercise of restraint, as they believe, the spiritual parts of human beings can achieve excellence; through pious prayers, they ask God for forgiveness and achieve

salvation.

As well as prayer, charity is an important element of Ramadan. "Ramadan is a Beautiful time." Homa Abdo, Arts and Sciences, Saint Mary's University '11, said. "A time to realize how thankful you should be...although you should be thankful everyday, sometime you forget it. It's like a reminder." She emphasized that in her country, people would be doing good things during Ramadan, "they help someone in need, such as giving money [a donation]".

A total of 1.61 billion Muslims (2007 Population) do the same thing during Ramadan, but for Homa, there is a difference from Canada and back home. "I don't feel like its Ramadan time. Sometime I forget fasting, which I would do back home no matter what...in Halifax, there isn't much to do."

But Homa always loves helping people. She would help people in need with her friends.

It is crucial to comprehend the meaning of this important time in the Muslim year for the society. As John

G. Stackhouse (a well-known Canadian scholar and writer) once said since "Muslims are our neighbours and fellow citizens, both here in Canada and in the global community," we must understand what is important to them. Ramadan is important to them.

Our university has many Muslim students, from Canada or abroad. Alana Robb, Manager of International Student Services, told us it is very difficult for Muslim students from other places to deal with being away home during this month-long family festival. "Ramadan is very important to Muslim students", Alana said, "We have been trying to recognize the different regions and national festivals of students of other countries with Saint Mary's students", hoping they hold their faith and keep their beauty in the spiritual part.

There are hundreds of ways to kneel, Rumi wrote; our Muslim students are doing one of them right now.

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Editors note: AIESEC Canada: Nurturing Young Leaders for 50 Years was mistakenly attributed to Chrystal Bell. The real writer was Cheryl Bell. The Journal would like to apologize for the error.

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Strategic Voting is Awesome

Jeff Cusack

With a united right and a left and centre more divided than ever, Canadians have recently begun struggling with the idea of strategic voting. The basic idea of strategic voting is to try and make sure someone you don't want to win doesn't win, rather than trying to make sure someone you want to win can win. In essence, you are doing your best to vote against candidates rather than for them.

Where many take issue with the idea of strategic voting is that this plan constitutes a compromise of principles. For instance, if you want the Conservative government to win, one would want less Liberals to hold seats. In an individual riding, if there was a close race between the Liberals and the NDP but the Conservatives are third, it might be more prudent for a Conservative to vote for the NDP candidate in hopes of blocking a Liberal win. The issue for voters might be whether one feels comfortable enough to vote for a candidate who holds beliefs that are opposed to their own. For NDP supporters who want the Conservatives gone, the problem becomes even larger. In the end, it won't be their own NDP government that their vote will try to elect, but a Liberal government.

Strategic voting makes sense. For the Conservative voter, the situation above is a no-brainer. If your candidate won't win, you do what's best for the party, and that may include not voting for your own candidate. For those on the left, many have said they would rather see a Conservative get elected than have to betray their allegiances. This ideology is nice on paper, as long as that paper isn't a ballot. The Liberals, the NDP, and to a lesser extent the Green Party, all have very similar platforms, and the idea that it would be preferable to see a Conservative government who is the polar opposite of all three is ludicrous.

Of course, many would like to see more drastic moves by

the left to stop the Conservatives. Some, such as former Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert, have proposed uniting the left, just as the Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservatives united the right a few years ago. Others suggest that the Liberals, NDP, and the Green Party, should look at polling data, choose the party in each riding with the best chance of beating the Conservative candidate. Then, the other two parties endorse that candidate and drop out. While either of these would involve some tough pill-swallowing on behalf of all three, it would almost ensure a Conservative loss. There isn't a single poll which shows the NDP and the Liberals below the Conservatives unless their numbers are added together. These parties need to figure out if their goals are more important than their pride.

Strategic voting has also gone on the internet, with people trying to both eat and have their cake by swapping their vote with other people. The idea has been popular for a while in Britain, but only recently gained steam in Canada through Facebook groups which are promoting the idea. These groups typically provide a list of battleground provinces, and tell whether a Liberal, NDP, or a Green has the best chance of winning. People then contact each other, and make deals to swap votes. For instance, if you support the NDP, but your riding has much stronger Conservative and Liberal candidates, you would link up with a Liberal supporter in a riding with much stronger Conservative and NDP candidates.

The Liberal supporter would then vote NDP in their riding, on behalf of you, and you would vote Liberal, on behalf of them. The largest of these groups, created by Matt Seveli, (who went to Oxford!) is called the Anti-Harper Vote Swap Canada. Currently at over 7500 members, with several ridings possibly coming down to a few votes in difference between the Liberals and the Conservatives,

Seveli's group is poised to make a major difference this election.

Some have called my own riding, the sleekly named Dartmouth South Portland Valley, one of the tightest three way races in the country. I don't know if that's true or not, but I do know that there's a good chance I'll be considering voting strategically this election rather than for whatever leader impresses me the most come election day. Maybe you should consider strategic voting too.

State of the Election

Jeff Cusack

Stephane Dion has started to bring out some of the more high profile Liberals in an effort to shake up his campaign. Former leadership rivals Bob Rae and Michael Ignatieff have both attended Dion press conferences and fielded questions for the man. This effort to emphasize the Liberal party as a "team" will likely be increasingly common until the election, as the Liberals attempt to put some charisma on the field to counter Stephen Harper's personal popularity (although recent polls have put Jack Layton as the most likable candidate,) and paint him as a "one man sun-king".

The Conservatives have attacked Dion's "dream team," pointing out the deficit Rae left after being premier of Ontario, and Ignatieff's lack of political experience (he does however have a book review in an upcoming issue of *The New Republic*.) Some in the media have also asked if Rae and Ignatieff's presence are indicators that they would have been better leaders for the Liberal party. Regardless, with the Conservatives hovering near or at majority territory, Dion needs to do something different other than stress how much he enjoys being underestimated.

Other MPs which we can expect to see in the coming weeks include Ralph Goodale and John McCallum. These MPs will likely be targeting the nation's troubled economy, while Stephen Harper has a masters degree in economics, John McCallum is the former senior vice president and chief economist of the Royal Bank of Canada, the nation's largest company, and so will try and add some credibility to Dion's economic plans. Mr. Goodale will serve the same purpose; the former finance minister will be trying to remind voters that under him and the Liberals the nation took in multi-billion dollar surpluses, and will claim that this economic prosperity has been "squandered" by the Conservatives. Some have suggested that Mr. Dion appoint an American style "running mate" —the person he would select as his Deputy Prime Minister, in order to excite the public the way Sarah Palin excited the American public.

Northern Exposure

Stephen Harper is trying hard to move the three Liberal ridings that make up the three territories Conservative blue after this election, and have recently taken his campaign up north. The northern territories are a favourite place of Harpers, and he's visited them every summer since his government has gotten into power. Of course, he's there for reasons beyond sightseeing. Harper has been extremely adamant that Canada remain in control of its arctic, increasing regulations for the Northwest Passage, —a waterway Europe and the U.S. assert is not ours to regulate— as well as increasing military operations in the area. Tensions over arctic sovereignty are increasing as of late, with Russian President Dimitri Medvedev recently stating plans to annex a portion of Canada's territory near the North Pole. Russia previously invoked the wrath of the Canadian public when they used a submarine to place a Russian flag underneath our ice. Stephane Dion criticised Harper's approach to the arctic, calling it overly militaristic, and futile against a superior fighting force.



Harper campaigns heavily in the north.

Dion wryly commented: "We can't win against the Americans, we can't win against the Russians, and we're too civilized to shoot the Danes."

Harper also pledged to create new social programs for the poverty stricken northern communities, emphasizing his commitment to them. Previously, Harper has come under scrutiny for removing funding for indigenous Canadians as well as scrapping the Kelowna accord. Tom Flanagan, Harper's mentor and former Chief campaign advisor, is a noted anti-Canadian indigenous rights advocate.

Newsreel:

- Gary Ritz, conservative agricultural minister, made two jokes about a deadly Listeria outbreak, including one in which he stated that he hoped a new case of the disease was the Liberal's agricultural critic. Ritz championed deregulation of food inspections earlier in the year.
- Good news for Bob Rae, his Conservative opponent stepped down after... Well we don't know. The official word is that he was not ready to commit to four years of service; the unofficial word is that he had posted negative comments about the passengers on the Greyhound bus where a man was beheaded.
- Two of Jack Layton's British Columbia MP's resigned for fulfilling stereotypes about their province this week. One had been selling coca, peyote, and other 'legally grey' seeds, while another had video of him smoking pot surface on Youtube. The New Democratic Party favours decriminalizing marijuana, and Jack Layton once appeared on Pot TV asking for votes. Some see the party's acceptance of these resignations as betraying that position.
- The Liberals announced major arts funding, while the Conservatives sent out pamphlets to their members asking if they want to spend over a billion dollars a year on the CBC.
- In a move that was immediately spun into 'Layton pledges hand gun ban' by the media, Jack Layton announced that he would give provinces the power to ban handguns.
- On Sunday, Elizabeth May started her "whistle-stop" tour across the country via rail. This is being done, according to May, to draw attention to the need for an efficient rail system, and because it's better for the environment. The fact that trains are cheaper than renting a jet is also probably a factor. Did you know Elizabeth May is an American? (She's from Connecticut.)
- The Toronto Stock Exchange stopped its downfall and had one of its biggest gains in history last week. This came on the heels of a Bush Administration announcement that there would be massive bail outs for various banking institutions, allowing them to begin giving out loans again. The TSX had been hurting amid a decrease in buying power in the US, which is Canada's largest trading partner by far.



Liberal leader Stephane Dion, is backed by candidates John McCallum, Bob Rae, and Cristine Innes. Mike Cassese, Reuters
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The Pit Crew Experience

Kimberley Dares

If you've been to a SMU football game, chances are you've witnessed those crazy, dirty, face painted students running around in grass-stained coveralls screaming about how awesome SMU is, or sliding face first down the hill at the end of the stands. Those students are the heart and soul of SMU football love, the Pit Crew.

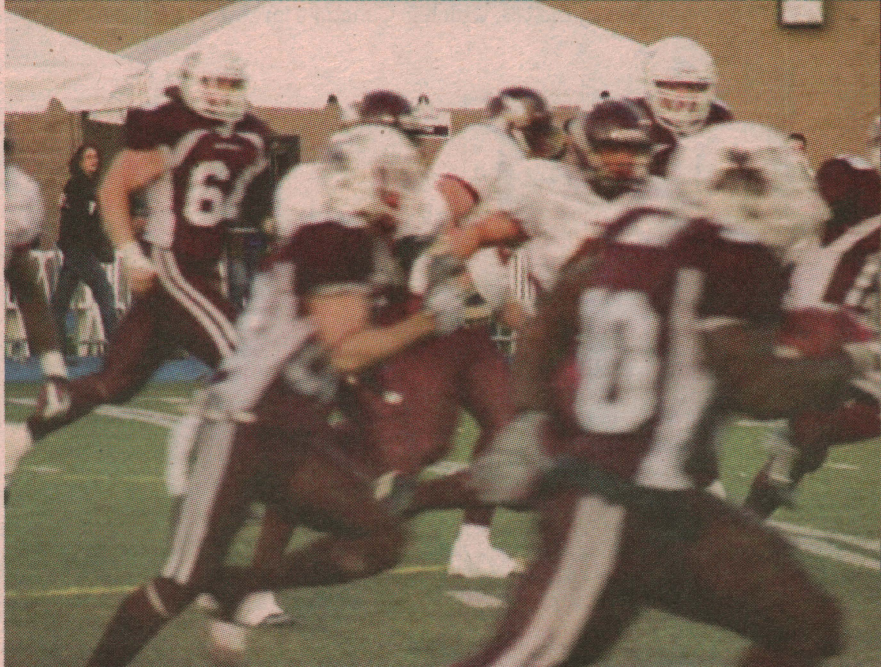
Now what possesses anyone to dress up in coveralls and slide down a hill, risking injury, not to mention a little public humiliation? Huskies pride, that's what. Members of Pit Crew love SMU and our outstanding athletics, especially football. Our football team is ranked third in the country, and that's with our star quarterback watching from the sidelines. The game can really be swayed by fan support, and that's what Pit Crew is there to provide.

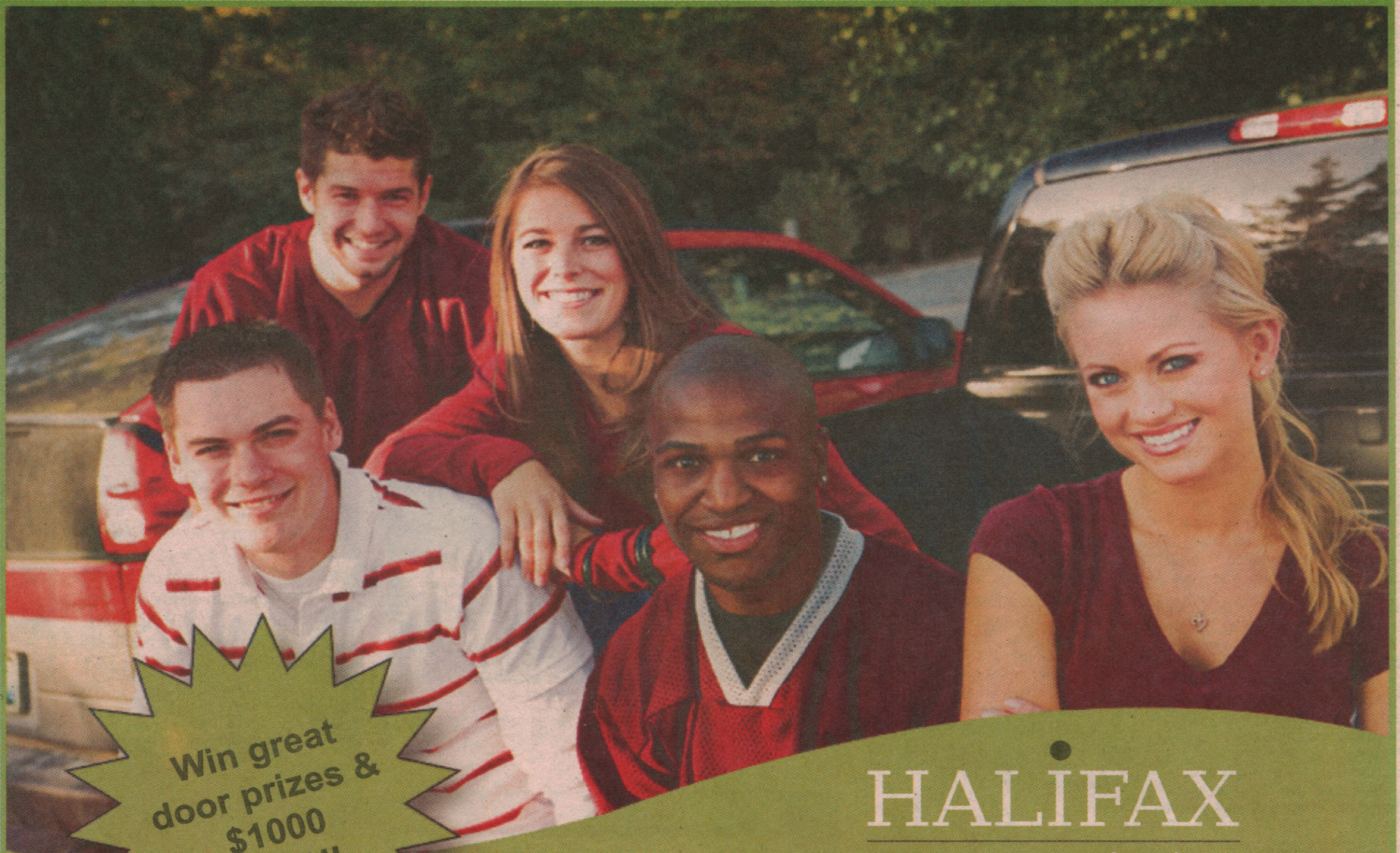
Last Friday, Pit Crew was there to watch the Huskies trump Mount Allison 50-20. It was a more suspenseful game than expected with Erik Glavic playing the first quarter, his first since an injury at last years' Uteck Bowl, throwing off Mount A's defense and leading to an early touchdown. Glavic was unable to finish the game however, and back up quarterback Nathan Marsman stepped up to finish the game. The rest of the first half was a little rough to watch with Mount A leading 20-10 at halftime.

The Huskies pulled it together in the second half however, coming in strong with two touchdowns in the first five minutes and wrapping up the game with a solid win of 50-20. That's a solid five slides down the hill, and a lot of happy Pit Crew members and fans.



Photos Courtesy of Laura MacIntosh





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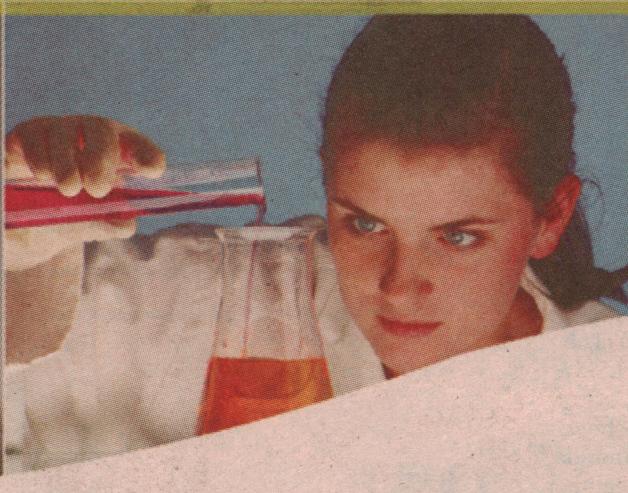
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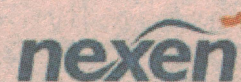
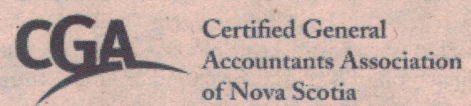
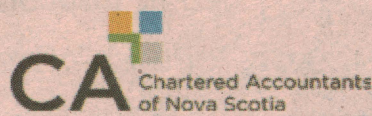


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Jarvis Church- "The Long Way Home" is the perfect Saturday afternoon.

Catherine Sanders

So I was dancing around my room one day. It was that sort of booty shaking good time that usually involves some fantastic hip hop or dance music. So I figured it would be a good idea to put on some music to go with my hot dance moves (the sprinkler anyone?). Throwing on "The Long Way Home", the newest musical contribution by Jarvis Church was a fantastic idea. For those of you not in the know, Jarvis Church is an alias of Gerald Eaton, lead singer of The Philosopher Kings. If you haven't listened to them, get out from under your rock.

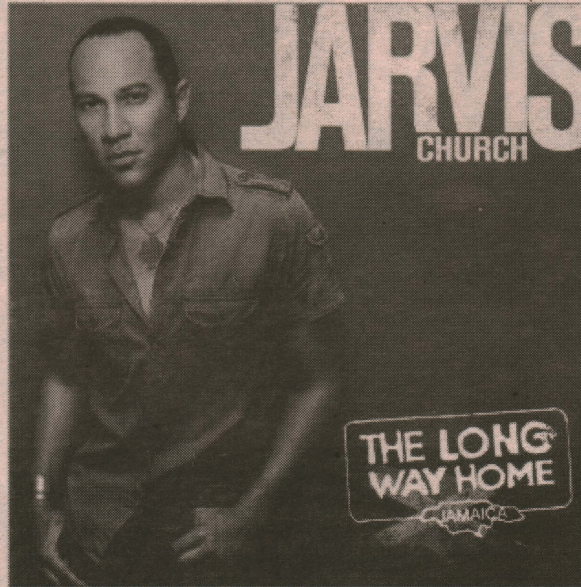
"The Long Way Home" is the second Church album, his first being in 2002. It's an eclectic mix of pop, hip hop and reggae that all equates to a smooth and sultry album worth a second listen. This is the sort of album you can listen to with your mom or your significant other. Women will appreciate the way Church sings about sexiness as a mindset and not just about the way a woman looks. The sixth track "Give

Thanks for the Girl" which features Mr. Pepper, has a fantastic line that says "It's a fact/ yeah it's true that you look good/ but you focus on your mind like you know you should" and never truer words were spoken. That's a pretty sweet deal for those more studious university students. Brains are hot ladies!

Track four, "Love Song", is my personal favourite. It's romantic enough to be sweet, but the tune is upbeat enough so not to make a cynic like myself ill. And while I'd never condone downloading, it's worth checking out the stripped down "That Old Love Song" which is "Love Song" as a ballad.

To conclude, this album is about fun and having confidence. The first single, "Just Like That" is a great dance tune. The next couple tunes are more of the same, but most of the songs are laid back and the perfect music for doing chores or great for chilling with friends. I suggest picking it up if you enjoy it get his older album and listen to The Philosopher Kings as well.

Image from www.miomusik.com



How Sexy Is Sex And The City?

Jean Brunet

Rating: Butter Popcorn

Four years since the last episode in Paris, Sex and the City brings the four women back to New York City. Charlotte and Harry have adopted a girl from China. Miranda and Steve live in Brooklyn with their son and Steve's mother. Samantha is currently living her life filled with sex and love with Smith in Hollywood. Carrie is still seeing Mr. Big while looking for a new apartment. The four women continue to meet frequently, with Samantha flying in from the west coast, to discuss fashion, real estate, motherhood, and marriage.

Sex and the City stars Sara Jessica Parker (Failure To Launch, Smart People) as Carrie Bradshaw, Kim Cattrall as Samantha Jones, Cynthia Nixon as Miranda Hobbes (The Babysitters), Kristin Davis (The Shaggy Dog) as Charlotte York and Christopher Noth (NBC's Law & Order) as Mr. Big.

The movie is the equivalent to 5 episodes of the 30-mins HBO show. From the clothes on their back to "Fashion Week" and from Miranda and Steve's problems in bed to Samantha watching her sexy neighbor, Sex and the City is filled with fashion and, you've guessed it already, sex.

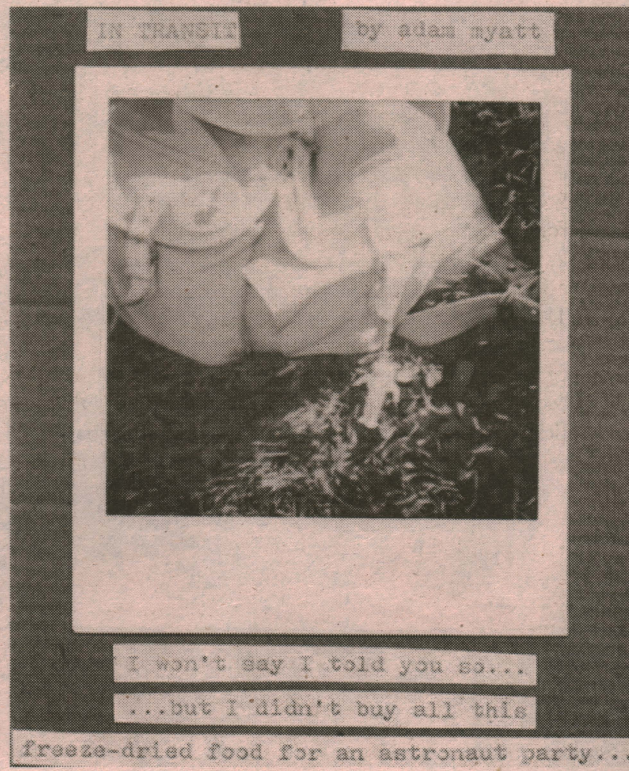
One of my favorite parts of the movie is on Valentine's Day, when Samantha is preparing a surprise for Smith. She makes some sushi that she strategically places on her nude body. Lying down and waiting for Smith to enter the house any moment from now, she suddenly hears the phone ring but she's not able to pick it up. Smith leaves a message saying that he's running 30 minutes late. When he finally arrives, 3 hours later, Samantha is so furious that she starts chucking the sushi at him.

Sex and the City is not for everyone. It was created to satisfy the cravings of its fan base, which includes millions of women. The movie doesn't give too much background to how and why these four women meet and become best friends as it's not an intro to the series, but rather a continuation to the HBO series that finished in Paris in 2004. If you're a woman looking to drag your boyfriend to see the movie, it's probably not the best idea as he'll be bored and won't really understand what's going on. You're better off viewing it with your girlfriends.

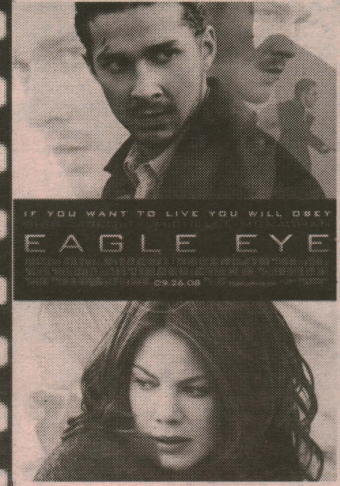
If you're a fan of HBO's Sex and the City, you'll love this continuation to the series but if you've never seen the series, I recommend that you watch a few episodes, at least the last few from the final season, before you view it.

Sex and the City is now available on DVD in a two-disc special edition and is exclusively distributed by Alliance Film. The DVD features include a conversation with Sarah Jessica Parker and director Michael Patrick King, The Fashion of Sex and the City, Fergie In Studio: Watch a Hit in the Making as the Singer Records "Labels and Love" for the Movie Soundtrack, and additional scenes.

To read more of Jean's reviews, please check out www.sizzlingpopcorn.com, where you can not only read movie news and reviews, but where you can also put in your two cents.



Bite Sized Entertainment



Cell Phones are the new Ouija Boards

Eagle Eye hits screens Sept 26. Running, confusion, cell phones, Shia LaBeouf. Need I say more? The film will also be airing the Transformers 2 teaser trailer.

V

In My Dreams, I See That Place

Silent Hill V: Homecoming is released on September 23rd. If you're a gamer and you're done The Force Unleashed, already, this is the next prime game of the fall.



TVGeek's Pick of the Week

The Amazing Race, season 13 premiere. 11 new teams trot the globe, along with requisite rat boys "team superbad" and newly dating couples. Also married 60+ beekeepers competing for 1 million.

Sizzling Popcorn.com Rating Legend

- Sizzling Popcorn - Great Movie (Blockbuster/ Oscarbound)
- Butter Popcorn - Great Movie (Not Blockbuster/ Oscarbound)
- Popcorn - Good Movie
- Kernel - So, So (Rent It)
- Burnt Popcorn - Don't Waste Your Money... It's Not Worth It

Whether from near or afar, The Nine Scale we're all strangers at the Bar

Korey Mac Innis

The challenge of adjustment that makes any city what it is can be seen even here on campus—not to even speak about Halifax in general. The “outsider” is a stigma that has followed any new body here at SMU. And of course, it is not easy to admit but I'm sure we have all possessed that playground mentality that loves to alienate as many kids as possible at some point...and we just don't need that. International students, you are encouraged to feel more than welcome in Halifax (or Dartmouth) -but to feel at home here as well. That said, I urge people who come from afar to make every effort possible to get to know the ones already here. Whether it's a shopkeeper or a PEI potatoes truck passing by, learn to use your most tactical weapon: the wave. You'll make someone's day as well as a new ally, because no matter how much nighttime downtown trouble one can get into: there is always a friendly way of life to be found here that will always push itself up through the sidewalk cracks.

Even locals can feel like a foreigner and I'm thinking this is because this town really seems to crave an outside influence. The rural Nova Scotians know what I'm talking about, as cosmopolitan as Spring Garden road can be—it is still not New York. This place stands in the middle of a massive melting pot of uncertainty. Cape Bretoner's, you can certainly bring your talents here: whether it's your music, mild-mannered alcoholism or agricultural knowledge—remember you're still just as much part of N.S. as the rest.

What any traveler should always leave at their doorstep is a feeling of self-alienation. You had a certain identity where you were from, now you are here and we all will change a little bit for the better. And if we show enough respect for another there can be no confliction with these identities. The bottom line is this, if you are feeling a little bit like “the foreigner”, ask yourself if you're playing the part that you thought you should have had back home... catch yourself in the act and its problem solved. I have never seen a better crowd in the run of a day that will reach out to hold a door as if they're going to stop a tree from falling on you. I'm talking about people who speak Arabic, Mandarin, Italian or English. So it's worth noting that for starts, we all have a lot in common already.

The Cranky Professor



Letter to Senate

Mark Mercer
Department of Philosophy
mark.mercer@smu.ca

What follows is a letter I recently sent to members of this year's Senate at Saint Mary's.

I am writing to you in your capacity as a member of the Academic Senate. I want to draw to your attention to two matters I believe fall within Senate's concern. One has to do with statements in the Academic Calendar asserting that Saint Mary's is a religious university; the other has to do with the status of the Instructor and Course Evaluation form as the sole official instrument on campus by which students evaluate their professors and courses.

1) The “General Information” section of the Academic Calendar states the four objectives of the university as given in the Saint Mary's University Act of 1970. One of the objectives is to “give special emphasis to the Christian tradition and values in higher education.” This objective should be deleted from the Calendar.

First, it's simply false that we at Saint Mary's give special or any emphasis to the Christian tradition, at least as we understand that tradition. Most of us are simply indifferent as to whether our teaching or research is within any Christian tradition or embodies any values Christians honour.

That it's false that we give special emphasis to Christianity is sufficient reason to remove the statement of that objective from our Calendar. But there is a second, practical, reason for deleting it from the Calendar. Its presence in the Calendar is misleading. Students and prospective students will read it as a true declaration of an actual objective of our institution, as well they should. Those who wish to attend a university with a religious objective will be attracted to Saint Mary's and might well be disappointed when they find that religion is merely a lingering rather than a real presence here. Those who are put off by religion will avoid Saint Mary's.

The Calendar makes other false assertions about religion at Saint Mary's. “Because of its traditional commitment to Christian education,

Saint Mary's University continues to emphasize personal and social values derived from the experience of Christian civilization.” This is from the “Chaplaincy” heading under Student Services, and it ought to be removed as false and misleading.

2) Senate erred in 2005 when it approved the Instructor and Course Evaluation form for use at Saint Mary's. The error doesn't have to do with problems in the ICE form itself, though it is a terrible form reflecting a poor philosophy of university teaching. The error is in Saint Mary's having any single official form at all. Any particular form will privilege certain teaching goals and teaching styles over others. Having a single official form for the university makes the goals and styles valued by the form the university's official goals and styles. We ought not have an official teaching philosophy at Saint Mary's, and we certainly shouldn't encourage our students to suppose that we do.

Senate ought to declare that any evaluation form a professor at Saint Mary's uses is an official evaluation form. And Senate should make it widely known that professors may use whatever form they want. Saint Mary's would, thereby, acknowledge its pluralism with regard to teaching goals and styles. The university would also be helping to prevent our students from forming bad ideas regarding university teaching.

Senate could, of course, continue to sponsor the administering of the ICE form, but why would it want to?

Thank you very much for your consideration of these matters. All the best for a successful school year.

—30—

Daniel Ehman

This is a scale to replace the sorely outdated and unCanadian bases system, Baseball being America's Pastime; Canada should have a system to share with the world. Much like the metric system I venture to believe that this new scale will take over the world. Or at least be adopted by the French.

Ok.

Starting off.

- Level One: This is of course the first level. Usually not too much happening at this level. Some sexy eyes, maybe a wink, level one is largely innocent touching and dirty eyes. I would also put holding hands in this level, but it's a sure fire sign of a relationship so it usually comes with much more.
- Level Two: The first kiss, a peck on the lips or the cheek. This is frequently a good night kiss, or something along those lines. It lets both sides know that they are getting interested. Once you take the next step you get into...
- Level Three—This is the make out with minimal groping, and tongue. Some heavy kissing, but nothing too serious. I'd put the DFM, Dancefloor makeout in this bracket as long as you don't go to town, or emulate Usher and Jeezy. This would also be the likely type of make out you would feel comfortable doing in a movie theatre, or where someone might see you.
- Level Four—This is the serious makeout, one that you might turn a little red if your parents walked in, in the middle of it. There is some petting, and groping but nothing really venturing below the clothes. Depending on how you feel about the Dance Floor DFMing is also possible at level four.
- Level Five—This is where things start to get a little interesting. Start moving the hands under the level of outer wear, and into underwear. Some people might be comfortable “going to town” at level five but it usually takes a serious amount of tequila.
- Level Six—This is what I assume to be the level that Joey and Dawson made it to on Dawson's Creek. This is some private make-out sessioning that leads to a topless girl. Usually reserved for the bedroom, and often a stage that only truthfully happens with an interruption, or a celebant someone. It still accounts for a lot of time. Some call it foreplay, I call it level six.
- Level Seven—This is the level where HJ becomes the new lingo, usually something exchanged in an amorous tryst, but sometimes just lending a hand. Also can be one of the messiest levels depending on how you play it.
- Level Eight—One of the most versatile levels for its ability to be done in multiple locations, aural sensation, much like music can be highly satisfying. It also has many names, but head by any other name still means you are getting brains. And anything that can add excitement to a man and woman road trip is all good in my books.
- Level Nine—Finally I'm getting nine. This scale all started up as a mistake when I was TDTT (Too Drunk Too Text,) but it is starting to catch on. Getting nine is straight up intercourse. We all learned all about it from such sources as Degraasi, Sex With Sue, and Health Class, some of us get nine a lot, some not so much. I finally understand though why Gordie Howe chose number 9, and Gretzky 99.
- Level 10—The rarest of the levels, this is the level that encompasses all things awesome and legendary that guys are often denied. I'm talking threesomes, making movies, or anything like that, anything you think is the next level from reg. sex is considered a 10. Also another piece of lingo anyone can use is the front and back nine, while this may have an implied meaning of buggery; this is not how it rolls in the nine scale. Front nine is sex at night, and if anyone asks you “what's the story morning glory,” you can tell them you played the back nine, if you got up early and made it happen again big ups! Hope that sheds some light, to make it easy to TXT your friends your number when they need to GO HOME

THE WORD ON THE STREET

Dawn Davis

In 1995 the one-day festival celebrating local and Canadian literature came from Toronto to Halifax to the fanfare of 10,000 participants. 2008 marks the fourteenth annual festival, and the seventh year at their location at Pier 23, the Cunard Event Centre. The Word on the Street brings people from all potential literary backgrounds together to help foster a love of reading and bring the industry to the community. The festival promotes local writers and publishers, brings new faces to the city, and also brings the people to the writers.

Sunday will be the home to readings, signings and panels featuring Budge Wilson (*Before Green Gables*), Richard Zurawski (*The Book of Maritime Weather*), Ami McKay (*The Birth House*), Faith Erin Hicks (*Zombies Calling*), Jessica Scott Kerrin (*the Martin Bridge series*), Maxine Trottier (*Little Dog Moon*), and SMU's own Brian Bartlett. There will also be many exhibitors, starting with Strange Adventures, Shambhala School, the Writer's Federation of Nova Scotia, Nimbus publishing, and many used book distributors. The Word on the Street is the one stop home of all your home-made literary cravings.

The festival will also be visited by Canada's Super Speller Challenge this year. If you were on campus in the summer you may have seen the competition visiting Saint Mary's in August. Another major feature of the festival is Pitch the Publisher which is a popular spot annually. Prospective writers take their ideas to the Street and get valuable advice and criticism from local publishers. They also might get their efforts noticed at the event. Reserve a time spot at www.atlanticpublishers.ca before it's too late.

For SMU students on campus, the festival is a crisp fall morning walk away. The events begin at 11am on Sunday the 28th and conclude by 5, rain or shine in the shelter of the Cunard Event Centre (Pier 23). If you're looking for some reads and the literary minds of Halifax, visit the Word on the Street.

Long Distance Learning

Kim Dares and Laura MacIntosh

Ever think “man I’d love to get out of here”, “I want to travel”, or “if I spend one more semester at home my parents are gonna drive me insane”? Well if you have, Saint Mary’s University offers a great study option for you. Take a semester to study abroad; engross yourself in a new culture and travel without losing a whole semester of learning.

Saint Mary’s has a great International Learning Program, with over 30 study programs available at host Universities in 17 countries, including Australia, France, Mexico, Taiwan, China, Japan, and Sweden. There is an agreement between many of these Universities and SMU that allows students to pay Saint Mary’s tuition for credits they receive at host Universities.

Once you have decided where you would like to study the International Activities Office can, in most cases, put you in touch with other SMU students who have spent a semester abroad. This is a great way to get another perspective of what life in that country is really like. This also offers an opportunity to get suggestions or little facts that may help on the trip that you may not be able to find out otherwise; little facts such as ‘buses are privately owned in Sydney, Australia’ meaning they run on no fixed schedule, which is helpful to know before you arrive in a new place.

The International Activities Office is willing to offer lots of help and assistance to anyone considering a semester abroad; if you want more information check out the International Learning link on the SMU website.

Students can take courses taught in English even in countries where English is not the primary language. It is also important to note that employers are now looking for students with international experience. The opportunity to study abroad often works out best when students are in their third year of study, but with planning students may be able to go in other years as well. Graduate students are also eligible for the program.

Once you have selected a destination and a list of possible courses it is important to meet with an academic advisor to find out how, or if, your courses will transfer back as SMU credits. Depending on the marking schemes at host Universities it may actually be better if the marks don’t transfer back. Saint Mary’s does however award credit for courses on a pass/fail basis without giving it a specific letter grade.

In addition to the “tuition swap” program there are many grants, scholarships, and bursaries available to students once they are accepted into the program. With commitment, budgeting, funding, and a plan, studying abroad can be affordable for nearly all students. The cost of living in most areas is comparable to that of Canada with additional expenses for airfare, insurance, and initial set-up. Check out the Internationals Activities Office for more information.

If you are unsure of where you would like to study, there are plenty of ways to dive into cultural settings here at SMU. Join a society, enroll in a language course, or attend an on-campus event that is focused on a culture other than your own, or just engage others in conversation, you never know what you might learn.

SMUdoku

3			8	9				1
	8				1		3	5
	9				6			2
9		8		1	3			2
	1		5	8		3		4
5			2					9
8	2		1					4
4				3	8			7

Opening up to Mike

Kimberley Dares

It saddens me to admit that in the past two years of my life as a SMU student I failed to attend a single Open Mic. night at the Gorsebrook, or really any event at the Gorsebrook for the matter. Perhaps it is sadder for me to admit that I still live at home in Dartmouth and could easily be described as one of those students who comes over just for class and then rushes back home right after, failing to get involved with anything on campus.

That reality pretty much defined my first two years as a student here at Saint Mary’s. I would come over for class, to work at The Journal, or for my one social excursion, the football games and then rush right home to get back to doing nothing in my room. I branched out from this life last Wednesday, deciding to spice up my hump day routine with a visit to the Gorsebrook for my first ever Open Mic. night.

It was definitely one of my best decisions, as I ended up having a blast. Open Mic. is a great way to break up the otherwise blah school week, great live entertainment courtesy of your fellow students made better by the cheap beer during power hour and who can say no to \$2 draught? I went early which turned out to be a great decision as the pub went from deserted to standing room only in about five minutes.

Not 19? Don’t worry your chance to hit up Open Mic. is coming. Otherwise what’s your excuse? I’m sure I’ve used it, and you know what, now I wish I’d spent my Wednesday nights at the Gorsebrook rather than at home watching Criminal Minds (not that it isn’t a fantastic show!). And to those of you who attend Open Mic. night every week (or on a fairly regular basis) kudos to you for knowing that the Gorsebrook is the place to be.

If Open Mic. night isn’t your cup of tea perhaps you would rather get involved with one of the many societies on campus. With so many to choose from the chances of finding one that appeals to you are pretty good. Just to give you an example of your choices there are societies for drama, debate, role playing, mature students, as well as many cultural societies, and those for students in nearly every discipline. A more complete guide to societies can be found on the SMUSA website, and be sure to check out posters and notices around campus for your chance to get involved.

Then there is the incredible athletics department at Saint Mary’s. Some teams hold tryouts well into the fall, or if you are looking for a less serious commitment there are lots of opportunities to get involved with intramural sports. If playing sports is really not your thing then there is always cheering for sports, SMU has an abundance of athletic talent that could really benefit from

your support. Round up a couple friends, make some signs, paint your faces maroon and white and get out there and show your school pride.

This article has two main points. First off, Open Mic. night is the best thing to do with your Wednesday nights. Secondly you can only get out of your University experience what you put into it, so put everything you have into making it the most fun ever. This is your time; make it what you want it to be. Take this as a challenge, instead of rushing right home, or even back to your room in res., hit up the Gorsebrook for while, or check out that society meeting you never had time for before. I assure you it will be worth it in the end.

I’m not saying abandon your homework every night to party at the Gorsebrook or to get so committed you have no time for you. But it’s all about balance. University should be a lot of fun not just a lot of work. So, put this paper down and get on with your life!! (Ok, maybe finish the paper and then get on with it!!)

Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials and You

Adam Harris, SMUSA VP Academic
academicinfo.blogspot.com

Last week I wrote about the high cost of academic materials including textbooks, and the different option you have as a student when selecting your academic materials. If you missed it, you can check the blog address above for the whole scoop. Academic materials, such as text books and course-packs, are very important to students as well as faculty. For students they can be a supplement to the ideas and information presented in class, and for professors they can be an additional tool to relay the information to students.

Due to the high importance and high cost of academic materials, 21 universities from across Canada, including Saint Mary’s, have joined to create CRAM, the Canadian Roundtable

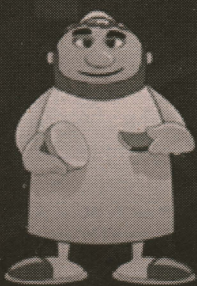
on Academic Materials. This new organization represents the student associations and bookstore from these campuses. The first meeting took place in November of 2008 in Toronto. This was initially organized by the student’s association and bookstore from the University of Alberta. The members discussed the direction of the new organization, different ideas about what CRAM could accomplish, and shared information about the issues. They decided to create an ongoing medium for cooperation between Canadian bookstores and students. The group will also ideally include all stakeholders, including faculty representative, the publishers, and librarians. This past June, I had the opportunity to attend the second major meeting of CRAM. The conference was very informative and productive. We had the chance to meet with key repre-

sentatives from the publishers and express our concerns over the rising cost of textbooks. We also had information sessions on copyright issues, what other campuses are doing to make a difference, among others. There was lots of discussion between the student representatives about running book exchanges, working with the administration on our campuses, and organizing an awareness campaign, all of which SMUSA are currently focusing on. CRAM is also planning media releases to draw attention to this issue, as well as advocacy campaigns targeting various levels of government.

CRAM and SMUSA want to create awareness on the side of the students, the faculty and bookstores and ensure that we play a role in helping to bring down the cost of these materials to students. Overall, the primary goal is create an affordable option for academic materials for all students.

Ramadan Question of the Week #2

Win:
\$5 Tim Horton’s
Gift Certificate



*For contest rules see SMS facebook group

Which of the following is incorrect:

- Fasting helps one to feel compassion for those who are less fortunate and underprivileged
- Fasting becomes obligatory (i.e. one becomes accountable) before the age of puberty.
- Fasting offers a time for Muslims to “purify” their bodies as well as their souls, by developing a greater sense of humility, spirituality and community.

Send your answer to:

Saintamarian Muslim Society
facebook admins or
SmuMuslimSociety@gmail.com
by Friday September 26

Campus Spotlight: Flux Fitness; Martial Art Boot Camp

By: Laura MacIntosh

This week we sat down with current SMU student Dawson Wambolt to talk about his business with SMU alum Alana Green; Flux Fitness, and the associated Martial Arts Boot Camp. Wambolt, a Psychology major and English minor brings the Boot Camp aspect while Green, Marketing and Small Business grad pumps it up with martial arts.

LM: Tell us about your business; what do you do, when did you start, where did you get the idea?

DW: Martial Art Boot Camp (MABC) is a hybrid training program utilizing innovative body

weight exercises tailored for the needs of martial artists and fitness enthusiasts alike. Participants will learn how to properly execute fitness and martial art techniques for a lifelong, healthy and active lifestyle. The Martial Art Boot Camp is intended to give athletes of all levels a strong start or boost to their fitness program, be it through physical motivation or a more dynamic training philosophy. I had started with the business in January of this year, which was after Alana and I had been working for awhile with her martial art students at Green Choi Kwang Do to boost their fitness. We had decided that it was a program that had potential in the fitness community, so we created the business.

LM: Who is your target demographic?

DW: Generally students and anyone interested really, the age range is typically 18-45

LM: I understand you have web products underway, tell us about those. Also, where are you located and when does MABC run?

DW: We are in the process of launching our webstore at www.martialartbootcamp.com, and we have at least one weekend bootcamp per season run out of our Fort Massy location. We also do bootcamps by request for groups, and it can be done out of a number of conceivable locations. We are looking into housing classes on a weekly basis right now.

LM: How do you find balancing school with running a business?



Photo Courtesy of Charles Borne

DW: It can be a little bit of tough work, but you just have to stay on top of your game. Do your readings every night for class, that way it is just a little bit of work on top of regular business. Also it helps to standardize things within your business so that way when it comes time to advertise or even run the class you can have everything all prepped ahead of time with no surprises. You also have to know your limitations sometimes too, school is what I am here for so I work around it. I would highly encourage anyone to go for it if they are thinking about it.

LM: Tell us (without breaking any privacy rights) a little bit about The Dragon's Den and your experience on the show.

DW: The experience that Alana and I had in Toronto was great! The support of the Saint Mary's University, the Commerce department, and the Saint Mary's Business Development Center was a huge asset to us getting there. There was a lot of prep for the show, we had to initially audition for it here in Halifax. Then after we made the final cut of the Halifax auditions, we were given access to a few webinars that really helped prepare you for making your pitch successful. Then we talked quite a bit to the producers to discuss what we were going to do, what we were going to wear, and how we had to set up our presentation to work within the strengths and limitations of television. Just before we left for Toronto, we had a mock Dragon's Den with a few local business people and profs from the SMU Commerce department experienced with venture capitalism. We then adjusted ourselves

accordingly and boarded the plane for Toronto. While there we worked hard rehearsing our pitch with advice fresh in our minds and showed up to CBC studios on the 6th of June. While waiting we got to see a few familiar faces of TV walking around, such as George Stroumboulopoulos walking around with his producer several times, an interview conducted with Salaman Rushdie near the Royal Canadian Air Farce dressing rooms, and the props from old children's shows like Mr. Dressup. When it came to conducting the actual taping we were set and prepared. The tension on the set is not as thick as the show leads you to believe, and the Dragons are actually quite kind and respectful, especially Kevin O'Leary who they paint as the ruthless one. The outcome was decided there by the Dragons, and we cannot state what had happened until the our segment airs sometime this season. We will be given a week's notice before the show airs, and when that happens we will let everyone know to tune in.

Special thanks to Dawson for taking time to talk with us about his business. Do you have a business you would like to see spotlighted? Contact business.smujournal@gmail.com today!



This editor was booted into shape during our interview with Mr. Wambolt

Photos courtesy of: Alana Green and Dawson Wambolt

From Cannabis to Cures

Laura MacIntosh

Students at the University of Tirana have set their sights on the hostile environment of Lazarat, Albania. Commonly known by today's standards as a violent epicenter for cannabis cultivation, Lazarat is plagued with civil unrest between villagers and police units.

In its prime, before the political and economic unrest of the 1990's, Lazarat was home to a secure market of medicinal and aromatic herbs. Unrest collapsed the local markets, leaving the villagers resorting to growth of illegal drugs for economic stability.

Students from the University of Tirana's SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) team saw an opportunity for economic growth and increased safety in the area. After meeting with community leaders, the local government and SIFE team created a plan to help villagers grow medicinal and aromatic herbs once again. The SIFE team's first step was to teach business skills within the community so the farmers could make better informed business decisions; this included the students' gaining extensive knowledge of appropriate cultivation methods for the area.

The team found several

companies willing to sign 5-year contracts in the region, exporting crops all over Europe and the USA. With 60 farmers currently involved, the initiative grossed total revenues of \$433,000 USD and a net income of more than \$300,000 USD.

Thanks to the initiatives success, it is undergoing its second year of operation, with more families jumping on board to grow legal herbs. The participating families have seen huge changes in interactions with authorities in the area; from torching of crops in the past to economic assistance and aid. Bridges to the area have been rebuilt along with moral character, in hopes that the next generation will be able to lead healthier, wealthier lives.

This is just one of many ways students around the world are making a difference on a global scale. Great job and continued success to the Tirana team.



Photo credit: http://www.sife.org/connection_newsletter/images/Albania_1.jpg

Win \$10,000 with ACE

Jennifer Falzon and Rebecca Flood

If you are a successful entrepreneur attending a Canadian university or college full time, or you know someone who is, now is the time to submit your nomination for the 2009 National Student Entrepreneur Competition, operated by ACE and proudly presented by CIBC.

The National Student Entrepreneur Competition celebrates the commitment, determination and achievements of student entrepreneurs. Through this annual program, ACE and CIBC create a platform for young business leaders to network with like-minded students, showcase their business on a regional and national stage to top executives, receive relevant training and leverage valuable mentorship opportunities to accelerate the growth of their business.

"This is an incredible opportunity for student entrepreneurs to gain exposure for their businesses and to network with a group of like-minded, successful entrepreneurs," explains Amy Harder, President of ACE. "We strongly encourage all student entrepreneurs to come forward and apply for the unique opportunity to showcase their business on a

provincial, regional, national and international stage."

Nominations and self nominations will be accepted starting Tuesday September 9, 2008 on www.acecanada.ca, and will close on Friday, December 12, 2008. The competition is open to full-time students at Canadian universities or colleges who are running their own businesses.

Twelve provincial champions will be named in January 2009, earning the right to represent their province at one of three regional competitions held in Calgary, Halifax and Toronto. Regional champions will then move on to the final round of competition taking place at the ACE National Exposition, May 4 to 6, 2009 in Toronto.

Each provincial champion will receive complimentary lodging and travel to attend their regional event. Regional champions will receive a \$1,000 cash prize plus complimentary lodging and travel to the ACE National Exposition, and the national champion will receive a \$10,000 cash prize. If eligible, he or she will also represent Canada at the 2009 Global Student Entrepreneur Awards, operated by En-

trepreneurs' Organization (EO).

To be eligible for the award, students and their businesses must meet the following criteria:

-Be a full-time undergraduate and/or graduate student at a Canadian university or college for the 2008-2009 academic year

-Be a founder and have at least 50 per cent ownership of the company and be responsible for its operation

-Have been in business for at least the past six months

-Have not competed in the final round of the National Student Entrepreneur Competition in the past

Award timeline

-Tuesday September 9, 2008: Nominations/self nomination open



AMHERST

Amherst Centre Mall
142 South Albion Street
669-3388

DARTMOUTH

121 Ilsley Ave.
468-3388

Mic Mac Mall
466-3388

Penhorn Mall
463-3388

GREENWOOD

Greenwood Mall
936 Central Ave.
760-3399

HALIFAX

201 Chain Lake Dr.
455-3388

5693 Spring Garden Rd.
492-3388

NEW MINAS

County Fair Mall
9256 Commercial St.
681-3388

SACKVILLE

405 Sackville Dr.
865-3388

SYDNEY

484 Grand Lake Rd.
564-9400

TRURO

Truro Mall
893-2288

YARMOUTH

Yarmouth Mall
742-3388



HALIFAX

Rogers Video
16 Denith Rd.
477-8848

ANTIGONISH

Motion Communications
19A James St. Plaza
836-5888

BEDFORD

Excellular Communications
752 Bedford Hwy.
457-1144

BRIDGEWATER

World of Wireless
533 King St.
543-6363

DARTMOUTH

Rogers Video, Cole Harbour
4 Forest Hills Parkway
435-5696

Rogers Video, Woodlawn
114 Woodlawn Rd.
433-0994

LIVERPOOL

Memory Lane
1 Gorham St.
354-5486

NEW GLASGOW

Motion Communications
60 Archimedes St.
752-5888

PICTOU

Motion Communications
239 West River Rd.
485-5888

SACKVILLE

Rogers Video
857 Sackville Drive
252-3351

WINDSOR

Sam's Cellular Service
40 Water St.
798-2025

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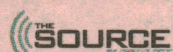
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