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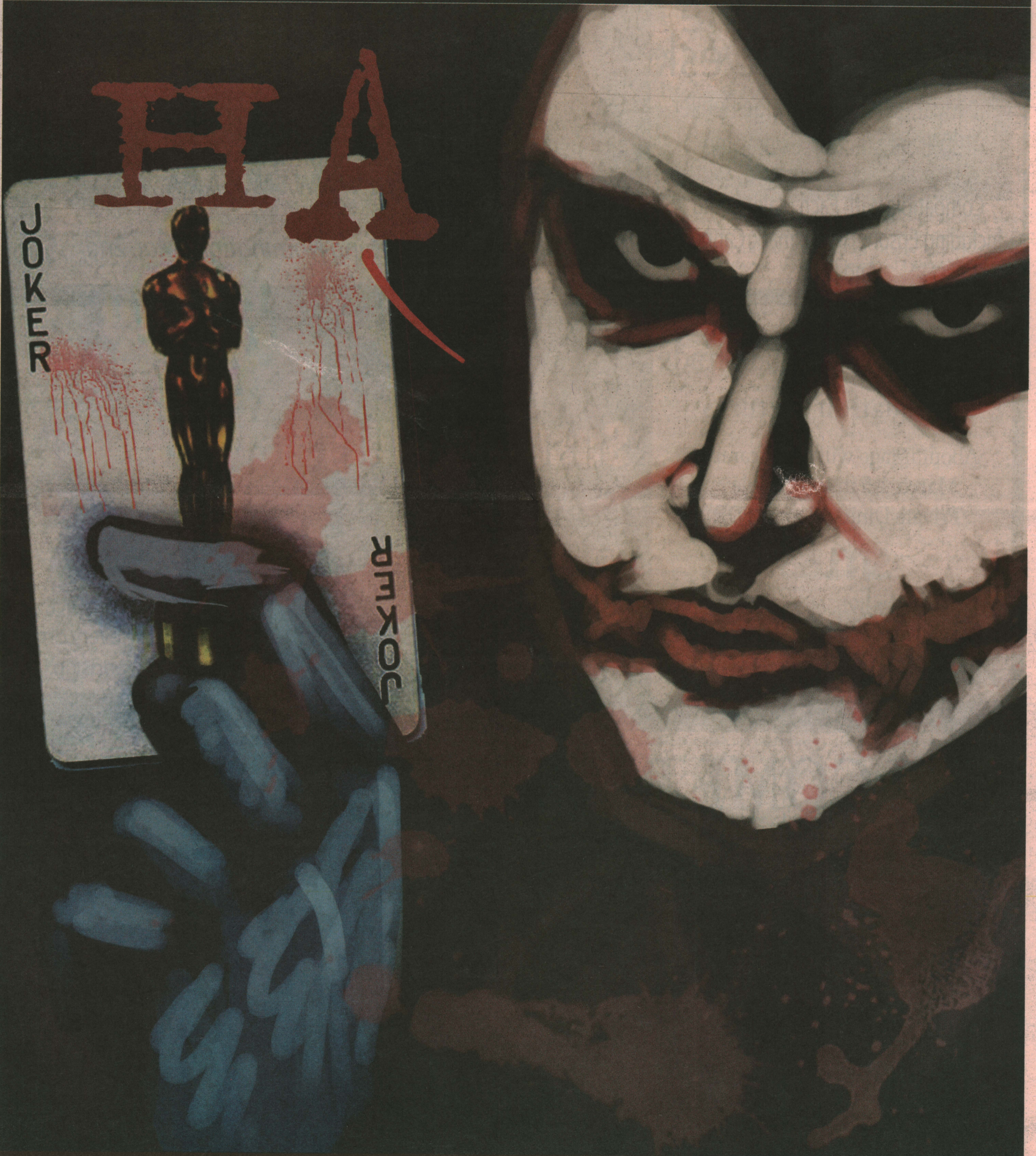
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THE JOURNAL

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



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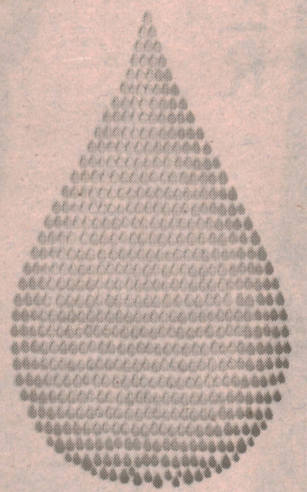
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Letter From the Editor ROCK MY WARDROBE

LAURA MACINTOSH
Editor-in-Chief

It's so hard to dress with a little funk in this town. Thankfully we have Rock Candy, but most of this town is devoid of indie female trends.

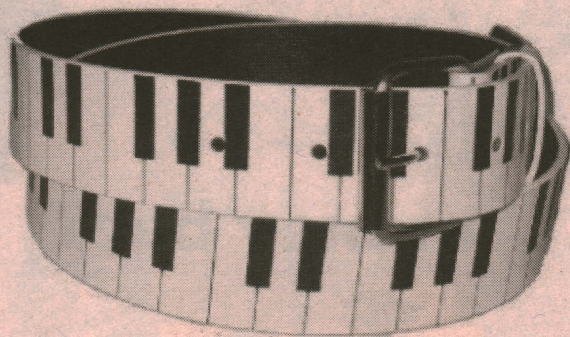
While traveling over break, I found even the little steel town that could had some fantastic shops for the funky within. Yes... I spent a few days of my break in Hamilton, and I can tell you the only fun thing was the indie and rock shopping.

Across from my hotel (which was beyond sketchy) was the never ending boutique of Rock N' Tees. As you would expect there were plenty of rock band tees, from ACDC to Zepplin and everything you could imagine in between. What was shocking was the set-up; the t-shirts hung from the ceiling because there was no room on the ground.

The floor was covered in amazing shoes, belts, stickers, etc., everything you need to rock out your wardrobe. From the Dropkick Murphy's tees and Cobain dress shirts

goes beyond most; from fancy party shoes to sneakers I love them all! Working in a fancy shoe store for 2 years was a hazard on my bank account, and I have actually managed to quench my desire for the pretty heels (for now). But walking into that store in Hamilton, my credit card cringed a little. From MK boots to band printed Vans, I was in heaven.

The Kiss Vans were definitely the sweetest Vans I'd ever laid my eyes on, black and purple with Gene and the gang rocking out on the sides, but the most amazing collection was the Chucks. You may have noticed where I said purple velvet earlier... I wasn't lying. Plaid, floral, rainbow, Ozzy Osbourne, pretty much any Chuck you could imagine in low, mid or hightop waiting just for you. I picked up a pair of red gold filigree and walked away before maxing my



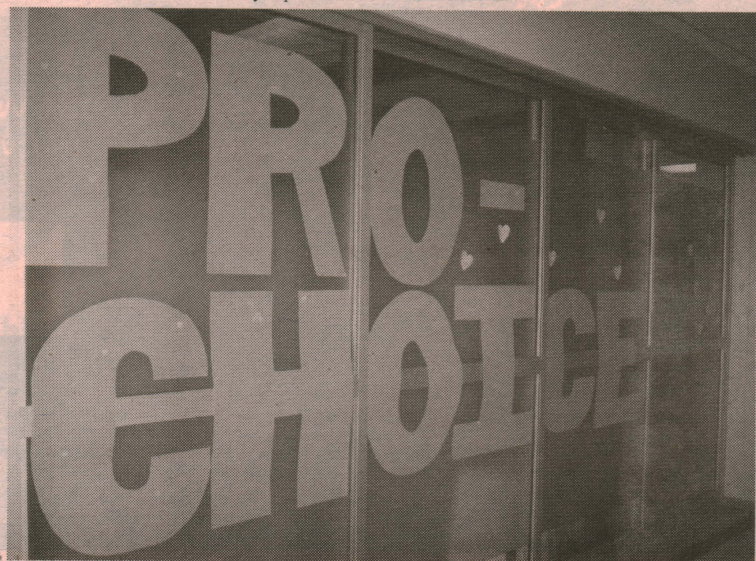
to the red patent studded boots and purple velvet chucks; Rock N' Tees made me believe there's still a chance for my style.

The belts were great, I picked up an Elton John inspired piano key belt and gold batman buckle. I could have easily spent my life savings in this place, but since I couldn't decide I took the old style TapOut top and left a few behind that I'll have to order; one of the Heath Ledger Joker selection, something Ramones and maybe a Beatles top. The most entertaining thing for me (a no brainer for those who know me) was the shoes. Now I'll admit I have a shoe obsession that

credit limits. The Converse selection had Chuck Taylors best, from current and past seasons, including a few "The Who" and "Ramones" left from Taylors rock band series.

What's more is this type of store was fairly common in Hamilton; not to the extreme awesomeness of Rock N' but even the corner stores had a sick selection from Angles and Airwaves to classic Green Day and beyond. Halifax needs stores like this! Importing from online is so expensive these days and good shoes are always hard to find. Someone please rock my wardrobe around here!

Piano Key Belt: <http://cn1.kaboodle.com>
Ozzy inspired Chucks: www.converse.com



PERSPECTIVES

THE LENTEN SEASON

MARLON SOLIS
Art Director

Starting this Ash Wednesday the Catholic community, as well as other Christian denominations, begin the Lenten season. This forty-day liturgical season is where Catholics all around the world begin their own month of fasting and prayer to represent the time Jesus Christ endured Satan's temptation in the desert. To most Catholics, the practice of fasting and abstinence is slowly being forgotten. Others brand it as the Christian "Ramadhan". Though, it may be similar with Ramadhan, it differs greatly in the traditions and customs that are practiced. This season allows many of its believers to reflect on the suffering of Jesus Christ and to respect God's love for his people.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the season where followers are given the sign of the cross with ashes on their forehead. Throughout the centuries many cultures have commemorated the beginning of the season through traditions aimed at taking advantage of all the vices they are to give up during the forty days. One example is Mardi Gras (fat Tuesday) celebrated in many predominately Catholic nations such as France, Brazil, and parts of the US such as in New Orleans. Traditionally, the season last forty days where Christians take up three traditional practices. One is through prayer to symbolize justice towards God, fasting to symbolize justice towards oneself, and almsgiving to symbolize justice towards their neighbours. In the Eastern Orthodox faith Lent is a season of grief, or also known as the season of "Bright Sadness" where there is a sorrowful reflection on the passion of Jesus Christ.

During the season there are several holy days that mark an event in the last days of Jesus Christ. Laestere Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent which commemorates the miracle of the loaves and fish where Jesus supposedly fed 5000 people with only

five loaves of bread and two fish. The fifth Lenten Sunday is known as Passion Sunday which marks the beginning of the Passiontide weeks. During these weeks all crucifixes and images are veiled in violet cloth and they are done so until the end of Good Friday. The veil represents how Jesus hid from persecution. Palm Sunday marks the last week of the Lenten season and it commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem days before his crucifixion where he was welcomed by palm leaves. Palm Leaves endured through the centuries where Catholics during Palm Sunday attend mass carrying palm leaves. Finally, Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Christ with his disciples. Following the next day is Good Friday, where Christians remember his crucifixion and burial. A certain proportion of Catholics perform the seven-church Pilgrimages, (sometimes nine-churches in other parts of the world) which Catholic families venture together to seven churches in their community and pray in front of two of the fourteen Stations of the Cross. These Stations are a series of images depicting the progression of Jesus' crucifixion; this is also known by Catholics as the "Way of the Cross." Easter Sunday, the most important day in the Christian liturgical year marks the end of the holy week and honours the resurrection of Jesus's body and soul into heaven where it symbolizes the opening of the Gates of Heaven and the closing of the Gates of Hell.

The Lenten Season has been one of the oldest Christian traditions that is in danger of being obsolete in our post-modern world. Branding it as a Christian Ramadhan seems to suggest that more people are aware of Ramadhan than Lent. Lent has always been more than giving up something you enjoy doing, and Easter has always been more than chocolate eggs and bunnies. Both emphasize the divine importance of love and harmony which are values the Christian faith was founded upon.

WHAT ABOUT MY CHOICE?

ANONYMOUS
Submission

After the recent Jose Ruba talk in Burke, several disturbing things have happened. First off, everyone was threatening everyone else (of the involved parties); so many hurtful insults and actions were thrown around it left me sickened by the state of our university. Second, areas of the school became like battlegrounds; the chaplaincy office and the 5th floor of the Student Centre were like headquarters in war or something. It was incredibly uncomfortable for many students, on both sides of the pro-life/choice debate.

Why has the university stood by and let our campus be torn apart by these things? "...cooler heads will prevail..." is a big assumption, when a week after the event tensions only seemed to rise.

Then we had the Women's Centre's attack of post-its... "pro-women pro-choice", "pro-life men have got to go", "no hate speech" just a few of the slogans that were strewn about campus on heart shaped post-it notes. Not on the accepted boards, not approved by SMUSA or the University, just thrown out there to be a bomb to your mind. If you didn't get the statement maybe you ventured to the 5th floor of the SUB before break and had your mind atom bombed by the massive pro-choice campaign that now decors the Women's Centre. I

went to discuss my thoughts with the Centre, which was closed... and was blown away by just how improper our "centre for all women" really is. Since there was no one at the Centre, I'll discuss my opinions here and hope I get a response.

The Women's Centre's mandate is to be supportive and accepting to all women... clearly they are failing. Many pro-choice women would rather stick a coat hanger in their womb than head to the 5th floor right now, how does that support all women? How do the post-its or this massive anti-life campaign accept all women? Does the Centre only care to support and be accepting of those who are like them?

I've never felt right heading to the Women's Centre, now it's even worse. I've always had weird looks thrown my way by reps of the Centre, and there are only two people who have never stared me down so hard I left when walking into the Centre. Now, as a pro-choice woman... the glares are harder... and yes I said pro-choice. I feel even more estranged from the place where I'm supposed to feel at home, because I don't agree with the actions of the protestors at the talk.

Take a look at your mandate Women's Centre... and stop making so many female students feel ostracized when they head up to the 5th floor of the SUB!

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DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE ISSUES BEHIND THE CURTAIN

ANNA PEARCE
Student

I'm very frustrated to see the issues raised by the talk "Echoes of the Holocaust", the protests against this talk, and the subsequent decision by the university to end the talk as a "Freedom of Speech" issue. This is how the Center for Bioethical Reform chooses to distract people from the true problems with their actions and activities.

Amongst other things, freedom of speech does not guarantee one a quiet and complacent audience, and thus protest - loud as it may be (but not "violent", despite the way it's being presented) - is not violating anyone's freedoms. The University does not owe anyone a soap box for any view, especially after the Center for Bioet-

hical Reform ignored the agreement to not show violent or disturbing images on university property. SMU is still a private institution, and will always have the right to say who can be on campus, and when. To make it more clear, if the newspaper does not choose to publish my letter, they aren't censoring me. They don't owe me column inches.

But, as I said, this is a smoke screen. It's distracting you from the real issues. Framing this in "freedom" language ignores what we should be talking about.

Such as, what was the Catholic Chaplaincy (which is around to serve "all students" in an "interfaith community") doing inviting a predominately Catholic audience to a talk that co-opts the Jewish Holocaust to make

a political point?

Or, should a group of white middle to upper class Canadians adopt images of poor Black Americans being lynched to make a political point?

How about whether or not it's okay for a group of men - the speaker, the Chaplain, and the two "bosses" of the Pro-Life group on campus - to cast an indeterminate number of female students at Saint Mary's as Nazis and Lynchers?

That is what they're doing by presenting themselves as oppressed by a "mob" of pro-choice individuals.

They don't want you to think about what they are *saying* in their talk - that women are just like Nazis, that it's okay to use images of other groups' horrors in order to score a political point, that this is somehow a "debate" that we *should* be having, because otherwise their freedom of speech is being violated.

They are distracting you from the core issue - The Center for Bioethical Research chooses to use inflammatory images to upset people, and then are shocked (shocked!) when people are inflamed by

them. If they wanted a "debate" about "issues" they would have asked for one.

It is telling to me that they didn't. They want to distract you. Don't let them. Look at what they are saying, and (perhaps more importantly) *how they are saying it*, and who they are willing to step on in their effort to make you believe they're oppressed. Thank you.

BELIEVE WHAT YOU WILL

JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor

Normally this isn't the type of article I write for The Journal on a weekly basis but I feel an exception can be made in the case of something I really need to get off my chest and share with everyone else.

First off let's define a few terms. According to Dictionary.com, "Opinion" is defined as: a belief or judgement that rests on grounds insufficient to produce complete certainty - OR - a personal view, attitude, or appraisal - OR- the formal expression of a professional judgement: to ask for a second medical opinion -OR- Law: the formal statement by a judge or court of the reasoning and the principles of law used in reaching a decision of a case - OR - a judgement or estimate of a person or thing with respect to character, merit, etc.: to forfeit someone's good opinion - OR- a favourable estimate; esteem: I haven't much of an opinion of him. For the purposes of this article we will confine ourselves to the first 2 definitions. Also as defined By Dictionary.com; Belief; something believed; an opinion or conviction: a belief that the earth is flat - OR - confidence in the truth or existence of something not immediately susceptible to rigorous proof: a statement unworthy of belief - OR - confidence; faith; trust: a child's belief in his parents - OR- a religious tenet or tenets; religious creed or faith: the Christian belief. Again for the purposes of this article we will restrict ourselves to the first 2 definitions. Now that those cumbersome definitions are out of the way please remember what they mean and recognize that opinion and belief will be used interchangeably in the course of this piece.

Next I would like to share a personal world view. As I see it, everyone in the world has opinions and beliefs pertaining to every subject between the sky and earth. Kudos to everyone for believing in something; that just proves you're a free-thinking human with a brain that still works well enough to process thoughts more complex than "Where's the beer?" We have all been told that to hold and share an opinion is a mainstay of human rights and freedoms, that we must stand up and have our opinions heard, that to be able to express your opinion is what makes us special in this oh so crazy world. To this I say great. However; as great as it is that you all have an opinion, there must be caution exercised when voicing your opinion.

What kind of caution you might ask; caution to not shove your beliefs down the throat of someone who may not want to feel the same way about something as you do.

Throughout history, forcing beliefs onto people has been what people have done best, with the rise and fall

of the most powerful empires and religions owing to it. But imagine what society would be like if everyone took a little bit of time and followed these simple suggestions (take them or leave them, these are how I feel people should interact).

First suggestion; Think. Before you get up on your soap box and start belting your opinion out for the whole world to hear, take a moment and think. Ask yourself, does what I am saying make sense? Is it potentially offensive? Is it a well thought out argument? Is it based on facts, feelings or both? What kind of reception is it likely to get? Who am I expressing this opinion to?

Second suggestion; Feel. Since primary, students have been told to put themselves in another person's shoes and do to them what you would have them do to you. Frankly the rules for positing a belief are identical; try to see the other side of your own argument and try to feel the impact it would have on you if someone were pushing their belief at you like you may likely be doing to them.

Third suggestion; Reciprocate. If after the first two suggestions you still feel you are in the position to express your opinion, have the courtesy to allow other people to reciprocate and give you their own point of view. Who knows you might learn something.

What this whole thing really boils down to is being courteous, thoughtful and compassionate to people in your everyday life. You are more than welcome to give your thoughts but why not try and express them in a way that is non offensive and gives the person a chance to rebut your argument with their own. I am not saying you have to be perfect all the time, but at least try; that's all we can ask.

Now certainly some of you are beginning to think that I am an optimist and think that everyone can just get along all the time and nobody would ever be offended if we all just took time to let others express themselves and gave it careful consideration. I know this isn't possible. I also know that wars have been started over differing beliefs and opinions. To this I say why? At some point in their lives everyone has been wrong. Is it so hard to accept this? Why must a war be begun because you think one thing and I think another? It would be my wish in the future to see people accept differences for what they are; the things that make us unique and not what current society holds them as. The things that tear us apart.

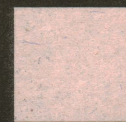
As a final request, plea, call it what you will, everyone stop trying to be right, stop trying to subscribe to the "right" system of beliefs and opinions. Just believe in what makes you happy and let everyone around you do the same.

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NEWS

Newsfeed

On February 22nd, Canada celebrated its 100th anniversary of manned flight. The first manned flight in Canada was the flight of the Silver Dart in Baddeck, Nova Scotia. The Dart was designed by Alexander Graham Bell and its flight was the first successful flight in the British Empire. A planned re-enactment of the historic battle between the British and the French on the Plains of Abraham was cancelled by organizers. The event was marred by threats from Quebec separatists who threatened violence. Many Quebec nationalists believe that the event marks the conquest of an independent Quebec to British Colonial rule, rather than a transfer of power from French rule to British rule.

Binyam Mohamed, a resident of Britain, arrived in Britain from Guantanamo Bay on Monday. Mr. Binayam had been in U.S. custody for eight years for various charges of terrorism, but charges against him were dropped several months ago. He is not expected to face any legal action once he arrives in Britain and will likely be a free man. Mr. Mohamed claims that he was held for a time in Afghanistan where American and British intelligence agents tortured him. Mr. Mohamed's case contrasts with that of Canadian Omar Khadr's, as the British government has been lobbying for Mr. Mohamed's return for a year and a half, while the Canadian government has pursued a policy of non-involvement when dealing with Mr. Khadr's case.

The Conservatives have recently shown that their policy may be changing in regards to Khadr. Stephen Harper has stated that as long as Khadr faces charges they will not ask for him back, however Barack Obama has ordered 120-day suspension of all charges. In light of this announcement the Canadian Government has said they are now reassessing Khadr's situation.

Right-Winger Binyamin Netanyahu has been chosen to form the next Israeli government. Netanyahu's party came in second in overall votes in Israel but has enough support from other right-wing parties to form a coalition government. Netanyahu is against the two-state solution to peace with Palestine and supports increasing the number of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, which is Palestinian territory.

Terry Marriott Jr., a man with connections to Halifax's Marriott crime family has been found shot dead in a bungalow in Halifax. This shooting is the latest in a series of violent crimes which have happened since Jimmy Melvin Jr., of the Melvin crime family, had charges against him dropped after a witness recanted their testimony. Since then there have been numerous shootings, including one which took place at the IWK Children's Hospital.

OBAMA COMES TO CANADA, HARPER GOES TO THE U.S.



JEFF CUSACK
News Editor

Barack Obama came to Canada last Thursday to talk politics with Stephen Harper. The appearance of such an enormously well-liked figure did not go unnoticed by the Canadian people. Much to the chagrin of the Secret Service, a large crowd of onlookers was allowed to gather on Parliament Hill to watch the President's limo arrive. The President went further off the plan when he walked out of Parliament to wave at the onlookers, many of which later reported that he was waving specifically at them.

Obama and the Prime Minister talked about issues such as Afghanistan and the Economy, and reportedly had a very congenial meeting. Obama also likely spoke with the Prime Minister about our country's banking system. Canada's banks have been receiving international attention for being able to withstand the current recession; we are the only G-7 nation not to have a bank fail in the last 18 months. During the last World Eco-

conomic Forum Canada's banks were rated as the best in the world and the Royal Bank of Canada has replaced Citibank -the world's largest financial institution- as the world's most capitalized bank. Paul Volcker, a close adviser to Obama on financial matters, has been pushing for more regulated model of banking in America which is inspired by the Canadian system. The United States currently has a decentralized system of banking regulation while the Canadian banking system has its regulations updated every twelve years.

Obama also spoke with opposition leader Michael Ignatieff -it is tradition for the President to speak to our opposition leaders- in an airport hanger before he left the country. The meeting with Ignatieff was scheduled to only go for 15 minutes, but the two spoke for 35 minutes before ending the meeting. Obama reportedly told Ignatieff that he has read some of the opposition leader's eighteen books and enjoyed them.

Immediately after arriving in Canada Obama was greeted by Governor General Michaëlle Jean, who

discussed with him the plight of her native Haiti. The President expressed interest in helping Haiti, and invited the Governor General to Washington to discuss the matter with him further, an invitation not extended to the Prime Minister. Obama also said that he would like to return to Canada again with his family, and see Jean again. Although Obama was to only talk with Jean for 10 minutes he spent 30 minutes with our head-of-state.

Before leaving Canada, Obama took a detour to a local market in Ottawa to looking for a snow-globe for his daughter, who collects them. The President could not find a snow globe (although there was plenty of snow on the ground), and instead bought several cookies. He also bought a Beaver Tail (called an Obama-Tail for the day), although his reaction to the treat was less than enthusiastic.

On Monday Harper was in the United States meeting with United Nations Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon about problems with the mission in Afghanistan and with international business leaders.

ATLANTIC ENGINEERING COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS DO SAINT MARY'S PROUD!

Laura Weeden,
Engineering Society President

Saint Mary's entered four teams this year to participate in the Atlantic Engineering Competition in Halifax, February 6th-8th. The competition includes such events as debate, team design, communications, and marketing engineering. It included most Atlantic Universities, with such competitors as DAL, UNB, CBU, UPEI, UdeM, and Acadia. Saint Mary's made history claiming two 1st place positions and one 3rd. We had two junior teams, one senior team and a communications team.

For the extended version of this article visit www.smujournal.ca/

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ANTI-OSCAR VIDEO PICKS

RESSA PETERS
Writer

For those of you who hate the pomp and circumstances of the biggest awards in the movie biz (or those who've seen all the films) here are some unconventional video picks:

The Underdog triumph of *Slumdog Millionaire*'s win left smiles on many faces on Sunday night. For some, however, the film was a little too cheesy, too feel-good. Why not try the feel-bad movie of the year? Michael Haneke's *Funny Games*. No sweeping love stories or life-changing inspiration here – just torture. Tim Roth and Naomi Watts both give great performances that would probably earn nominations if they were acting in another movie. If this movie makes you feel good, don't tell anyone. They might ask you to seek help.

Everyone saw Brad Pitt act as a man baby turned baby man in *The*

Curious Case of Benjamin Button, but did you see him jogging around with frosted hair as a gym-bunny in *Burn After Reading*? After 20 years of ignoring the Coen Brothers for making their odd, violent movies, the Academy gave the best picture to *No Country for Old Men* in 2008. Then,



FUNNY GAMES
BREAK THE RULES.

they went right back to ignoring them and the Coens went back to making the same weird, awesome movies. This movie is hilarious and bloody and you'll never look at a rowing chair the same way again.

MYERS' 'LOVE GURU' TAKES HOME 3 RAZZIE AWARDS

JEAN BRUNET
sizzlingpopcorn.com

Tonight, the worst films of the year were dis-honored at the 29th annual RAZZIE awards ceremonies in Hollywood, California. To kick off the evening, a trio of females performed "RAZZIE Queen", a parody ABBA's "Dancing Queen", which is featured on the *Mama Mia!* soundtrack. The event continued to bash the worst films in a humorous fashion.

Canadian comedian Mike Myers' not-so-funny *Love Guru* won Worst Picture, Worst Actor and Worst Screenplay awards. Paris Hilton's two not-so-hot movies, *The Hot Chick* and *The Notting Hill* and *Repo: The Genetic Opera*, helped the actress pick up the RAZZIE for Worst Actress, Worst Supporting Actress and Worst Screen Couple (Hilton matched with either Christine Lakin or Joel David Moore). No so surprisingly, Pierce Brosnan was awarded the RAZZIE for Worst Supporting Actor for his role in *Mama Mia!* I personally think he needs to take a few more singing lessons before he tries to act in another musical. Harrison Ford's *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal*

Skull received the award for Worst Prequel, Remake, Rip-off, or Sequel. Finally, German director Uwe Boll was given the Worst Director RAZZIE for his works on 1968: *Tunnel Rats*, *In the Name of the King* and *Postal*. He was also given the Worst Career Achievement award, which he did respond to on his official website. Here's what he had to say:

"All my three 2008 movies are nominated — this...shows that my genius comes more and more into its peak stadium!: In the Name of the King [is] an epic masterpiece, with tons of stars like Jason Statham... *Tunnelrats* [makes] Clint Eastwood's bullshit *Letters To Two...* whatever the f*%\$ the title was of that movie [look like] an amateur clip by brain-washed patriots... and of course, *Postal*, where Dave Foley [and] Verne Troyer get raped by 1000 monkeys! I never won a RAZZIE...but this year, I'm sure that there is no way around Uwe Boll, so that finally I [will] get the award I deserve!"

Uwe also responded to the achievement award through a video of him in Darfur, which I am currently working on getting the rights to show on sizzlingpopcorn.com

SCOTT PILGRIM MOVIE GETS RACEY

DAWN DAVIS
A & E Editor

Filming is in production for the Scott Pilgrim movie in Toronto, where the comic made by a (briefly) Haligonian is going to hit big. The cast is chosen, and the main characters have been trained in Kung-Fu and Karate. Stunt doubles are being selected for dangerous scenes, and the film is on the way!

Meanwhile, the choice in casting

for Wallace Wells is being heckled by fans of the comic. Scott's gay roommate is being played by American Kieran Culkin (brother of the infamous Macaulay Culkin) from films such as *Igby Goes Down*. Supposedly, many fans had understood Wallace to be Asian (which region depends on who you talk to.) The internet erupted with claims of racial insensitivity on behalf of Edgar Wright, director. "Not looking terribly ASIAN though is he? Way to be prejudiced," com-

mented one fan. In the meantime, series creator Bryan Lee O'Malley has never stated or implied that Wallace was supposed to be Asian.

With his hair shaded darkly and with smaller than average eyes, one can see why the assumption could be drawn. However, if it was important, I like to believe that O'Malley would have stepped in about the casting.

Scott Pilgrim vs. The Universe was released on February 2nd. Good luck trying to find a copy!

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS HEAD TO THE ECMAS!

DAWN DAVIS
A & E Editor

For the first three months of every year, the radio stations and television channels are flooded with award shows. Soon, the Maritimes will get one of our own – the ECMAs. This year, the ECMAs will be taking place from February 26th to March 1st, and SMU student (and previous Journal contributor) Trevor Murphy will be attending with his nominated band, The Sleepless Nights.

After growing up together in an Acadian community in Yarmouth, three members of The Sleepless Nights knew each other, but had no idea about the relationship they would eventually form. "This is actually a very interesting band because it takes on various incarnations over time." Trevor told me in an interview over the break. "Aaron [Wallace, singer] started the band five years ago, and when it first started it was him and his girlfriend at the time, and a bass player. The point of the band was to play music as slow as possible, so the original Sleepless Nights was sort of a country band." Trevor moved to Halifax to first earn a degree in Journalism from Kings, and his best friend "Pinky" (Josh Pothier, drums) moved to the city about a year later. "He moved in with Aaron because we knew Aaron from High School. Aaron was the guy who had all of the bands. He was one of the only people. Aaron was Indie Rock kid... When we grew up, nobody knew what Indie Rock was, and it definitely wasn't cool. So Pinky moved in with Aaron, and it just happened out of the blue that Pinky and I started playing with Aaron and his girlfriend at the time. That started off the core of the band." And Sleepless Nights has been fluctuating ever since. "At one point we were a seven-piece band with two drummers, two bass players, two guitar players and a synth player. It's an open-door policy. People come and people go, and the

songs are always still there, and it's still Aaron's band."

So what inspires them? "This band is all over the map for influences. I did an interview before our last tour, on our first cross-Canada tour in November. I did an interview for CBC radio out in Vancouver. And the show asked me what kind of music we're listening to in our van when we're travelling, and I said "you would be surprised." We listen to everything from metal to dance music to really epic instrumental music. It's really all over the map, a lot of Hip Hop and stuff." And yet, The Sleepless Nights continue to perform Alternative Rock. "Rock and Roll is fun. We're a Rock and Roll band straight up. When you listen to the music, in terms of the arrangements, a lot of them are coming from an extensive background knowledge in things like Hip Hop, Stadium Rock. It all gets incorporated into our music. The way our music is arranged is a lot like a modern pop position instead of Rock and Roll songs. When we were a seven-person band we would double up on everything, and it wasn't just this huge wall of noise. Everybody was doing something different, and it was a really meticulous process which makes it really interesting. Maybe that's one of the reasons we stick around – because it gets so interesting sometimes. And the songs are awesome. I can tell you that since I don't write them, but I really like the songs, and they're really fun."

How does Trevor manage a band, an honours thesis, a job, and a girlfriend? "Very, very meticulously," he says. "I would like to tell you that I have a million calendars, and I manage all the calendars, but that wouldn't be true. I know what I have to do, and I do it. The thing about me is that I'm really committed to doing everything I want to do. I really like school, I'm a really big nerd, so I'm going to do school. But I really love music, so I'm going to do music and I'll find a way to balance them. And the job is just necessary because I need to pay bills until the band starts paying for my bills, which hopefully someday it will."

So what would it take for him to drop everything and commit himself totally to Sleepless Nights? "I'll be doing my undergrad this year, but next year I've decided that I'm not going. I want to do grad work and eventually teach, but I'm going to take some time and see where the band goes. The thing about being in a band, is that it's good to have high expectations, but you need to keep those expectations realistic. We've learned that over time because we've worked at it and seen people who have been huge dreamers who

never got anywhere. We've always been really realistic with this band, setting absolutely realistic goals, like 'let's make this album, let's go on tour, let's get some press'. The next step now is to just see what happens. Getting nominated for an ECMA is a huge step for us, that gives us a little bit more recognition. I'm not saying that I want to do one or the other, I'm not that kind of a person. I'm going to do both as long as I can possibly do both, and see where the music goes. There's also a lot of other things I want to do, but being in school... I'm almost twenty-five and I've been in school since I was five, so I've been going to school for twenty years. I think I need some time off."

Sleepless Nights has had several music releases, including two CDs, one EP, a 7-inch vinyl and an iTunes-only album. And through their years of life, they are achieving their first ECMA nomination for an alternative recording this year. "As cheesy as it sounds, it's really nice to be nominated. We've been working really hard at this band for the past three years. *Turn Into Vapour* came out in January 2008. We're in a crazy category: everyone who is nominated with us is so good. There's no chance we're going to win, but they're all our peers and we have a lot of respect for them. We don't mind losing to somebody who is really good." As for the ECMAs in general, Trevor says: "before I started doing industry stuff I always thought it would be really boring, but it's the biggest party you've ever been to. The ECMAs, Music Nova Scotia, all that stuff is just four days of solid music and partying. It's incredible. We're in a small town for the most part with all of your musical friends watching each other's bands play for free and you're drinking a lot. How amazing is that?"

After the ECMAs are over, the band will return home and get back to work on their next album. "We're working on a new record. We're old school, so we call albums records. We're recording it right now, so once we get back from the ECMAs, a lot of the time we'll go into that. And hopefully we'll have it out for a September tour."

"I think the bottom line about this band is that it's a lot of fun for all of us, and I consider myself really lucky to be in a band like this because not only are we achieving a moderate amount of success – being nominated for awards, and being recognized, and getting to play for the CBC – but I'm also playing in a band with three of my best friends and we get to drive in a van across the country. What's fucking better than that?"

You can listen to The Sleepless Nights and keep up on them by watching their MySpace page, at www.myspace.com/thesleeplessnights. Don't forget to vote for them as the Fan's Choice at www.ECMA.ca



photo: kyle cunjak

www.cunjak.com

JOKER: A REVIEW



Image source: majorspoilers.com

bles the late Heath Ledger. The art is jagged and the colours are dark and dramatic. It perfectly suits the content of the book, which is sometimes too revealing for comfort. The writing is good and reflects well human curiosity, as well as the strange nature of the Joker. It goes without saying, however, that the Joker is a complicated individual who is not easy to write, and for some reason Bermejo's Joker seems just a few millimetres from centre. In one panel he is depicted crying in the lap of Harley Quinn, which while interesting seems a little bit strange to me. However, the writing is so practised that it's easy to simply sit back and enjoy this violent tale, in spite of its slights. The ups and downs of the friendship (?) grown with the Joker are enough for a read.

Around the internet, opinionated voices have stated that Joker is better than The Killing Joke, written by Alan Moore. I enthusiastically disagree. While the two make interesting companion pieces, I was much more fond of The Killing Joke. The Killing Joke reflects much more on the relationship between the Joker and Batman, while Joker spends a lot of time with the Joker's life of crime and his relationship with Jonny. The Batman is present in Joker, but his role is brief. His day-to-day life is interesting and not always seen when reading Batman, however, and can be appreciated in this book. If you're a fan of Batman or his crazy rival, I definitely recommend Joker. Just make sure you read The Killing Joke, too.

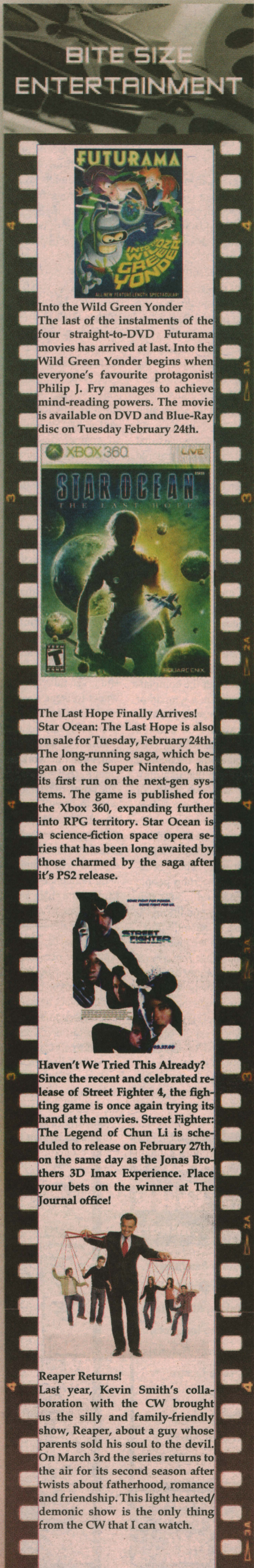
"Yes I was. In it with Joker. Where I'd wanted to be, until I was there. I knew then, I was crazy to want to be like Joker, because he was right – he wasn't crazy." -Jonny

DAWN DAVIS
A & E Editor

Shortly after the blow-out that was The Dark Knight, DC released a volume called Joker, drawn by Lee Bermejo and written by Brian Azarello – author of 100 Bullets. The story follows Jonny Frost, who takes the job to pick up The Joker when he is released from Arkham Asylum.

Eventually, the errand turns into a full-time job. Johnny ends up seeing sides of the Joker only offered in curious, revealing glimpses. And, as with anyone involved with the Joker, he may realize his mistake in getting involved.

Drawn with his cheeks scarred, the visuals are highly influenced (or perhaps did influence) The Dark Knight. Even the Joker's face shape resem-



BITE SIZE ENTERTAINMENT



Into the Wild Green Yonder
The last of the instalments of the four straight-to-DVD Futurama movies has arrived at last. Into the Wild Green Yonder begins when everyone's favourite protagonist Philip J. Fry manages to achieve mind-reading powers. The movie is available on DVD and Blue-Ray disc on Tuesday February 24th.



The Last Hope Finally Arrives!
Star Ocean: The Last Hope is also on sale for Tuesday, February 24th. The long-running saga, which began on the Super Nintendo, has its first run on the next-gen systems. The game is published for the Xbox 360, expanding further into RPG territory. Star Ocean is a science-fiction space opera series that has been long awaited by those charmed by the saga after it's PS2 release.



Haven't We Tried This Already?
Since the recent and celebrated release of Street Fighter 4, the fighting game is once again trying its hand at the movies. Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun Li is scheduled to release on February 27th, on the same day as the Jonas Brothers 3D Imax Experience. Place your bets on the winner at The Journal office!



Reaper Returns!
Last year, Kevin Smith's collaboration with the CW brought us the silly and family-friendly show, Reaper, about a guy whose parents sold his soul to the devil. On March 3rd the series returns to the air for its second season after twists about fatherhood, romance and friendship. This light hearted/demonic show is the only thing from the CW that I can watch.

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THE CRANKY PROFESSOR

Liberal Multiculturalism

MARK MERCER
Columnist

Should a Muslim woman be able to testify in a Canadian court while wearing a veil? Bad question. Here's a better question: Should a witness be able to testify in a Canadian court while wearing a veil?

A judge in Toronto recently ordered that a complainant in a sexual assault case must testify without the veil she normally wears in public. According to the Toronto Star, the judge, Ontario Court Justice Norris Weisman, based his order on his view that the religious belief of the complainant, a Muslim woman, "is not that strong" and that she wears a veil as "a matter of comfort."

That this is his ground suggests that Weisman would not have ordered that the complainant show her face had her belief been strong.

Judge Weisman's reasoning is wrong-headed and dangerous. I don't mean to take issue with his conclusion. Defence counsel had claimed that allowing the complainant to be veiled while testifying would make it difficult for him to question her. Certainly that her being veiled would be unfair to the accused is an excellent reason for the judge to compel her to remove her veil.

Judge Weisman's reasoning is wrong-headed because whether the complainant is a Muslim or not, a woman or not, has nothing to do with the matter whether she should be allowed to wear a veil while testifying. His reasoning is dangerous because it promotes the ugly idea that in a multicultural society we have rights or prerogatives in virtue of our belonging to certain groups.

The matter has nothing to do with religious freedom. In a liberal society, religious freedom is not about securing special rights for certain people who belong to certain religions. It is rather, about creating conditions in which each of us, as an individual, can worship, or not, as we please.

To secure special rights for special groups is to create a society of tribes, not a society of individuals. In such a society, tribal leaders, whether democratically elected to their positions of authority or not, get to set the rules of group membership and to represent the group politically. Our religion, or whatever it is that defines our group, becomes a matter of public interest and public record.

In a liberal society, on the other hand, we have worth and command respect in virtue of our being individual people. Judge Weisman's reasoning is dangerous because it is illiberal, because it implies that our worth and our ability to command respect flow from the groups or the communities to which we belong. For Judge Weisman, one is entitled to have one's wish to wear a veil considered by the court not because one has expressed such a wish, but rather because one might be a member of a religious tradition in which people wear veils.

But, of course, if the witness in this case were to be allowed to wear her veil, then another witness in a similar case should be allowed to wear a veil as well. And, if others are not to wear a veil, then Muslims are not either. It's no business of the court what religion a witness professes or with what degree of severity she lives what she professes.

Now, that some Canadians are Muslim women for whom being veiled in public is important is certainly a reason to investigate the custom of compelling people to testify with one's face bare. If, that is, that custom serves no good end within a system of impartial criminal justice, or no good end within a particular hearing, then we ought to abandon it so people who want to be veiled can be veiled. But given this reasoning, anyone who wants to wear a veil is able to wear one. One does not have to prove or even affirm that one belongs to some tradition in which people wear veils. Canadians generally would have the right to testify while veiled.

The point, of course, is general. Sikhs want to carry kirpans? Well, if it is fine that a Sikh carries one, it is fine that any other Canadian carries one. Or, if only people licenced to carry one may carry one, then Sikhs must acquire licences like everyone else. Multiculturalism in a liberal society requires us to investigate and evaluate the customs and practices of our public spaces, and to change them when they needlessly prevent people from honouring the values they hold dear. But for our society to be a liberal society as well as multicultural, whatever in our public spaces is permitted to one Canadian must be permitted to all Canadians. Unless, that is, we've had enough of liberalism and we don't care anymore whether our public spaces become bureaucratic, capricious, and authoritarian. grade school style!



SMUSA Teaching Excellence Awards Nomination Form 2008-2009

The SMUSA Teaching Excellence Awards are presented to those professors, teaching assistants, and/or other University members who have gone above and beyond their call of duty. Nominees have demonstrated concern and commitment for the quality of student life either within or outside of the classroom setting and have positively affected the learning environment for students. These awards are presented to show gratitude from the students for all the hard work that the nominees have done and to show appreciation of their efforts towards improving the quality of life and educational experiences at Saint Mary's University.

Please use the space provided on the back of this form to indicate why the nominee deserves to receive a SMUSA Award for Teaching Excellence. Please cite specific examples where appropriate of the exemplary performance you have observed.

Please nominate your worthy candidate in one of the following categories

1. Faculty of Arts Teaching Excellence Award

Presented to a full-time or part-time faculty member within the Arts Faculty who has been deemed by the members of the Saint Mary's University Students' Association to embody qualities and characteristics of an excellent educator.

2. Faculty of Commerce Teaching Excellence Award

Presented to a full-time or part-time faculty member within the Commerce Faculty who has been deemed by the members of the Saint Mary's University Students' Association to embody qualities and characteristics of an excellent educator.

3. Faculty of Science Teaching Excellence Award

Presented to a full-time or part-time faculty member within the Science Faculty who has been deemed by the members of the Saint Mary's University Students' Association to embody qualities and characteristics of an excellent educator.

4. Teaching Assistant of the Year Award

Presented to a student whose work has supported the academic environment and who has demonstrated a dedication and commitment to enhancing the teaching/learning experience for students as a classroom TA, lab assistant, writing center tutor, student peer, etc.

5. The SMUSA Award for Overall Excellence in the Field of Education

Presented to a member of the Saint Mary's Community who has undertaken initiatives and/or implemented practices with the sole intent of improving the quality of life and education for students both in and out of the classroom. This person displays selflessness and sincerity in dealing with students and has positively influenced one or many students' academic careers.

Student Information

Name: _____ Student #: _____

Faculty: _____ Year: _____

Nominee Information (You can nominate more than one candidate but please use separate forms)

Name of Nominee: _____

Course(s) taught / area of expertise: _____

Nomination Category: _____

What are the strengths of your nominee in the classroom?

How has your nominee contributed to student life outside the classroom?

How has your nominee affected the overall learning environment at Saint Mary's?

Additional reasons for nomination:

Nomination Deadline: Monday, March 2nd at 5:00pm

Forms may be submitted at the Student Centre Information Desk, the Loyola Residence Desk, the 5th Floor Student Centre, or at various drop off boxes around campus. Forms can also be downloaded at www.smusa.ca and may be emailed to Adam Harris, Vice-President Academic at vpacademic@smusa.ca

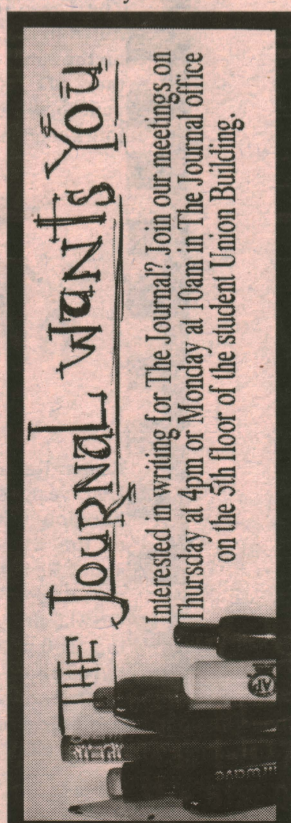
NOMINATE A PROFESSOR FOR THE FATHER STEWART MEDAL

Students, faculty and alumni are invited to honour a deserving Saint Mary's professor with a nomination for The Father William A. Stewart, S.J., Medal for Excellence in Teaching. This award is open to current faculty members who have completed at least five years of teaching service at Saint Mary's and have made an extraordinary contribution to the education of students through teaching in the University's tradition of quality undergraduate education. The gold medal will be presented at the Spring Convocation, and will be followed by a monetary award during Homecoming Weekend. For more information and an application package, please visit www.smu.ca/alumni/recognition. All nominations must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 13, 2009.

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EXCITING NEW DINING EXPERIENCE COMING TO SAINT MARY'S

In the Winter and Spring of 2008 the University reviewed its campus food services and made a decision to go out to the marketplace and invite the various educational food service providers to respond to a proposal for providing food service at Saint Mary's University. A committee was formed consisting of University staff, residence students and representatives from the Saint Mary's University Student's Association. Following a comprehensive review it was decided to select ARAMARK to continue its tradition of providing excellent food service to the University.

Included in the contract was a commitment to renovate and improve existing dining facilities over the next two years. In the summer of 2008 a full service Tim Horton's was introduced in the Colonnade of the Loyola Building and the C-Store was moved to a new location. The new Tim Horton's was enthusiastically received by faculty, staff and students

and has been a welcome addition to food service at the University. Phase Two of the renovations will be undertaken in the summer of 2009 and will include extensive renovations to the Residence Cafeteria (Dockside) and the opening of Just Us Coffee in the Atrium which is scheduled to open in the fall of this year.

Along with a new and improved residence cafeteria, residence students will be introduced to an exciting new meal plan which will replace the existing "Declining Balance Meal Plan". Students have always benefited from the flexibility of the old plan including the ability to eat where and when they choose. The new plan called "All you Care to Eat" maintains some of this flexibility and offers many new advantages and options to students. Students may choose from four meal plans.

The "Freedom Plan" offers maximum flexibility and allows students to enjoy unlimited access to the resi-

dence cafeteria during regular hours of operation (Weekdays: 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM, Weekends/Holidays: 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM). For example, you can eat your three square meals a day plus drop in for coffee and snacks at any time during the day. The "400 Plan" enables entry into the cafeteria for all you care to eat during regular hours of operation 400 times during the school year from September to April. Students on the 14 and 10 Meal Plans will enjoy 14 and 10 "all you care to eat" meals per week during any meal period (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner). Missed meals in any week cannot be "banked" for coming weeks.

These meal plans are designed to be used primarily in the Residence Cafeteria; however, the Freedom, 14 and 10 meal plans provide the student the ability to patronize all food service outlets on campus (Tim Horton's, C-Store, Student Centre Cafeteria, Gorsebrook Lounge and

Just Us) with the inclusion of \$300 flex dollars for the Freedom and 14 Meal plans and \$100.00 for the 10 Meal Plan. The 400 Plan does not include "flex" points but these can be purchased directly from the Food Service Office and are tax exempt. All meal plan holders may purchase additional tax exempt flex dollars as well. All plans include 8 guest passes to the Residence Cafeteria so that residence students may treat friends and family (four per term). Living off-campus? Don't feel left out! You are invited to experience all-you-care-to-eat dining by paying cash at the door or purchasing a voluntary meal plan (See details at <http://www.campusdish.com/en-us/CA/SaintMarys>)

Current students enrolled in the declining balance meal plan will notice some changes next year. Once inside the residence cafeteria students will be able to return for more food as many times as they like; however, students will be encouraged not

to waste food. Students will be able to enjoy the abundance of the "all you care to eat service" but will not be able to take food out of the cafeteria with them. The benefits of the new meal plan are many. Some of the highlights are a greater variety in food choices and food stations where you can create your own meals and try new foods. Some of the worry and guess work about budgeting your meal plan to last for the whole year will be removed. The plan is more sustainable and earth friendly - reusable dishware, less individual portion packs and no disposable trays and dishes.

In the coming weeks students can expect to receive more detailed information and architectural drawings of the renovated cafeteria will be available for viewing in the Dockside. There will be a Q&A session on February 11, 2009 in the Private Dining Room from 6:00 to 7:30 PM and students are welcome to attend.

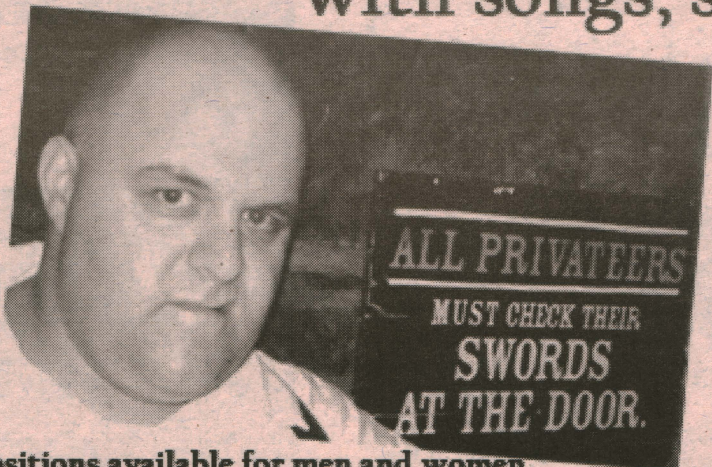


ALEXANDER KEITH'S^{*} NOVA SCOTIA BREWERY



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SCIENCE & BUSINESS

5 ONLINE SCHEMES YOU MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE HEARD OF

NICK SIMARD
Science & Business

The Million Dollar Homepage
<http://www.milliondollarhomepage.com/>

You may remember this crazy idea from a few years back. The premise was that Alex Tew, a 21-year-old student, would sell 1 million pixels (in 10-pixel blocks) for \$1/pixel. The site is atrocious, he hasn't posted any updates in years, but then again why should he? He earned his million, buyers are immortalized on this website and we're all made better people because of it, right? Right? At the time, I really didn't understand why anyone would expect to get any clicks from this site. Years later, I guess I can see how the bigger ads may have

benefitted from being featured there. Either way, this guy thought of it, attempted it, and succeeded. Now he's the founder of PopJam, a mediocre site that allows you to "discover a world of lol". He must be doing something right, though, because he has almost 1500 followers on Twitter.

One Red Paperclip
<http://oneredpaperclip.blogspot.com/>

From the creator's own site: "My name is Kyle MacDonald and I traded one red paperclip for a house. I started with one red paperclip on July 12 2005 and 14 trades later, on July 12, 2006 I traded with the Town of Kipling Saskatchewan for a house located at 503 Main Street." This idea definitely belongs in the category of "I can't believe he did that". According to his (also quite ugly) site, he was

trading the house. The last post was in June of 2008, though. Kyle does have his own personal blog but it's (once again) pretty hideous and I have no desire to actually explore it. Maybe coming up with a crazy idea and seeing it through doesn't do much for you in the long-run. He's got a book about his adventure, though. That seems to be the reason to do anything these days - in order to write a book about it. Oh, he's Canadian.

Stuff White People Like
<http://stuffwhitepeoplelike.com/>

More recently, another Canadian managed to earn himself some Internet (and other) notoriety when he created a blog called Stuff White People Like. It's a collection of things that, well, it's not about ponies is it? To be fair, it's a certain type of white person that he's describing, but the list is humorous. I'm convinced that any one of you reading this could come up with a similar list, especially with the help of some friends. But you didn't, did you? Nope. Christian Lander did. What began as a site to show a few friends turned into a blog viewed by more than 56 million people, a book deal, Stuff Environmentalists Like (as part of a feature in Plenty magazine) and who knows what else. The guy is a good writer. I'll give him that. He puts into writing what many people already thought (whether they knew it or not). Oh, Canada.

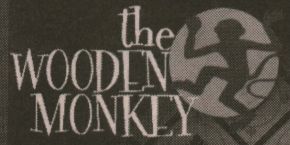
I Wear Your Shirt
<http://iwearyourshirt.com/>

His name is Jason and "In this up and down economy [he's] outsourcing [his] wardrobe (namely shirts) to corporate America and you! [He's] going to wear a different shirt for 365 days straight in 2009, take multiple

pictures throughout [his] day and blog about it. Days are sold at "face value" so January 1 is \$1 and December 31 is \$365." Yup. It's that simple. People pay him to wear a t shirt with their image on it and he makes money for it. And guess what! He's sold 308 of the 365 days, with the next available day being in September. In case you're wondering how much he would earn by charging the dollar amount that corresponds to what day of the year it is, assuming he sells them all, it's \$66,795. He IS working on the project all day long, though, he says. It's still a pretty sweet way to earn WAY more than most university graduates will make upon leaving school. What next? A female doing something similar?

Girl in Your Shirt
<http://girlinyourshirt.tv/>

"Originated by show host Jenaé Plymale, Girl in Your Shirt began as a small project to earn some extra cash and find a fun way to market web startups by wearing swag t-shirts and spreading buzz with online social media tools for pay. However, small project instantly turned into Internet phenomena, literally overnight. Picked up and plastered on the front page of one of the Internet's most popular blogs TechCrunch, it was soon both heralded and disputed among countless web blogs, podcasts and major editorial publications world-wide." She charges a flat-rate of \$75 to do what she does, as opposed to Jason's varying charge. While an interesting take on the whole "get paid to wear t-shirts" thing, I personally can't sit through much of this girl's ramblings. Just as many YouTube vloggers appeal to some and not others, so will Jenaé.



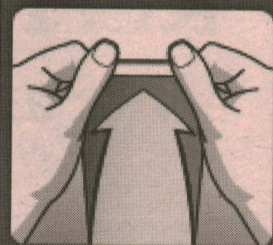
The Wooden Monkey is moving! If you've never been, I highly suggest it. Their new home is just across the street from their current location, at 1707 Grafton Street. They will be closed until March 3rd. According to the website, it's going to be even better!



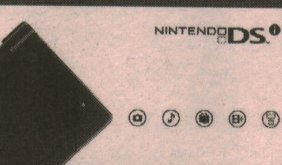
La Cueva has opened in the former La Cave (more recently Stonehaven) location on Blowers Street. The focus is on Latin American and Peruvian cuisine. Having eaten there myself on Valentine's Day Eve, I can say that it's definitely worth checking out.



The Bead Pod may be gone from 1567 Grafton Street, but have no fear! Feroz Design Beads & Jewellery Supply Company has taken over the space and has over 4000 items to discover.



It's that time of year again! Roll Up The Rim is underway, and if you're unsure of how to do it you can check out www.rolluptherimtown.com for various techniques. The Squeeze & Roll, Firm, Steady, Roll, The One Thumber and Tug-O-Roll are all featured.



Nintendo Co. will launch the latest version of its portable video game system in the United States on April 5, adding two digital cameras and the ability to play with sound recordings.

Photo Credits
Wooden Monkey: http://www.thewoodenmonkey.ca/images/logo_patternbg.jpg
La Cueva: <http://img2.travelblog.org/Photos/90/79368/t/486052-entering-the-cave-0.jpg>
Feroz Beads: http://www.beadsaterozdesign.com/images/store_version1/store-logo/vitrine%20graffton.jpg
Tim Hortons: <http://www.rolluptherimtown.com/images/general/img-how-to-1-on.gif>
Nintendo: <http://cache.g4tv.com/images/blog/2009/02/18/633705406340231205.jpg>

APPROACHES to DEVELOPMENT in a CHANGING WORLD

Fifth Annual Atlantic Graduate Studies Conference
February 26 - 28, 2009
Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Canada

The Canadian Association for Studies in International Development (CASID) and Saint Mary's University International Development Studies Graduate Student Society present the Fifth Annual Graduate Studies Conference: Approaches to Development in a Changing World.

The conference will engage participants on a wide range of topics and provide an excellent opportunity to network, share ideas, and develop new skills and knowledge in the field of international development.

Registration
To register please e-mail us at: casidatlantic@gmail.com
Registration Fee: \$7 students, \$10 general, Free for presenters

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, February 26

Meet & Greet

Friday, February 27

Keynote Speaker:
Robert Fox, Executive Director
Oxfam Canada

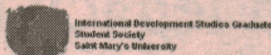
Panel Discussions
Workshop Presentations

Fundraising Concert

Saturday, February 28

Panel Discussions
Workshop Presentations

Evening Reception



Reminder! Societies Get Free Advertisements in The Journal

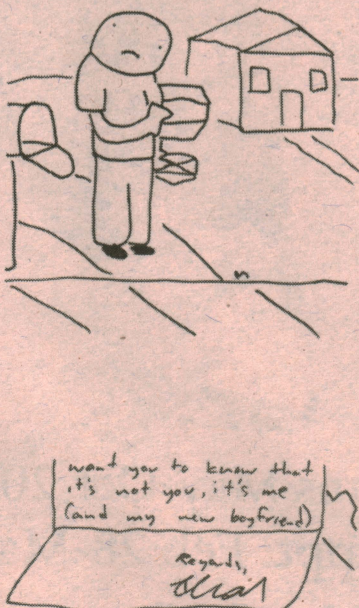
Submit to: thesmujournal@gmail.com

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

INTERNET COMIC STRIPS - EDITOR'S CHOICE

www.toothpastefordinner.com



www.xkcd.com

THE INTERNET HAS ALWAYS HAD LOUD DUMB PEOPLE, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE AS BAD AS THE PEOPLE WHO COMMENT ON YOUTUBE VIDEOS.

COMMENTS & RESPONSES

ROCKUR (9 MINUTES AGO)
THIS IS SO OBVIOUSLY FAKED ITS UNBELIEVABLE, WHY R PEOPLE SO GULLIBLE??? MORONS
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)

BIGMIKE133 (35 MINUTES AGO)
I'VE SEEN THE SPACE SHUTTLE ASS HOLE IT DEFINITELY LANDED ON THE MOON DO SOME RESEARCH...
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)

GHANTELMAN (22 MINUTES AGO)
IF IT WAS REAL WHY IS THEIR GRAVITY? AMERICANS R FLUCKEN SHEEP
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)

CRACKMONKEY74 (17 MINUTES AGO)
U DONT THINK WE WENT TO THE MOON WHY NOT TELL LOUIS ARMSTRONG TO HIS FACE
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)

SIMPLEPLAN2009 (6 MINUTES AGO)
IT WAS A SOUNDSTAGE ON MARS
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)

www.marriedtothesea.com



Sir, can you please step out of your car? I pulled you over for failing to wave "thank you" at the station wagon who let you merge back there.

GRANITE BREWERY AND GINGER'S TAVERN CLOSE

owner stays open an extra week to accommodate Picnicface's Sunday comedy show

NICK SIMARD
Science & Business

It's a sad day in Halifax. If you're reading this, it's already too late to visit Ginger's one last time. The bar (and the attached brewery) closed its doors Sunday February 22nd after the Picnicface show. You know the old adage: where were you when (fill in the blank with something momentous)? For me, in the past 10 years there has been 9/11, Barack Obama's inaugural speech, and finding out that Ginger's was closing. Alright, I'm exaggerating for dramatic effect, but I really am heartbroken that my favourite bar (and beer) will no longer inhabit 1662 Barrington Street. I was in the SMU library when I got a Facebook message on my Blackberry from Picnicface:

Ginger's Tavern is closing for good, so Feb. 22nd will be our last show there. 8 pm. \$5. Come laugh at some new sketches and help us send off our favourite venue. After this we'll be searching for a new home, so we might be off the map for a while.

Also, check out the new website. It's new and it's pretty. (Thanks to Mat Dunlap and Pete Diamond.)

See you Sunday! (?)

At that point, I would dare say that I was too wrapped up with writing my paper to fully appreciate the gravity of the situation. It was like my mind, refusing to believe that Ginger's could possibly be closing FOREVER, glossed over any words that implied that grim news. Many of you have probably never been to (or even heard of) Ginger's, and that's really too bad. If you've lived here for the past 3 years or so you can no doubt list at least 10 different restaurants/bars that have closed their doors. Just off the top of my head, in no particular order:

Ginger's – The Marquee – Stage Nine – Duffy's Speakeasy – The Thirsty Duck – La Cave – The Apple Barrel

While it's true that some of the locations now house new attractions, the fact remains that Halifax has lost (and will likely continue to lose) many of its greatest establishments. This time, it just happens to be one that is especially close to my heart. An article on The Coast website states that owner Kevin Keefe had been looking for the past 6 months, for a space to accommodate a more food-focused venture, like The Granite Brewery in Toronto that makes 65% of its business from food. Alas, he found nothing and the plan now is, well, check out the message left on the HalifaxLocals messa-

geboard on Thursday February 19th:

These are the facts. The Granite Brewery and Ginger's Tavern will be closing on Sunday February 22. The Henry House will be unaffected and will continue selling all the Granite Brewery brands.

The Granite Brewery itself will be moving to the North End on Stairs Street where we will continue to brew all of our beers and distribute them across the city.

If you feel inclined ask your local pub or restaurant owner to call us so we can supply them with Peculiar, or Bitter, or Stout or any other favorite you might wish for.

We regret having to close our current location. The last seven years have been rewarding in many ways.

From: Granite Brewery Management

Readers of that statement must have had a peculiar feeling, mixed with a bitter sense of loss. If you didn't catch that, Peculiar and (Best) Bitter are two of the beers that Keefe brews (and used to sell at Ginger's). Some other popular favourites include Traditional India Pale Ale, Ringwood Ale (my personal favourite, introduced to me way back in 2005), Keef's Irish Stout and Summer Ale. A phone interview with Kevin Keefe has been posted on The Coast website, where the local beer guru explains his future plans for the Granite brand. The idea is to set something up akin to Propeller or Garrison. If you're not familiar, these locations are micro-breweries with beer stores attached. They sell, among other things, growlers (glass jugs that hold a half-gallon of beer) that can be brought back and (if you're lucky) be refilled for a cheaper price. Keefe admits that there will be a gap left by the closing of Ginger's, and his customers will likely still crave his product. As mentioned above, The Henry House - also on Barrington Street (1222, to be exact) will continue quenching thirsts with Granite Brewery brands.

The reason Ginger's is so dear to me is that I have spent great deal of time upstairs there. In the summer of 2005 I attended a live comedy show, a series called Comedy Dawgs run by then-local Paul Ash, and was inspired to try my hand at stand-up comedy. As a result I have performed on about a dozen stages in various parts of metro and neighbouring areas. Thanks

Mark Little, Brian Macquarrie, Evany Rosen, Cheryl Hann, Andrew MacDonald, Scott Vrooman, Bill Wood



photo by Corbin Smith, www.corbinsmith.ca

to Ginger's, Paul Ash and Comedy Dawgs I was able to perform comedy, which led me to meet some amazing and brilliant people.

The goal of the Comedy Dawgs was to:

- 1) Present a weekly financially successful comedy show for local comedians to develop and work in front of diverse audiences.
- 2) Be an artist resource for comedians of all levels and styles to grow within their craft.
- 3) Create a network of comedy enthusiasts that would help foster and grow the Halifax comedy scene, developing talent to work within that scene and abroad.
- 4) Produce financially viable shows in the Halifax / Maritimes area with high quality talent from outside the region.
- 5) Provide an atmosphere of cooperation between talents and show producers.
- 6) Produce high quality financially viable shows with local talent.
- 7) Garner a Just For Laughs Showcase for all local talent.

On all these fronts, it worked. Case in point -

PICNICFACE – SKETCH, IMPROV, VIDEOS AND JUST ALL AROUND KICK-ASSERY!

I first met Mark Little and Kyle Dooley, two of the original members of Picnicface (the third being Evany Rosen), in 2005. While I'm unclear on the exact details, I do distinctly remember seeing the two perform stand-up at our then-weekly show at The Seahorse Tavern. By the way,

if you don't know who Picnicface is then do yourself a favour and visit www.picnicface.com and come to the light! The aforementioned Duffy's Speakeasy was once the location of their improv show, but eventually Ginger's became their home. There were nights when our live stand-up shows brought in dismal crowds, but Picnicface quickly learned how to deliver the goods that people wanted. I have literally watched the group come together and evolve into their current form, and much of that took place upstairs at Ginger's in front of a packed room.

Sunday night's last-ever-at-Ginger's show was no exception. Incidentally, the previous sentence was written before I even attended the show, because I knew it would be the case. Everything from this point on is written while feeling the effects of Sunday night's drinking. Oh, Ringwood... how I'll miss you. Oh yeah, the show. I showed up a little after 7pm and already there were about 40 people in line, for an 8pm start. This is fairly typical for a Picnicface show, so I really should have known better. As I stood in line, it seemed that everyone around me was welcoming their line-cutting friends. I started to get frustrated because it felt like the line kept getting longer in front of me, as well as behind me. Eventually I decided to take the "back" stairs, since that's what I typically do (it's cool, I know them). Once inside, I managed to secure a great table for myself and the Journal's news editor who happened to be behind me when I was in line.

The show was very much like any

other. There were technical issues, cast members had problems with the lights, scripted sketches contained improv, and I would dare say that a good time was had by all. One striking difference was that most of the cast members were drinking more than usual, which was no doubt due to it being their last Ginger's show ever. One of the funniest moments of the night was the "roast" that cast members did. Typically done for a person, a roast is when people make jokes (amicably) for a special occasion. This time, they roasted Ginger's...and each other. I would go out on a limb and say that it was among the funniest 15-minute stretch of Picnicface I've ever seen. To try and describe any of the evening's sketches or improv would prove futile. It was very much a "you had to be there" kind of evening, and one that I'll not soon forget.

I'll finish this with the words of my friend Ian Black, who had an every-other-Sunday stand-up comedy show at Ginger's:

"This is a sad day for fans of comedy, as Halifax is losing its longest running and quite frankly best independent venue. The heat was rarely on, you could smell the bathrooms from the stage, but of all the 40+ rooms I've played, it's by far my favourite. It all began here with Paul Ash's Comedy Dawgs, and without a venue as artist-positive as Ginger's, our local comedy scene (which, by the way, rivals any other city's in the country; believe it) may never have been allowed to flourish."

25 RANDOM THINGS ABOUT FACEBOOK'S "25 RANDOM THINGS"

NICK SIMARD
Science & Business

With the recent (and inexplicable) popularity of the "25 Random Things" Facebook fad, I thought I would explore this particular infection. I'll admit that I held out for a while with the "25 Things" one, but eventually caved. Some of my friends expressed disappointment and shame for my transgression. This begs the question, are you conforming when you take part in these? Or is simply insisting (for the sake of refusing) on NOT doing them its own form of conformity? In the end, I WANTED to write some things so I did. Here are 25 random things about "25 Random Things":

1. Nearly twice as many females as males have taken part in the craze.

2. 30% of respondents tag LESS than 25 people in their note.
3. Facebook has experienced a 7% increase in sign-ups as a result of "25 Things".
4. On average, the funniest number of all "25 Things" is #14.
5. Worker productivity dropped almost 15% in the peak 2-week period of "25 Things".
6. "25 Things" was responsible for 1.2 million users creating their first note EVER.
7. 67% of "25 Things" notes have had their visibility limited by their creators.
8. The majority of "25 Things" notes were posted between 2pm and 5pm (user's local time).
9. Of those tagged in "25 Things",

- 3% deleted at least one friend who tagged them.
10. More than half of all respondents did so after being tagged 4 times or more.
11. On average, those in relationships mention their partner in one fifth of their answers.
12. Less than 10% of respondents tagged their mom in "25 Things".
13. "25 Things" has made up 32% of notes since January 25th.
14. 70 new notes have made the rounds, asking for 25 "something". All have failed.
15. The demographic that has most participated in "25 Things" is 25-35 years old.
16. Of those refusing to respond, two thirds have been tagged more than 7

- times.
17. On average, a reader will learn 3 new things about their "friend" from "25 Things".
18. On average, one quarter of the answers in "25 Things" pertain to life before high school graduation.
19. 45% of respondents report flying through the first 20, but spending an hour on the final 5.
20. Facebook couples account for nearly 5% of all "25 Things" notes.
21. The creator of "25 Things" has been signed to a book deal with Falcacy Press Inc.
22. After completing "25 Things" 9% of respondents delete the note within an hour, out of shame.
23. The average "25 Things" note is edited at least once during the first 3

- days.
24. The 24th "Thing" is more often than not a repetition of a previous "Thing".
25. 100% of the above-listed things are products of my imagination, however plausible they may sound.

The 25 things you have just read were inspired by www.gullible.info and the creator's ability to completely fool readers into thinking his made-up trivia is factual. The list, however, came entirely from my mind. None of it is researched. I credit (blame?) my research paper on my desire to completely invent this list.



SPORTS

SPORTS REVIEW

JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor

Reading week is a chance for students at Saint Mary's to do one or any combination of 3 things: homework, relaxation and, of course, party. For SMU athletes, however, reading week was their time to shine, kicking ass and playing hard, like they always do.

The women's volleyball team, coming off an excellent season with 12 wins and eight losses (tied for second in the AUS) faced off in the quarter final championship Friday 13 February. SMU played the tournament host Acadia, winning three sets to one. In the three previous meetings between SMU and Acadia the Huskies have bested the Axe-Women twice with scores of three sets to none. Following their quarter final win the Huskies went head-to-head with the other 2nd place AUS team, UNB's Varsity Reds. Despite a good effort from the ladies the Reds won 3 straight sets 25-23, 25-21, 25-21. Top Huskies player Kerri Smit had 18 kills for a total of 43 on the weekend. With 7 of 11 players in first or second year the Huskies will have lots of retuning talent for the next season, hopefully helping to push them higher up the ranks of the AUS.

In men's hockey the Huskies held a Valentine's Day beat-down of the Dalhousie Tigers. SMU handed the last place Tigers their 13th consecutive loss of the season. Munden scored two goals, one of them short handed, on five shots. Morehouse, Thornton

and Peters each added one, Thornton and Peters also had assists. The Huskies also took the opportunity of a game that has no effect on their standing to exercise their back-up goaltenders, Jasen Awalt and Cory Chipman. Both net-minders had ex-

cellent games, saving 19 combined on 22 shots. The women's basketball team, also in action over the break, came upon some hard times this season, tough play and determination were not enough for the Huskies this season. Despite excellent play and commitment from team members, the Huskies were unable to convert this season. However, with approximately half the roster in their first 2 years, next year should see lots of returning skill and with any luck some talented fresh blood.

On the men's side the 3rd ranked Huskies have won 7 of their last ten games and are poised to storm the AUS championship yet again. Always a contender, the Huskies will need to keep up their solid play and aggressive style to solve both the X-men and Capers who are separated by only 2 points.

The Women's hockey team, currently 5th in the AUS, still have 2 games left to play in their regular season, however they have clinched the last playoff spot and look forward to a challenging playoff series. Having dropped 5 of their last 10 games the Huskies will have to dig deep and play their hearts out if they hope to make it past the quarter-final round of the playoffs.

The 2008/2009 season has been very successful for all Saint Mary's

teams and all should carry a high calibre of play into the playoffs. I look forward to covering as many of the series as possible.



The women's basketball team, also

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Assholes of the Week!

The Lab Assistant who wrote in last week complaining his job is too labour intensive!

Bell Canada. If my cell phone bill comes out on the 19th of every month I expect to see that god damn bill in my god damn mail box on the 19th of every fucking month, how hard is it to get me my bill on time? If you expect my payment on time, I expect my bill on time. Get your shit sorted out.

Everyone who gets madly hyped over the Oscars. It is essentially a giant reach around for people who need ego stroking about as much as I need a .44 caliber hole in my head. Get a life and try reading a book for once. In the interest of preserving the intelligence of mankind how about abolishing award shows for all time and start giving distinctions based on peer review in a quiet non-televised format? Who knows you might just learn something useful in all the time you just freed up.

Assholes can be found anywhere!

Huskies at Home

Men's Basketball

Feb 28
SMU vs DAL
2 p.m.

Men's Hockey

Semi Final Round
Feb 25- Mar 5

Women's Hockey

Feb 28
SMU vs DAL
Dalhousie Memorial Arena

Mar 1
StFX vs SMU
7 p.m.
Alumni Arena

You can find scores and more at smuhuskies.ca