



# the Journal

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY • HALIFAX • NOVA SCOTIA



Photo by Eric Boudreau/ THE JOURNAL.

Hundreds of students spent hours waiting in line Monday. Although the Bookstore and Financial Services were busy, the biggest line-up was for L290.

## A SATURN addiction

by Richard Woodbury

It has happened to all of us. It starts with the occasional glance, but it soon develops into a bi-hourly ritual. It's like an addictive drug over which we have no control. The "narcotic" that I'm talking about is finding your marks via SATURN.

SATURN is a great feature of being a student at SMU. It allows you to register for your courses, pay your tuition, and even check which courses you need to complete your degree. SATURN is administered by the Registrar's Office with help from Information Technology Systems and Support. It is now updated every two hours, whereas in previous years, it was every four hours.

The end of every semester is a great relief for students, no more exams – that is for a few months. But once exams are done, there is still another matter that students are either anxious or fearful for... marks. Students need to know their marks as soon as possible in order to determine what classes they need to take next semester.

The process by which students' results are posted is very quick. Professors submit the results to the registrar's office who then enters the marks into the database as they are received. As this information is processed, with each SATURN update, the students' marks begin to

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## Earth 16, Mars 20

### Red planet or death planet?

By Jeffrey Warford

A small fleet of Mars probes launched from Earth in June and July of 2003 has finally started to arrive at the red planet, kicking off the most perilous part of their six-month journey.

The ESA's Beagle 2, a British-made lander named for the vessel that carried Charles Darwin to the Galapagos, presumably arrived on the surface of Mars on Christmas morning. However, after nearly two weeks, the probe has failed to establish contact with the orbiting mothership Mars Express, or with ground-based equipment on Earth. Hope for recovering the mission is quickly fading. Speculation has begun to fly over the possible causes of

Beagle's silence, which range from the probe's hardware clock being damaged to the possibility that the probe has landed in a deep crater, preventing its signal from being received.

Only weeks before Beagle 2's disappearance, Japan was forced to abandon its own Nozomi Mars probe after severe radiation damage rendered the craft unable to make necessary corrections to its trajectory.

But on January 3rd, the Beagle 2's larger and more expensive cousin, NASA's Spirit lander, made a successful descent to the surface of the planet. Touching down in Gusev Crater, about 15 degrees south of Mars' equator, the probe has already begun to send back images of

the Martian landscape.

The apparent success of the Spirit probe is seen as a tremendous confidence boost for NASA's Mars programs, which have failed in spectacular fashion in the past. In 1997, confusion over metric and imperial units of measure led to extreme embarrassment when the Mars Climate Orbiter probe — programmed in feet, instead of meters — burned up in the planet's atmosphere. However, NASA's second probe, an exact twin of Spirit called Opportunity, is still a couple weeks away from its own landing attempt.

Simply reaching orbit around the so-called "death planet" has proven difficult enough for the space

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### IN THE SKY

WEDNESDAY - VARIABLE CLOUD -3 TO -10
THURSDAY - VARIABLE CLOUD -7 TO -13
FRIDAY - VARIABLE CLOUD -7 TO -14
SATURDAY - SUNNY -13 TO -18
SUNDAY - CLOUDY -12 TO -18

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT CANADA

### DOLLAR RISES AGAIN

THE CANADIAN DOLLAR BREAKS RECORDS AGAIN AND AGAIN, TEMPORARILY REACHING 78 CENTS US. STORY INSIDE.

### SEX IN THE JOURNAL IS BACK

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SEX COLUMN FOR INFORMATION, TIPS, AND TURNS.



### CANADA LOSES AGAIN

NO EXPLANATION NECESSARY AS MEN LOSE 4-3 IN GOLD MEDAL MATCH AGAINST THE USA.





U p c o m i n g E v e n t s & I n f o r m a t i o n

# SMUSA Chill Out 2 ❄️ ❄️ 4



Plans for the SMUSA Chillout are under way, so keep an eye out around campus for updates.

SMUSA's entertainment committee is also looking for volunteers to make sure the events run smoothly. If you are interested in lending a hand, contact Issmat Al-Akhali at 496-8709, or via e-mail at vpinternal@smusa.ca.

## SMUSA Book Exchange

### Buy & sell used books on-line

The Saint Mary's University Student's Association is pleased to offer students a great alternative for buying and selling textbooks. You set your own price, and avoid the middleman. Visit [www.smusa.ca/bex](http://www.smusa.ca/bex)!

This free, web-based service will allow you to easily contact other students selling the textbooks you need, plus sell your own books to students just like you. Automatically generated pictures of every title listed and an optional course-based search method mean that you'll be able to compare prices on-line with other retailers to make sure that you get the best value for your dollar. A friendly user interface and clear instructions make instant listing, updating or removal of books easy for even the newest web user.

No need to waste your money on photocopying flyers, or waste your time and energy by putting them up around campus. Save big dollars every semester when you buy, and keep the dollars you normally lose when you sell. Before you go elsewhere, be sure to check out the SMUSA book exchange on-line at [www.smusa.ca/bex](http://www.smusa.ca/bex). No middleman, no cost, no hassle. A service provided to you by your Students' Association!

## Coming Soon

### A new service from SMUSA

Watch out for an exciting new service brought to you by your Students' Association that will keep students informed about on campus events as well as give them a chance to speak their mind.

## INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

### SRC Chairperson

- Responsible for presiding over all meetings of the Students' Representative Council (SRC) in accordance with SMUSA's Constitution and By-Laws
- Scheduled meetings this semester:
  - Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm
  - Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm
  - Sunday, February 29<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm
  - Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 1:00 pm
  - Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm
- Required to prepare the agenda for all SRC meetings in consultation with the President, and make it available at least 96 hours prior to the time of the meeting
- Required to chair the Performance Review Committee, which evaluates the performance of members of the SRC each semester

### Valuable Assets

- Detailed knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised
- Skills in group facilitation and ability to maintain orderly discussion
- Related experience in student government or committee settings
- Excellent writing, communication, and organization skills

Please call 496-8701 for further details. This position is to be granted a honorarium each semester, in accordance with the review process as outlined in SMUSA's Constitution and By-Laws. The deadline for the application is January 14, 2004. Please submit a Resume and attached Cover Letter to:

Attn: Tyler MacLeod, SMUSA President  
5<sup>th</sup> floor, Student Centre, Saint Mary's University  
Halifax, NS, B3H 3C3

Or by fax or e-mail to: (902) 425-4636, or [president@smusa.ca](mailto:president@smusa.ca)

## Vagina Monologues Auditions

The Saint Mary's University Womens' Centre is holding auditions for a V-Day benefit production of the Vagina Monologues! Auditions will be held in the Ozmon Boardroom on the 5th floor of the Students' Centre on the following dates:

Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> ..... 12pm to 4pm  
Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> ..... 12pm to 5pm

For more information or to obtain copy of the script contact: [chickenbut007@yahoo.ca](mailto:chickenbut007@yahoo.ca) or call (902)-496-8722.



## Schedule:

Wednesday,  
January 07

OPEN MIC  
WITH  
CHAD & AMY

Thursday,  
January 08

WING NIGHT  
PUB NIGHT  
GREAT MUSIC!

Friday,  
January 09

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT  
KARAOKE

Saturday,  
January 10

Monday  
January 12

MARGARITA  
MONDAY

# Editorial

## THE JOURNAL

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The opinions expressed in The Journal are those of the authors and not necessarily of The Journal or Saint Mary's University.

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The Journal is printed on recycled paper. All unread copies of The Journal are recycled and the proceeds from recycling are donated to the Special Olympics.

## Waiting room disasters

Have you ever noticed that more people complain about something then think of a solution? I notice this all the time. Perhaps it is because I tend to think critically about the situations I experience. I often listen to people and analyze their statements and opinions. Everyone does that to an extent. That is how we understand different personalities, and based on our observations, form opinions.

Something I have noticed quite often is that in our society, people are not using common sense. They do things the hard way and get frustrated. When they get frustrated, they naturally complain.

The most obvious example of this is the emergency department of our lovely new hospital. The wait period to see a doctor at emergency is ridiculously long. Having many friends and family who work in the health care system, I have learned a lot about how the system works and where the downfalls are.

There are a few reasons for these long waits that should be discussed. A main reason is that the new emergency department was not built large enough for the population it needed to serve. Originally, the plan was to keep the emergency department at the Victoria General Hospital open and have two emergency sites to accommodate patients. Unfortunately, this did not happen. The VG site closed down and we are left with an emergency department of only 32 beds.

Another reason for the current mess at the new Infirmary is the lack of funding for the health care system. Due to this lack of funding, the hospitals are understaffed and therefore floors are shut down and the number of open beds are subsidized.

We can complain about the health care system and the government's lack of help as much as we want, but the painful truth is that complaining is not going to make anything better.

I think the biggest reason for long waits at the emergency department is that people go there for non-emergency reasons. Why do people think they need to go to emergency for a sore throat or flu symptoms? They don't. I completely understand that it is sometimes hard to get an appointment with your family doctor and often the earliest appointment is at least a week away. I have the same problem. But that isn't going to make me trot down to the Infirmary to sit for 5 or 6 hours when I have a sniffle. There



are other solutions to getting health care. And please do not think that calling an ambulance will get you to see an emergency department doctor quicker. If you call paramedics to take you to emergency for a non-emergency, you will probably end up sitting in the waiting room like everyone else. The only difference between you and them is that you will receive an expensive "taxi" bill. In the emergency department, doctors do not see patients on a first come first serve basis. It is based on the seriousness of your problem. So if you're sitting in the waiting room feeling nauseous from a flu bug and someone having a heart attack or stroke comes in after you, you will be bumped back and end up waiting longer.

A fantastic solution is going to one of the various walk-in medical clinics that are open throughout HRM. They accept walk-in patients and I guarantee that you won't be sitting there as long as you would in emergency. What if you don't want to wait at all? Well, often these clinics take appointments too. So you can call, make an appointment, and rest at home until you need to be there.

Now I am not saying to stay away from emergency all the time. Go there when you have an emergency. Say you break your leg slipping on ice. By all means, get down to emergency so you can get some help. Or if you think you're having a heart attack. These are the types of emergencies that the emergency department should handle. I have never been to the emergency department for a non-serious injury. Not when I had strep throat, or when I had pneumonia. The few times I did go to an emergency department was several years ago when I was bit by a dog in the chin of all places and

needed stitches. I was also taken when I was a year old and drank half a bottle of Sea Breeze and needed my stomach pumped.

So, think twice the next time you need health care for something that isn't serious. Your family doctor is the best place to go, but walk-in clinics are another option, and you

can even go to a Pharmacist if you think you just need some cold or flu medicine.

If our society works together and uses some common sense in everyday trials and tribulations, we can keep our frustrations down, generally feel happier, and ultimately complain less.

LMN

#### Dear Editor,

I'd like to commend the Journal for producing a last-minute special edition before Christmas last semester. After an entire semester of relative calm in terms of on-campus debate and hot issues to cover I thought it was great to see so much content on what is bound to be an even hotter topic this semester: the rising cost of attending SMU.

I've served on over 30 University committees and have worked with dozens if not hundreds of faculty, staff and administration over the past three years. For the most part student representatives are treated fairly and our opinions are valued and appreciated. It is with this in mind that I am saddened to say that on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003 I lost all respect for this University's Board of Governors. The Board passed a motion which will effectively levy from students about \$1.8 million next year alone to pay for a variety of projects such as a new sprinkler system and brickwork repair in McNally. There is no question as to the merit of such projects or the need to find money, but the way in which the Board ignored reason, ignored a massive petition from SMUSA, ignored suggestions for alternatives, and above all ignored the call for debate by allowing questions to die on the floor both saddens and sickens me. A University is meant to be a bastion of discourse and enlightenment, but Saint Mary's has made it clear that when it comes to making decisions as to how to use student money all you have to do is arbitrarily suggest a number and make a motion at the Board's table.

Students were told by the administration that we are being given an "opportunity to invest in Saint Mary's" and I'm looking forward to the returns we get. I doubt students care to own a life safety system, or backup power generator so perhaps in a few years of contribution to the University, the Students' Association can make an outright claim on the entire Student Centre (for starters). It would be great to own our own building, so perhaps this tax might end up being a positive thing after all. Student money accounted for about 63% of last years' operating budget (excluding "Sales of Services and Products") so perhaps we should set our sights even higher than that.

In that sense it's almost too bad that faculty, staff, and administration weren't given this "opportunity to invest in Saint Mary's" as well. Perhaps if any faculty, administration, or staff want in on this "opportunity", they can voluntarily contribute \$60 for each credit they teach, administer or affect with their work. SMUSA has a growing list 22 pages long of students who want out.

- Jon Kincade

The Journal Publishing Society would like to apologize to anyone we may have offended with any of The Journal's content in previous issues.

Due to these events, The Journal is striving to enact a stronger editing process to ensure that an incident of this nature will not reoccur.

# News

programs of planet Earth. Of the 36 Mars missions undertaken to date, only 16 probes have survived to reach orbit. Of these, only three craft — all of them American — survived a descent through Mars' tenuous atmosphere to complete their assigned tasks. Some 20 other missions have ended in loss and failure.

## Science news

### Are leap seconds history?

The Earth is on time for the fifth year in a row.

It is generally agreed that for millennia, the Earth has been slowing ever so slightly in its orbit about the sun. The phenomenon is well-documented in scientific literature, and since the introduction of the atomic timekeeping in 1972, scientists have compensated for the discrepancy by adding a "leap second" to the end of every year.

But in 1999, they suddenly realized the Earth had actually sped up somehow and had arrived precisely on time, making the leap second unnecessary.

*Continued from cover*

appear on their SATURN account.

According to Registrar Elizabeth Chard, there are "four or five people devoted to the task. Two staff even came in over the Christmas holidays to input marks." Posting the marks as soon as possible is a matter that is taken quite seriously by the Registrar's Office. "If we had all of the grades, we could have had them posted by December 23<sup>rd</sup>. It's a top priority in our office."

Marks can now be viewed quite differently from the way it was done 15 years ago. Back then, students marks were mailed to them three or four weeks after finishing exams. With today's technology, marks are posted almost immediately after being entered. This form of technology creates an even greater emphasis on the marks being submitted on time. The delay in the posting of the results has nothing to do with the Registrar's Office, but rather, it has to do entirely with the professors.

Professors are supposed to

While the long-term trend seems to indicate that the Earth's speed of rotation will continue to decrease, scientists are unsure of the reason behind our planet's recent punctuality. Possible explanations include changes in the motion of the Earth's molten core, the effects of ocean tides, or even minute changes in the shape of the Earth itself.

While the Earth's rotation about the sun has served as a natural timepiece for humanity for thousands of years, humans have only been able to make precise measurements of its motion for about the last 50 years. Atomic clocks, which rely upon extremely reliable periodic radiation emissions from cesium atoms, have made the measurement of femtoseconds ( $1 \times 10^{-15}$ ) a reality.

### 3.3 gigabytes of Canada

In a joint venture between the Canadian Forestry Service and the Canadian Space Agency, the largest digital mosaic image of Canada ever produced is now available for free download on the Internet.

The mosaic began as a digital image database of over 85 gigabytes (about 100 CD-ROMs), but recent advances in image compression technology have allowed the entire image to be reduced to a much more manageable size

at just over 3 gigabytes. The project, titled "Earth Observation for Sustainable Development of Forests," shows the variety and vastness of the Canadian landscape far more effectively than any other media project to date.

Internet users can find the full mosaic along with several preview images (including Halifax) at [http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/news/newstips/Mosaic\\_e.html](http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/news/newstips/Mosaic_e.html).

### Australia to use genetic manipulation for carp control

In a move that pushes the ethical boundaries of genetic technology, the Australian government is poised to introduce a genetic time bomb into the wild in an effort to control exploding carp populations.

Numbers of the small fish have risen dramatically in Australia's waters in recent decades, devastating other native fish populations and causing an estimated \$600 million each year in lost fishery production.

But within the next few years, scientists from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) hope to release a new, all-male variety of carp to mix with the naturally occurring species. If

successful, the modified organism will almost completely eradicate the pesky carp in Australia.

The carp, considered a delicacy in parts of Europe and Asia, is not native to Australia. It was introduced from central Asia in the 1850s and has thrived in Australia's warm coastal and interior waters. The eradication gene has already been tested successfully on gambusia, a small minnow-like fish from South America. With all offspring being male, the modified carp is expected to mix quickly with wild carp and lead to a massive decline in population within only a few generations. Due to the self-destructive nature of the gene, there is little worry about the modified carp spreading beyond Australia.

### Tuberculosis: now available in extra deadly

Researchers working at the University of California at Berkeley have accidentally created a hyper-virulent form of the tuberculosis bacterium that is more lethal and more infectious than the original disease.

The researchers were investigating the genetic

structure of tuberculosis in an effort to find previously undiscovered weaknesses to exploit with new treatments. They believed they had identified a group of genes responsible for giving the disease some of its infectious qualities. Upon disabling the gene, the researchers expected to find a much weaker form of tuberculosis. But instead, they were faced with a more powerful version.

After several more tests and further investigations, the team suggested that the genetic changes made in TB might have undermined the immune system's ability to recognize and respond to the infection.

Confronted with the usual fears of bioterrorism in the mainstream media, the team said a bioterrorist attack with a modified TB organism was highly unlikely due to the difficulty in manipulating the disease and difficulty associated with aerosolizing it for large-scale dispersion. They also emphasized the fact that historically speaking, TB has been so successful as a pathogen because it does not cause disease in all of its victims.

Up to ninety percent of people who contract TB will never show symptoms of illness.

## WRITE FOR NEWS

### DESPERATE

SWM REALLY DESPERATE FOR HELP

WITH WRITING NEWS.

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OTHER DESPERATE PEOPLE.

WRITE DAMN IT.



## Europe Info Night

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have marks submitted within five days of the completion of a final exam. For courses that do not have a final exam, marks are supposed to be submitted within five days of the last day of scheduled classes. Experience has shown students that this is rarely the case; waits of two weeks, even three, or more are the norm. So one might ask, what is the punishment for their tardiness? There is no punishment. So the question then becomes, what is the purpose of setting a deadline when there aren't any repercussions for missing that deadline?

The fact that there aren't any penalties for submitting marks late is very hypocritical. Consider a student who passes in an assignment past the due date, odds are that that student will be docked points for passing in the assignment late. This situation is a prime example of the expression, "do as I say, and not as I do."

My solution to this problem would be for every day that the marks are late, students should receive additional points for the

hardships that they are enduring. For example, if a student was to receive a B+ in a course and the marks were one day late, the student should then be entitled to an A-. Another means of solving this problem could be to dock professors' salaries for being tardy. The problem with this idea is that it would not be supported by many faculty members, nor would their union permit it to be a part of their contract. From a financial standpoint, it could represent a major cost-savings initiative for the university. One solution that Chard mentioned was that "certain universities will not give the professors their pay until they have submitted their marks and received a clearance from the Registrar's Office". This only applied to summer classes.

It seems that there is no method that can be agreed upon by all parties to force professors to have their marks in within five days. So while I imagine all of the possible solutions, the only thing that I can do is sit and wait. SATURN is due for an update soon.

# Business

## GM to give away 1000 cars and trucks

by Ian Burns

GM is planning to give away 1000 cars and trucks over the next two months as part of General Motors "Hot Button" sales promotion. The \$50 million sales marketing program is being billed as the largest sales promotion in automotive history.

Beginning on Monday, GM will be giving away 1000 cars and trucks to 1000 consumers in the U.S. This is part of General Motors' latest promotion in an effort to boost sales and generate more consumer interest in General Motors cars and trucks. This is a necessary step since interest in GM has fallen considerably in the last several years.

To win one of 54 different GM vehicles consumers must visit one of the 7 000 GM dealerships that are participating in the promotion, before February 29, sit in a designated car or truck and push the OnStar "Hot Button."

After pushing the "Hot Button", an OnStar operator will answer from one of four dispatch centers set up around the US just for the "Hot Button" promotion. The consumer will immediately be informed if they are a winner of a GM vehicle. The promotion includes cars and trucks from Chevrolet, Hummer, Saab, Cadillac, Pontiac, Buick, Saturn and

GMC brands, all of which are divisions of General Motors. GM expects that 5.5 million consumers in the U.S. will push the "Hot Button" making the chances of winning approximately one in 5500.

The \$50 million promotion is aimed at getting consumers to reconsider the GM brand and to increase consumer traffic to GM dealerships. With more than \$25 million in vehicle prizes being offered, GM expects consumer visits to dealerships to increase by 30 to 40 percent during the "Hot Button" promotion, which runs from early January to the end of February. This is traditionally a slow period for

the automotive industry and the promotion will hopefully boost sales.

GM has been offering many high cash promotions and interest-free loans all aimed at getting consumers to take a second look at GM cars and trucks. GM has also extended its 24-hour test drive promotion, which allows GM customers to take a car or truck home overnight.

Aside from rekindling interest in GM vehicles, the "Hot Button" promotion will help bring new buyers to GM dealerships and expose them to the automakers new vehicles and technology, including the OnStar safety and security communication system. GM has also

introduced many new models and hopes to generate interest by getting more people into their dealerships.

GM estimates that about 40 percent of U.S. consumers do not consider GM vehicles when shopping for a new car. General Motors initial attempt to deal with declining interest in their vehicles was their "Road to Redemption" ads, which acknowledged past problems with GM's quality and encourages consumers to give GM a closer look.

Because of the declining interest in GM, it is expected that the company will report Monday that it experienced a drop in its US share last year after two consecutive years of market share gains.

## eBay sells aircraft carrier

by Ian Burns

Ebay is the world's biggest and fastest growing online auction house and has made the headlines yet again. It seems that this time all the talk revolves around a 693-foot long, 36000 horsepower World War II era aircraft carrier.

Ebay is well known for people trying to sell everything from human organs to their own virginity. Ebay has developed a very reliable system for weeding out hoaxes and follows very strict guidelines as to what can and cannot be sold on their website.

This aircraft carrier, with a scrap value of about \$2 million, had a top bid of over \$90 million before the auction closed early Monday

morning. While there have been numerous multi-million dollar sales, seldom does eBay see the price of an item climb this high this quickly.

The posting suggests that the carrier could be used as a floating tourist attraction. The ship, which can accommodate 1 300, could provide the owner with many potential business opportunities. Some of the possible uses for the ship listed on the site include: ocean restaurant, museum, amusement park, or hotel-on-the-ocean. These are just a few ways that this antique carrier could be used to generate cash.

The broker of the ship, Renming Cheng, has given little information about the carrier and refuses to answer any questions from the media

until bidding on the carrier is complete. The name of the carrier is not identified in the posting, but it is apparently a carrier from the British navy, as the posting states that the ship was built in an English shipyard in 1945.

In 2001 the carrier was decommissioned after spending part of its life on loan to Australia. There is little worry about the ship falling into the wrong hands to be used as a weapon of war, according to the posting, after being decommissioned, all instruments of war were removed from the carrier.

Cheng stated in an e-mail that the posting for the carrier had set a record for most viewed page for any item on eBay. According to the sites ticker, which keeps track of

how many people have visited the site, the posting had received more than 350 000 hits.

The opening bid for the carrier was \$6 million and since then there have been more than 160 additional bids on the nearly 60 year-old carrier. The winning bidder is responsible for paying for transportation of the carrier - which, according to the posting, now resides in Ski, Norway.

Officials from eBay were not available to comment on weather or not the \$90 million price tag was a record, or how

this auction would rank the carrier among other items that have been listed on the online auction house.

According to Cheng, this is not the first time this ship has been listed on eBay; an earlier listing of the ship had been removed by eBay because officials wrongly believed that the ship violated an eBay policy that prohibits the sale of weapons on eBay. However, once eBay was satisfied that the ship posed no threat and contained no weapons, Cheng was allowed to re-list his carrier.

## Dumping costs McCain dough

by Ian Burns

Canadian authorities are investigating the alleged dumping of frozen self-rising pizza dough by U.S. companies. The investigation began when McCain Frozen Foods tipped off authorities about possible dumping by U.S. companies.

Unfair dumping occurs when a company sells a product to Canadian importers at a loss or at a price that is lower than the exporters' market price.

McCain claims that the dumping is harming Canadian production, causing price erosion, price suppression and loss of sales.

If the Canadian International Trade Tribunal finds that dumping has occurred, it can impose a levy

on all imported frozen self-rising pizza dough retroactive to Friday. The Tribunal must carry out an inquiry and reach a decision within 60 days.

Frozen pizza products account for a large portion of McCain Frozen Food's overall sales. McCain sold more than \$6.4 billion worth of goods last year, and they report that sales of Rising Crust Pizza have more than tripled in the last three years.

McCain announced last July that they would be making \$29 million in upgrades to its Grand Falls, New Brunswick pizza plant in order to keep up with the rising demand for the companies frozen pizza products.



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# Online sales increase during holiday season

by Ian Burns

It is clear that online purchasing is becoming more and more popular among consumers, but 2003 showed an unprecedented increase in online holiday purchasing. How much has online purchasing increased? ComScore networks, an e-commerce market research firm based in Reston, Va., reported Saturday that online spending for November and December saw growth of 29.5 per cent. This translates to \$12.5 billion in online spending, compared to the 2002 holiday season, which saw growth of 19 percent to \$9.7 billion. The figures provided by ComScore seem conservative. Other market research firms reported that online spending had increased by as much as 46 percent.

This is not a surprise as many e-tailers are experiencing huge growth and high sales figures.

Companies such as Amazon.com and eBay.com are among the most popular websites for holiday shopping. As well, many companies who in the past only operated in the traditional retail store environment are now branching out into online sales and are offering most, if not all, of their products online.

Online shopping is becoming more and more popular among consumers who don't want to deal with the hassle of visiting malls during the busy holiday season. Online shopping still has some disadvantages when compared to a traditional store, and many consumers still prefer traditional shopping rather than shopping online. In an effort to increase online sales, many companies now offer programs that allow consumers to interact with the physical stores for returns and services.

The actual growth in 2003 fell within the firm's initial

forecast, which was growth between 25 percent to 30 percent. For the entire year, total online sales grew 22 percent to \$52 billion. This 22 percent increase is an impressive recovery from the war-related decline in online sales experienced early in the year.

Consumers spent a record-setting \$200 million per day during the November and December holiday season. Online travel sales did even better than the retail sector during 2003. The travel sector

has more than doubled since 2001 and is up more than 35 percent versus 2002. For several weeks during June and July, the peak vacation period, travel spending exceeded all other e-commerce product categories combined. ComScore Networks compiled its sales data from monitoring more than 50 000 online merchants.

It is expected that online shopping will continue to grow as consumers become more comfortable with shopping over the Internet

and as more retailers provide the option of online shopping. The fastest growing areas of e-tail, aside from travel, is with big-ticket items such as furniture, jewelry and appliances, which indicates an increase in consumer confidence. Apparel and accessories showed some growth after falling off for the last two years, again showing that consumers are more willing to shop online.

## Dollar up again

by Ian Burns

It seems like old news by now, but the Canadian dollar has made yet another gain against the U.S. greenback. Just before noon on Monday the Canadian dollar crossed the 78-cent (U.S.) mark, a level that has not been reached since June of 1993.

The ailing greenback continues to fall following suggestions that interest rates south of the border are not likely to rise anytime soon. This comes as no surprise as the American dollar has been declining steadily on the world market.

This rise in the value of the loonie follows a 21 percent increase of the Canadian dollar last year. In the last two weeks alone, the Canadian dollar has risen more than 3 percent over the American dollar.

The Canadian dollar closed at 77.62 cents on Friday. Even before this latest increase economists had been predicting an 80-cent Canadian dollar before year's end.

The 21 percent increase in the Canadian dollar followed a 34 percent increase in the Australian dollar and a 29 percent

increase in the South African Rand. Even the Japanese Yen was up 10.8 percent.

The U.S. dollar has suffered yet again on the world market. This most recent decline in the American dollar came after the remarks this weekend from Federal Reserve Governor Ben Bernanke in which he indicated that there was no need to start raising interest rates despite a strong recovery on the broader U.S. economy.

Following the comments by Bernanke the U.S. dollar reached new lows against the Euro.

Economists are not in agreement as to when the Federal Reserve might lift U.S. interest rates. Some believe that the Central Bank will lift the interest rates as early as mid-year from the current 45-year low of one percent. Other economists believe that interest rates will remain low until 2005.

2003 was an extremely strong year for the Canadian dollar and showed record growth. And if the first few weeks of 2004 are any indicator, this year should be no different.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## "Hobbit" wins World Idol title

by Jennifer Warford

Norwegian singing sensation Kurt Nilsen captured the title of "World Idol" during a special one-hour results show on New Year's Day that followed the two-hour competition broadcasted on December 25. With his rendition of "A Beautiful Day" by U2, Nilsen proved to the judges that appearance isn't everything, and topped ten other contestants from around the world — including America's Kelly Clarkson, who finished a fairly close second with her overly stage-managed version of Aretha Franklin's "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman". Belgium's grunge-rocker Peter Evrard, who sang an articulate version of Nirvana's "Lithium", placed third; and Canada's own Ryan Malcolm, who sang "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" by the Hollies, finished in sixth.

In reference to his lack of typical pop-star good-looks, the infamously nasty judge Simon Cowell, from the *American Idol* series, told Nilsen he had the perfect voice for radio, but not for television. The Australian judge Ian Dickson told Nilsen, "you have the voice of an angel and the face of a hobbit. If they had Middle-Earth Idol you'd walk it". However, though the remarks were meant to be scathing, the hobbit comment probably

helped win Nilsen more points as *The Lord of The Rings* mania is still in full-swing, with the last of trilogy currently in theatres.

The contestants were each first-season winners in their own country's version of the British show *Pop Idol*. Since countries were not permitted to vote for their own Idols under the voting system, each contestant was given a maximum of twelve points from their native country. Then, the winner of each country's vote received ten points, followed by nine for second, eight for third, and so on.

Nilsen, a former plumber and father of two, earned 106 of a possible 112 points from nine of the eleven countries that participated in the singing showcase to win the title. Kelly Clarkson earned 97 points to finish in second. South African Heinz Winckler finished fourth, Will Young of the United Kingdom finished fifth, Ryan Malcolm of Canada came sixth, Australia's Guy Sebastien placed seventh, Poland's Alicja Janosz placed eighth, Germany's Alexander Klaws came ninth, Diana Karazon from the Pan-Arabic Region was tenth, and Jamai Loman of the Netherlands came eleventh. It is reportedly undecided if there will be a second *World Idol* competition.

## Bootlegging beginnings

by Richard Woodbury

At some point in most people's lives, we have all gone to a kick-ass concert that we will never forget. If the artist is fairly popular, it is quite possible that an audio or video recording of that concert may exist.

The music industry is divided on the idea of fans recording shows, some bands permit and encourage it, and some are completely against it. Bands like the Dave Matthews Band, Phish, and The Counting Crows all have trading friendly policies. The key element to their support is that the recordings are traded amongst fans and that there is no profit involved in the transactions.

Eliminating profit from a trade can be conducted in a few ways. One method is to do a straight up trade, meaning that I will trade a show that I have for a show that I don't have with somebody. Another way is to do a B & P. This is the most popular option for beginners. A B & P (or blanks and postage) means that I will send the number of blank CD's needed to copy the

shows as well as the appropriate amount of return postage to the trader. The trader will burn the shows and then mail them back to me.

This all sounds great, so what's the catch? The catch is quality. Quality varies greatly among different recordings. Shows are usually recorded by fans who bring in some sort of recording device to the concert. The sound quality of a recording is not as good as the quality of a live release by an artist. Improved technology has meant that the sound quality of bootleg recordings is getting better and better. Sometimes, the tapers will even plug their recorder directly into the artist's soundboard; this leads to the best quality recording because all of the music from a concert goes directly into the soundboard. Soundboard recordings are much harder to come by than audience recordings.

It used to be that people traded shows via cassettes. One of the problems with cassettes is that with each copy made, sound quality deteriorates. This is one of the

beauties of using CDR's. With each copy made, there is no subsequent deterioration in quality. This holds true provided that there aren't any errors in the copying process.

If you are interested in obtaining some recordings of an artists, there are a few ways to get in on the action. The easiest is to conduct a search on the Internet. If you are a fan of Radiohead for example, enter in a search query like "Radiohead bootleg list". After searching through some sites, you should have no problem finding a trader who has some shows by the given artist. The trader will usually have their trading rules posted; it is very important to read these. If you find some shows that you would like to have, send the trader an e-mail explaining that you wish to do a B & P. Most traders don't mind doing B & P's for newbies who are just starting to put together a collection. Also, be sure to check out [www.mcnichol.com/bnp/](http://www.mcnichol.com/bnp/). This site is an excellent resource explaining how to do B & P's.

With a little time and money devoted to trading, fans can make the transition from being casual fans to obsessive fans who have an almost complete live catalogue of an artist.

## Photo Contest

During International Week show off your photographic talents

Deadline: January 30, 5:00 PM  
All students can participate.

- \* Canadians should submit your photos of your travels during your study abroad experience overseas.
- \* International Students should submit your favourite photos from your experience in Canada.
- \* Entries will be judged on your ability to communicate a cross-cultural experience in addition to artistic merit. Remember the person who submits the photograph has to be the photographer.

First, Second and Third prizes will be awarded at noon on Tuesday, February 4th in the Loyola Conference Hall. Each winner will receive a framed copy of their photograph.

For more information and an entry form, come to the International Centre, Room 300, Student Centre.

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# The hymen chronicles

by Anna Boudreau

anna\_boudreau@mail.com

Welcome to The Hymen Chronicles. Yes, another sex column to educate our university community on questions you may have, but are too shy to ask. Let me get the particulars out of the way first: Send your questions to [anna\\_boudreau@mail.com](mailto:anna_boudreau@mail.com). All emails sent to that address will be kept confidential. I will answer questions to the best of my ability, and will be using many credible resources to help my answers. Check out the Journal for some great information and tips on leading a healthy sex life.

Of course I don't have any questions to respond to this week, so I have decided to talk about a couple issues that have come up among my friends. Guys, if you are squirmy with feminine issues, I won't be insulted if you move on to the next article.

The first issue I want to discuss is an increasingly popular method of birth control that sounds like heaven. Depo-Provera is an injected contraceptive that lasts for 10-13 weeks. That's right ladies, one shot, four times a year. You don't have to worry about taking that little pill everyday at approximately the same time. The injection you receive is 150 mg of the hormone medroxyprogesterone acetate. This is similar, but not the same, as progesterone. Depo-Provera stops ovulation so that an egg is not released. It

also changes the lining of the uterus so that a fertilized egg is not easily received. It is important to have a back-up plan. And if the back-up isn't enough for you, Depo-Provera causes thickening of the secretions in the cervix so that it is more difficult for sperm to enter the uterus. For the statisticians out there, Depo-Provera is more than 99.7% effective for controlling conception.

Oral contraceptives can be equally effective in theory. However, the downfall to oral contraceptives is human error, which is significantly higher. If you have missed a pill before, you are definitely not the only one. Another advantage to Depo-Provera over oral contraceptives is that antibiotic medication does not change the effectiveness of Depo-Provera.

Depo-Provera, like any other medication, affects different people in different ways. Some women stop having periods when on Depo-Provera. Others are not as lucky and have their periods more irregularly than they would have with an oral contraceptive.

As with all medications, there are risks involved. Make sure you discuss the risks with your health practitioner to see if this medication is right for you.

The second issue I want to discuss is cervical cancer. More and more women in

Nova Scotia are dying from cervical cancer. This should not be happening. Cervical cancer is easy to detect due to its slow growing process. Precancerous cells can be detected before they invade other cells. Early detection means the precancerous cells can be removed to prevent cervical cancer from developing.

What appears to be the reason for such a high rate of cervical cancer deaths in Nova Scotia is the lack of testing. And ladies, you know what test I am talking about. The Pap smear. That dreadful test that you should have done annually, but will try to avoid it if possible. Please do not avoid this test. Sure it is a little embarrassing and uncomfortable but the two minutes that is needed for the test can save your life. Now ladies, I understand how uncomfortable you may feel about this but your vagina is definitely not the your doctor has examined. They have probably seen it all and won't judge you on yours. Take this test, every year, and ask your doctor about the results about six weeks after you had the test. Cervical cancer can happen to you and denying it won't exclude you from the possibility.

# Hip-hop in Halifax

by Ian Burns

You might have read late last year about b Ravenous and his new CD "Tha Drop." Well the time has finally come, the CD release is here.

If you like parties and Hip Hop, be sure to check out the b Ravenous CD release party at the Civic Workers Club on January 16. The show is at 2785 Isleville Street and the party starts at 10pm. Cover is \$4 and you have to be 19+ to

get in. So if you're 19 come on down, and if you're under 19, get a fake ID fast.

b Ravenous will be headlining the show with special guests: Spesh K, DJ IV, B. Gunn, Sean Juan, Max Deuce, Unknown, Kaosz, and Lumps.

There will be full bar service and the party stops at 1am. Be sure to come out, show your support and enjoy the party.

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be determined after January 15th. Interviewing Thursday from 9-5 at Student Employment Centre in the Student Centre.

Call Cindy at 420-5499 for appointment. Visit [www.camptowanda.com](http://www.camptowanda.com) for application or email [staff@camptowanda.com](mailto:staff@camptowanda.com) or call

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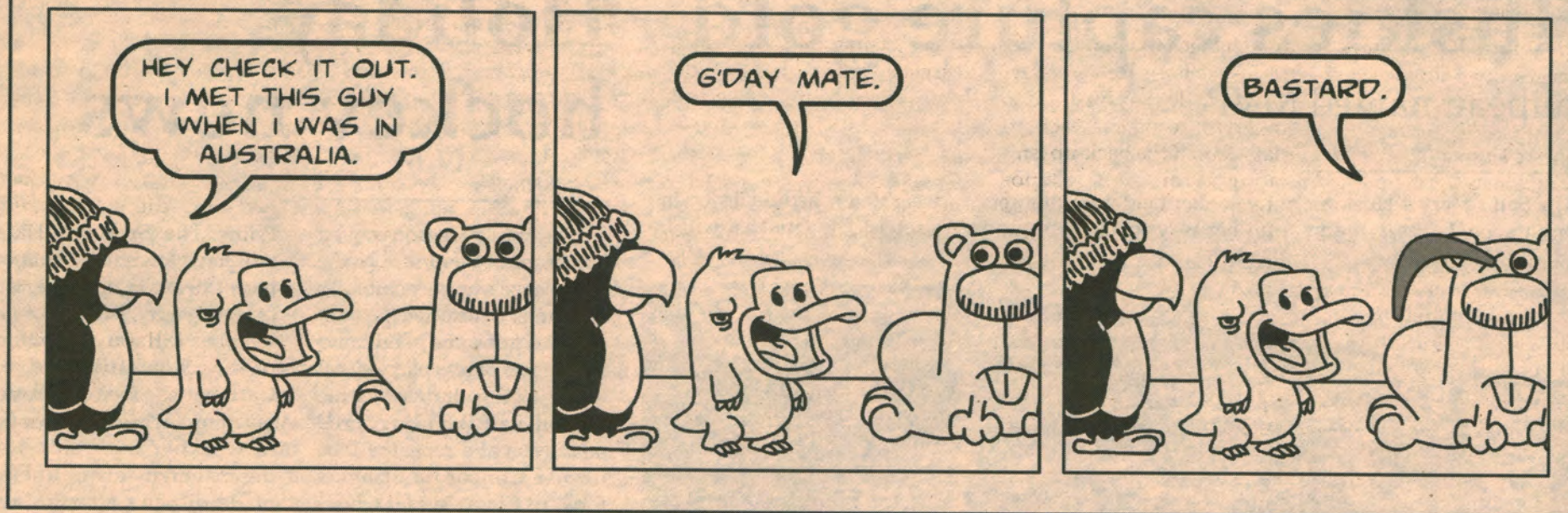
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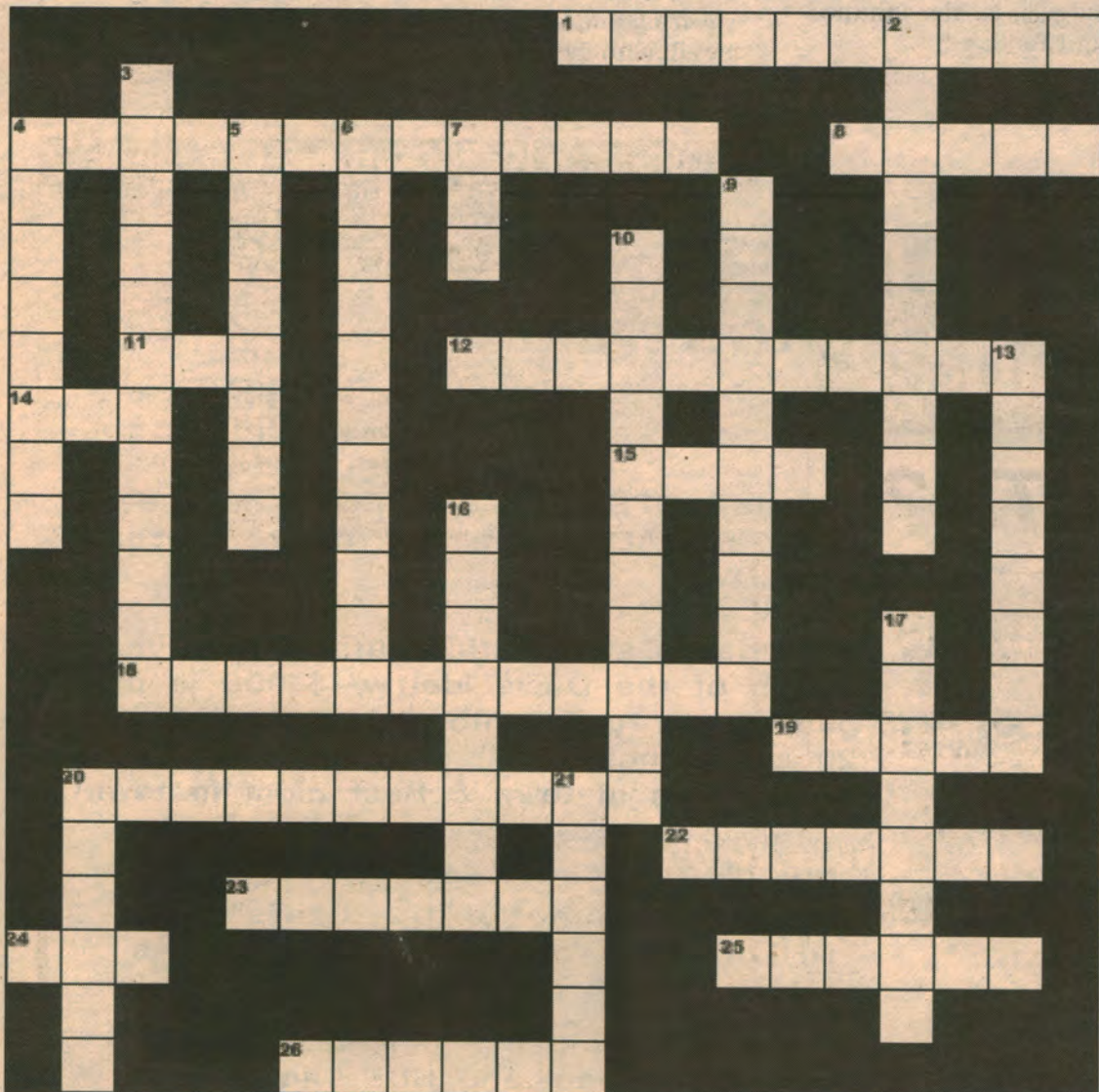
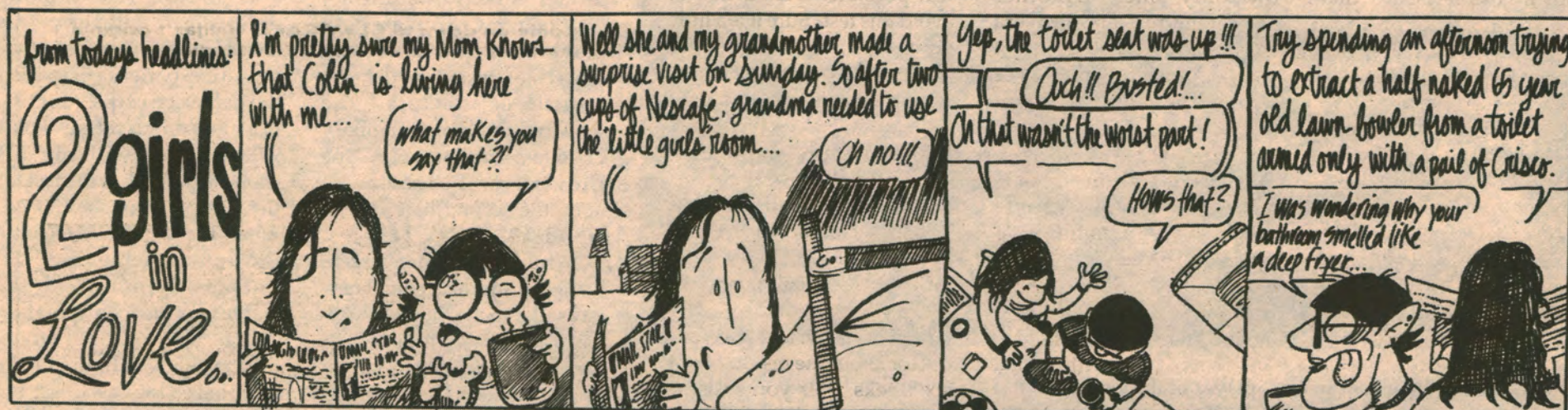


# Comics

## BEAVER AND PENGUIN



## A Blast From the Past



# Candy

### ACROSS

1. Chew it by the metre
4. These sour candies come in red, orange, yellow, and green
8. \_\_\_\_\_ pop
11. These kind of rocks danced on your tongue
12. Suck on it long enough and it'll turn into gum
14. Mike's friend
15. The jelly variety of a small child
18. Don't pacify a baby with these
19. Not only found in your classroom
20. Sugar in a straw...Yum
22. These layered candies will drive you \_\_\_\_\_
23. Can't get to the moon in this
24. The candy analysed by Seinfeld
25. These chewy, red berries come from this country
26. Melt in your mouth, not

### in your hand

### DOWN

2. How many licks does it take to get to the center of the?
3. Everybody loves these pink and orange chewy candies
4. Do you eat the red one last?
5. Suckers in a lipstick tube
6. So sour, you'll cry
7. These lips weren't cold
9. They're sweet and they're tart
10. Suck on these things forever
13. Taste the rainbow
16. Strawberry, Cherry, and Black
17. They won't blow up a country but they might blow up your head
20. These cigarettes won't kill you
21. Halloween and Hershey

# News You Can Use

**Taking mashed up banana peels and placing them in your bra overnight will help to firm your breasts.**

# Sports

## Huskies capture gold

Galipeau named MVP

by Steve Clow

The Saint Mary's Huskies women's basketball team

five of her field goal attempts on her way to 13 points and

weighted schedule down the stretch. The Huskies will be



Photos by Eric Boudreau/ THE JOURNAL

ushered in the New Year in a big way when they defeated the Dalhousie Tigers in the gold medal game of the Huskies Holiday Invitational played this past weekend at the Tower. SMU as a team, played solid in each game of the tournament and used a balanced scoring attack to pull away from the Tigers in the final. Slashing forward Jamie Walker had a game high 20 pts in the 66-51 Huskies victory, as three Huskies made it to double digits. The Huskies

player of the game honors.

The Huskies earned a trip to the finals by coming from behind to beat conference rival St.FX 52-45 in the semis. SMU rode the back of a 25-10 second half run to dispose of the X-women, who only managed a measly six points in the final ten minutes of the match-up. Galipeau led the way for the Huskies as she managed a double double with 15 points and 11 rebounds. She wasn't alone though as starting point guard

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g a m e a g a i n s t



managed to light up the Tigers defense, which went into the final holding their opponents to just forty-five points a game. SMU seemed to hit everything in the second half as they shot very well from the field and managed to make all of their free throws on their way to scoring forty points in the final half. Julie Galipeau was named tournament MVP for her weekend efforts, which included a 15-point and 13 rebound performance in the final. Heather Rudderham was the other Husky to top double figures as she hit all

Western, which gave the Huskies a slim 53-52 victory.

The Huskies now turn their attention back to their conference schedule as the squad currently sits at 3-3 in the AUS, good enough for third place in the Nelson division. With the second half set to begin the Huskies could go either way from here as they are only a half game out of second and one and a half out of first. The team will be looking to build on the momentum that comes from winning a tournament like this as they enjoy a home

looking for two victories this coming weekend when they cross the Confederation Bridge to tangle with the 1-4 UPEI Panthers.

## Holiday hockey news

by Bill Hughes

The holiday season proved both naughty and nice to the Saint Mary's hockey clubs. As play is set to resume, the lady Huskies got some good news in the form of two players that will be joining the team for the second half. Helping SMU take a run at a repeat will be former Concordia Stingers forward Clara Gaudet who is known for her goal scoring prowess and Christine Hann, a two-way forward and former Husky who did not play before Christmas. Both players will have a week worth of practice to get acquainted before the schedule resumes on January 11, when they travel to the University of Moncton to open the second half against Les Aigles.

While the women's team was busy adding a pair of new faces, the men's hockey team had their roster reduced, as they lost their second player of the season. The first loss was forward Brett Gibson who left the team to pursue a professional career in the ECHL with the Pensacola Ice

Pilots. The red-hot Huskies will have to endure the most recent deletion of former all-star defender Brad Morgan who has left school to return to his hometown of St. Catherines. Coach Trevor Stienburg's challenge now lies in working with only five defencemen in his lineup, made difficult after losing Morgan who logged a lot of ice time. Morgan was third in scoring on both the Huskies and in the AUS among defencemen with 13 points and was also using his four years of experience in leading the defensive corps, resulting in a plus/minus rating of plus 9. Stienburg will put his shortened bench to the test for the first time on January 9, when the Huskies welcome the underachieving St. Thomas Tommies to the Halifax Forum for a 7pm start.

On the national stage during the wee hours of the morning on the East Coast, the "Prime Minister" of hockey himself, Don Cherry took a

Continued on page 11

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# SMU to cut some rug

by Bill Hughes

The centerpiece to the Saint Mary's campus is Huskies Stadium and atop the athletics department's Christmas wish list was to replace its aging artificial turf surface, and it seems as though it will come to fruition. Plans are now underway for Saint Mary's Athletic Director David Murphy to put his first major stamp on the school since taking over the position from the legendary Larry Uteck. The proposed \$1.2 million project is only a few obstacles away from devising plans that would ideally have the new carpet installed and operational by the summer of 2004. The plan is to complete the project in time to avoid any scheduling conflicts, with the multitude of summer camps put on by the university.

The aforementioned obstacles involve an official endorsement from Saint Mary's administration, upon determining the official estimated cost of the most practical and quality surface to purchase. The university is also in talks with the Halifax Regional Municipality, in hopes that they will contribute funds to aid SMU, because the university does not have the capital to foot the entire bill. SMU hopes to impress upon the HRM brass with the importance of the upkeep of Huskies Stadium to the community. Although the majority of the activity on the turf is generated from Huskies varsity sports, the stadium

is also used for community events such as high school football, the Labatt 24-hour relay, Run for the Cure and various Track and Field events as well as the bi-annual Uteck Bowl.

Huskies Stadium itself was originally built in 1969 as means for hosting the Canada Summer Games. The natural grass surface of that time was converted to artificial turf in time for the Pan-American Wheelchair Games in 1981. Eleven years after the completion of the '81 games, the original turf was replaced. Now as the summer of 2004 approaches, the university is set to usher in the third artificial surface.

Aiding in the push among those in support of public funding is Larry Uteck's wife Sue, a vocal South End councilwoman. Sue Uteck is hopeful that a new surface would benefit the community as a whole, much like the turf recently installed on Clayton Park's Mainland Common.

Saint Mary's primary objective is to replace the worn-down turf before it becomes unsafe, and at the same time improve the cosmetic look of the stadium, in hopes of attracting corporate sponsorship. If all goes according to plan, in May, the university will begin work installing a turf destined to provide for the continuing success of future National Champions.

# Hawks claw Huskies

## X-men win Shoveller

by Steve Clow

The men's basketball squad fell short in their bid to defend their title as champions of the Rod Shoveller Tournament this past weekend at Dalplex. After advancing to the finals of the invitational tournament the past two years, SMU (2-3) couldn't quite pull out a victory against the Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks (4-4) in opening round action. Laurier used a strong offensive attack to outlast the Huskies 72-65. The quarterfinal match-up was tight down to the final minutes as the Huskies were held close by Ben McCarthy's 19 points and 11 rebounds. The Ontario school was just too much down the stretch however, as four Golden Hawk players managed to reach double figures for scoring, led by Andrew MacKay who had 18. Tournament all-star Gabe Goree helped his team's cause with 16 points, but was the only other Husky to score

more than nine points.

The loss sent the Huskies to the consolation side of the tournament, where they fared much better. In their second match of the tournament, SMU used intense defensive pressure to run away from the Bishop Gaiters (3-2) and win comfortably 61-45. The Huskies were led by Goree, who had a game high 18 points, while dynamic wingman Nelson Carvery added 13 points and Jon Thibault had seven.

The win put the Huskies into the fifth place game where they met up with their conference rival, the Acadia Axemen (2-4). Points were at a premium in this contest as both teams worked at keeping the tempo sluggish. The Huskies got big games from their three best players as Goree continued his impressive play by netting 18 points, McCarthy, who fell silent in their second game, came back with 18 points of

his own, and Carvery, who looks to have found his stride added 16.

The number two-ranked St. FX X-men (4-1) won their third Shoveller crown in five years after they defeated the host Dal Tigers (2-3) 82-72 in the final. An estimated one thousand people watched as freshman Garry Gallimore poured in 21 points for the victors. Former SMU Husky, Matt Brooks led the way offensively for the Tigers with 16 points.

The X-men's Dion Williams was named tourney MVP and SMU's Goree was named to the tournament all-star team along with Dal's Brooks, St.FX guard Mike Baxter, Lakehead forward Rob Innes, and Patrick Perrotte of Concordia.

The Huskies return to conference action this weekend when they make the trip to Charlottetown to tangle with the tough UPEI Panthers (3-2) for a weekend set.

### Entry Deadlines for Winter Intramural Sports

Sports	Entry Deadline	Team Captain's Meeting
Co-ed Indoor Soccer	Thursday, January 15, 3:00pm	Thursday, January 15, 7:00pm
Co-ed Basketball	Thursday, January 15, 3:00pm	Thursday, January 15, 7:00pm
Men's Recreational and Competitive Basketball	Monday, January 19, 3:00pm	Monday, January 19, 7:00pm
Co-ed Volleyball	Tuesday, January 20, 3:00pm	Tuesday, January 20, 7:00pm
Midnight Madness Co-ed Broomball Tournament	Thursday, January 29, 3:00pm	

Team sign-up sheet as can be picked up at the intramural office, second floor of the Tower 11:00am to 1:00pm Monday through Thursday.

Continued from page 10

few moments alongside Ron Maclean from their Toronto studio, to praise Saint Mary's hockey coach Trevor Stienburg on the "After Hours" post game show. The comments were sparked by the promotion of Doug Doull who was called up from the

AHL's Providence Bruins to their parent club, the Boston Bruins to fill the role of pugilist. The Glace Bay native played in 54 games for SMU from 1995-1998 during which he recorded 11 goals and 25 assists for a total of 36 points. The 6'2", 216-pound Doull also managed to accumulate

419 penalty minutes and has made a career out of dropping the gloves. Cherry quoted Stienburg's characterization of Doull by saying that "An ounce of heart is better than a pound of muscle." This leaves one to wonder are SMU students' brains or brawn?

### Saint Mary's Huskies Hockey First Half Statistics

	Women	Men
Games	7	14
	Per Game/ AUS Ranking	Per Game/ AUS Ranking
Shots	41.71 (2)	36 (1)
Goals	4.56 (2)	3.93 (2)
Goals Against	1.29 (2)	3.07 (4)
Penalty Minutes	11.71 (5)	15.57 (2)
Power Play Goals	2.14 (1)	1.07 (T3)
Short Handed Goals	0.14 (T1)	0.36 (T1)
Power Play %	36.6% (1)	19.2% (3)
Penalty Kill %	97.4% (1)	84.0% (4)

# HUSKIES



THIS WEEK'S VARSITY GAMES  
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THE HALIFAX FORUM

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SATURDAY JAN 10 VS UPEI 7PM

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**THE AMY KELLY BAND**

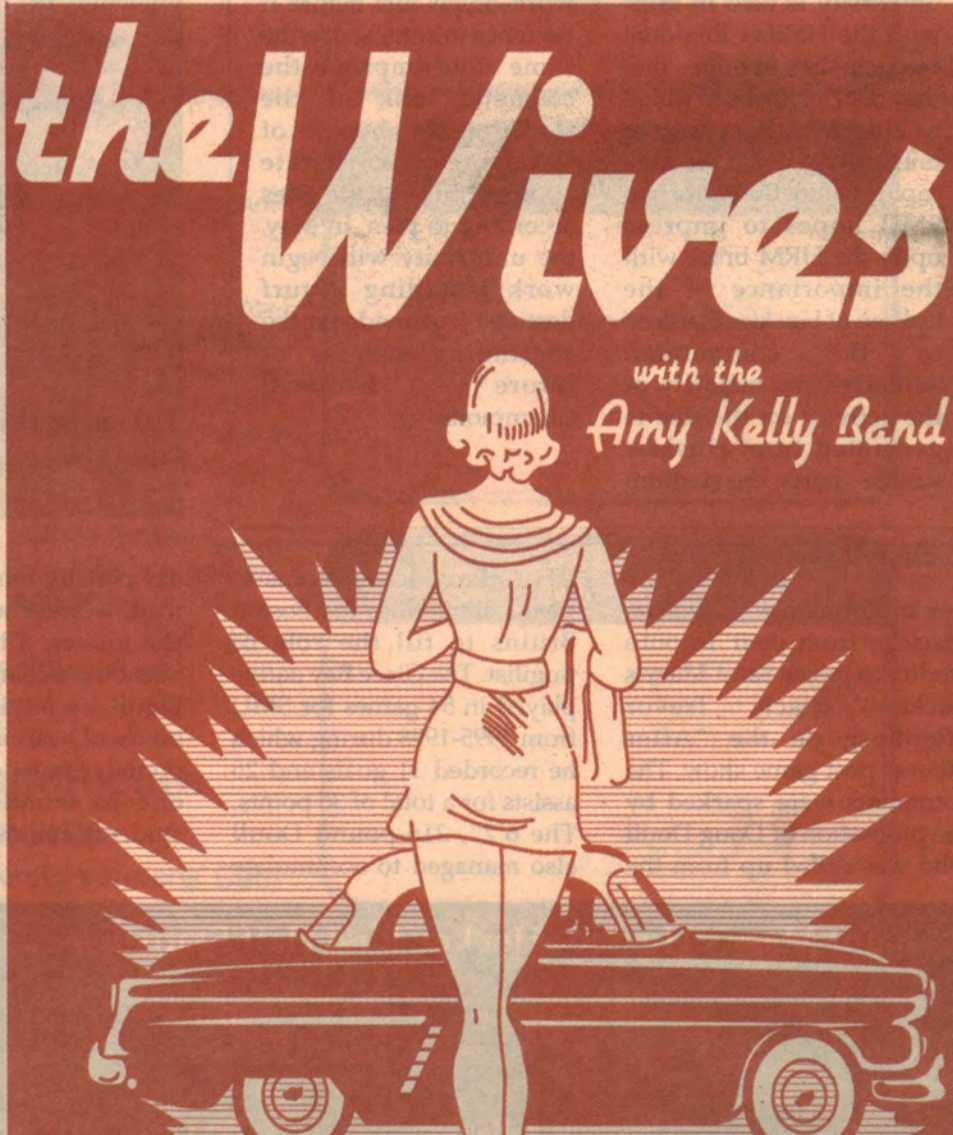
with the WIVES



FRIDAY JAN. 9th 2004  
at The IDIOT

**the Wives**

with the Amy Kelly Band



FRIDAY JAN 9th  
AT THE IDIOT

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