



WHAT'S INSIDE:

NEWS	1-4
THIS WEEK	3
FEATURES	5
A/E	6
SPORTS	7-8

What would Snow White think

BY MARK LAYMAN

At some point in your life you have likely gazed into the sky and attempted to make scenes and sense of the different and changing shapes of clouds. What you see is completely up to you, so the horse you see may be a castle to someone else, or could even be a hamburger with fries and sweet mayonnaise to dip them in. It's intriguing that staring at clouds could make you hungry, but nonetheless it probably happens to someone everyday. Those clouds could be right in your living room. Maybe they're even in your car, trying endlessly to escape through your sealed windows and creating a haze of curiosity for everyone even they didn't bring their five dollars this time.

The mural shown above is a light-hearted depiction of the well known Seven Dwarves who you may have known to keep it real back in the day with Snow White. You can find this mural on the side of SweetLeaf Smokeshop & Hydroponics, located at the corner of Isleville Street and Hennessey Street, just north of the Oland's Cold Beer Store. The shop is facing a pile of scrutiny and disgruntled neighbours after having the mural done in December of last year. Owner Kenny Banks hired Kevin Giberson to paint his first mural, a large

bong, that lasted only four days before being subject to complaints and uproar in the quiet residential Hydrostone section of north-end Halifax. Giberson spoke to Banks about his vision of a new and colourful piece and soon thereafter the dwarves were seen smiling from as far away as Young Street (some thirty yards or so). The new mural is street-level and within reach and vision of everyone walking nearby. There is a chance this artwork may need to be removed, say the folks running this lovely city, and Banks is looking for support from you and everyone you know. He wishes to make sure Giberson can keep his art where it is and assure his store a fair reputation as a legal and sincere smokeshop in Halifax.

The Journal was lucky enough to be welcomed to sit down and interview Banks and his wife Colleen, who works daily in the store serving customers from all over the province. It took no time for our conversation to liven up as we became comfortable with each other. We laughed as we snacked on chips and gummy bears and talked about the mural and the problems he has run into since having the first mural done. Banks knew that his first mural, a harsher and much less inviting design, had gone a bit too far past the

social-acceptability line. He contacted Giberson who came by with a new plan for the wall. The new mural was designed to provoke a story for everyone who sees it, and also be reasonable for children who may be curious to what the dwarves are doing so high up in the clouds.

Banks indicated that the first complaint came before the mural was completed, from a neighbour who had taken his children for a stroll and wandered near the store and the mural. The neighbour suspected immediately what the dwarves were up to, with bong and incense in hand, and told Banks he felt it was an inappropriate addition to the quiet and friendly neighbourhood. (Note: SweetLeaf's building is in C1 zoning of HRM, and is thereby permitted to host businesses and public access areas.)

Police officers have phoned the store and stopped by in person to check out the mural (and perhaps buy incense for their homes or offices). Some have gone so far as to say they would be contacting Disney Corporation regarding copyright infringements. So far, Banks has received word from HRM that he should remove the artwork from his wall to cease the complaints and "be a good neighbour".

// cont. on page 4

HUNTERS. THOMPSON calls it quits

BY DAVE LALOND

Hunter Stockton Thompson was born in Louisville Kentucky in 1937. He grew into the reputation of being a wild-child, and the "wild" he developed early on in life would stick with him until his recent death on Sunday, February 20th, at the age of 67. The man is a legend in the realm of journalism and in the realm of life. He gave a new face to the art of writing, and inspired many with his charismatic form. Hunter founded the art of "Gonzo Journalism", and the theme of his work, whether he was covering politics or sports, was never far from the death of the American Dream.

There was much more to Hunter than the written word. The man is just as renowned in the art of living as he is legendary for his typewriter. The self-proclaimed "Champion of Fun" was indeed just that. He was one of the fastest men ever to live long enough to write about it. His life was always about the present, focusing all of his energy on "right now." He was a man who liked to have control over his circumstances. For Hunter, death was the final circumstance. He made sure that he would have control over that one too.

Suicide is a tricky topic. It's especially tricky when the

perpetrator doesn't leave a note. The news hit the public who were affected by his life and his work with heavy force. There was something about Hunter that led his fans to believe that he was unbeatable. His antics made him appear indestructible. His writing gave the reader the impression that he was unbreakable. The man could not die. If death were possible, it would have happened to him long ago. To wake up and turn on the television to find that Hunter S. Thompson had shot a gun into his mouth was certainly unexpected.

The death, however, did not come as a complete shock to those who were close to Hunter. His wife Anita, 33, claimed that Thompson had been talking about a suicide for months. They would argue about the issue, and the arguments would escalate to the point where Anita would leave their home in frustration. Now that it's over, Anita says she wishes that she had been more supportive of his decision to end his life on his own terms. Thompson's son Juan, who was in Thompson's home when the suicide occurred, was also not shocked by his father's suicide. He was shocked, however, by

// cont. on page 5

SMUSA PAGE



U-PASS REFERENDUM

This is to inform you that the Students' Association must conduct a referendum for the current U-Pass Program. The reason for this referendum is because the U-Pass program fee is increasing from \$110 to \$115. Because this increase is more than inflation (core CPI), the Students' Association is required to hold a referendum to determine if the U-Pass Program continues to exist or not.

The SMUSA constitution requires a minimum of 10 % of the membership to vote with a 2/3 majority approval to pass the referendum.

Vote "YES" if you want the U-Pass Program to continue at a price of \$115, mandatory for all full-time students (3 or more courses)

Vote "NO" if you want to cancel the U-Pass Program entirely.

ON MARCH 14TH AND 15TH IT IS TIME TO CAST YOUR VOTE

For more information please visit the Information Desk in the Student Centre lobby or the SMUSA main office on the 5th floor, Student Centre.

the **Gorsebrook**
since 1974
lounge



**Wednesdays
Open Mic**



**Thursdays
Wing Night**

**Kokanee Ski Party at the
Gorsebrook. March 3rd & 10th
Great Prizes!**

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

CASA AGM

March 14th-16th

St. Mary's & Dalhousie are co-hosting the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Annual General Meeting

SMUSA looking for volunteers. Interested in helping out?
Contact VP external Ryan Foley:
vpexternal@smusa.ca 496-8716

Executive Election Results

President: Zach Churhill

VP External: Emeka Chinabu

VP Academic: Olivier Jarda

VP Internal: Jeff Lohnes

Board of Governors: Adam Lordon, Zach Churchill

Academic Senate: Heather Esling, Olivier Jarda, Adam Lordon

Reminders

Feb 28: SRC nominations open.
Charter Day nominations open.

Mar 4: SRC nominations due.
SMUSA Teaching Excellence Awards nominations due.

Mar 6: SRC campaigning begins 5:00 p.m.

Mar 13: SRC campaigning ends 5:00 p.m.

Mar 14-15: SRC Voting

Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day at the pub.

For closure/cancellation information, call the new SMU closure/cancellation Hotline: 491-6263

Tutors?

The SMUSA Tutor Database is here for you!

To sign up as a tutor or to find a tutor, contact your VP Academic, Kathleen Lingley, at 490-8710 or vpacademic@smusa.ca

OPINIONS

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



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

News
 Kate Ross
 thejournal@gmail.com
 496-8203

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

Sports
 Bill Hughes
 billyuqtr@yahoo.ca

Features
 Ashlee Starratt
 sabreforce88@hotmail.com

Art Director
 Kate Ross

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

Business Manager
 Mark Layman
 journal.biz.mgr@gmail.com
 496-8206

Contributors:
 Simon Mackie, John Read,
 Nat Smith, Jackie Howatt,
 Juliet, Adam Costello, Hjeri
 Watkins, Kathleen Lingley,
 Jennifer Cottreau

The Journal is the student news paper of Saint Mary's University. The paper is published each Wednesday by The Journal Publishing Society, and funded in part by the student body. All students are welcome to submit pieces of work for publication in The Journal. These submissions should be received no later than 12:00pm Monday at The Journal offices. All pieces are subject to The Journal guidelines for submission, available on request. The opinions expressed in The Journal are those of the authors and not necessarily of The Journal or Saint Mary's University.

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

Advertising
 b) 496-8203 f) 496-8209

Misunderstanding the Memorandum and the Role of Student Leaders

BY HEATHER ESLING

The memorandum of understanding was passed in December of 2004. This is a memorandum signed by the NS Department of Education and the Presidents of the Universities (CONSUP), stating that tuition can not exceed 3.9% for the next 3 years. During the time prior to the signing of the MOU, SMUSA held 2 ANNSA campaigns and scheduled 32 residence floor talks to bring this information directly to the students on and off campus. This past Sunday the Executive Director of ANSSA, Joanna Lasky, spoke to the Student Representative Council about the significance of a provincial lobby group in Nova Scotia. Where was Ryan Foley? He was spearheading these campaigns and floor talks so each student at Saint Mary's knew who and how they were being represented. A copy of the MOU was given to the SMUSA webmaster in January to be placed on the website; however, it failed to be displayed promptly on the website.

Nat Smith, former candidate for the VP External Affairs in the recent election, attacked ANSSA during his campaign saying it was non-beneficial for students. However, during the recent candidate's forum held several weeks ago was asked a question of SMUSA's involvement with governmental lobby groups. Nat Smith could not answer the question due to his lack of understanding of the provincial organization ANSSA. How can you degrade something that you do not fully understand or are not aware of?


ANSSA is a provincial lobby group representing over 33,000 students or 75% of the students of Nova Scotia, members include Dalhousie, Acadia, St. FX and Saint Mary's University. A collective agreement was forged by the members of ANSSA stating that they are aware of several discrepancies with the MOU, such as a lack of student consultation, the disregard to include professional programs and international differential fees. On the bright side this is the most funding for post secondary education that Nova Scotia students have received to date. Between the period of 1990 and 2003 per student provincial funding has decreased by 24% IN Nova Scotia. The MOU is funding students in Nova Scotia and increased \$30 million over the next 3 years. The 3.9% tuition increase is far less than any tuition increase in the past 7 years. Thus, this agreement is not perfect but is a step in

the right direction for Nova Scotia students. It was stated in the article, Memorandum of Misunderstanding "that after the next 3 years and the MOU expires that tuition will sky rocket as they attempt to make up for any possible 'revenue' loss over the past few years." This is just speculation. On what evidence are you basing your assessment of future tuition increases? The Minister of Education, the Honorable Jamie Muir in a student consultation meeting stated that the 2 stakeholders and students from Nova Scotia will be in discussion regarding a new and updated MOU after the current agreement expires. Therefore, to say students will not benefit is ridiculous. Perhaps you would like to go back to a 7% increase and not receive 30 million in additional funding.

SMUSA and ANSSA recognize the under represented issues within the MOU and have committed to rectifying

these problems along with the other stakeholders within this agreement. To say "the MOU is a waste of time" is ambiguous, and displays a didactic approach to student apathy.

CLAY CAFÉ
 Paint-Your-Own Pottery Studio
IS MOVING!!



20% off all pottery for university students with a valid ID till the end of October!!!

Current location:
 1261 Barrington St. (South)

New Location Early Nov.
 6413 Quinpool (opposite the Oxford Theater)
429-2994



Kylie Wickens
 12th floor Loyola

cut
 AND
pastes

Last week on the bottom of the page prize crawler thing I said Simon Partington didn't get his article in to us on time - it was all a big communications mix up. Sorry Simon.

Let's talk EUROPE

Buy your airfare and insurance* to Europe - we'll give the BEST price and get ALL this stuff for FREE!



FREE! Siemens A65 World Phone

FREE! MP3 Player OR Digital Camera

FREE! Voicemail and Call Display for 12 months

plus you could WIN!
 your flight to Europe

Please contact your TRAVEL CUTS agent for full details of this EXCLUSIVE offer. Offer applies to airfares departing between April 1- October 31, 2005.

5th Floor
SMU Student Centre --- **TRAVEL CUTS**
494-7027

fi do STUDENT PHONES

LSAT MCAT GMAT GRE

Preparation Seminars

- Complete 30-Hour Seminars
- Proven Test-Taking Strategies
- Personalized Professional Instruction
- Comprehensive Study Materials
- Simulated Practice Exams
- Free Repeat Policy
- Personal Tutoring Available
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

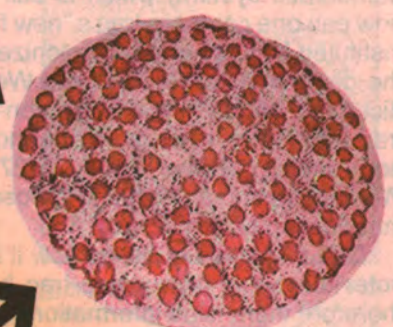
Oxford Seminars
 1-800-269-6719

www.oxfordseminars.com

RASSY'S PIZZA

www.rassy.com

SPECIAL
 16"/3 TOPP. \$9.99 ADD \$2 FOR 9" GARLIC FINGERS



The winner of favourite Super Bowl 38" pizza

425-0425 FREE DELIVERY

10% STUDENT DISCOUNT

NEWS

// cont. from cover

His response is polite and precise, and he understands how some individuals may be less thrilled about the art than he is. Banks is quite the intelligent businessman, however, and has done his homework regarding laws and statutes, and artwork as freedom of expression. Nary a spot on the mural advertises directly for SweetLeaf, nor directly suggests the dwarves depicted are using SweetLeaf's products. In actuality the mural is on the wall of Banks' neighboring business, Kay-Cee's Buy-and-Sell.

Banks plans to stick to his guns throughout the ordeal facing his shop and Giberson's artwork. He has started a petition in his store, which asks for signatures and feedback (for OR against the mural) and brief reasoning on each comment. His stacks of petition papers indicate he is doing quite well in gaining support for his wall, with notes and support from children and seniors alike. The petition is mentioned to walk-ins of all types, even those who have come to simply investigate how a shop can sell such smoking products or to see if there is piles of illegal marijuana on the shelves. Often it is simply a customer who wants a new bong and some new flavors to add to the col-

lection of papers.

Customers come for common accessories like papers, pipes, and hookahs, or more technical products like digital scales, heat lamps and nutrients for home cultivation. Banks has many customers who carry government-issued permission to possess and cultivate marijuana, and knows just how to help them produce top-notch varieties that can be specific enough to induce appetite, help with sleeplessness, and combat symptoms of serious diseases like Multiple-Sclerosis and cancer.

If you think Giberson's artwork is fair and should remain on the wall of Banks' pawn shop, do him and your community a favour by stopping by and signing the petition. He appreciates your feedback and your business, should you be going to check out the great prices and variety of pipes, papers, and hookahs of all sizes. You really need to see what you are missing if you think smokeshops are small, dark, and cramped like others found around Halifax and Dartmouth. The friendly staff is pleased to answer your questions and provide educated information on each product that they sell.

IRAQ ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY? ONLY IF THAT ROAD IS PAVED IN STARS & STRIPES

BY NJERI WATKINS

In determining whether Iraq is on the road to democracy based on the apparent high voter turnout in the January 30, 2005 election, one must be certain to consider democracy in terms of a perspective conducive to the an Iraqi way of life historically, culturally, socially and politically.

The foundations of Western democracy are based on the holy Bible; democracy as we know it conforms to our way of living and our values. One must ask if it is fair to take our values and apply them to another part of the world in a country that was ruled by a self proclaimed leader who was often feared and imposed strict rules and values based on a different religion. That "many Sunni clerics and others oppose the election, [and] Shiite leaders have told their followers that voting is their religious duty" (Yacoub, 2005: A4) demonstrates how their elections are more influenced by religious doctrines as opposed to Western elections which are based on individual rights.

It has taken the United States many years to develop its democratic system, which is still evolving today. Therefore, how can one compare Iraq's "new found democracy," which was instituted by force under a colonized regime of United States, to the democratic systems of the West, whose principles contradict those of Iraq? "A Washington-based organization that is in Iraq training election monitors and helping new parties get up and running." (Boyer, 2005: 26-27) This is an example of how Western democracy is being imposed upon the creation on Iraq's introduction to democracy.

One must also question how it is determined whether or not voter turnout is high, since Iraq has not had an election, and therefore there is no information to compare with the voter turnout rate. "There is no one 'best' electoral system that could be successfully imposed on each and every society; rather electoral systems must be assessed according to the particular tensions and needs of an individual country" (Gibbins, 2004: 178-179).

Social, political or cultural determinants of whether democracy is now "alive and well" in Iraq are irrelevant unless they are measured from a paradigm that is inclusive of the specific goals and ideologies of Iraq. What Iraq needs is the opportunity to develop its own democratic system based on their scriptures, such as the Koran, their social values, and their own definition of the pursuit of happiness, and only then could Iraq truly be on the road to democracy.

"Required To Withdraw For Non-Academic Reasons – PART 3"

WRITTEN BY PAUL DEVEAU / SUBMITTED BY KATHLEEN LINGLEY

Plagiarism – so far this series has discussed what it is, how it is detected, and what could happen to a student who commits this offense. But now what? Having learned this, where do we go from here? We, as students, and the University as a whole, have a responsibility to ensure that this issue is extinguished, and help prevent the occurrence of future unfortunate cases that require students to "...Withdraw for Non-Academic Reasons".

But with such a huge issue, is there anything that can be done? Well, reading articles like this is a start. For any issue to be resolved, people must be aware that it exists and what it involves. In regards to plagiarism, over the last few years Saint Mary's has been working hard to increase this awareness. Most of you have probably been in a course where, in the first couple of weeks, the professor has mentioned plagiarism, what it entails and what to do (or not do) in order to avoid it. Some professors have given out handbooks outlining how to properly do course work to avoid plagiarism, and some have even dedicated a large portion of a class to the issue! But since all students carry the responsibility of upholding academic honesty, it is not enough for only some professors to do this with some students. It is crucial that ALL instructors help students understand what is expected of them and how to avoid plagiarism. Being unaware of the rules is never an excuse, however it is not fair to make accusations against students who have trusted in their high school education, only to come to university and find that they are ill-prepared to

write at the university level.

In light of this, it is just as important to educate professors as it is to educate students. One of the ways this is being done at Saint Mary's is through the Office of Instructional Development. A series of workshops have been held in the past to communicate plagiarism issues to faculty and students. In addition, a sub-committee of the Quality of Teaching Committee has been formed with faculty, staff and students as members. This committee has explored the issues involved in preventing, detecting and dealing with plagiarism and will focus on actions to help reduce such incidents. The intention is for this committee to promote idea sharing across the many levels of the University, as well as initiate more talk and more action to make everyone aware of plagiarism and its severity.

But you as an individual student can only rely on others to a certain extent. It is your responsibility to educate yourself and find out what you need to do to uphold academic honesty and avoid getting yourself and perhaps others in trouble. And to do this, you have every right to take advantage of the many resources available. For example, talk to your professors. If you're unclear about what is required for assignments, or whether your work is on the right track, take the initiative to find out and prevent yourself from getting a nasty surprise later on. As well, there are many web sites out there which can give you the "do's and don'ts" on plagiarism. A great source of information can be found on the Saint Mary's Library web site at "<http://www.smu.ca/administration/library/subjects/plagiarism.html>". Also, our library has in its collection an excellent book entitled "Using Sources Effectively: Strengthening Your Writing and Avoiding Plagiarism" by Robert A. Harris. This book, written for students, offers many tips on how to succeed in school without resorting to plagiarism. If you'd like to check it out, the book's call number is "SMU PN 167 H372 2002". And don't forget your representatives with SMUSA. The Students' Representative Council (SRC) has students who represent the different Faculties and groups of students concerns, as well as the Vice President Academic who is available to advise direction with regards to many of your academic queries. SMUSA is "Students Working for Students", so we need your involvement to help us do our job as best as possible.

The bottom line on plagiarism is: don't do it! If you're thinking of taking the risk of cheating, or if you figure, with your fool-proof plan, that you won't be caught, stop and ask yourself "Is it worth it"? As has been discussed in this series of articles, plagiarism is often detected, it is dealt with in a serious manner, and it can follow you anywhere. You owe it to yourself, your peers, your university, and to those who study after you to get your education honestly and independently. If we all do our part, we can at least be aware of this academic injustice, and that's the most important step in getting rid of it altogether.

If you would like to comment on this series of articles or any other academic issue, please feel free to contact Kathleen Lingley, your vp academic, directly by phone at 496-8710, by e-mail at vpacademic@smusa.ca, or drop by the SMUSA offices found on the 5th floor of the Student Centre.



Homburg International Mobility Awards & AVP/SMUSA International Mobility Awards

The application deadline is
Tuesday, March 15

ATTENTION:

The application form has been revised recently. Please refer to the new form for an updated guideline and additional required documents.

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

// cont. from cover



his timing. Juan says that it's the way Thompson wanted to leave, that it was an act of control, rather than an act of despair.

During Hunter's final moments, he was seated in the kitchen of his Woody Creek home, infamously known as his "fortified compound near Aspen, Colorado," speaking to Anita on the telephone. Hunter rested the telephone on the counter next to his typewriter with Anita still on the other line, when he loaded up his gun and fired the bullet that would end his wild ride of a life. Anita stayed on the phone, waiting for Hunter to get back on the line. When he didn't, she hurried home.

Hunter made friends out of outlaws, and enemies out of politicians. His work was treasured by those who read it, and he gave nightmares to editors who employed him. Whether he was telling the world that George Bush needed to be stomped, or that Hubert Humphrey was a "contemptible old hack," or whether he was trashing hotel rooms in Vegas or causing maniacal explosions in the dead of the Rocky Mountain night, Hunter was always living in a style that nobody will ever be able to match.

This is a man who once ran for Sheriff of Aspen under the "Freak Power" ticket. Part of his platform stated that if he were elected, patrolmen were to take mescaline on duty, and all businessmen were to conduct their work dressed in clown suits. The election came down to a photo finish, and Hunter Thompson almost won.

So now, the man is gone. His work and his legend are still here. Some of us only know him through his writing and his public image of an

acid-dropping, gun-slingin', chain-smoking, whiskey-guzzling, power-gambling, freak-of-nature who never slept. We'll miss him for our own reasons. Those who knew him personally will probably remember him a little differently, but I'd be willing to bet that the line between the fictional Hunter and the real-life Hunter is a hazy one.

As per his request, a giant cannon will be constructed on his property, from which his ashes will be shot out with a thunderous explosion while echoes of Bob Dylan's *Mr. Tamborine Man* are heard across the land of Woody Creek.

The life lasted for 67-years, but the amount of living he took out of those years is worth more lifetimes than we can only imagine. Sure, there will be fewer 3am explosions blasting through the Rocky Mountains, and the current sheriff of Aspen won't have to constantly sleep with one eye open. Jack Nicholson won't have to worry about finding carcasses of dead animals on his front porch, and traffic police all across the country will be able to breathe a little easier. But then again, maybe they're all going to miss the extraordinary possibility that Hunter S. Thompson brought to every situation, at all costs.

As he would have signed off: *Res Ipsa Loquitur*

"So we shall let the reader answer this question for himself: Who is the happier man, he who has braved the storm of life and lived, or he who has stayed securely on shore and merely existed?"

decide, of course. Now tell us the street address of the old AND the new Sweetleaf shop. You will need both of these numbers to win. You'll need to be right, so you

Academic Horoscopes

SAGITTARIUS: Karma is your friend this week. Take advantage of the SMUSA Teaching Excellence Awards and nominate a stellar prof or fantastic TA. Showing your appreciation for others will certainly improve the aura around you and bring good things (like passing midterm marks) your way.

CAPRICORN: Pledge allegiance to getting things done and abandon the problematic procrastinator's creed. There's only a month and a half left in the term and you'll need to be on top of papers and assignments to get through it. Don't try to bury yourself in the quickly disappearing snow banks: there is no escape.

AQUARIUS: Forget the Dome if it's love you seek. Sneak around the Library stacks or camp out at a table for the day. You're bound to meet a studious type whose interests go beyond shaking their booty on the dance floor. If you don't believe in love at the Library just ask Madeline Lefebvre for her advice. She's in the process of writing a book about love found in libraries. If you don't get a date out of it at least you'll be prepared for classes from all the extra reading.

PISCES: If you're feeling those mid-winter blahs and discouraged about upcoming essays, visit the Writing Centre to banish your academic boredom. They have tutors available Monday-Friday to help you write better papers and on Thursday March 31st (@4pm) they're holding a workshop on writing essay exams. Visit the Gorsebrook after for some tasty wings to complete the evening. Your winter blahs can't hold up against that lineup!

ARIES: This week explore your academic and career options. For Arts Aries visit Stacey French to discuss major options or swing by Student Services to meet with a career counselor. If Science is your passion make sure to attend the Science Major Day on Friday March 4 (Science Building Rm 313; 12:30-2pm). What path you take is up to you, so get informed and make some choices!

TAURUS: You will find yourself drawn to the Gorsebrook this week, don't resist the call. If you find that you fail a big test as a result of your indulgence make sure to check out the SMUSA tutor database for assistance.

SCORPIO: Spend this week improving your relationship with classmates.

Share ideas or just discuss the homework. If you want to take the extra step ask that special someone from class to the 2nd Annual Spring Fling on March 19th.

LIBRA: The winds of change are blowing through SMU but to make sure you don't get blown away keep your eyes and ears open! There are big changes coming with Banner and there are bulletins in the Journal as well as at www.smusa.ca that will help you get handle on any new changes for 2005-2006.

VIRGO: Beware of plagiarism. It is always ready to rear its ugly head. Inform yourself about proper citations and how to incorporate authors ideas into your own work honestly. If you're confused about academic integrity talk to your professors and also check out <http://www.smu.ca/administration/library/subjects/plagiarism.html>

LEO: It's tax return month but until that cheque comes in every penny counts! Make use of the free resources on campus like Student Peers and the reference resources at the Library. Don't get caught paying a tutor big bucks when SMU offers many free services to students to help them in their academic lives.

CANCER: Watch out for occupation hazards like sharp pencils and paper cuts. Also be mindful of the pile of books next to your bed, you may trip over them. The only way to rid yourself of this burden is to actually read them.

GEMINI: Scrapbook your memories of Spring Break in Cuba and move on. Finals are approaching and while your new tan makes you look great it won't get you through grueling exam questions.

ATTENTION SCIENCE STUDENTS MAJOR DAY

**FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH
12:30-2:00 p.m.
SCIENCE BUILDING, ROOM 313**

All Science students should declare a Major at the end of their first academic year if planning to pursue a major or honours program in the 2005-2006 academic year.

This MAJOR DAY session enables you to secure the best advice on selecting a Major and completing your Degree.

If you have questions on the University, or Academic Rules and Regulations, or other matters, this is the opportunity for you to get answers. Start planning for the successful completion of your Degree.

BE THERE AND BE INFORMED!

For more information contact the Dean of Science Office at 491-6214.

*Refreshments Provided.

ASTROPHYSICS, BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, COMPUTING SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, FORENSIC SCIENCES, GEOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS and PSYCHOLOGY.



DO YOU WALK, JOG, OR EXERCISE?

The Jesuits of Halifax invite you To do some Spiritual Exercises: Reflection.... Prayer.... Awareness at

**Canadian Martyrs Church
5900 Inglis St., Halifax
Monday, March 7 – Thursday March 10
7:00 pm each evening**

For more Information:

**Fr. Con (Student Chaplain: SMU) @ 420-5502
Email: con.mulvihill@smu.ca
or Fr. George (Hope Cottage Outreach) @ 422-8841
Email: george.leach@ns.sympatico.ca**

BUSINESS



MISS BIZ

BY JACKIE HOWATT

Ever wonder where all of the successful Saint Mary's graduates are? You know – the people who actually went on to pursue their dreams and actually made it? Meet Boris Mirtchev, owner of the Hamachi restaurants here in Halifax. Boris is an inspirational example of entrepreneurship to us all – from business students to science students to... fishermen? ...Just keep reading.

Boris Mirtchev graduated from Saint Mary's University several years ago. He accumulated four bachelors along the way. Yes, four. He double majored in Biology and Psychology, with the hope of someday being a doctor. However, the whole lab thing just wasn't for him, so he decided to change directions and did a double major in Marketing and International Business. Not only was he the President of SMUSA, but he graduated with an MBA as well.

After he graduated, he began working in the lobster and fish industry – exporting live seafood. This gave him the opportunity to travel through North America and Europe. He "began seeing many different dining concepts... and dined in hundreds of Japanese and various Asian restaurants". After seeing the demand for Japanese style food, he returned to Halifax where there "wasn't much in terms of Japanese dining".

Because of the many contacts he had accumulated in the seafood industry, and all around the world, he partnered with a friend and decided to open their first Hamachi, fine Japanese food, Restaurant. "I had about \$10,000 when I started", he explained to the full house at the Hamachi Steakhouse for the Commerce Society's 1st Annual Dinner on February 12th. In total, he has opened a Japanese fine dining restaurant, the Hamachi Steakhouse, and a floating sushi bar – all three are located in Halifax.

The hiring process for the Hamachi restaurants was just as unique as the restaurants themselves. "My contacts in Vancouver set up the interviews for me and I flew there to hire my employees". The hiring process proved to be a challenging one. It's difficult to find Asian chefs that are willing to leave their hometown and move to work on the other side

Entrepreneurship Never Tasted So Good

of the country. He explains that "most of the people in the back of the house (the chefs) are Asian (Japanese, Chinese and Korean), and the front people are mixed [culturally]".

On the issue of owning his own business, he explains that "being your own boss has many challenges, but it's very rewarding at the same time... the risk taking and the fulfillment of accomplishing something... [and] the ability to have a flexible schedule is great". He adds, "Working for yourself is invaluable, as opposed to working for someone else".

Building a well-known brand is of high importance to the Hamachi Company. The goodwill for Hamachi stands on the reputation of high quality food, excellent service and an overall enjoyable and unique dining experience. Boris explains that upon entering the restaurant, you become apart of the "Hamachi experience". "We look to build a brand externally and support it internally". Hamachi has already received press, and markets itself through print ads and other various types of local media. "We've had everyone from the Lieutenant Governor, to a vegetarian, to a guy who hops off of his motorcycle". Hamachi customers may be from a diverse background, but they all share one thing in common: great taste in food - healthy food, that is.

Since he opened his business in 2001, his vision has been to solidify the restaurants as successful non-seasonal businesses, and then grow his net worth from there. He looks forward to getting involved in real estate and seafood exportation ventures in the years to come. He is also involved with his family's business, Ekaterina's Fine World Chocolates, which is located across from the Hamachi Steakhouse, at 1475 Lower Water Street.

If you've never had the opportunity to experience Japanese cooking, there has never been a better time to do so. If you are tired of the same old food from the cafeteria, or from home, the Hamachi Restaurants are awesome alternatives. Their unique dish is the Hamachi fish, which is fresh sashimi Grade fillet of yellow tailed tuna. I also recommend looking at the drink menu, they have Sake. Sake is an organic Japanese alcohol; it tastes somewhat like vodka, but much smoother (avail-



Hamachi Steakhouse founder, Boris Mirtchev + Chef and big flames!

able both hot and cold). They import a wide variety of wines and other beverages from places like California, and around the world. Hamachi does not skip on anything. They serve the best of everything, but maintain very reasonable prices.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself at the Commerce Society Annual Dinner at the Hamachi Steakhouse, and so did the 74 other SMU students that attended. It's something out of the ordinary that I know you will appreciate too. It's an amazing place to go on a special date, or as a girls or guys "night out". Did I mention that the chefs cook right in front of you – a.k.a. Teppanyaki Style? Big flames, food flying everywhere – it's great... and healthy! It tastes amazing too.

The Hamachi Steakhouse is located at, 1477 Lower Water Street (Bishops Landing).

The Hamachi House (Fine Japanese Dining) is located at 5190 Morris Street (on Barrington Street).

Do you have a business that you would like featured in Miss-Biz? Contact Jackie Howatt at howattjackie@hotmail.com.

TRAVEL THAT WORKS



SWAP USA
www.swap.ca

Register before March 21 & save \$50

Why not spend this summer doing something different by living and working in the United States? Whether it's working at a beach resort or holding a big city job, SWAP USA can turn your summer into an experience of a lifetime!

Why SWAP?

- Enhance your resume with foreign work experience
- Flexible 4-month J-1 visa—you choose when it begins!
- Increase your appeal to future Canadian employers
- Secure travel: toll-free assistance and emergency support
- Online jobs
- Experience another culture
- Have a great time and make new friends!

TRAVEL CUTS
See the world your way

5th Floor Student Centre
494-7027



SWAP is a not-for-profit programme of the Canadian Federation of Students.

don't get thrown a screwball with the last few clues. Hey, did you know that the pub is being renovated? You should know this kind of news. Apparently SMUSA is

The Major Issue

BY AARON JOHNSTONE

With the recent upgrades of Saint Mary's University and the emergence of the Sobey School of Business as a top undergraduate school in Canada, the Business section will profile each of the majors. Profiles will be written by business students of whom have declared that major. The profiles will look at each major and present an opinionated view of courses and professors alongside other personal biases. Each profile will include information about what type of person should declare the major and then further discuss potential career opportunities after the major is completed.

If you would like to write about your major or have comments or questions please contact me at journalbusiness@gmail.com

You're Fired!

BY JOHN READ

If you were to ask the average business student at Saint Mary's University what they thought would be the most challenging business major, many students would certainly mention one predominate field of study: Finance. Starting with the infamous 360 and 361, required by all business students (most likely with our pal Bill Fletcher), finance could be a huge milestone for the average business student. But for those who choose to pursue a finance major, 360 and 361 are only the beginning of an interesting, though slightly mathematical, journey. The positive sides of the major are far reaching, although chances are, if you wish to pursue a career in finance, you will most certainly have to move to a financial centre. On the up side, there are plenty of opportunities that present themselves. Finance has a lot of room for electives. Many finance majors choose to fill that space with another business field of study, such as entrepreneurship or an HR certificate. In my case I was able to spend a semester in Europe at an international business school, learning about German efficiency and French culture... among other things.

And hey, the classes aren't so bad. You have Dr. Attig, the French-speaking investments professor giving high fives and bonus marks left and right. You have those late night study sessions where you really get to know the other people in your program. And after those corporate exams... the Gorsebrook draft never tasted so good. After you have finished your program don't forget to include all those details on your resume: such as the stock challenge in portfolio (FIN 467), or your mergers and acquisitions project (FIN 465). Also there is a huge list

of side programs which you may wish to include in your final year, such as the business consultancy course with the SMUBDC, the Canadian Securities Course (CSC), the course that prepares you for level one of the Certified Financial Analysis (CFA) course, or even a course where you get to manage a portfolio of \$125,000.00 real money: cold hard cash!

There are a few downsides to the program. The mathematical challenge may not be for everyone, although there are some great tutors at the school. And in my case I find myself lost regarding many other important aspects of business. For example there is only one required management course (MGT486) after first year, (with the exception of Organizational Behaviour.) But I guess, in the end, that it is our own responsibility to obtain the most well rounded business degree that we can.

All in all, for those who have got what it takes, finance is an incredible direction to steer your education. From the textbooks to the job interviews, finance certainly is... "THE MONEY."

Teach English Overseas



ESL Teacher Training Courses

- Intensive 60-Hour Program
- Classroom Management Techniques
- Detailed Lesson Planning
- Comprehensive Teaching Materials
- Internationally Recognized Certificate
- Job Guarantee Included
- Thousands of Satisfied Students

Oxford Seminars
1-800-269-6719

www.oxfordseminars.com

Stock Watch

BY AARON JOHNSTONE

Five months ago, Martha Stewart was tried and convicted on insider trading of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia stock landing her a 5 year prison sentence in a minimum security facility. Now, almost five months later Martha Stewart is being released back to society to carry out a further 5 months of house arrest. The process of rebuilding a fallen empire seems daunting but the queen of homemaking will begin the process.

Martha Stewart will further fight to resolve a lawsuit by the Securities and Exchange Commission to restrict her future role at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. In its insider trading lawsuit against Stewart, the SEC seeks to bar her from serving as a director or officer of a public company.

Stewart surrendered her chairman and CEO roles following her 2003 indictment for obstructing justice and lying to government investigators. Once the lawsuits are cleared up and queen Martha is back at the forefront the stock price will skyrocket. Already, major Wall Street banks have begun to purchase stock in anticipation of her release. The stock in recent weeks has received plenty of attention as Goldman Sachs' investment in Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia proves. The investment firm

held nearly 1.49 million shares as of Dec. 31, or about 7.1 percent of the shares outstanding, making it the company's largest institutional shareholder.

That surely has helped boost Omnimedia's stock price, which has climbed from a closing low of \$5.26 a share in October 2002, when the allegations began against Martha Stewart, to around \$36 a share now. Given the support of Martha Stewart and her brand loyalty, I believe the stock will soar.

A NIGHT OF ADVENTURE

Travel CUTS, Canada's student and budget travel experts, have joined with Trek Holidays to offer the year's most exhilarating night of original travel ideas on Monday, March 7th.

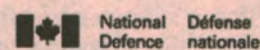
Adventure travel is both challenging and fulfilling, exotic yet attainable. It offers a different type of travel experience for the traveller who may have already experienced your typical beach holiday or a coach trip of Europe.

Join international guest speakers from Gecko's Adventures, Tucan Adventures, Dragoman Overland, and The Imaginative Traveller for a night of adventure. Come learn about affordable travel options to some of the world's best destinations.

The evening begins at 6pm and will be held in Rooms 303 and 316 of the Dalhousie University Student Union Building, 6136 University Avenue.

Free tickets are available in advance from Travel CUTS or \$5 at the door.

Halifax Travel CUTS
Locations:
5th Floor Student Centre,
Saint Mary's University
Lower Level, Dalhousie Student Union Building
1589 Barrington Street



Options make all the difference

No matter what your university education, you can enjoy a career with a difference in the Canadian Forces.

- Engineers
- Physiotherapists
- Social Workers
- Pilots
- Doctors
- Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Naval Officers

To learn more, contact us today.

Les options font toute la différence

Peu importe la nature de vos études universitaires, vous pouvez bénéficier d'une carrière différente dans les Forces canadiennes.

- Ingénieurs
- Physiothérapeutes
- Travailleurs sociaux/travailleuses sociales
- Pilotes
- Médecins
- Infirmiers/infirmières
- Pharmaciens/pharmaciennes
- Officiers de marine

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec nous dès aujourd'hui.

Strong. Proud. Today's Canadian Forces.
Découvrez vos forces dans les Forces canadiennes.



1 800 856-8488
www.forces.gc.ca

Canada

Computer Blowout Sale

Now Only \$ **499.99***



DELL P-III 1.0 GHz Tower
128 MB RAM, 20 GB Hard Drive
Keyboard, Mouse, CD
17 inch Monitor

Internet Ready for High Speed

Ask about our Upgrade Package
Call while supplies last.

All system prices include setup and delivery!!!
90 day warranty on hardware
* plus applicable taxes.

Call 830-2129

www.proactivemedia.ca

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

TARGET :Gorsebrook

BY BRYAN WINTERS

This Friday and Saturday there will be a fierce battle held at the Gorsebrook Lounge, right here on Saint Mary's campus. Or, at least, I hope there will be a fierce battle. So far, there have been a number of bands of a few different styles that have signed up to try for the coveted title. These two nights of musical melOe will determine who of our competitors goes onto Wolfville to represent SMU for the national qualifying round.

Wait a minute. Stop and re-read that paragraph, and tell me why I may want to stress this point. The band to emerge from the fog of war victorious over its competitors will go on to represent Saint Mary's University in front of our national peers. That means that whoever leaves this campus will immediately be associated with our name, our crest, and our colours, and people will assume that SMUdents are long time fans of this group and whatever music they produce. Do you really want somebody you've never met to think that you really like a band that you've never heard? Regardless of

your answer, I personally don't at all like the prospect of 6 or 7 bands vying for this title. I'd rather see every band that can be derived from the population of Saint Mary's fighting tooth and nail for the right to portray our sound. I'd much rather see a band who really blew away the audience and competition out there representing us than the lowest common denominator who convinced the most friends to come out.

By the time you read this it will be Wednesday the 2nd of March; the last day of band registration. Track down Jeff Lohnes (your newly appointed VP Internal, most likely on the fifth floor of the Student Centre) and make sure that he includes your new collaboration in the mix of students trying to be our face on the country's music scene. If he says it's too late, convince him otherwise; we will not have a defacto band representing SMU and its musical tastes. Furthermore, get out to the Battle of the Bands this Friday and Saturday (starting at 9:30PM) and make sure that your voice is heard as far as our choice is concerned.

ATLANTIC LAUNCH OF DISKLAVIER PIANO BY MARIE ANDREE OSTIGUY

The Atlantic date of the cross-Canada launch of the 2005 Yamaha Disklavier IV takes place on Saturday, March 5, at the Art Gallery at Saint Mary's University. On show will be the full line of Yamaha grand pianos including the 4'11" baby grand, the renowned handcrafted S series grands, and the famous Yamaha 9 foot concert grand. Says Gary Trenholme of Dr. Piano, whose firm is assisting Yamaha during the showcase: "Canada's classical music entertainer, Marie-Andrée Ostiguy will demonstrate the piano's astounding features. These include its distance learning capability, which is being successfully used at Acadia University and which enables a concert pianist to play a recital in Vancouver for output on a Disklavier here in Halifax, a fraction of a second later. Other in the amazing array of new generation features include its huge memory -- 80 GB - video synching and playback, dynamics and tempo changes and how to play four-handed music on your own. On the lighter side, Ms. Ostiguy will also show how to make the Disklavier your karaoke partner!" Top Atlantic Canadian performers will be

on hand during presentations. Pianists Peter Allen and Lorraine Min (partnered by SNS concertmaster Terence Tam) and the young Valley pianist, Lucas Porter, and the Paul Simons jazz trio will all give short performances at one or both functions. The presentations, which take place at 2:00PM and 7:00PM, will be followed the next day by a "moving day piano event," held at the Saint

SMU IDOL

Place: Burke Theatre A
Friday March 11th, 2005
7-9:30pm (doors open at 6:45)
Cover: \$2 fro Non-Residence Society members
FREE for participants & Residence Society members

Applications are available from all RAs and at the Student Centre Info Desk or email:
smu_rez_society@hotmail.com
Applications must be handed in to the Info Desk by March 10th @ 5pm
(please place it in the Residence Society Box)

CASH PRIZES FOR THE TOP 3

TOP 5 will perform at the residence banquet on April 1st

Mary's Art Gallery. At this event, the full line of Yamaha instruments, upright pianos and grands, will be offered for sale to the public at significant savings with representatives of Yamaha Canada on hand. While the launch is by invitation, those seriously interested in seeing what the revolutionary piano can do for teachers, students, performers and those simply interested in pushing their entertainment boundaries are welcome to call Dr. Piano at (902) 455 0880 or doctorpiano@eastlink.ca for an invitation.

Summer Sessions
at Saint Mary's University 2005

Please visit:

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

for

Important Registration Information
and
Current Course Listings

IMPERSONATIONS OF AN ORDINARY WOMAN

The Aeolian Singers will once again celebrate International Women's Day with other Nova Scotian artists in concert at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Dalhousie Arts Centre, on Sunday, March 6 at 8:00 p.m. Joining the 40-voice women's choir in a performance of music and dramatic readings in "Celebrating Women 2005" are singer/songwriters Susan Crowe, Cindy Church and Lisa Lindo as well as actors Marcia Kash and Martha Irving. Musicians Cathy Porter (percussion), Scott Macmillan (guitar), Margot Aldrich (viola) and Dennis Connelly (bass) round out this year's cast. The Aeolians will be accompanied by their pianist Louise Grinstead.

Juno nominee Susan Crowe has collaborated with Jackie Chambers of the Aeolians on the artistic creation of this year's event. The performance will reflect the life and poetry of Elizabeth Bishop, the Pulitzer Prize winning author who had a strong life-long connection to Great Village, Nova Scotia. At the time of her passing, James Merrill remarked on Bishop's "instinctive, modest, life-long impersonations of an ordinary woman." Last year's concerts at Pier 21 allowed the choir to make a donation for the second time to Women 4 Women Afghanistan, in support of a women's resource centre in that country. This year all post-concert profits will benefit the Marguerite Centre, the

only residential facility in Nova Scotia for women recovering from abuse and addictions.

Artistic Director Jackie Chambers is thrilled about this year's show: "It's been fantastic collaborating with Susan on this year's IWD show. Elizabeth Bishop is so well known internationally, and we wanted to do something here in Nova Scotia to acknowledge her connection to our province. I'm very excited to be working with all these talented artists to present Impersonations of an Ordinary Woman, and to be giving back something to this community through the Marguerite Centre, who do such important work."

Sponsors of this year's concert include the Canada Council for the Arts, the Province of Nova Scotia (Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage), Halifax Regional Municipality, CBC, the Nova Scotia Community College, and individual donors. New this year is a tribute to "ordinary, extraordinary women" -- for a \$20 tax-deductible donation, patrons can recognize in the concert program a woman living or deceased who has made a difference in their lives. Anyone wishing to make a donation should call 422-5403 by February 15.

Tickets are now on sale at the Cohn Box Office and are available by calling 494-3820 or 1-800-874-1669 or on-line at www.dal.ca/artscentre. All seats are \$25 unreserved.

ADVENTURE NIGHT OUT!

How about doing something different?

Join us for the year's most exhilarating night of different travel Ideas

Monday March 7th
Dalhousie SUB, 6136 University Avenue, Rooms 303 & 316

TIME	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
6:00 pm	European Camping	China & SE Asia
6:45 pm	African Camping	Morocco, Egypt & Mid. East
7:30 pm	South & Central America	Nepal Trekking
8:15 pm	Asia By Overland	India

Free Tickets available at: Travel CUTS & the Adventure Travel Company or \$5 at the door.

5th Floor, SMU Student Ctr 494-7027
1589 Barrington Street 482-8000



TRAVEL CUTS
See the world your way



Wednesday, March 2nd 2005

// cont. from pg. 10

GAME OVER

A TIME NOT SO LONG AGO

BY SIMON MACKIE

I remember the good old days. I remember the times of innocence and naivety of youth. And it was good.

Back then SquareSoft was my god and commander. I obeyed its every command without conscious thought. The year my brother and I got Final Fantasy VI for Christmas topped the souped up sleds that we also received even though sliding down the enormous hill in our back yard was one of our favourite things to do during the long winters in Yellowknife. I stared longingly at the back of the poster that came in the box (which I still have) that displayed various Square merchandise: Secret of Mana t-shirts, Final Fantasy VI watches and baseball caps, more posters, and other Square games. I just couldn't get enough of them.

It was pure coincidence when I rented Chrono Trigger about a week after it came out. I'd never heard of it before, but the label looked good. We enjoyed countless hours of it at home, and even though I didn't actually own the game until 2000, I bought the Player's Guide right away because I was so attached to the game. To this day it is still my favourite RPG.

Now, one of the most popular complaints these days is that video games aren't made like they used to be. No duh. Particularly, large companies like Square and Nintendo are receiving a lot of heat because fans claim the quality of their stuff is not as legendary as it once was. True? Not entirely. Certainly the games are changing. For instance, the same people who made Final Fantasy almost twenty years ago are not the same ones who are working on the series today. More, though, I think it's that the expectations of games are growing, and because of changing ideals within the companies, they can't always meet exactly what the public wants.

I waited seven years to play the sequel to Chrono Trigger, and throughout that time my expectations for Chrono Cross grew exponentially. I had this image of a perfect game embedded in my mind. It was as if I'd already played the game before I'd even put it in my PS2. Then, because it wasn't what I was expecting, I was thoroughly disappointed. Is it really that bad of a game?

No, I don't think so. Upon playing it through a second time, after I'd put it aside for a time, I began to truly appreciate the game for what it was, not just as a sequel.

Now, to segue into the main topic.

Final Fantasy XI seems to be a popular game to diss. It's a Final Fantasy game on line (that's absurd!), a game you can only play on line (preposterous!), and you have to pay monthly for it (outrageous!)... but it's actually kind of good (who wants to bother to get past the first part of griping about it?).

I read a review on amazon.ca about it, written by a guy who'd seen his friend play Final Fantasy XI a couple of times—you know his opinion has got to be valid. He was convinced that it was a good game to play...but that Square had made a bad decision in making it exclusively on line. He figured they would have made way more money making it a regular console game. Really? Now, I know there are some costs to maintaining the server and whatnot, but when you have 500, 000 people paying 17 bucks a month (not to mention the initial cost of the game), that translates into some pretty good cash.

But it's not what he was expecting. I'm sure it's not what most people were expecting, so they disagree with it.

And now, Square has plans to make even more use of PlayOnline by adding more on line games to its arsenal. Does it make sense? It makes sense to their wallets, I'm sure. Is that we should expect of them? Should we even bother making assumptions about what they're going to do?

So where am I going with this? Why am I just bouncing around all over the place, not committing to one thought before I move onto the next? Well, what I really started off saying, is that my illusion of the perfect Square has been shattered, ladies and gentlemen, and I want to share my angry story with the world, because Square certainly didn't listen to me.

Bear with me now while I go on a small tirade. Grab a coffee, turn the music down low and listen to my story, little ones.

It all started over a year ago in October 2003 when I purchased Final Fantasy XI for the PC. I was rather giddy,

as I had been waiting for this for quite some time. I rushed to Future Shop after school one day, grabbed a copy of it, and was making my way to the counter before it occurred to me that I should check the system requirements. I didn't want this to be a wasted investment. I checked off everything on the list with partial certainty (not knowing a whole lot about my computer, or computers in general at the time). I double checked with my father to make sure everything was in order. I paid for it, and then went home, and spent a wonderful (read: terrible) five hours installing the game and downloading the drivers and updates.

I purchased a Content ID and tried to access the game. No go. Some sort of TnL error barred my way. "Check your system requirements." But I was sure they were all in order. Frustrated, but too tired to deal with it, I slept on it, hoping that the magical Square fairy would have fixed everything by the morning. The following day, I explained my problem to a friend of mine, who told me that a TnL error had to do with my graphics card. I scoffed at the idea. The minimum requirements asked only for a 32 MB card, and we had that at least, if not a 64 MB card, and an NVIDIA at that, which the box claimed was the best kind to run the game on. Still, when I got home the TnL error persisted. I lacked the money to purchase the necessary graphics card, so I set the game aside for the time being.

This past August I got a brand new computer, and this time I knew for sure that the game would work. It had a 128 MB integrated graphics card. I had the power now.

Again, I spent another five hours installing the game. I was practically shaking when it came time to purchase the Content ID (I find it suspicious that you actually have pay for the monthly fee before you can test to see if it works). I paid the 17 bucks and hit Play.

Not a chance. My old friend, the TnL error had returned.

I almost snapped my FFXI discs in half and threw my monitor out the window. However, my brother was sleeping in the next room, and I didn't want to wake him. By this point I'd had enough. I decided to call the PlayOnline hot line.

Maybe they could sort this out, and tell me it's just a big mistake and I can play FFXI now.

So I finally got through to an operator and I explain my problem. Apparently, you need an NVIDIA GeForce series or an ATI RADEON 9000 series card. And only a select few of those are compatible. Certain that the operator was lying, I checked the PlayOnline FAQs. Sure enough, there are only about seven graphics cards that are compatible with Final Fantasy XI.

Now, why is it that you have to buy the game, have it not work and then go to their website to find out what you need? When the box stated "Minimum System Requirements" it actually meant "Only Compatible With." Little slip on your part there, Square.

A little angry at this point, I decide to send a letter to the company explaining all the trouble I'd had—due entirely to a fault on their part—and I asked for a small monetary compensation: money for the unused Content ID's and a graphics card that would work with their game, and if not even that, then just a refund for the cost of the game. But I guess that wasn't too reasonable.

They didn't read my email but instead sent back a "copy and paste" message that merely stated things I'd already read on their website. And of course, they had to end the email with "We hope you've enjoyed your stay in Vana'diel! Thanks again for choosing PlayOnline and Final Fantasy XI!"

Fine then, be that way. My troubles still weren't over. I'd been keeping my friends up-to-date on the story as it unfolded. They took pity on me, and at the end of August, some of them pooled their money and bought me the necessary graphics card as a going away present.

I could barely contain myself. While I was out that evening, Dad said he'd install it for me. I couldn't wait to play it when I got home.

If I didn't know any better, I'd have said that some force was keeping me from playing the game. Apparently, my computer doesn't have an AGP slot. What computer doesn't have an AGP slot? Please tell me why my computer, which is supposed to be a gaming

computer, doesn't have an AGP slot! Now I wanted to slap someone at Dell and at Square.

So, we returned the card and found an equivalent PCI card (twice as expensive for some reason...) and finally, somewhere, some benevolent force thought that it was time for me to play Final Fantasy XI.

But don't think I'm going to leave you with a happy ending. Oh no. After all this trouble, I only got to play Final Fantasy XI for two and a half months. Partway through November, PlayOnline changed the port numbers that they use for Final Fantasy XI. And guess what: the new port numbers are blocked by the residence network. Not only could I not play the game, but I couldn't even log in to cancel my subscription. Once again, a benevolent force had to step in and let me cancel—but only after I'd already been automatically billed for my December fee.

And now because I haven't been able to log on for three months, my characters have been deleted. Provided that I'm someday allowed to get back into the game, I'll have to start from scratch. Rest in peace, Deriken and Altina.

And now to sum up:

Final Fantasy XI: \$74.99; total in unused monthly fees: approx. \$65; brand new NVIDIA PCI graphics card: approx \$100 after friends pitching in; total in monthly fees actually used: approx. \$40; all the trouble I was caused: my sanity.

And the worst part about this all? I actually enjoyed Final Fantasy XI, and I'll continue to buy Square-Enix stuff in the future.

HELP FIGHT HIV/AIDS

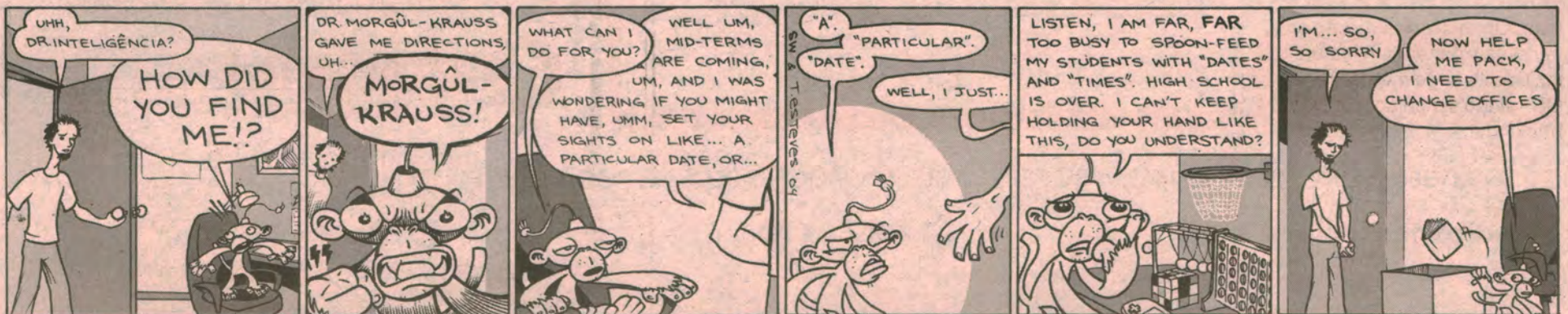
Join the IDS Society for movies and a potluck!!! Sept 28th, Loyola 271, 7:00pm

Come share your ideas, your food and get involved!!!

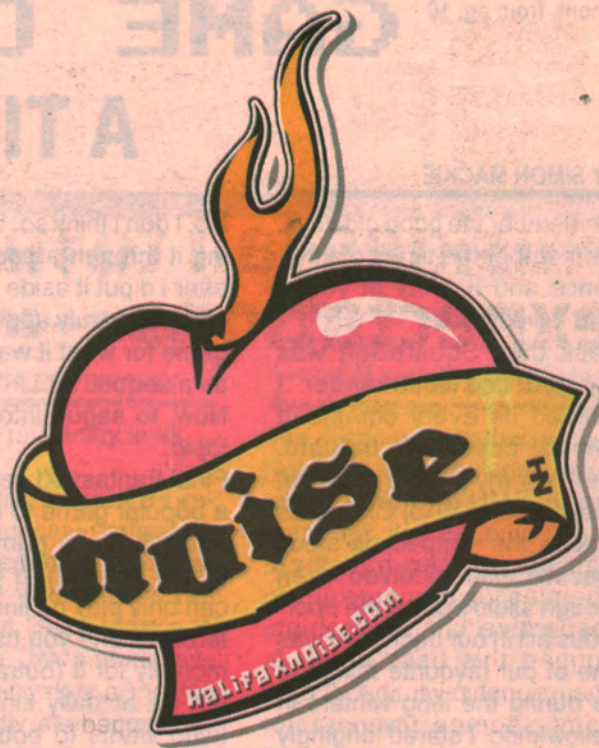
Movies:

- * Stephen Lewis's last trip to Eastern Africa
- * David Suzuki's documentary on The Stephen Lewis Foundation and grassroots movements to help combat the endemic.

any questions or comments contact: smu_ids@yahoo.ca



your lovely nicotine addiction. Hey, can you tell us where on campus the indoor smoking area is? And don't say residence. We mean for EVERYBODY. And ope



Ski Lift: 1 Man: 0



VIDEO PHONES RECORD > SEND > PLAY



Nokia 3220 Sony Ericsson Z500 Motorola V551

Chat N' Send Bonus: Unlimited minutes and messages.**

Better phones for your world. >>>>>

FROM \$29.99*

On a 3-year term
No Term - \$269.99

WIRELESS

ROGERS
Your World Right Now

GO TO ROGERS.COM, 1-800-462-4463, A ROGERS™ WIRELESS, ROGERS PLUS OR ROGERS VIDEO STORE FOR DETAILS

RadioShack.

ROGERS plus

ROGERS VIDEO

ROGERS plus

SAVE \$10
WHEN YOU
BUY
ONLINE

Phones shown may not be available at all locations. Offer subject to change without notice. *Phone price subject to activation on a new 36-month service agreement. **Bonus offer is available only on subscriptions to 2 or 3 year service agreements and includes unlimited local calling, unlimited text messaging, excluding premium messages (roaming, international, MSN® Alerts, contests and promotions), and unlimited picture and video messaging if supported by your phone. See in-store for full bonus details. ™Rogers, Rogers Wireless, Your World Right Now, and the Mobius design are trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc. Used under License.

more thing before you take your 'detective' hat off... You'll need to tell us what the fake grass on Husky Stadium's field is called. Also, tell us how many condoms you

ROGERS
WIRELESS

- HALIFAX**
201 Chain Lake Dr.
455-3388
5693 Spring Garden Rd.
492-3388
- AMHERST**
Amherst Centre Mall
142 South Albion Street
661-2192
- DARTMOUTH**
121 Hiley Ave.
468-3388
Mc Mac Mall
466-3388
Penhorn Mall
465-5588
- SACKVILLE**
601 Sackville Dr.
865-3388
- SYDNEY**
484 Grand Lake Rd.
564-9400
The ARM
5 School Street
567-1697
- TRURO**
568 Prince St.
893-2288
- ELMSDALE**
Elmsdale Shopping Centre
883-3388
- NEW MINAS**
County Fair Mall
9256 Commercial St.
681-3388

ROGERS
WIRELESS

- HALIFAX**
Costco
230 Chain Lake Dr.
489-3353
Speedy Auto Glass
3482 Kent St.
453-1720
Rogers Video, Clayton Park
278 Lacewood Dr.
445-9767
Rogers Video
6169 Quinpool Rd.
423-5652
Rogers Video
16 Denish Rd.
477-8848
- ANTIGONISH**
Motion Communications Inc.
19 James St. Plaza
863-5888
Speedy Auto Glass
48 St. Andrews St.
863-5273
- BARRINGTON PASSAGE**
Ocean Computer Centre
3482 Main St.
637-2398
- BEDFORD**
Excelsior Communications
752 Bedford Hwy.
457-1144
- BRIDGEWATER**
World of Wireless
East Side Plaza
450 LaHave St.
543-6363
- DARTMOUTH**
Rogers Video, Cole Harbour
4 Forest Hills Parkway
435-5696
Rogers Video, Woodlawn
114 Woodlawn Rd.
433-0994
958 Cole Harbour Rd.
435-4890
- GREENWOOD**
B&B Paper Plus
766 Central Ave.
755-3087
- GLACE BAY**
Schwartz & Co.
260 Commercial St.
849-4558
- LIVERPOOL**
Memory Lane
1 Gorham St.
354-5486
- NEW GLASGOW**
Motion Communications Inc.
60 Archimedes St.
752-5888
- NEW MINAS**
B&B Paper Plus
9114a Commercial St.
681-0459
- NORTH SYDNEY**
Schwartz & Co.
116 King St.
794-3567
- PICTOU**
Motion Communications Inc.
239 West River Rd.
485-5888
- WINDSOR**
Sam's Cellular Service
77 Water St.
798-2025
- YARMOUTH**
Sentric Solutions
Yarmouth Mall
742-9861
- PORT HAWKESBURY**
Motion Communications Inc.
640 Reeves St.
625-5777

- HALIFAX**
Halifax Shopping Centre
455-1778
- BEDFORD**
Bedford Place Mall
1658 Bedford Highway (kiosk 11)
832-4875

SPORTS

Huskies fail to meet high expectations

BY ADAM COSTELLO

There will be no 2004-05 championship banners hanging in SMU's rafters come spring time, as both the men and the women had their chances of attaining their respective championships spoiled this past week. A championship win that at one point seemed fathomable for both teams earlier in the season came to a screeching halt on the weekend, with the men going down in just 2 games against an injury riddled Moncton team and the women going down in a one game winner takes all battle with St. FX on Sunday.

It will be a long spring and summer for both teams, as they reflect on what went wrong to cause their untimely exits from the playoffs. For the men, despite a steady influx of talent in the way of rookies this season, they enter the off-season with their hockey team experiencing the unavoidable circumstances of university sport, players graduating. With five key components of this year's team graduating, the Huskies may have blown an opportunity to bring home gold with a team that will not have to same leadership, grit or experience next year as it did this. Defensemen Chris Manchakowski and Matt Coughlin and forwards Aaron Van Leusen, Kurt MacSweyn and Morgan McCormick will all be receiving their diploma's at spring Convocation and SMU will simply not be the same team without this core group of veterans. Manchakowski and Coughlin solidified the Huskies blue line all season and Van Leusen contributed 10 goals and 23 points, not to mention clutch goals and veteran leadership. McCormick co-captained this rookie laden club along with Macsweyn, who if he had been able to stay healthy, could have made a push for league MVP. All five will be huge holes in the SMU line-up, and it can be imagined they wish they could have played a little harder down the stretch this year, as they won't get another chance to play together as a team.

The Huskies final loss of the season was a heart-breaker to say the least as they led Moncton 4-1 after the first period and had the luxury of playing the Bleus without having to deal with suspended captain Tomas Baluch or top scorer Karl Fournier, who were both sidelined with the flu. The Huskies finished the season down the stretch being able to find anyway possible to lose those close games and this one was no exception.

As Gordon Bell, Dan Rudisuela, Andrew Carver and Brad Self all had first-period goals for the Huskies, that was all the scoring output they were able to produce as Moncton goalie Jonathan Pelletier turned into a wall after playing a shaky first period. He stopped everything as the bug he caught in the first period must have stayed in the net as the goalies switched sides for the second. As SMU goalie Cory Roberts came out in the second it was apparent he and his supporting defense weren't prepared for a Moncton onslaught. Sebastian Strozynski, who just came off a suspension himself, scored twice in the embarrassing comeback SMU watched and endured, forcing SMU to scramble for the tie breaker in the last minute as they trailed 5-4. SMU had some glorious chances to tie the game back up but the outcome was the same as on Friday night, a loss. Unfortunately this outcome was already a familiarity for the Huskies when facing Moncton, as they could not secure a victory against them all season.

After the Saturday night's loss the men suffered, I looked to Sunday, when the women would once again face off against who else the St. FX X-Women in the championship game. St. FX slaughtered Acadia 13-0 to earn their spot in the championship game however SMU had to squeak by Dal (a team they dominated all year) in overtime to earn their spot in the championship. The female Huskies, who had captured the AUS hockey title the previous two years, looked as if they lost some confidence after needing overtime to defeat their cross-town rivals at home, as the tournament took place at Dalhousie Memorial Arena. SMU really was dominated in this game by a team that held the AUS title four years in a row before SMU's high powered offence was able to win the last two, beating St. FX in the final each of those years. But not this year. SMU was crushed by a relentless forechecking game put together by St. FX that made the SMU defenders look lost and intimidated. The X-Women were up by enough midway through the third period to just call it a game as tournament MVP Rebecca Davies made her presence known, scoring a hat trick that including an unassisted short-handed beauty about halfway through the third to give X an insurmountable 8-1 lead. Their was a near

record 21 penalties called in the game and SMU simply looked tired on the penalty kill, having played a physically and emotionally draining game the night before, while St. FX was able to cruise to a 13-0 victory that could have been attained without a goalie. The women aren't making excuses and admit to just being outplayed in the 8-3 loss. They, as should everyone should be, are ultimately proud of their season and how close they've become as a group and a team. With three players making the tournament all-star team and Lindsay Taylor going home with the league MVP award, all I can say is: "You can't win 'em all." This group of talented young women had an excellent season and should feel nothing but pride for what they accomplished and what they will continue to accomplish in years to come.

The men have a long off-season to think about where they will stand next year. With so many veterans leaving this could have been a Cinderella year for these guys. They had pretty low expectations coming into the season and then wowed everyone with their physical play and defensive prowess and in a perfect world could have kept the engine running. It's a shame injuries and untimely losses sent them into somewhat of a tailspin to finish off the season, because this would have been a year that a name really could have been made for this team in the university hockey history books.

I can't say I'm disappointed in them for not playing like they had in the first half of the season, because it's easy to criticize from the stands. I just have to say I'm disappointed they couldn't pull it together in the end, because I truly thought they would. Macsweyn and Van Leusen are such stand up guys and if one of them could have potted that equalizer in that last minute like we've seen in the past, it all could have been different.

How the Huskies will do next year is a mystery, but I'd hazard a guess that all the rookies that got a chance to play with these five graduating veteran Huskies will benefit from the observed leadership and clutch play that was displayed by those guys all year. They did a great job filling the void left by those greedy NHLer's who'd rather holdout for a chance at buying another Ferrari than just save and play the game that paid for the first one. You guys are the true

AUS Indoor Championship U de M February 26th & 27th 2005

Athlete of the meet for Saint Mary's in Varsity Track and Field - Tim Spidel with a Personal Best Time in the 60 meters with an electric time 7.13s placing him 2nd in the conference, 3rd place in the Triple Jump 11.22 meters, 4 x 200 relay 2nd, and 4 x 400 relay 1st place.

2005 AUS Coach of the Year
Men's Division- Deborah Brown

HUSKIES VOLLEYBALL


AUS Championship @ UdeM (Feb. 18-20)
Quarterfinal #1: ACA (3) 3, Moncton (6) 0
Quarterfinal #2: St. FX (4) 1, UCCB (5) 3
Semifinal #1: DAL(1) 3, UCCB (5) 0
Semifinal #2: SMU (2) 3, ACA (3) 0
Championship Game: DAL (1) 3, SMU (2) 1

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Results:
Feb. 15 SMU 76 DAL 64
Feb. 19 SMU 75 ACA 47
Feb. 20 DAL 70 SMU 57
Feb. 27 UCCB 71 SMU 68
This week:
Mar. 3 ACA@SMU 8pm

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL


Results:
Feb. 15 DAL 57 SMU 46
Feb. 19 SMU 76 ACA 57
Feb. 20 DAL 68 SMU 44
Feb. 25 SMU 59 ACA 43
Feb. 27 UCCB 87 SMU 59
This week:
Quarterfinals: [Friday, March 4th]
DAL (3) vs. SMU (6)
UNB (4) vs. UPEI (5)
Semifinals: [Saturday, March 5th]
UCCB (1) vs. Lowest Remaining Seed
Memorial (2) vs. Highest Remaining Seed
Championship Game [Sunday, March 6th]




Huskies At Home

HUSKIES BASKETBALL

Men's Basketball Thursday, March 3 vs Acadia University 8pm @ The Tower

Reebok  Coca-Cola

 Saint Mary's University
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

www.smuhuskies.ca

GAMES FREE TO SMU STUDENTS WITH ID
TICKETS GAME DAY AT THE DOOR



SMALL CAN. STRONG BEER.

Molson Canadian 6.0 Cold Shots. 6% alc. 250mL.