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Year of the Boar

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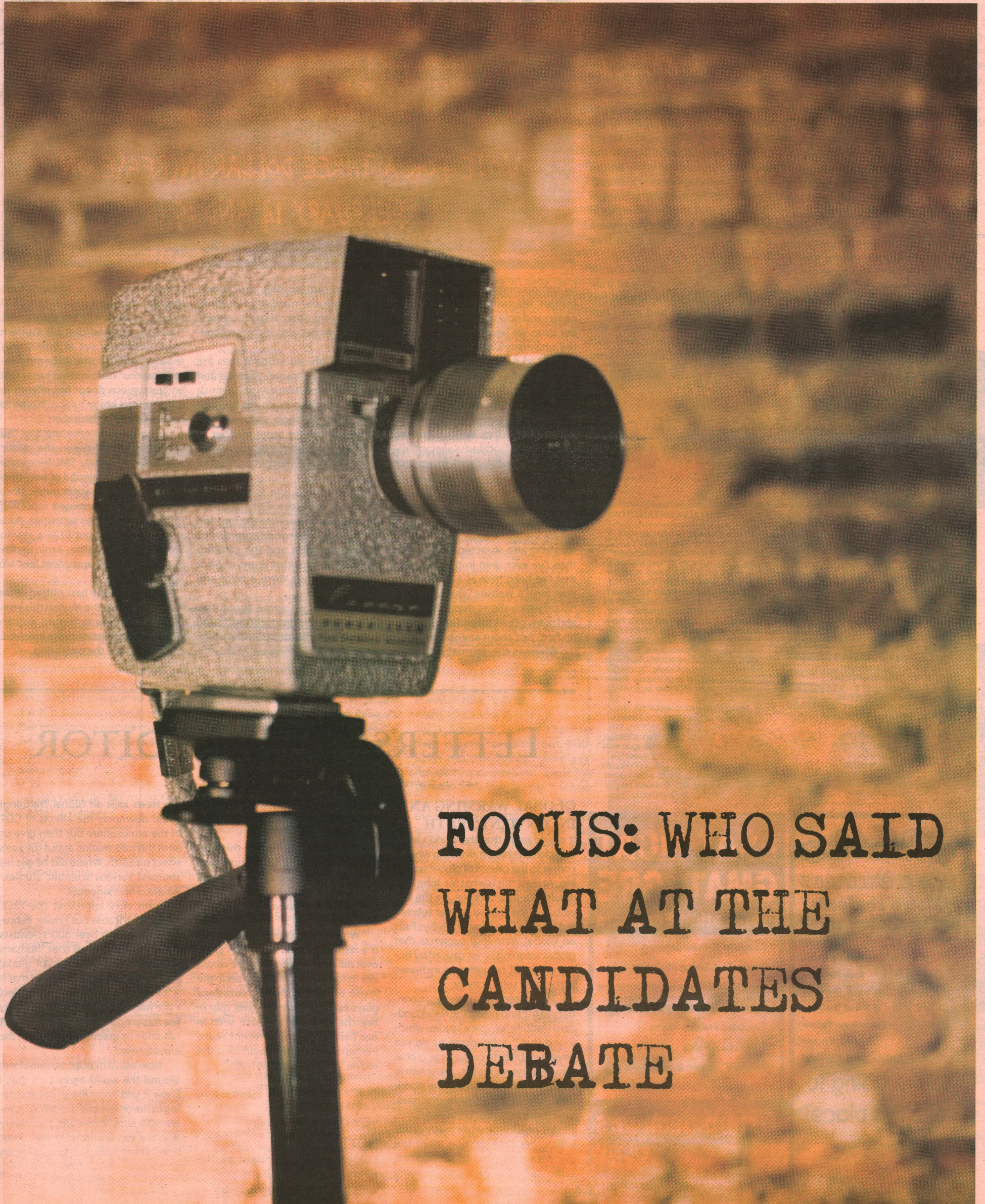
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THE JOURNAL

Est. 1935 · Vol. 72 · No. 20 · February 14th, 2007

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



**FOCUS: WHO SAID
WHAT AT THE
CANDIDATES
DEBATE**

PHOTO BY ANDREW J. LEVINE

PERSPECTIVES

EDITORIAL

Yes to the Journal Referendum: What's In It For You

BY OLIVIER JARDA

Asking the student body for more money in the province with the highest average tuition in the country, is not something I want to do. Especially because it's the third year in a row that the Journal is asking the students for more money. Nevertheless, the Journal is under funded and needs your help.

In the last two tries, we've had no luck, even though both times the majority of voters said yes to a \$4.00 fee increase, from \$4.00 to \$8.00 per year (\$2 per semester). Last year, 61 percent of students voted in favour.

However, the Journal referendum was facilitated by SMUSA, which stipulates that a two-thirds majority is needed in order to approve a fee increase. When I presented the referendum question last month to the Student Representative Council for approval, one representative mentioned that it seemed the Journal had asked students for more cash a few years in a row.

This is a valid concern. However, it is also a valid concern that the Journal almost folded last year. It was kept alive by a few incredibly dedicated individuals, led by editor-in-chief Kate Ross, who put in ridiculous amounts of hours while receiving little pay.

This year again, we have a team of very dedicated individuals. However, some have left us, because they could not justify the hours they were putting in with the wages they were receiving. Editors are paid \$100 per week, and easily punch in 20 to 25 hours on a regular basis. The ad manager is only paid on commission, which means she receives no weekly salary, and we cannot afford to hire a photographer.

With this \$1.50 per semester increase, we would hire a photographer, improve the features on our website, pay our ad manager a base salary and increase the size and quality of the newspaper (we've had to print mostly 16-page newspapers which has meant the omission of many articles and the shrinking of many pictures). We will also increase the salaries of the editors and of the art director in order to more accurately represent the amount of time and effort they dedicate to their jobs.

There is a chance that the Journal board keeps hiring dedicated individuals that will put the Journal first regardless of wages and make sure that it doesn't crumble. There is also a chance that an overworked staff with a tiny budget could drive it into the ground.

This year, we have not just sat idly

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by complaining about the Journal's budget. We switched printing companies and now save on average \$500 per issue. We leased computers from the university's Evergreen Program instead of buying new computers, which is what was budgeted for. We've spent very little of our entertainment budget, which is used to compensate writers who pay their way to get a story. We've increased the number of local ads substantially, which is potentially a major revenue generator.

We organized a successful fundraiser at the pub and we plan on engaging in more fundraising activity before the year's end.

We've also attracted more writers than I've ever seen in the five years that I've been here as a student. We now have a website (www.smujournal.ca) which allows students, alumni and many others to read what's going on from just about anywhere.

Whereas the Journal staff used

to throw out bundles of Journals every week, the number of locations that carry the Journal has increased. Readership has also increased considerably.

Although our student fees are lower than Dalhousie's Gazette and our student population is also much smaller, meaning much less revenue generated through student fees, we've put out the same number of issues, usually of the same size with a smaller staff and much more limited resources.

What's more, the Journal is an important cog in the SMU machine. It brings student issues to the fore and helps create a sense of community. It gives students and the community insight into what brews at Saint Mary's, and gives them a voice and an audience.

Last week we wrote about how SMU student Jamie Hawkins found \$10,000 in the Student Centre, which was forgotten during an ATM with-

drawal from Brinks, and returned the money. Brinks gave him a \$500 reward. In our article, we mentioned, "Hawkins learned that his student loan, originally set at \$6800 was reduced to \$1022 after some miscommunications." We found out today that an anonymous donor has offered to pay Hawkins' entire tuition. It pays to have a student newspaper.

I overheard someone say the other day that those in the public eye at SMU, namely SMUSA executives, should be mindful of how they act and what they say in public since the Journal has increased reporting on the association's activities. As a student, you dole out \$120 a year to SMUSA. The Journal has a role to play in making sure your student fees are spent wisely.

We've done our best with what we have to improve the Journal this year. Now we ask you to ensure we can properly compensate those involved. It's wise to feed the watchdog.

THE JOURNAL

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THE JOURNAL IS THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER 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 9:00AM MONDAY AT THE JOURNAL OFFICES OR EMAIL ADDRESSES. WE PREFER ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS. SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THESMUJOURNAL@GMAIL.COM OR AT SMUJOURNAL.CA. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROOFREAD, VISIT THE OFFICE ON MONDAY MORNINGS.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GLOBAL WARMING AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

It would seem that the world's leading scientists have it all wrong when it comes to the causes of global warming. At least this is what Mr. John Doe would like us to believe. In the last edition of the Journal, a letter submitted by John Doe (How the News Fails on Global Warming) suggests that global warming is not caused by humans after all, but rather by increases in the sun's solar activity.

This statement, however, is contrary to the findings of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies which found that "...solar increases do not have the ability to cause large global temperature increases...greenhouse gases are indeed playing the dominant role..." (<http://www.giss.nasa.gov/research/news/19990408/>).

My heart sank while reading this article because despite all of the evidence that exists to support the claim that humans are the primary

cause of global warming, there are still some people, like Mr. Doe, who just don't get it.

I fear that the kind of thinking exhibited by John Doe, and those who support his claim, will make it difficult, if not impossible, for us to ever reverse the trend of global warming.

While it is true that global change is a natural process that takes place over millions of years, Mr. Doe would like us to believe that increases in the levels of carbon dioxide emissions plays no more than a minor role in the changes that we have seen in our Earth's climate in recent years. Perhaps John Doe should rent the movie "An Inconvenient Truth."

Scott Hagell

THE SUN IS GETTING HOTTER?

I can't help but wonder how the writer of last week's article (How

the News Fails on Global Warming) could downplay the affects of CO2 in the atmosphere but then give us all of this information about the sun's effect on Earth. Where did he get his sources? Various scientific studies? Where is his evidence?

I am very sure that the IPCC Report that came out Friday, February 2nd, with over 600 scientists writing it, all agreed that "humans are most likely the cause of global warming." They say in the brief that it is "because of the Greenhouse Effect - the warming of the Earth caused by the trapping of heat, due to the sun's radiation by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere."

Now wait a minute; scientist from around the world agreed on that. I know it said "most likely" but according to the online brief from WWF they are 90% sure. Where did the theory that the sun is getting hotter come from? There is absolutely no mention of this in the IPCC's brief.

Continued on page 7.

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OUT OF THE CLOSET IN HALIFAX: A TEN YEAR ODYSSEY



BY ANDES B. WATSON

As with many other people the start of a new year can serve as an opportunity to look back and see where one has been. The accomplishments one has achieved, not just in the last year, but the all the years passed. A couple of days into 2007, I realized something. This year will mark the tenth anniversary of my coming out of the closet as a gay man. I decided to write down my reflections of the last ten years of being a gay man in Halifax.

When I was seventeen years old I was sitting with my best friend in his living room watching television. The news came on and my friend's mother became upset over a story the news did about a gay person. My best friend's mother then went off into a tangent and said "Everyone should be able to kill at least one gay person in their life" At this point in my life I had just started to internally deal with my sexuality, and comments like that didn't help.

The high school I attended also discriminated against gays & lesbians. The guest policy for the school dances stated that students were permitted one guest each. However that guest MUST be of the opposite sex.

When I graduated high school it was still socially acceptable for people to be openly disdainful of gay people and their lifestyles, in the media, the

way police treated gay people and even doctors. Gay couples did not have survivor benefits if one of their long term partners died. There were no civil unions, there were no gay marriages. Gay people were essentially not persons under the law.

The first time I told someone I was Gay was ten years ago. I was talking with a close friend about how all of our lives would change after high school. I just blurted it out to her. She said she was still my friend and hugged me. We sat silently in the gentle breeze and watched the stars.

The summer I came out of the closet I witnessed my first gay pride march. I was working as a labourer with my uncle's demolition company at a business on Argyle Street. One of the workers started yelling, "Faggots" out the window. I went to the window to see what was going on out on the street. I saw a rag tag of people holding banners and some with paper bags on their heads. Wow. I had witnessed my first gay pride march. At this point in time, that's what these types of things were. Marches. To protest the discrimination gays and lesbians faced in life. Later that same summer while attending the Busker Festival, I was handed a pamphlet by a man. It was from some religious group denouncing homosexuals.

There were not a lot of resources for young gays & lesbians in the late nineties in Halifax. There was BGLAD the precursor to Dalhousie University's DalOUT. Also there was the Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Youth Project. Bi-weekly group meetings for youth were moderated for youth to socialize with other gay youth. It also to serve as a support group for any youth who may have needed it. I started to go to the Youth Project meetings. It helped immensely. I made some very close friends there, some of those I still count as friends ten years later. I can honestly say I would not be the person I am today had it not been for those meetings that allowed me to socialize with others like myself. This opportunity allowed me to explore the gay lifestyle in a safe and secure way.

In my first year of university, my Introduction to Literature professor told us to write a paper on any subject we wanted. I chose to write about coming out of the closet. The professor told me it was not an acceptable topic to write a paper on. I wrote the paper anyway.

The media at this time was quite hesitant to portray any kind of gay issue in a positive light. Most of the media stories I can remember hearing at the time were about the Nova Scotia Teachers Union trying to decide whether to include their members' same sex partners in union benefits... I found this quite amusing; our teachers were setting poor examples.

In the fall of 1998 Matthew Sheppard was tied to a fence rural Wyoming, robbed, pistol whipped and beaten unconscious and left for dead in freezing temperatures to die. Why you ask? Because he was gay. I remember reading about this in the back of the news paper one day. And within a day it was headline news. This was a turning point in the fight for gay rights movement, vigils were held in memory of Mr Sheppard in cities world wide. Halifax included. I went to this Vigil, Stood quietly off to the side. A woman with her little daughter came by and asked me what was going on, I explained to her, and she decided to stay, and told her daughter that she was witnessing something important.

When I turned nineteen, my parents dropped me off at a friend's house. I lied to them and said that it was going to simply be a house party in my honour. My friend's house that I was dropped off at was a hairdresser and we were supposed to go downtown to reflections. The gay bar in Halifax. My Friend took one look at me and said, "We need to make you gay". He sat me down on a chair in his kitchen, cut my hair, coloured it red. He then gave me this very flashy thin polyester shirt to wear.

In the year 2000 gay couples in Nova Scotia were somewhat able to have their relationships recognized. The Conservative government at the time introduced "Registered

Domestic Partnerships" These relationships were for any two people to enter into an agreement that they were dependent on each other etc. I remember reading in the news paper, that it was mainly designed for non married family members who were financially dependent on each other to be recognized as family in the event of emergency or death.

After a year and a half of University I decided to take some time off school and get some work experience. I found myself working at a call centre in the metro Halifax area. The popular saying is that gay people flock to call centres for employment. I am unsure if it is true or not. I worked at this particular call centre for two years. Of course as a reputable business would have, they had an anti discrimination policy. I found myself victim of discrimination while working there. A fellow employee would regularly call me a faggot while at work. Despite my complaints to management the individual continued to call me a faggot. The company maintained that since they had a policy against such things, that it could not possibly happen there. I escalated my complaints up the management chain. To no avail. I filed a complaint of discrimination with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission against my employer. I was fired two days later.

To try and discredit me, the company started to donate money to a gay related charity they knew I had been involved with. The issue took over two years to settle. In the end the company apologized to me and settled the issue financially with me. They also stopped donating money to the gay charity at this time. Most people would seem to be happy once they receive a financial settlement. It still did not change the fact of what happened to me. Also, it seems, I am black listed in the call centre industry in Metro Halifax as a result. I decided to return to university to finish my degree.

In 2004 the Nova Scotia Supreme court ruled that banning same sex marriage was discriminatory. Finally, gays could marry in Nova Scotia. We

were persons under the law in Nova Scotia. This would seemingly be a final hurdle for gay rights. Later in 2005 the federal government would pass legislation legalizing same sex marriage across Canada.

In 2004, in this very newspaper, the editor of the wrote an editorial condemning aspects of gay culture, and the readily availability of a local gay news paper in the SUB building. Her argument was that Local junior high school kids used the SUB at lunch time and such materials should not be in a place where children were. The subsequent backlashes from the student body lead to an even more discriminatory editorial. This second editorial stated that gay people should just shut up and stop whining. The editor claimed that since she had gay friends she could do and say what she said. Also at the very same time, there appeared cartoons calling gay people "butt pirates" in the paper. Complaints about this were met by a subsequent cartoon telling those who complained to "shut the FcuK up"

It would appear that acceptance of gay people and gay rights in Nova Scotia and Canada a whole has come a long way, however last week a study was released about discrimination in various countries, respondents were asked would they rather live beside various ethnic groups, religious groups, and even gay people. Surprisingly over seventeen percent of Canadians said they would not want a gay neighbour. This statistic shocked me to a degree; I thought the statistics were skewed somehow. Then I realized, most of the major battles are already won in the gay rights movement. As with any fight, there are plenty of small battles to be won.

When I look back at the last ten years I remember plenty of times when the odds seemed stacked against gays and lesbians in the struggle for equal rights. I find now that it sometimes doesn't always have to be hard, or even easy. I look to the future with optimism that there will be more battles won and totally equality.

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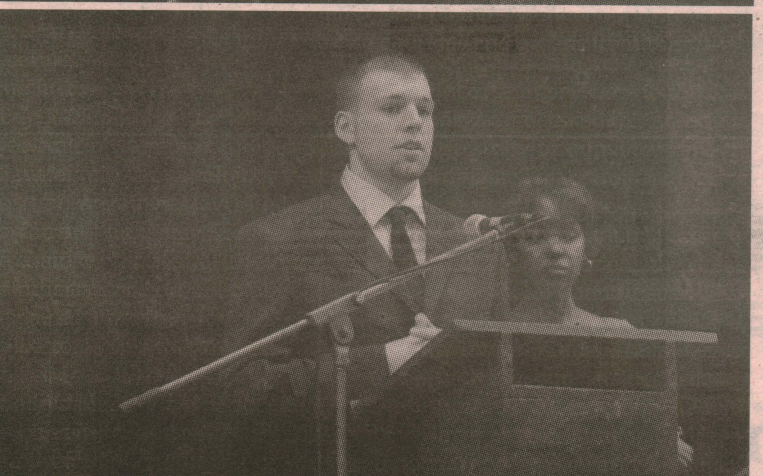
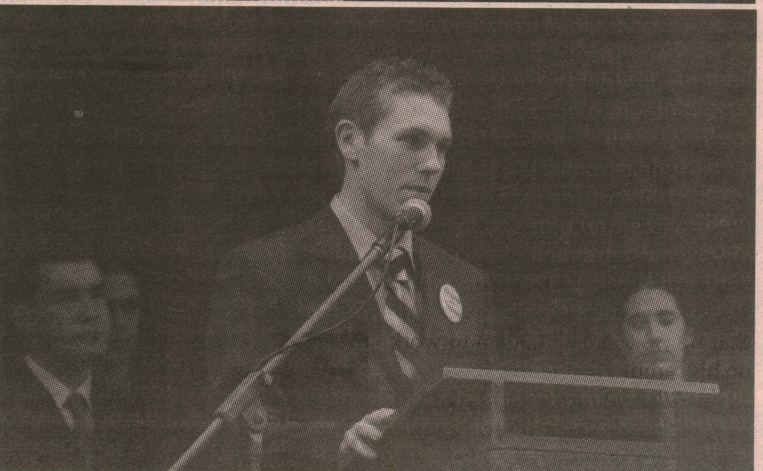
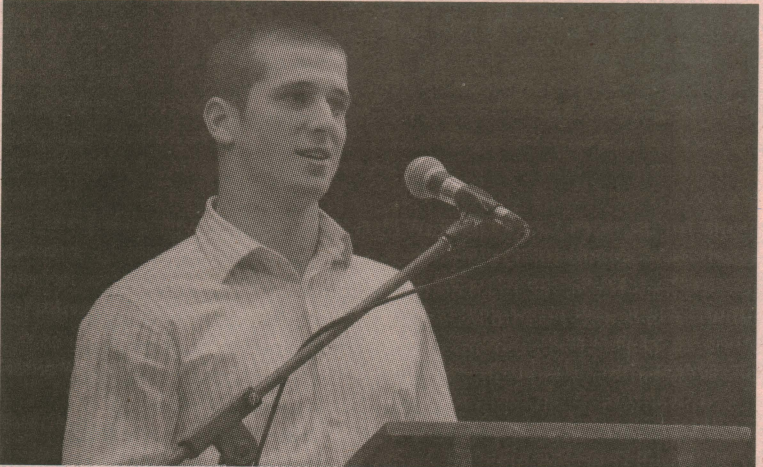
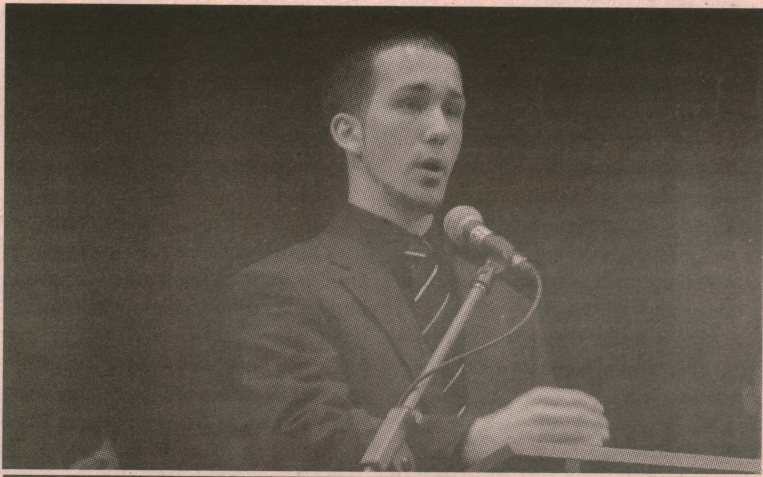
- 1) Management – internship in general business functions (marketing, finance, HR etc.)
- 2) Technical - internships in IT and engineering sector
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The Genesis Program is funded through our CIDA partnership to support the development of African nations and their fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The internships will be a minimum of 4 months in duration and the job description must be supportive of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Last but not least, the India Partnership Program will provide you an opportunity to work at some of the largest software corporations such as TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (www.tcs.com) and SATYAM COMPUTER SERVICES (www.satyam.com) and various other multi national companies in India.

Application is open now. You will NOT WANT TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY. You can get the application form from AIESEC Office, located at Student Union Building, Room 512 or email us. The dateline is February 20, 2007 at 5pm. If you have any questions or would like to have further information on our program, please email us at: huaywoon_chee@yahoo.com

2007 EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS



Top: the four presidential candidates. Bottom: the five VP Internal candidates.

The SMUSA Executive Candidates' Debate, held in the McNally Main Auditorium last week turned out to be much more entertaining than the Superbowl, even including the commercials. For those any of you who were unable or unwilling to attend, here is a quick recap.

For most positions, there was a one minute opening statement, a one minute response to a question from the panel, and a 90 second closing statement. The Presidential candidates followed the same format, but answered two questions from the panel.

The evening began with the VP Internal candidates, Jen Schwartz, Julie Thompson, Scott MacPhail, Mani Itiveh and Chris MacDougal. This group was asked what they would do, if elected, to increase the turnout at future SMUSA events.

VP INTERNAL

Jen opened on a high note, expressing her passion for SMU, and her drive to put 100% into everything she does. She wants to make SMU the best place that it can be, increasing pride, involvement, and awareness of events. In response to the question posed about increasing student turnout at SMUSA events, she said that she would like to increase the communication between SMUSA and its societies. She wants to see more networking to get students excited, and would like to start a "Spirit Committee." In closing, she stated that she wants to be a voice for students and reiterated her passion for SMU.

Julie, in her opening statement, said that she would like to increase society funding of events from 50% to 70%, enable students to use meal cards off campus, and increase the capacity of the SMU daycare. In order to increase turnout at SMUSA events Julie responded that she will "listen to people" and bring in bands that people can dance to. She went on to say that she would like to increase the winter activities, hold a homecoming dance, and improve communications by using list-serves, Facebook, MySpace, etc. In her closing statement, Julie said that she is currently working on her third degree, has leadership skills, and can work with people.

Scott opened saying that he wants to increase school spirit and events, mentioning homecoming as an example. He also said that he would like to improve communication to off-campus students, and

increase the number of wet/dry events. In response to the panel question Scott said that he has great knowledge about other schools and the way that things are done. He also made mention of SMU web radio. In closing, he said that he loves school, is "proud to be a part of it with you" and wants to "get people loving it." Scott signed off by saying that he wants to bring in a new era of school spirit.

Mani opened saying that he is "here to work for you." He said that two heads are better than one, so he wants students to bring their ideas to him. He went on to mention that there is no eye care plan under SMUSA, and spoke about the current bus system which he feels is inadequate. In response to the question about increasing turnout for SMUSA events, Mani said that many societies are not active. He used the Film Society as an example, mentioning it has not had an event since November 2005. He also stated that he would find out what students want. In closing, Mani said that SMU is a ship with holes to mend. Jeff (Lohnes) started to repair the ship, and Mani will continue his work.

The last person to address the audience with an opening statement was Chris who said he would work to lower prices around campus, work with on-campus groups, and have more parties at the Gorsebrook. He ended saying that he is certain that he can "do this position." In order to increase turnout at events, he will listen to people. He said that he will not use "party favors" but he will use existing relationships with larger organizations like CASA. He also intends to contact RAs and societies about upcoming events. He closed with a condensed resume. He also said that he is aware of all aspects of the position – not just events – and that he believed he has a realistic platform.

VP ACADEMIC

Next up were the candidates for VP Academic. The candidates for this position are Rhys MacDonald, Joe Power, and Courtney Schaller. Mike Broadfield was also at the debate, but he has since dropped out of the race. The question for this group was concerning the "most pressing academic problem".

Rhys MacDonald proceeded to give his entire resume in 60 seconds, detailing his work in the past two years including work on the Charter

of Rights, which is included in the SMUSA Handbook. In Rhys' opinion, the lack of comfortable study space is the most pressing academic issue. He intends to improve the library and recognizes that there is limited physical space which is not being used efficiently, and the lounge chairs are not as comfortable as they should be. In closing, Rhys stated that he shares passion with Olivier Jarda. He said, again, that he has been very involved in the past two years and has proven results. He reiterated his passion and experience.

Next up was Courtney, a teaching assistant, tutor, volunteer and frosh leader. Courtney said that she would improve academic advising, and "certain tools we already have." In response to the question, Courtney said that academic advising is the most pressing academic issue. In her opinion, "students are lost." She would like to implement an updated degree navigator system. In closing, she said that she has leadership and organizational skills, and will do "many things to improve student life."

Joe, in his opening statement, said that the academic fair is dying and we need "more societies to come out" and "present majors." He also said that more study space and labs are needed. He wants to increase knowledge of "on campus things" such as advising. In response to the question, Joe gave his opening statement again, simply adding that he will get departments to make presentations, by force if necessary, and will make sure that students get their "best major and best job they want to."

VP EXTERNAL

Following the VP Academic candidates were those for VP External. These candidates had to be divided into two groups of four, and were asked two different questions. Matt Riser, Will Matheson, Holly Underhill, and Robert Hingley were in the first heat. The panel asked this group for their strategy to convince federal government to make a direct transfer for education.

Matt opened by stating that he is a political science student, the chairperson of the SRC, and gave other credentials. He stated that he would work with CASA and would like to work with other universities in HRM. In response to the question, he said that governments in minority listen and that he would take advantage of a government in minority position.



CANDIDATES DEBATE RECAP

In closing, he said that the dedicated transfer is the most important issue, and explained what it is. He then said that he would like to go to Ottawa to fight in a minority government (or election period) situation.

Will opened with his concern for off-campus students, and intentions to lower tuition and increase co-op program opportunities. He used very big words that seemed to baffle some of the students in attendance. Will responded to the panel's question by saying that he would convince decision makers that it makes economic sense to follow through with the direct transfer. He also mentioned that there should be increased communication in order to see what works best with which governments. He closed with his opinion that SMUSA executive members are do-it-all types, recalling a time when a SMUSA representative acted as an impromptu mechanic on a road trip. He restated his intention to increase co-op opportunities, and said that he would "make things as obvious as possible to people."

In her opening statement, Holly described the position, and accidentally referred to it as "VP Internal" but quickly caught her mistake. In response to the question, she said that there is "...a lot of money in government," and a lot of it needs to go to students. In closing, Holly said that she has been very involved and loves the atmosphere, diversity, and the people at SMU. She then ended with a series of questions, including, "Who can represent you?"

Robert opened by explaining that his goals are to get donations from corporations for scholarships and bursaries, and to increase philanthropy and involvement in the community. In order to convince the government to give a direct transfer, he would tell the government that "...there are lots of voters at school needing money." He would prove this by way of petitions and rallies, getting the numbers and facts to remind decision makers of what it was like when they themselves were in school.

In the second heat, the four candidates were Maureen Kimani, Chris Mercer, Andrew Seymour and Ali Singh. This group was asked by the panel to state how they would make issues heard and cause progress.

Andrew opened by saying that he would "...skip over CASA and ANSSA." He went on to say that he would like to hold an "External Open House" to get the concerns and opinions of

students. He also mentioned SMU web radio. He ended his opening statement saying that he wants to "...make educational accessible and affordable." In response to the question, Andrew said that he has worked "results-based jobs" and went on to describe his work experience. When left with only 25 seconds, he said, "I wish I could tell you how," and ended with, "It will be done." He closed by building upon an analogy made earlier by Mani. He said that SMU is more like "swimming with fishes," and he will "represent our ship well with fishes."

Chris opened saying that it is important to have the support of the community. In response to the question, Chris said that there is strength in numbers. He closed saying that "It's tough to have students depend on you," and that accountability makes him thrive. He would like to get feedback from the students. He also said that he is "a leader in academic, athletics, and social."

Ali opened with promises to increase scholarships and bursaries. He also said that he would like to help international students, and work to cap differential fees. His response to the question was simply to work with CASA and ANSSA. In closing, he assured the audience that he knows what students are going through, and he will do everything he promises in one year. He ended saying that he is "...not going to define the job," and he has done his research.

Maureen then opened saying that she would like to formulate policies that will work and to support CASA. She would like to lobby for textbooks to be GST exempt. In response to the question posed by the panel, Maureen said that she would do this in two ways. She would support organizations that have already been working toward such things, and she would personally work towards these things in her own ways. In closing, Maureen stated that she has "a long term outlook" and she intends to put "constant pressure" on decision makers.

PRESIDENT

The candidates for SMUSA President are Jean Brunet, Joe Doherty, Bradley Farquhar, and Mitch Gillingwater. The first question for this group regarded the decline in enrollment and the subsequent decrease in student fees. The candidates were asked for new revenue generating services for the SMUSA budget. The second question regarded the low

numbers at tuition rallies, and asked for a solution to the problem of student apathy.

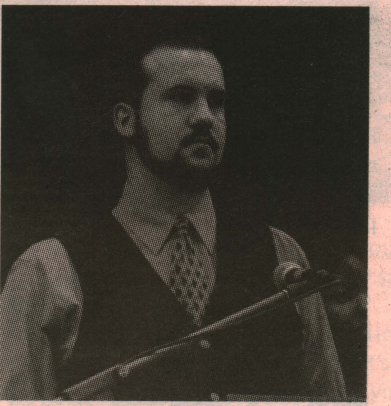
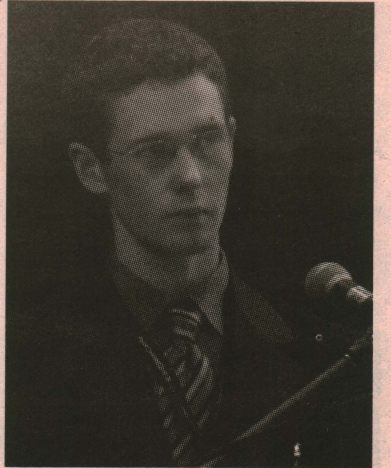
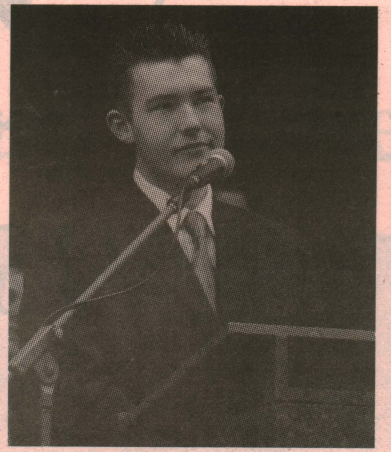
The first presidential candidate to address the audience was Jean. He opened with his intent to lobby the government to reduce tuition and improve student health. Jean would work with the VP Internal to create a more "hype" Tuesday night event for the Gorsebrook. To deal with student apathy, Jean would like to hold information sessions on CASA and ANSSA, and make use of campus media to encourage student involvement. He also proposed the production of video material with student concerns for submission as proof to the government and that media that students are active. He would also like to work with high school students, promoting positions in student government so that students start thinking of these things earlier in life. Jean closed by stating that he is "a man of integrity," he is approachable, and takes initiative.

Mitch opened with the job description of the President. The new service he put forth was concerning the already existing Gorsebrook. He also said that he would hire tutors, and take part of the proceeds for SMUSA funding. In his response to the second question, Mitch first acknowledged that he was flustered in the first question, and promised to do better in this one. He then said that students are inactive because they are not engaged by the association. He would ensure that the executive members are more visible, making in-class presentations and visiting students in residence as well as more communication with societies. He closed saying that he

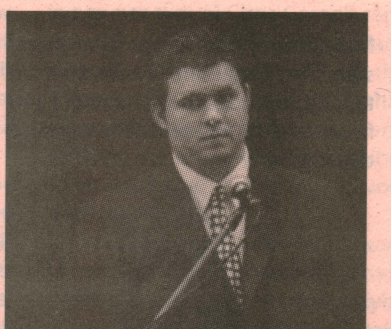
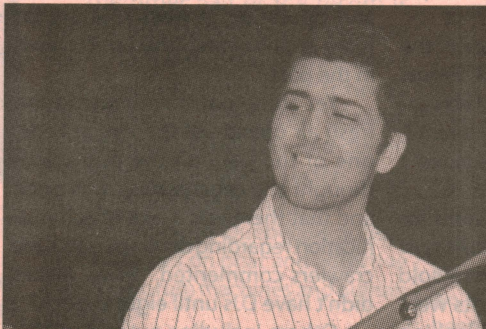
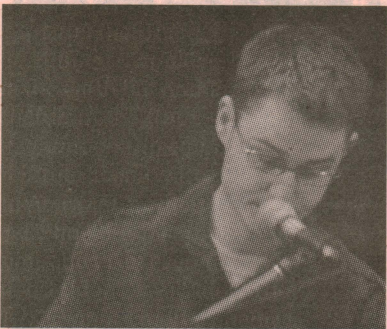
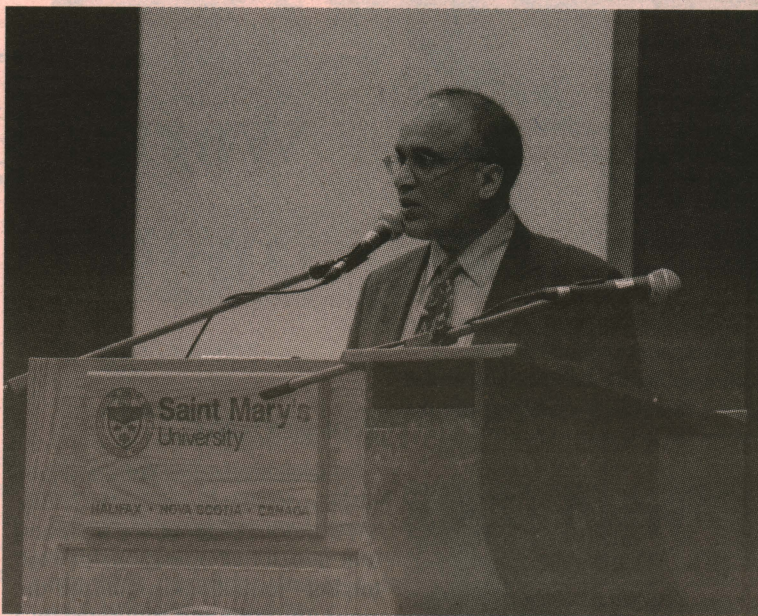
has always been very involved, and has accomplished a lot. He went on to discuss all that he had worked on, including the tutor database and the online professor review system. He said that he is dedicated and cares about students.

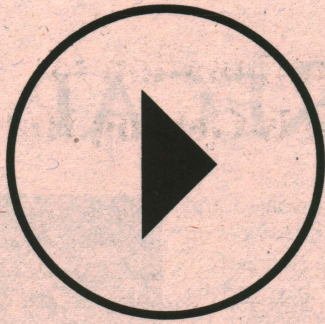
Joe opened with a blurb about CASA and ANSSA. He went on to talk about SMU web radio, and narrowing the gap between SMUSA and students. As for a new service Joe pointed out that the Gorsebrook is closed on weekends. He suggests using it to its full potential, saying that it would help to decrease the gap between on-campus and off-campus students. He then mentioned SMU web radio again. In response to the second question, Joe spoke about CASA. He said that there needs to be a proactive approach and more campus input. He closed by saying that he would make sure that students enjoy the SMU experience.

Bradley opened with the issue of study space. He said that the library should be open 24/7, and to facilitate this he would like to have security patrol the library. To help the SMUSA budget, Bradley suggested making more courses available online to reach those unable to attend the school, including the "...housewife up the street" as an example. In response to the question regarding student apathy, Bradley said, "...the information is there," and it just takes work to get it. He would put up a website with events and rallies on it. In closing, Bradley said he has drive and leadership, and he shows this "by playing lots of sports". He said that evidence of his passion is that fact that he woke up at 4:30am to work on his campaign.



Top: VP Academic candidates (Broadfield, pictured last, has dropped out of the race. Left: NDP MLA for Halifax Citade Dr. Leonard Preyra moderated the event. Bottom: the eight VP External candidates.

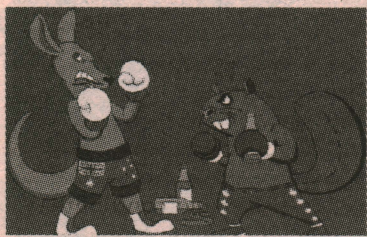




NEWSFEED



Now That's A Field Trip
15 history students and 2 professors will be traveling to the Czech Republic and Germany this week.



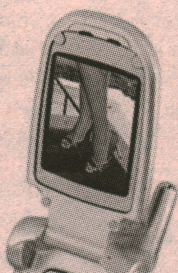
World's Largest Pubcrawl a Success!
Organizers of the event reportedly planning the 'World's Sexiest Pub-crawl' for the coming Fall.



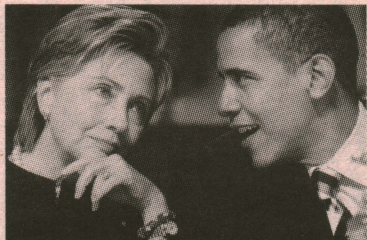
Halifax Airport Renamed Robert L. Stanfield International Airport
PM Harper was in Halifax to officially rename the terminal after the NS premier who led the Conservative party for 8 years.



More Money and Troops to Afghanistan. The Canadian Senate advised that more troops, police trainers and financial aid is needed in the war-torn country.

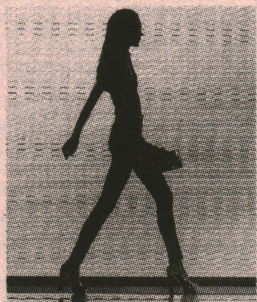


Vancouver's Archbishop Cancels Telus Phone Service. He states that the easy accessibility to pornographic material makes it unsuitable.

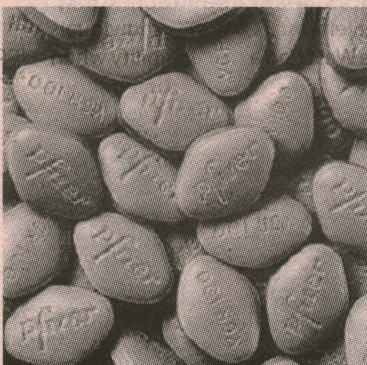


Obama and Clinton To Run For Presidency in 2008.

We could see either the first African-American or first woman to hold the oval office.



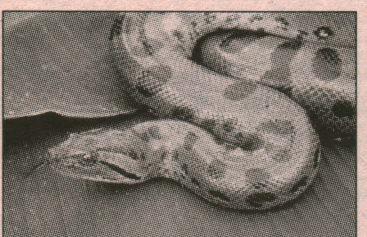
Models Too Skinny in Madrid.
5 models were declared to be too skinny by the doctor in charge monitoring their BMI.



Over-The-Counter Viagra Just In Time For Valentine's Day.
A pilot project in London England is testing the effects of selling the pill without a prescription.



Fatah and Hamas Officials Agree to Truce. Members of both sides of the conflict acknowledge that the truce is temporary and could last as little as a year.



66 Year Old Man Saves Grandson From 16-foot-long Snake
It took over half-an-hour to beat the anaconda to death with some rocks and a knife. The 8 year old child needed 21 stitches.

TRAVELERS BEWARE OF MANDATORY PASSPORTS

BY ALEKS STARK

On January 23rd the world's longest undefended border just got a little more secure. That's the date that the first phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) came into effect. As a result, it is now virtually impossible for Canadians to fly into America without a valid passport.

WHTI came into being way back in 2004 when the United States government enacted the Terrorism Prevention Act. WHTI was devised as a way to keep 'foreign undesirables' from entering the America through either the Canadian or Mexican borders. It involves a general beefing up border security, and the new passport regulation is only part of a larger plan.

The initiative's conception occurred early in 2005 by Homeland Security. At the time officials on both sides of the border voiced their concern that the new restrictions would harm both countries economically. NAFTA enthusiasts in particular have stated that the new plan will "...jeopardize our long-standing commercial and people-to-people connections... as well as our 140 years of shared friendship." As a result of the criticism and other political hurdles, the initiative has been slow to get off the ground. It wasn't till October 2006 that current president George W. Bush made WHTI law.

In an effort to blunt the blow to international travelers, WHTI is being implemented in phases. The first phase puts restrictions on only air travel. It began on January 23rd. The second, larger phase puts the same

restrictions on all persons entering the country by land or sea. The current planned start date for phase two is June 2009.

The law itself is pretty straightforward. No person may enter the United States of America for any reason without a valid passport from their country of citizenship. This applies for anyone from business



men, to politicians, to lowly university students looking to get away for February break. The only large exception is for active-duty military personal returning to the country. And unfortunately for us, this plan not only applies to people traveling to a final destination within America, but for any flight making a stop-over in the country.

As America is the number one travel destination for Canadian international tourists, the passport offices in this country have been getting progressively busier as the deadline approached. And now comes that time of year when many of us try to shake off the oppressive dullness of winter in Canada. It's estimated that around 77 000 'snowbirds' travel south to America every winter. The problem has only gotten worse as a result.

Just last week Passport Canada announced that applicants for new passports could expect serious delays. The cause is the major increase of applicants. The agency now receives about 11 849 a day, that's up 33% from last year.

How serious are the delays? The normal time it takes a person to receive a response is around 20 business days (about a month). According to the most recent estimates from Passport Canada, the current average wait time is 25 business days. That's more than two months. So if you applied for a passport now, you'd receive it just about in time for exams to be over. Of course, under extreme circumstance you can apply for an 'emergency passport.' Then it would be processed in just 24 hours.

There is also an additional fee \$70. As if the passport is cheap to begin with! A standard 48 page passport starts at \$92. When you add in the cost of the photos, photocopying and shipping then the cost is easily more than one hundred dollars. There is an extensive list of requirements for the required documentation. For the photo alone there are no less than 25 specific attributes that must exist or the entire application will be rejected. And that \$92 you paid is not the cost of receiving a passport; it's the cost of applying. You are charged even if you are rejected.

So if you're planning on traveling anywhere this summer and you are currently sans-passport, start your application now... like right now.

World's Largest Pub Crawl Swarms Downtown Halifax

BY OLIVIER JARDA

The world's largest pub crawl took place in downtown Halifax last Friday. STFX graduate Jonathan DeYoung and director of operations of High Impact Productions, organized the crawl. The crawl was sponsored by a bevy of local businesses.

The event's goal was to break the Guinness world record for the largest pub crawl. The current record was set in Maryborough, Australia on June 11, 2006, where 2237 people attended a pub crawl.

Over 3200 people registered for the event. It cost \$20.00 to take part in the crawl, and tickets were sold through Ticket Atlantic. Tickets were also sold on eBay. Because of the high volume of participants, the pub crawl began in different locations. People were split into about 20 groups and were unleashed onto 26 participating downtown bars and clubs.

One of the groups, comprised of over 200 members, began at the Gorsebook Lounge. Controversy over pub crawls on campus arose a few years ago. Students and societies were banned from organizing pub crawls on campus, or using the Gorsebook as a crawl venue. The world's largest pub crawl seems to have overridden this rule.

It was advertised that the fee gave you a t-shirt, free cover to five bars, no line-ups, drink specials, prizes and a Guinness Book of World Records certificate.

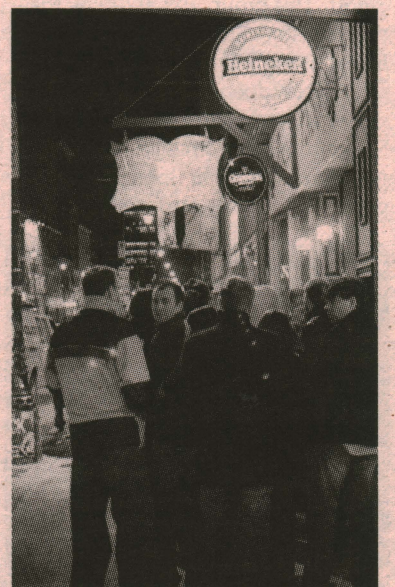
The crawl's website boasts, "this event is setting new standards for the pub crawl industry and promoting and operating in ways that are far more sophisticated than pub crawls in the past."

Yet some patrons enjoying the fresh air outside of the Pogue Fado, one of the bars on the pub crawl, thought the organization was poor, and that there was a lack of communication regarding drink specials. One crawler commented, "Some places didn't have DJs until eight o'clock."

Others, including outgoing SMUSA President Zach Churchill, thought the event was a success: "I find the pub crawl is going very well, although I don't personally endorse it."

There was some speculation as to whether or not any of the profits from the night were going to charity. "I feel that they tried to donate to MADD Canada didn't they, but it didn't work out," commented another crawler.

There were line-ups at some of the bars, which angered many who were assured that there would be no lines. The Pogue Fado, the Mercury and all roads to the Dome complex had line-



ups at some points in the night.

The police presence was evident, as HRM increased the number of officers on patrol for the night.

It did not seem like there were 3200 people downtown, and as the night progressed, the number of crawlers seemed to dwindle. This may have been due to the 6:00PM start time.

DeYoung is giving part of the proceeds to the SMUSA Opportunity Fund, which will go to bursaries for students with financial need.

HOW FREE SHOULD FREE SPEECH BE?



BY ALEKS STARK

Popular social networking site Facebook exists by connecting people with the same interests and opinions from all across the world, even if those opinions are un-PC, sexist or racist.

Facebook has a feature that allows the creation of 'groups.' The groups can be joined by any Facebook user and reflect a wide array of ideals such as the "Americans for the Metric System" group or the "Seriously.....what is in the draft at the Gorsebrook?" group of which I am a proud member. But lately Facebookers have seen an increase in the use of groups for less than politically correct purposes.

One example to surface recently is the proliferation of anti-homosexual

groups. "Homosexuality is wrong, and we have a right to protest it!!" is one such group. It was started by Chris Frankum, a student at Purdue University. I know that because he proudly posts his name as the group administrator, along with his entire profile. In fact, there is a list of members 563 persons long. Each one with their first and last name and where they attended university. But that's nothing compared to the massive "ANTI-Gay Marriage" group started by two South Carolina residents. That group currently contains more than 4 400 members.

And the online discrimination isn't just focused on any one minority. Your pick any type of person or religion and you can most likely find a Facebook group with people devoted to the public degradation of them.

the possibility of professional implications. Once you post something on the all-seeing internet, it's no longer within your domain or your control. I think SMUSA Forum denizen 'five-yearplan' put it best when they said "I have heard of people not getting jobs because their potential employer investigated their background via facebook... its kinda scary."

When asked about censoring of their site, Facebook 'copped a Youtube' and stated that they simply provided a service and were not morally or legally responsible for the content posted by their users. Some Facebook users have taken matters into their own hands with new groups like "Anti-Anti Gay Marriage" and "ABOLISH ANTI-SMOKERS: I'll quit when I'm ready."

Now I'm not going to get into the politics and attempt to pass judgment on anyone's opinions of the world. The problems here aren't so much people's beliefs, but that fact that the entire world now knows them. If people are willing to publicly post their political and religious affiliations for the entire world to see, they probably shouldn't be surprised if someone else on the internet has the exact opposite opinions and would want to call them out, or even threaten them.

The second issue is

Continuation to 'The Sun is Getting Hotter'

On the WWF site they also show graphs with the CO2 rising since 1850 to 2006 by using CO2 trapped in Glaciers at the Poles with a dramatic rise from 1960 on. Then on this site you will see Earth's temperature rising slowly with the CO2.

I also researched this more online and found more evidence showing the CO2 levels from Canada compared with other countries. We have all heard that Greenland's icecap is slowly melting and many of us pass that off as their problem, but ignoring this is dangerous thinking. If Greenland's icecap melts, that will raise ocean levels over seven meters along the coasts of the world. That will displace millions of people and cost billions of dollars to relocate them.

This is only scratching the top of this crisis and I strongly believe that SMU should take the lead and put together a presentation to educate the public and address this. We have the knowledge and the resources to make a strong case with students here and to make a hard impact on the public.

I feel this message will be stronger with students from this generation portraying it, not with politicians or scientists. We, this generation is the generation that needs to start the changes and show that we need to fight Global Warming or we are in serious trouble.

In 1939, evidence began to appear that something cataclysmic was starting to happen as thousands of Jewish people began to board trains. The world saw the evidence and chose to ignore it. Sixty-eight years later we judge the world at this event harshly for allowing this to happen uncontested until they themselves were threatened.

If we make this same mistake now, watching the evidence that something cataclysmic is happening, our future generations and even ours will see the drastic changes in the planet. This will result in a greater loss of life than we have ever seen before in human history.

Robbie Nauffts

Beer Talk for Smart People

BY KALINA MCCAUL

SMUSA has started a contagious event; discussing hot topics over beers. This weekly event welcomes students and professors to the Gorsebrook to discuss topical issues such as the Canadian government's role in Afghanistan, climate change, and in the future, student apathy. This week's conversation about climate change and global warming veered to the left discussing how individuals in the West had a responsibility when it came to preserving the environment. "It's such an easy thing to do"

some participants asserted, "why don't people do it if it's so simple?" This discussion group toiled with how individuals could contribute to reducing green house emissions while still pressuring the government to take action on the matter. If there is a federal election this spring, will this be a election issue, and will this result in real changes in environmental policy? Come and express your views, and learn about opposing positions at Beer talk, a bonus: free snacks included. Become active- and watch for upcoming Beer Nights.

A Deeper Look at Our VP Internal Candidates

BY LAURA MACINTOSH

The Internal position in SMUSA is a big deal. It typically doesn't get the notice it deserves, but this position really is the student representative. Dealing with internal affairs, events, societies, pretty much anything that affects students within the confines of our school, the VP Internal is our sounding board.

This year's candidates took some time to answer a few questions about events, societies and why they're the best for the job. I asked each candidate the same two questions; here are their responses (in random order):

LM: Saint Mary's has a wide array of societies for students on campus; however there is a large problem with student involvement. Many societies have small numbers of members and only a select few of those are committed. What do you think the major problem for student commitment is and how would you go about solving it?

Scott MacPhail: I believe that a strong reason the numbers are so low for these societies is the lack of student awareness about them, besides our society summit at the beginning of each semester many of these societies slip completely under the radar. Increased student awareness about the societies would help to get the proper students out to the societies they want to be apart of. I think a good way to help fix this would be

to create a monthly society newsletter which would be sent around the campus, sort of like the journal is sent around. This news letter would have information about which societies are hosting events in the up coming month, what they have done in the previous month, and other things such as new societies, how to get involved and above all it would illustrate the advantages to being a member in these societies.

Chris MacDougall: Lack of commitment in students has been blamed on many things, whether its apathy lack of exposure, or little involvement from the university or SMUSA in different programs. When looking at student involvement and commitment among societies, I think there are a few major problems that need to be addressed. The first is creating benefits; students attend university to obtain degrees and gain recognition, in order to create interest in programs and societies you have to be able to provide them with incentive as well as entertainment. The position of VP Internal already works to remedy this problem, but by working with societies to create greater events and programs that students see as beneficial, involvement and commitment is bound to rise. Providing societies with further access to SMUSA resources can increase communication of events and involvement from different parts of the university community.

Julie Thompson: I feel

there is a lack of awareness. Often students are not aware of what societies are available on campus and how to go about joining them. In addition, this lack of awareness decreases commitment, as students are not well-informed about events that are taking place on campus and how to participate in them. In order to correct this, I propose increasing advertising for events and membership drives. This includes increased funding for posters, flyers and other media avenues.

Jen Schwartz: I think that the problem with student involvement stems from students being unaware of what is offered to them, not only in terms of what societies are out there, but also in terms of what the societies actually are and do. I believe that we could remedy this problem by updating the society database (possibly even creating a new one) which would include contact persons & information plus a short description of what the society is and what it does. Also, I'd like to make the society database a little easier to find on the SMUSA Website itself. I think that by allowing students easy accessibility to search for a society or group that interests them, we would see a lot more people getting involved. Also increasing awareness of and interest in the Society Expo's is important.

LM: Many of our societies put on great events. Other than a very select few annual events, there has been a

sharp decline in attendance for these events. How would you propose getting more of the student body to attend society events?

Julie Thompson: As Saint Mary's has a diverse selection of societies. I would closely work society representatives to learn the needs and objectives of each individual society. In this way, I would be better able to provide assistance and support for society events and membership drives.

Chris MacDougall: When looking at individual events put on by societies, I think we must first look at the societies themselves. Each represents a small part of the student body, and because of this the success of their events should not be measured by the attendance. Instead the success of the events should be measured by the benefits that they provide for those who do attend. However, by increasing communications and trying new marketing and promotional methods they should be able to increase interest. The VP Internal can help through communication and marketing resources that the Association has access to. But communication and marketing only provide students with information. In the end it is the event, its purpose, and its relevance to the needs of today's students that will decide its attendance.

Jen Schwartz: I would propose getting more students to attend events by making optimal use of our

advertising strategies around campus such as the marketing department, The Journal and the SMUSA message boards. Also, word of mouth is the best possible way to get people to come out to events whatever the case may be. So using things like facebook and other networking tools is an excellent way to get people out as well. Personally; I will be out and about pushing events like it's my job-- since hopefully it will be!

Scott MacPhail: I propose having societies team up and throw events together, societies with similar interests getting together, this would not only create more awareness for other societies rather than just one, but it would also help to increase the numbers in attendance at these events. The society newsletter would also be a vital asset to help increase awareness of these events which is the first step in getting more students out. I propose we reach out to societies in the city which are relevant to our school societies to help us put on these events, help create a wider range of people who wish to attend the societies event. That is how I best feel we can increase attendance at society events.

Unfortunately due to time constraints and such, I was unable to get a response from Mani Itiveh. Read more about Mani and the other candidates online at HYPERLINK "http://www.smujournal.ca" www.smujournal.ca.

OJ ON THE CRAWL

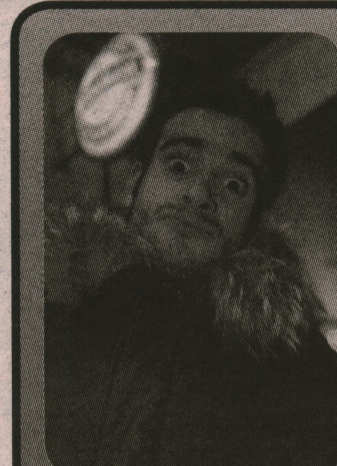
Q&A WITH OLIVIER & JOEL

Q: AS A PARTICIPANT OR BYSTANDER OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST PUB CRAWL, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE EVENT AND ITS OVERALL ORGANIZATION?



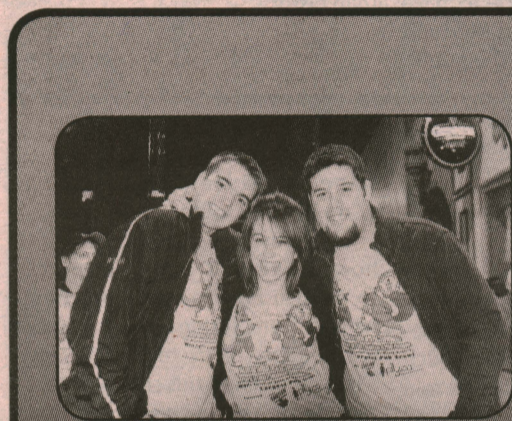
GROUP ON BARRINGTON STREET

"He really sucked at organizing it. There were no drink specials. Some places didn't have DJs until eight o'clock. I just found he was really unorganized. I didn't even get a text message yet."



ZACH CHURCHILL
SMUSA PRESIDENT

I find the pub crawl is going very well, although I don't personally endorse it. And I hope that he donates the proceeds to the SMUSA Opportunity Bursary Fund. It would do a lot to help students in financial need and help student access education here at Saint Mary's.



GROUP AT THE POGUE FADO

Crawler 1: I feel that they tried to donate to MADD Canada didn't they?
Crawler 2: It didn't work out.
Crawler 1: Still, no matter who they donate to, I think it's so great. So many people are going on it and are having a good time. It's so organized. Everywhere we go we have a good time, no matter who we're with. What's better than Nova Scotia, c'mon. We're going to win!



BYSTANDER IN LINE AT THE MERCURY

I hear that the cops are out and they're taking a lot of people in advance, asking questions and stuff. It's 3200 people here so... I'm just here to party really. I haven't been into a fight yet, but as long as it's a good time, I can't complain. I really like pub crawls. They're fun.

Photos by AJ LeVine

SMUDOKU

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

HOT OR NOT

HOT

- New SMUSA Executive
- ECMAs in Halifax
- "The Lounge Lizard"
- Reading this while on a beach in Cuba
- Marrying someone for their money
- Prince "Counting It" at the Superbowl
- Simon Cowell's comments
- The Dixie Chicks
- Aleks Stark
- The Days of Arbuckle vs. Partington

NOT

- Churchill and the gang
- Realizing you've never heard of any of the bands
- "The Journal" when it messes up "Hot or Not"
- Reading this while on your couch at home
- Dying before you get it
- Bears "blowing it" at the Superbowl
- Ryan Seacrest's eyebrows
- The Grammys
- SMUSA Marketing not sending the SMUSA page
- Presidential Coronations

THE G SPOT

Q: Dear Randy,

Both my boyfriend and I drive compact cars but we like getting it on in public places. Can you suggest a few hot positions that we can both enjoy?

-Horny in Halifax

SS Randy Blue

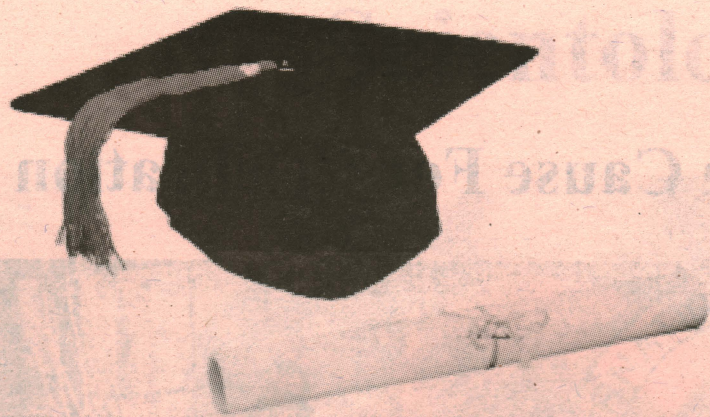
A: Whether you come home from with your date and find your parents have come home early, or your girlfriend is frisky and your roommate is having a party, or even if you just are really into voyeurism and public sex, there IS a time and a place for car sex. Now we'd all like to have a roomy SUV with a backseat bigger than most residence beds but we're not all so lucky. Most students can only afford something a little more practical...or compact if you will. This can, however, cause a problem when that urge arises and you have to quench it between the airport and your house.

The first thing you have to do is find a suitable location. Refrain from starting the fun while driving as the accident report will be tricky to explain. The best places are parking lots of nature parks. The best of those, being parking lots in industrial parks where everyone will be gone home for the night leaving you two lovebirds all alone. Now that you're all alone and have stopped at the drug store for your supplies, it's time to learn some maneuvers.

Being in a compact car it can be hard to find a comfortable position but I've got two that should do you good. The first I've dubbed the "tummy tickler". Get your boyfriend into the driver's seat and recline it all the way back. Get him to prop one of his legs between the steering wheel and the door and shift sideways just a little bit so that his chest faces out the passengers half of the windshield. Now, using the centre console as your point of leverage, proceed to give him some hot oral sex. In this position your boyfriend will have something other than you hair to grab onto when he's almost ready to finish, he'll have the cushy seat material to grasp onto as he climaxes.

The second position is one I like to call "The Barrington". It's a bitch more contorted than the first stretch a little before attempting. Pull the drivers seat most of the way up under the wheel and get you and your boyfriend into the backseat. Get him to lay on his back with his right leg wrapped up through the centre console and resting on the driver's seat. Now it's your turn for fun. You can ride him as long as you want, just don't raise your head up too high or the dome light might greet you suddenly. This position will be best for you as this position will stimulate not only you clitoris but also the elusive G-Spot, with every thrust. Hope this helps, and keep on truckin...err...carrin.

Got a Question? Send it to questions@smugspot.ca



Grads of 2007: Reminders



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Just some quick reminders this week:

RINGS can be ordered on Wednesdays at the Bookstore from 3:30-5:30pm. If you want your ring in time for May Convocation, it must be ordered by February 27th at the absolute latest! The deposit is ONLY \$50+tax!!

MAROON & WHITE BALL is on March 31st and will be held at the Marriott Hotel. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time; you cannot buy them at the door!! Tickets are \$40 per person and are on sale at the Info Desk. Keep in mind this formal dinner and dance event is for grads and their dates. If your date is a non-grad, you (the grad) must purchase their ticket. Ticket numbers are limited and likely to sell-out before the deadline of February 28th!!

PHOTOS can be booked by calling AboutImage at 429-1977, they were on campus Tuesday and Wednesday but they do sittings at their studio.

Regarding Grad Photos, if you do not plan on using AboutImage, you are required to physically hand in the photo to Pam at the SMUSA office yourself by April at the latest.

If you use AboutImage they will send the proof and necessary information to Pam. Also, if you use AboutImage, once you receive your proofs, you have 2 weeks to choose one for the yearbook and notify them which one you chose. If they don't hear from you within two weeks, they will pick one and send it to Pam for the yearbook to use.

We want to send congratulations to your May Convocation Valedictorians Adam Lordon (Science/Commerce) and Zach Churchill (Arts/Graduate), and Hooding Candidates Ally Read (Arts/Graduate) and Meg Campbell (Science/Commerce). Many thanks to the Valedictorian Committee and to all who applied, you all did a fantastic job!

If you have not added yourself to the grad class mailing list please contact us at SMU.GRAD.CLASS@GMAIL.COM to be kept in the loop of events, news, and deadlines.

That's it for this week!

Grad Class Executive 2007,
Ally, Shannon, Meg, Erin, and Mike

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FEATURES

The Chinese New Year, Finding A True Cause For Celebration

BY AMANDA WENEK

The Chinese New Year is a two week long festival marking the beginning of a new year. It is based on tradition and superstition; two things that are largely mocked by most people in modern Western societies. As skeptical one may be of these ideals, on closer look everyone could appreciate and find comfort in what this celebration stands for.

It begins on the first day of the new calendar year containing a new moon, and ends fourteen days later with the Lantern Festival. This year the New Year falls on the 18th of February.

According to legend, the nián (a man-eating beast from the mountains) could silently get into houses to prey on humans. The people later learned that this beast was sensitive to loud noises and the color red, so they scared it away with loud noises and the liberal use of the color red. These customs led to the first New Year celebrations.

Red clothing is worn throughout the Chinese New Year since the color will scare away evil spirits and bad fortune. Firecrackers are cased in red paper, and the loud popping noise created by the explosion is thought to scare away evil spirits. As well, red diamond-shaped banners with the character 福 ("auspiciousness") are displayed around the house and at the front doors, upside down. Upside down it reads something similar to "arrive". It symbolizes the arrival of luck or happiness.

Markets are set up near the New Year especially for vendors to sell New Year-related products. These may include peach and plum blossoms to symbolize luck, kumquat plants to symbolize prosperity, and Chrysanthemums to symbolize longevity. The practice of shopping for the perfect plum tree is not dissimilar to the Western tradition of buying a Christmas tree.

On the days before New Year's Day, families give their home a thorough cleaning with the belief that it rids them of the bad luck of the preceding year and makes their homes ready for good luck. Some people give their homes, doors and window-panes a new coat of red paint. As well, opening windows and doors is considered to bring in the good luck as well as switching the lights on for the night. Doing so is thought to scare away ghosts and spirits of misfortune that may compromise the luck and fortune of the New Year.

A reunion dinner is held on New Year's Eve where members of the family get together for celebration, most often at the home of the most senior member of the family. This time of year is the largest human migration as Chinese all around the

world travel home for this dinner. The meal consists of carefully chosen delicacies which signify good wishes for the coming year. Several foods are eaten to usher in wealth, happiness, and good fortune. Dumplings are one such food as the preparation is similar to packaging luck inside the dumpling, which then gets eaten.

This reunion dinner is followed by [Shou Sui] a time for members of the family to gather round and reminisce about the year that has passed while welcoming the year that has arrived. They sit up all night playing cards and board games, watching TV specials commemorating the occasion, and then fireworks light up the sky come midnight.

New Year's Day is for the welcoming of the deities of the heavens and earth. Many people abstain from meat consumption because it's believed doing so will ensure longevity. Most importantly, this day is a time for families to visit their most senior member of their extended family (parents, grandparents or great-grandparents). Red packets (Hong Bao) containing sums of money are passed out from the elders and married couples to the unmarried juniors and children. The money is given in certain numbers that reflect good luck and honorability.

Some families may invite a Lion dance troupe as a symbolic ritual to usher in the Lunar New Year as well as to evict bad spirits from the premises. This ritual, one familiar to most, is that of performers mimicking the lion's movements in a lion costume.

The second day of the celebration is for married daughters to visit their birth parents. The third and fourth days are viewed as an inappropriate day to visit relatives due to the belief that because of the fried food visiting during the first two days it's easy to get into arguments. As well, families who had an immediate kin deceased in the past three years will not as a form of respect to the dead. The third day of the New Year is allocated to visiting graves instead.

The fifteenth day of the New Year is the last day of the traditional New Year's celebrations and may be celebrated as the Lantern Festival, or as the Chinese Valentine's Day. This is a time when children go out at night carrying bright lanterns, the brightest of which symbolize good luck and hope. It is also a day for love and matchmaking. Being one of the few nights without a strict curfew, young people were chaperoned in the streets with hopes of finding love.

When asked his thoughts about this celebration, one SMU student shared, "It's so much better than our new year, which is to get drunk, find someone to kiss, pass out then wake up after having blacked out in an alley not sure if the ink on your boob is a new years resolution or the stamp



Above: A red lion dancer during the Chinese New Year Parade. Below: The Lantern Festival lights up the night sky.

from the club." The Chinese New Year stands for something more, it stands for family, faith, tradition, and a new beginning.



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WRITE ON!

The SMU Women's Centre presents WRITE ON! an essay contest. In 500-750 words tell us: Why Does Feminism Matter? The winner will receive a \$50 Gift Certificate to Venus Envy, 2 tickets to The Vagina Monologues, the option to read their essay at the opening performance of The Vagina Monologues at SMU. The Deadline is Feb 26. Submit entries (including name, email, and academic program)

Bulletin Board

to the Women's Centre (SC 526). Entries will be judged on creativity, insight, and feminist understanding. This contest is open to all SMU students.

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Scientology, Friend or Foe?



Photo by Andrew J. LeVine

BY SHANE BEEHAN

Scientology. That is why Tom Cruise is so strange. That is the reason his dyslexia was cured. That is the reason he went buck-wild on Oprah's sofa. That is the reason he has had the same hair style since he was fourteen. It all makes perfect sense now. Kind of. Sort of. Not at all. Maybe Scientology is not the reason Tom Cruise is a little unbalanced, maybe that is just who he is. So where does that leave us with Scientology...if all we know about scientology is summed up in the marriage of a guy who likes leather jackets with a girl who will forever look like she is fourteen years old then it is safe to say we don't know much at all. And that is

not a very fair sentiment; so many of us are willing to joke about Scientology but not many of us are willing to understand it.

Scientology deals with the human spirit and its relationship to the universe and its creator. It teaches how the fundamental laws of life, when properly applied, help people achieve a more fulfilled existence. L. Ron Hubbard is the founding father of Scientology, a man of many different sides; a writer, a traveller, a humanitarian among other things. By the tender age of 21 he had put thousands of miles on his body, many of them in Asia. It was there he had somewhat of an existential crisis and asked himself many questions to which he could find no answers.

These questions fuelled his passion for knowledge, which started his research that eventually evolved into the church of Scientology. It should be noted how, like many religions, there is controversy and contradicting evidence.

In 1949 Hubbard was quoted as saying "Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wants to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion." Hubbard, who was a science fiction writer, took values from Buddhism, Sigmund Freud, and many other philosophies when writing some of his books on science and mental health.

It is hard for some people to accept Scientology in the way that

Hubbard hoped to portray it. Most religions stem back thousands of years, not fifty years. Most religions have deep foundations in the belief of the uncertain and the faith that comes along with those beliefs, while scientology means "the study of knowledge or truth". Faith relies on believing we can overcome uncomfortable situations with hope and prayer, while it is the mission of Scientology to help humanity solve these problems by increasing the ability and intelligence of the individual so one can improve one's own life. In short, most religions hold the same set of principles or ideals; they just have different ways of conveying them. These are the basic thought of life and how we live it, and to do good rather than bad.

Certain situations tend to bend our views on religion and they tend to do so unjustly. Because of the tragedies of 9/11 the Muslim community has taken a lot of abuse, because of the crazy actions of Tom Cruise the Scientology community has taken a lot of abuse. Those terrorists who performed those terrible acts were just extremists who were falsely misguided. Tom Cruise and his actions of late with his new wife and their child have led our society to wildly and unjustly create falsities about Scientology and its meanings.

Tom Cruise is just an eccentric individual who has been filled with passion and energy throughout his whole life. When Cruise was fourteen years old he was studying to become a priest, when he was in his early twenties he was creating some of the most memorable movies of the 1980's and early 90's. Now he is best known for his actions of late. People tend to think it is his beliefs which make him a nutcase, but that

is because they don't understand his beliefs or him for that matter. Sure he is a little crazy, but it is not because of his beliefs. That is just who he is.

Before we can ever form a just opinion on something we have to understand what that something is. It is the only way to be proper and fair. To wildly make assumptions based on nothing more than media-strained garbage is a very ignorant sentiment. Saying Tom Cruise represents Scientology is akin to saying George Bush represents all Christians. Hardly the truth. Scientology may not be well received by some people in our society today, but does that make it a bad thing? Why do one person's beliefs become a target for criticism? What we need to do is understand that a persons set of beliefs is their personal choice, and although they may contradict your beliefs, it does not make them wrong.

Most religions are interpreted differently because we don't understand them; we don't want to understand them. But with understanding comes compassion, and that is something we could all use in this world regardless of our beliefs. Compassion itself is at the basis of every major religious movement, yet it is the one thing we stray from when trying (or lack thereof) to understand them. Not every Muslim is a terrorist, just as not every Christian is saint, just as not every Scientologist is crazy. You don't have to like someone else's beliefs, you just have to appreciate that it is their choice and respect them for making that decision. Hell, I don't even like any of the Mission Impossible movies and I think Tom Cruise resembles a plastic doll, but I respect him for who he is. Nutcase or not.



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LEADERSHIP FORUM EVENT: “BRIDGING THE LEADERSHIP GAP”

BY JACKIE HOWATT

Are you a business student looking to rub elbows with leading businesspeople from some of Canada's most noted companies? Have you ever wondered how some business students land amazing jobs right after graduation, while others get left behind? Are you looking for more from a “networking” event other than a memory stick full of drunken pictures and a massive headache the next morning? If you've answered ‘yes’ to any one of these questions, you need to keep reading. I had the opportunity to sit down with Jay Boutilier, the VP External of the Sobey MBA Society, and Evan Cohen, MBA Games Representative, both MBA students and lead organizers of the event, to discuss the details of the Forum, along with the benefits that students will derive from attending.

The Sobey Leadership Forum was established four years ago to bring together students and business leaders in order to facilitate a networking environment that would ultimately benefit all in attendance. Students are exposed to potential employers, while businesspeople have the chance to meet upcoming talent. “This event is how several students last year found careers”, says Cohen. Last year's event was a huge success, with major attendees, such as, keynote speaker Steven Landry, then President of DaimlerChrysler Canada and now Senior Vice President with DaimlerChrysler AG. Other noteworthy speakers from last year's event include Drew Franklin, President and General Manager of SC Johnson Canada; and Anna Maria Tremonti, host of CBC Radio's “The Current”. The Leadership Forum is known to offer

exposure to students of various businesses and industry genres to allow for a dynamic experience to students, and all who attend.

Every Leadership Forum is based around a topic of discussion, which stimulates conversation and interaction between the students and the businesspeople. The topic for this year is “Bridging the Leadership Gap”, which deals with the “growing concern that many of today's senior executives are approaching retirement age, and there are not enough qualified or experienced graduates that can adequately take their places”, explains Boutilier. This issue is an ongoing concern in the business world as of late, especially since many students are pursuing extended degrees, this widens the gap even further. This topic will be of particular interest for those in attendance, as the people

discussing it are in the positions in question.

“We're in the process now of recruiting companies for the event”, says Boutilier. So far, Boutilier and Cohen have recruited high profile speakers, namely, Steven Wetmore, CEO of Bell Aliant, Sarah MacDonald, VP Human Resources of Emera, Paul Kent, COO of Xwave, Louise Cornish, COO of QEII Health Sciences Center Emergency Department, Janine Saulnier, Controller of CSAP, and Dr. David Jacobson, VP IT Support, PricewaterhouseCoopers. This list is tentative, but will be accompanied by many more visiting businesses that will be mingling amongst the crowd.

The event is being put on by the MBA Society, and is open to students who are interested in meeting major industry players. The event takes place on March 2, 2007 from 9:30 am

– 1:30 pm in the Saint Mary's University McNally Theater Auditorium. Registration begins at 8:30 am in the McNally Auditorium. Participants attending the complimentary Breakfast Reception may also register at the Art Gallery beginning at 7:30 am. Tickets are \$20.00 for students and \$50.00 for business people.

“It's always beneficial for students to be exposed to real business situations”, says Boutilier. Networking opportunities like this are hard to come by outside of University. If you are a business student, especially one that is looking for a foot in the door in the business world, it is strongly recommended that you participate in this exciting leadership event! For more information, visit <http://www.smu.ca/leadership>.

STARKTALK

TRUE COSTS

BY ALEKS STARK

The face of Halifax is about to get a little more twisted if United Gulf Developments Ltd. has its way. The only thing stopping it now is the Heritage Advisory Committee and over a century and a half of tradition.

Here's the issue.

United Gulf recently purchased that old empty Tex-Park lot located on Granville Street and is planning the construction of what would be Halifax's largest structures in the downtown core. They plan to turn that vacant lot into two separate towers.

Both towers are glass skyscrapers rising 27 storeys from ground level. The first, thinner tower would be 260-suite hotel of the highest pedigree. The second tower is a bit larger and would house 250 condominiums. Both towers would share a base ‘pedestal’ that is 4 storeys tall and devoted mostly to commercial businesses including small storefronts on the exterior and office space inside. On the top of the pedestal would be an elevated garden that presumably the residents would have access to away from the busy streets.

The towers themselves are unique in that they attempt to preserve the historic Citadel's view of the harbour by twisting their upper corners to present only the narrowest profiles to the fort. This feature is what earned the structure the (un-official) nick name of the ‘Twisted Sisters’. They bare no resemblance to the 70's heavy metal band of the same name.

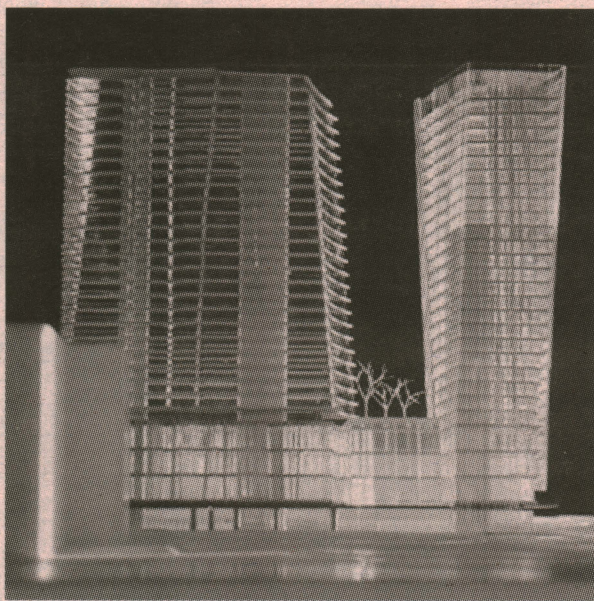
The project would cost an estimated \$150 million to investors. It would generate hundreds of construction and resulting support jobs for Halifax. Proponents of the project also say it will revitalize that area of the downtown and bring wealth and prosperity to its neighbor. All without causing traffic flow disruptions or utilities issues. It even complies with all the current building construction

by-laws. And they have the fancy charts to prove it!

So who would possibly think this is a bad idea? Well according to the Heritage Advisory Committee, anyone who respects Halifax and its heritage should be opposed to the construction of the Twisted Towers.

In a recent city council meeting, members of Heritage Canada shot down the idea on many levels. First and foremost, they claim that the structure does not fit at all with the local area. The construction area is just a stones throw away from the Historic Properties where privateers stored their loot almost 200 years ago and Alexander Keith started brewing the best beer known to man (ok, that last part I added). The new twisted glass and copper monstrosity conflicts directly with the architecture and ambiance of that part of the city.

The next point they bring up is the viewplanes from the Citadel. There are a multitude of by-laws in Halifax that prohibit blocking the Citadel's view of Halifax harbour. The heritage groups argue that the wording of the municipal by-law is too vague. The construction site is six blocks from the Citadel and therefore not “within the vicinity” of it. The argument goes that any large structure that impacts the view of harbour should be considered within the vicinity. They also go on to argue that the structure will negatively affect a large number of historical sites including St. Paul's Church, City Hall, Province House, Government House, and St Mary's Basilica.

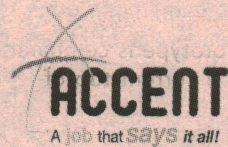



In the end, the Council approved the project with a 15-5 vote. They stated there was simply nothing in the proposal that directly violated the building codes. Some heritage groups didn't accept the decision and have taken the issue to the provincial level to try to get someone with more authority to step in to save the heritage sites.


Interestingly enough, some local residents are taking a stand against the heritage groups. At one public hearing in the appeals process, a resident by the name of Patrick LeRoy stated that the Heritage Trust was “presumptuous and elitist . . . unelected lobbying group.” He went on to say that with the city council decision “The people . . . have already spoken.”

So obviously the conflict over this site is still going on. It's still unclear if the province will step in to overturn the Council's decision.

Meanwhile the empty lot is still collecting dust as United Gulf continues to pay municipal property tax on a site they aren't allowed to develop. I wonder if they included this when they calculated that \$150 million price tag?

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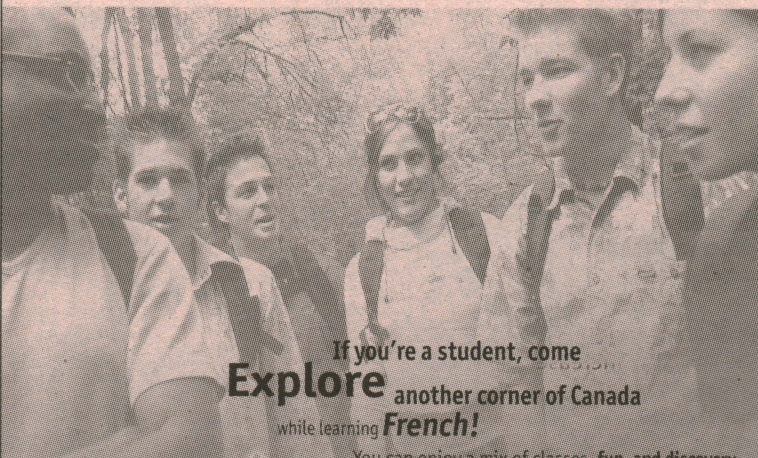


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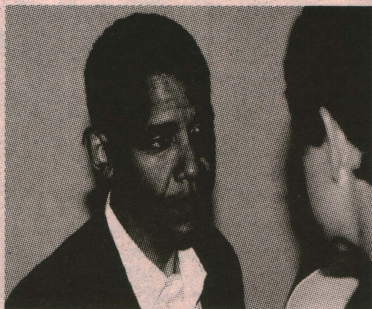
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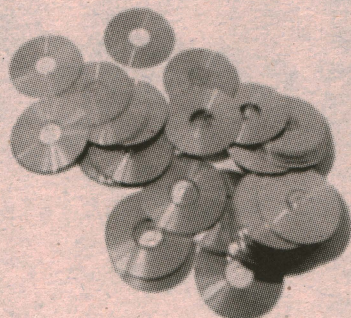
TECH @ A GLANCE:

Candidates, Copyrights and Quantum Computers

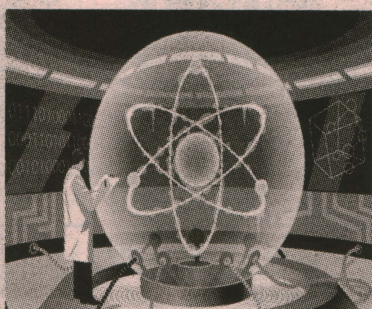


Social Networking sites like MySpace and Facebook have proven great at getting the word out on the hippest new bands and the latest internet-induced fads (anyone hear of Ok Go before YouTube?). So why not try using it as part of a larger campaign like say, becoming the most powerful person in the free world? Presidential candidate recently launched his own social networking site at www.barackobama.com. Seriously. Obama describes it as "a tool to organize your friends, neighbors and networks." People who join can watch all his campaign speeches on video, find Obama supporters in their area, plan election events and of course, give Obama money. The presidential candidate from Illinois will even keep a blog on the site chronicling his quest for the Oval Office.

How much do you want to bet someone's already approached him with a reality TV pitch?



The Canada's Private Copyright Collective is looking to make owning an iPod a little more costly. They recently submitted a proposal to the country's Copyright Board that suggests levies starting at \$5 for devices with up to 1GB of memory, all the way to \$75 for over 30 GB. They claim it is designed to compensate artists and labels for the losses they suffer when people "illegally" copy or transfer music. This would mean that Apple's 30GB iPod for instance, would increase from around \$290 to \$365. The proposal also seeks to increase the current 77 cent charge on CD-Rs, CD-RWs, and MiniDiscs by additional 8 cents.



A research firm in British Columbia called D-Wave is using the very fabric of the universe to design the next generation of computers. On February 13th, the world's first commercially available quantum computer will be on display at the Computer History Museum. Unlike traditional computers that use long strings of 1's and 0's to store data as bits, the quantum computer uses 'qubits' that can be both 1 and 0 at the same time. This means that instead of doing one calculation at a time, the new model can compute multiple calculations simultaneously. The current 16-qubit prototype is comparable in speed to a current top-of-the-line home computer. D-Wave plans to have a 1000-qubit model out by the end of the year.



New York has always been a leader for our western society in terms of safety laws. They were among the first areas to require things like daytime running lights and seatbelts. So it may be a sign of our future as New York State Senator Carl Krudger proposed a bill making it illegal to cross the street while listening to an iPod or talking on a cellphone or blackberry. This comes in response to a major increase in people being injured and killed by vehicles because they were paying too much attention to their electronic devices, and not enough attention to say, the oncoming bus. Krudger cited one incident where a man was struck and killed while bystanders screamed "watch out" to no avail.

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	Delta Airlines	\$2100-3000
Cancun	Air Canada/United Airlines	\$1600-2700
Los Angeles	Air Canada	\$500-1600
	United Airlines	\$1600-2700
Miami	Various	\$2700
Barbados	Various	\$1600-2300
Cuba	Various	\$1100-2100
Dominican Republic	Various	\$2000-3500

*prices from Cheap Tickets Canada, Expedia and Travel Cuts (in CAN funds)

BY LAURA MACINTOSH

As many students gear up to head into the sunny southern weather this February break, I've done the research for those last minute shoppers out there. The table lists the range of prices (round trip) for some of the Spring Break classics, as well as a few bargain spots. These prices are based on travel dates between Feb 16th and Feb 25th, just in time for our reading break.

As you can see, it's an expensive venture to fly during break, at least at the last minute. There is however still some good deals out there one

business meetings and a workshop all in one day, we'll pay high prices to ensure we all get from point A to point B on time. We all know travel fares fluctuate with weather, but it also tends to fluctuate with high activity times of the business world.

Then of course there are the vacationing high times. Because breaks such as our reading break and spring breaks are scheduled times where many students are looking to retreat to a warm party city, prices go up. You know you'll pay almost anything to hit a nice sandy beach right now, and so do airlines!

There are still ways to get where

planning that sudden trip over break, or a future summer bash!

MacTacular's Cultural Learning's of Vacationing Places for Make Benefit Glorious SMU!

Where to fly cheap (on break):

Mexico City, known for its 'minor' civil unrest these days is a beautiful (ly cheap) destination spot. Round Trip tickets can run you as little as \$500, which is dirt cheap considering. A few years ago, back when fuel was plentiful and the city was peaceful (relatively speaking), such a trip could run you more like \$1500.

Los Angeles, Hollywood baby! Ok, so yeah its FREAKING cold on

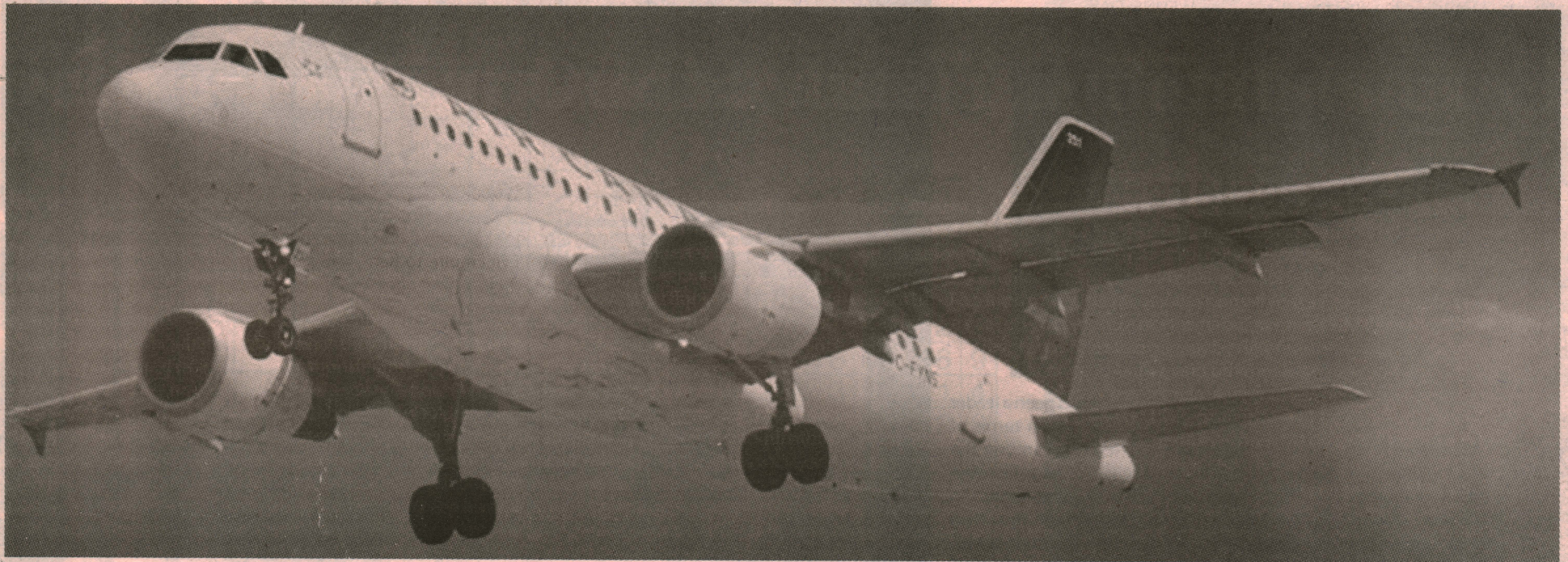
Mexico, and the current uncertainty of the country, but it's still a beautiful place to vacation, if prepared. Don't fly down on your own or try and pick up creepy cute cabana boys and you should be using that return ticket just fine.

California: book now for a great deal on summer vacationing in one of America's richest states. Hit up the sandy blue beaches or head in land to Hollywood for some celebrity seeing, you can do it for \$500-1000 depending on the route. If you don't mind a lay over or two you can be splashing in aqua water for cheaper than a direct flight to Toronto. Although there are

service.

California: It's hard to find a deal in the ritzy world of Hollywood, but it can be done for cheaper than expected. The comfort in will run you \$95US a night for a double in the heart of LA, where the average night (on for non celebrity status) is around \$150. Out in Santa Barbra things get more expensive but there are some less desirable hotels in the \$75 range. The best way to beat the movie land prices is to stick it out in a Motel 6 for \$44 a night. Sure they aren't pretty, but the motels do seem to have great location.

Cancun: There are some real deals



can take advantage of! Check out "MacTacular's Cultural Learning's of Vacationing Places for Make Benefit Glorious SMU!" for all the deals you need to save enough to eat the rest of the semester... Oh no; even when I try to make sense I'm sounding more and more like Borat. I have to get out of this tourism skit!

So why is it so expensive to fly anyway? Although the increase in fuel prices will inevitably drive up fares for all forms of travel, airfare has hiked the most. Unfortunately, since so many big chains are in cahoots, and air travel is more or less a monopoly, exploitation occurs rather shamelessly. The plain truth is, there will always be a market for air travel; it's fast, and we as a society are growing increasingly hurried (and lazy). Because we need to do things like fly out, have two

you want on the budget of student, with plenty of eager travel guides willing to help. Check out Travel Cuts on campus for some of the best deals for vacations within North America and abroad. Student pricing (something not available with most agents) will really help keep the cost low on the airfare side of things, and give you a little help with some hotel fees in certain countries.

If you have the luxury to be flexible with travel dates, there are plenty of deals to be had. Travel dates are one of the most important factors for making a cheap trip and if combined with associates from companies like Travel Cuts, you'll be on your way. If you avoid end of season rushes by the business types, and the months of March and June, you should be able to get reasonable bang for your buck. The following are a few tips for

the west coast right now, I mean like our regular March temperatures, but boy oh boy is it cheap. Prices have dropped considerably (up to 25%) in the last weeks due to this bitter cold snap. It may not be bikini weather, but pants and a t-shirt are still better than the 'it's too cold to snow' world we're living in right now. Plus, there's all those oranges that wouldn't last being shipped across the world... they're still good! I'm sure you could live off a \$10 food allowance if you're willing to diet on oranges and OJ for a week.

WHEN TO FLY CHEAP:

Although many destinations are still expensive during the summer months, most cities in Mexico are quite inexpensive (\$500-\$1000). This may be due in part to the dangers of

no 'straight' answers for the reasonable prices other than early bookings, the current weather probably has a lot to do with it. But fear not, global warming isn't putting Cali in a deep freeze; you'll still get a tan if you go in the summer months.

Flights to Florida drop if you book early. Grab a summer trip to Miami for \$700 with United, \$2000 less than the break fare. Check out the Disney theme parks or beach it up on the east coast for about the same as heading to out west.

WHERE TO STAY CHEAP:

Cuba: The Hotel Pullman is the dirt cheap hotel in Cuba. The rates (including breakfast) run around \$50US for a double. Although not located in the best part of town, this hotel looks like a castle and has reputable

to be had in some of Cancun's 4 star hotels. The bungalows of the Villas Delfines will run you a mere \$40US a night! Definitely the best deal for luxury.

MacTacular's best bet: Hook up with a Travel Agent like the Travel Cuts folks and do a little online digging of your own (cheap tickets is a personal favorite). Sometimes you can find cheaper out there so don't be afraid to call some toll-free numbers either. Planning a good vacation takes effort, and planning a cheap one takes even more, but it can be done with the help of professionals who have the research at their fingertips, so don't be afraid to use your resources. Check out Cheap Tickets online at www.cheapticketscanada.com if you're an experienced deal hunter, or Travel Cuts in the student centre to help plan your getaway dream!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

This Week In Halifax...

WEDNESDAY

Ttthimothy and Richard Aucoin at Just Us! Café, 6:30 pm cover by donation
 Jon McKiel at the Wired Monk, 7 pm \$5
 Hissyfit 2007 featuring The Whiskey Kisses. Great Plains, Benefit Party, Steven Cooke and the Respected Halifax Journalist Wolf, Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees, Trouble Rocekt, and Telecommando at Reflections, 10 pm \$3 or \$1 if you are in drag
 Dog Day, Be Bad, Attack Mode, Torso, and Husband and Knife at the Khyber, 9 pm \$5
 Al Tuck & No Action and Erin Costello at Tribeca, 10 pm

THURSDAY

Halcyon and The Switch at the T Room, 9 pm \$3
 Jenn Grant & the Night Painters, Tanya Davis & I Turn Pages, Hey Rosetta, and Down with the Butterfly at St. Matthew's Church, \$8 advance, \$10 at the door
 Ian Foster and Andrew Newton at Just Us! Café, 7 pm cover by donation
 Brent Randall and His Pinecones, Pat Deighan and the Orb Weavers, the Stance, Horses and Their Majesties at Gus' Pub, 10 pm \$5

FRIDAY

Jesse Dangerously with Uncle Fester, Spesh K, Muzz Marshall and Trobiz, Ghetosocks, Classified, and DJ Y Rush at the Delta Halifax Baronet Room, 10 pm \$12.90
 Ian Foster and Multiple Acts at Ginger's Tavern, 9 pm \$10
 The Grass, Dusty Kelly, Rebekah Higgs, and the Whiskey Kisses at the One World Café, \$5
 DJ Cheerio f. Game Spitzaz, P. Cain, Papa Grand, VA Heat, Skoshun Tiez, Shane C at Diamonds Club, \$6
 Take On Me, Prisoners, The Gamma

Gamma Rays, The Got to Get Get, and Richard Aucoin at Gus' Pub, \$5

Alliant East Coast Countdown Supershow with Bruce Guthro, Jill Barber, Joel Plaskett, Matt Andersen, Davie Myles, Stephanie Hardy, Dave Gunning at Alderney Landing, 7 pm \$19.37 plus fees
 Jon McKiel, Superfantastics, The Establishment, and The Internet at The Speakeasy, 10 pm

SATURDAY

Al Tuck and No Action Afternoon Matinee at Gus' Pub, 3-7 pm
 Jill Barber, Two Hours Traffic, Marden and Sproll at the Pavilion, 7 pm \$10 All Ages
 The Monoxides, The Motorleague, and The Nuclear at the Attic, 11 pm \$5
 Ruby Jean & The Thoughtful Bees, Fall Horsie, Fhost Bees, A Helpful Diagram, Stacy Lloyd, Neil Conway at the Bus Stop Theatre, \$6
 Benefit Party, Gunt, Word Burglar, and Ghetosocks at Gus' Pub, \$5
 Rebekah Higgs, Steven Bowers, Jill Barber, HOTSHOTBOT, Carman Townshed, and Dr Defunkt at the Seahorse

SUNDAY

Ian Foster and Christina Martin at the One World Café, 3 pm \$5
 Heath Matheson, The Maynards, Mark Black, The Stolen Minks, Picnicface, and Windom Earle at Gus' Pub, \$5
 The Sunday Night Comedy Spectacular at Gingers Tavern, 8 pm \$4

TUESDAY

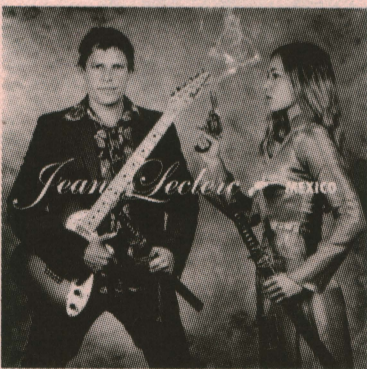
Mike Aube and Rust Bucket at Gus' Pub, 10 pm

WEDNESDAY

Silver Gun and Hey Ocean at the Frigate, 10 pm

CD REVIEW

Jean Leclerc Takes It to Mexico



BY OLIVIER JARDA

Jean Leclerc, a.k.a Jean Leloup, may have come out with the best Canadian album in 2006. Leclerc, who performed under the Leloup pseudonym for twenty years, released his latest album, *Mexico*, under his birth name.

Leclerc wrote, performed, arranged, produced and mixed the entire record. The album is explicitly two-faced, like the personalities of Leloup and Leclerc fighting to the death.

Half of the songs scream Lou Reed meets Charles Gainsbourg. The songs are spoken and the melodies are subtle and simple. The captivating stories told stand out: picture Aesop's fables for adults. His command of the French

language in poetry and song is intimidating. In these stories, Leclerc explores vices and the consequences they bring. He sings of lust, murder, drugs, theft, abduction and ice cream, among other things.

The other half of the record is hella kitsch, backed with incredibly sound and dangerous dance beats that would fit right in at Tribeca's Panic night. It's reminiscent of some of the music Leclerc released during the later 'Leloup' years. Leclerc sings many of the hooks in English with a thick, mocking Quebecois accent. He capitalizes on phat and addictive basslines, drum machines and human screams.

The album is all over the place and it is the guitars that carry the changes. *Mexico*, Hendrix and the Talking Heads all find their way onto the guitar tracks. What remain constant are solid and sweet arrangements with on the nose guitar tones. Although most of the tracks on *Mexico* stand alone very well, together they could convince most people to join an unofficial Jean Leclerc fan club.

Check out www.jeanleloup.net to download some of the tracks, and www.roiponpon.com for samples of the entire CD and other tantalizing extras.

Rage Against Audioslave

SMU'S RESIDENT MUSIC SNOB



BY TREVOR MURPHY

Sometimes, as cliché as it seems, music can change your life. I am a big believer in the power of music – in the religiosity of music – and even though it's something you would see in a movie, there have been bands that have completely inspired me and changed my entire life.

It's a situation you would read about only in the biography of your favorite rock star, I know, but when they write my biography (and they will) this story will be included.

I couldn't have been more than 15. I think I was on my way to gym class when I stopped in the hall to talk to my new friend Cody Porter. He was listening to his Discman when he ripped the headphones off his head, and swiftly placed them over my ears.

"Listen to this." I had never heard riffs that crisp before. I had never felt a groove that certain before. I had never felt so animated before. Until then, I had never heard Rage Against the Machine before.

The song that came pouring through those headphones that day was a tune called "Bullet In Your Head." I went out and bought Rage's debut record. About a year later, I also bought my first bass. In retrospect, Rage Against the Machine was one of the reasons I wanted to learn how to play it.

From then on, I bought every Rage CD. From *Evil Empire* to *Renegades of Funk* (not their best effort), I was hooked.

Then they broke up. Front man Zach de la Rocha left the band and started focusing more on his political causes and his rap career, leaving band mates Brad Wilk, Tom Morello and Tim Commerford on their own.

As you may or may not know, these three guys went on to recruit the voice of Soundgarden, Chris Cornell, as their new front man, forming a veritable super group called Audioslave.

I'm not going to lie. I have the first Audioslave record. Say what you want, if you were a fan of Rage, this project seemed pretty sweet upon its inception. Their first single, "Cochise," was pretty Rage-y and the merge seemed like a good idea.

The following singles and the following records proved that idea to be completely wrong. Audioslave has become a staple on rock radio and has succeeded in producing a boat-load of unwelcome sound-alike offsprings.

It's bad enough that three-quarters of Rage Against the Machine has been reduced to playing this kind of jock-rock slop, but to make matters worse lately it's been reported that Audioslave has been performing some Rage songs during live shows. In the words of Alicia Silverstone

in the movie *Clueless*, "Gross me out" (note: she probably didn't really say that in the movie).

It's one thing to start writing boring as hell radio rock, but it's a whole other ball game when you start banking on the success of your old, substantially better, band.

I haven't seen any of these performances (thank God), but I'm willing to bet that a) Chris Cornell can't sing these songs half as well as Zach de la Rocha, b) they're lacking the extreme political motivation that once stood behind these songs and c) they're making Rage accessible to an audience, who in my opinion, don't deserve it.

I mean Jesus, you wouldn't want to see Velvet Revolver playing Guns N' Roses songs would you? Well maybe you would. But I think it would make me puke to see Scott Weiland even trying on the role of Axl Rose.

The good news is Rage Against the Machine has decided they're going to do a reunion show at this year's annual Coachella Festival in Southern California.

Maybe there's hope yet. If the planets align just right and the karma police are on my side, maybe Tom Morello will kick Chris Cornell to the curb and reform one of my favorite bands of all time.

Maybe he can go join No Doubt or something, and ruin their band too.

TV GEEK

The Office



Courtesy of tv.com

BY RESSA PETERS

Let's get one thing out of the way first: I haven't seen but one episode of the original, British version. I will watch the whole thing eventually, but for now the American version suits me just fine. It's set in an office, but it doesn't have to be. It could be just about any job, school, the bus, your extended family or just about any situation where you're stuck in closed quarters with a bunch of people you have little in common with and can barely tolerate. We've all been here and we're all stuck here constantly. The guy that thinks he funny but isn't, the guy you can barely stand, the girl who'll criticize your every move and the guy or girl you see all the time but can't tell how you really feel. These are all closer to real life than the sitcom clichés of the wacky neighbor or the rich, eccentric uncle. You'll see these people on TV, you'll laugh at them and at the same time you're laughing at the people in your life they remind you of but you'd never laugh at to their face; it's a win-win situation.

Set in Scranton, Pennsylvania (not glamorous New York or LA) Dunder-Mifflin sells paper, yep, paper, and you thought your job was boring. Michael Scott (Steve Carell, who you'll recognize from *The Daily Show* or *40 Year-old virgin*) is one of those incompetent bosses who you wonder about how they ever rose to their level of incompetence in the first place while almost everyone under them is smarter than them. He thinks he's the funniest, coolest, sexiest boss on the earth but nothing could be farther from the truth. The only person who looks up to Michael is Dwight Scrute (Rainn Wilson), a sycophantic Assistant (to the) Regional Manager who loves paintball, karate and anime and takes everything way too seriously (don't we all know a guy like this?). Dwight's mortal enemy is salesman Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) who loves to prank Dwight by putting office supplies in Jello, paying the other employees to call him "Dwayne" all day, moving his desk closer to the

wall an inch every time he goes to the bathroom and other hilarious things you wish you'd thought of. The brunt of much of Michael's bad jokes and frequent co-pranker of Dwight is receptionist Pam Beesly (Jenna Fisher), the object of Jim's affections. The other office drones at Dunder-Mifflin are squirmy temp Ryan (B.J. Novak, also a writer) and the accountants: uptight Christian Angela (Angela Kinsey), immature Kevin (Brian Baumgartner) and Oscar (Oscar Nunez) who takes double the bad jokes from Michael for being Mexican and gay. The sales reps include no-nonsense Stanley (Leslie David Baker), Phyllis (Phyllis Smith) a shy woman who went to high school with Michael and newly transferred from the Stamford branch attractive Karen (Rashida Jones) and Andy (Ed Helms) who's trying to become Michael's best friend.

One of the most surprising things about *The Office*, (other than how hilarious boring jobs can be if other people are doing them) is that it contains one of the most bittersweet, surprising love stories on television. Throughout seasons one and two, Jim slowly realizes that he cares for the engaged Pam as more than a friend. Every scene they share is cute but not cutesy, palpable but not forced in its romantic tension. You root for Jim to work up the nerve to catch that diamond in the rough, the perfect girl stuck in the imperfect world. She's like Willow on *Buffy the Vampire slayer*; the quiet, slightly geeky girl next door we all want (coincidentally, I heard a rumour that *Buffy* mastermind Joss Whedon will be directing an episode soon.). And Jim is the perfect guy she deserves. You'll find yourself a "Jammer" (Jim/Pam supporter) before you know it, even if you hate sitcom romances as much as I do.

Seasons 1 and 2 are on dvd and season 3 airs Thursdays at 9:30PM on NBC.

Questions, comments or suggestions? Email tvgeekressa@gmail.com

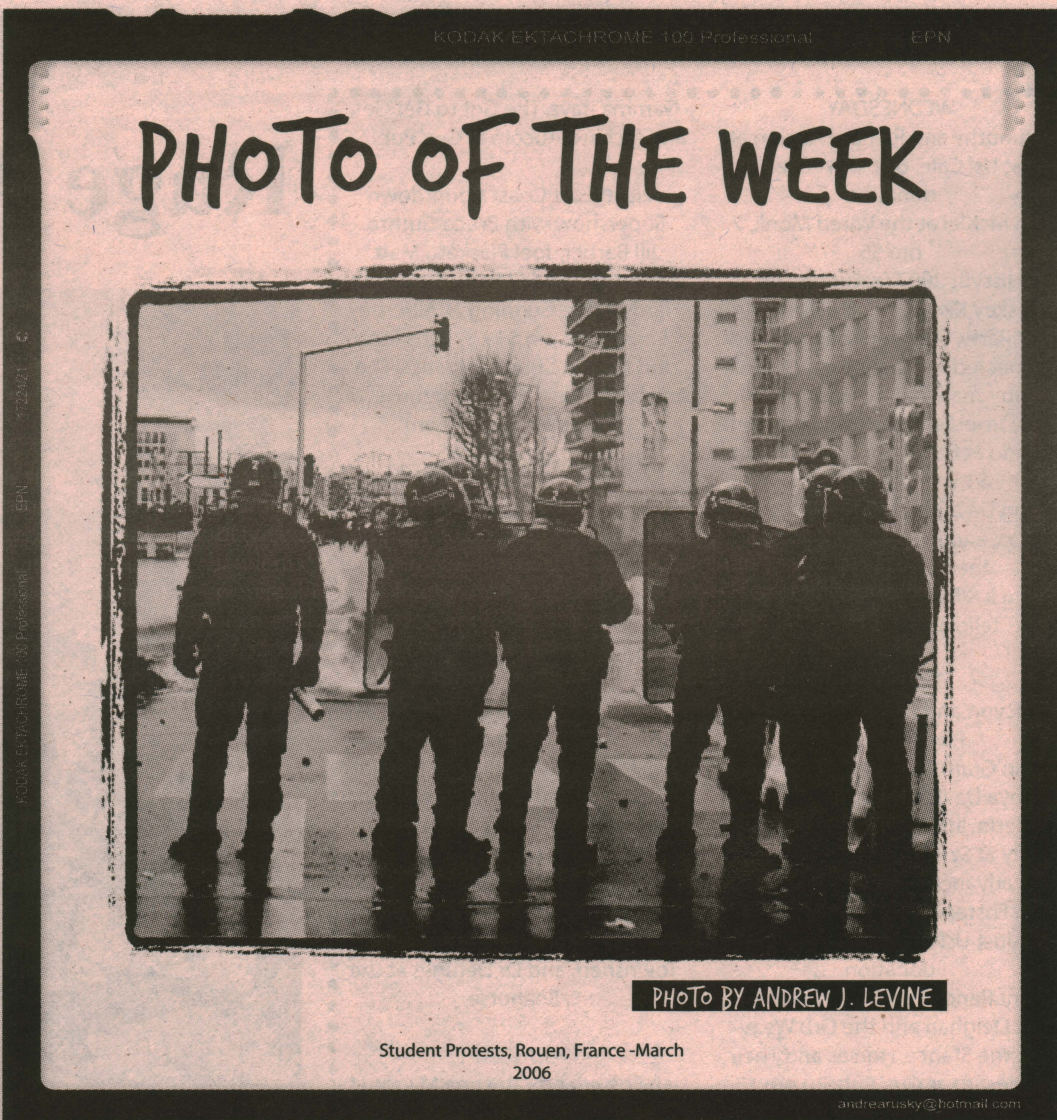


PHOTO OF THE WEEK


PHOTO BY ANDREW J. LEVINE

Student Protests, Rouen, France -March 2006

andrearisky@hotmail.com

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Rich Aucoin myspace.com/richaucoin



Saint Matthews Church www.stmatts.ns.ca



Laura Peek www.justfriends.ca

BY TOM WESTOLL

I went to church last Saturday night. Historic St. Matthew's church was the site of some progressive Halifax music and its stately presence, good acoustics, and gigantic pipe organ were the perfect setting for Rich Aucoin to perform his recent solo effort, Rich Aucoin's Personal Publication.

A mixed crowd of silver haired hipsters and barely out of high school scenesters, as well as the everyone in between, took in a double whammy of visual and audio delights because it just so happens that Rich took his project one step further by syncing the classic animated film "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" to his futuristic sounding album. As a stand alone, the album is solid. With the film accompaniment, it is on the very verge of blowing my mind. The whole A/V production is very slick and some of the coincidences between music and pictures were enough to cause chuckles and groans from the

audience throughout the double balconied venue.

Joining Rich on Saturday night was Laura Peek performing minus the Winning Hearts, Jason Ball who ended his set with a hand clapper of a good time acoustic number as well as a very intimate set by the one and only Brent Randall accompanied by Jess Lewis.

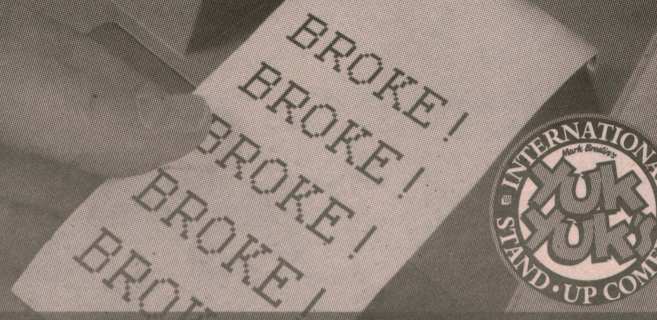
St. Matthew's Church provided the background for one of the best sets I've ever seen the duo perform, Jess' voice resonating through the huge room. It's hard to describe the music and characteristics of a Brent and Jess show without overly romanticizing it, so I will just say that they play really, really nice music and I really like them. It is a natural variation of the full fledged band the Pinecones, which give the songs a pizzazy pop sensation versus the stripped down and pure versions of these songs. On this night at Saint Matt's the setting lent itself perfectly to their magical tunes.

Rich Aucoin opened by playing a song where he sprinted from the piano he was playing to the top of the altars' stairs where he whipped out a trombone to mark the debut of the synced-up movie'n'album combo.

Once that began, Rich was physically inconspicuous as all attention was on the large white wall which served as the projection backdrop. I think I had forgotten how great a movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" actually was, so to see it again, but in a new way, was pretty satisfying. Rich alternated between playing a synth and the vibraphone while singing his way through the presentation.

The finale saw a large choir join Rich for a grand closure to the evening, and with Brent Randall playing the church's pipe organ it felt like the congregations worship had been completed so that everyone could go home feeling spiritually fulfilled in the realm of pop music worship.

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27th Atlantic Film Festival Seeks Film Submissions



Halifax, NS, February 8, 2007 – The 27th Atlantic Film Festival announces their Call for Entry for film submissions. Applications are available on the Atlantic Film Festival (AFF) website at www.atlanticfilm.com, or can be completed online at Without A Box www.withoutabox.com/login/1582.

The early bird deadline for submissions is June 8, 2007 and there will be an entry fee of \$25. After that the entry fee rises to \$30 until the final deadline of June 29, 2007.

"We're building towards great things as we launch the 27th season of the Atlantic Film Festival," says Lia Rinaldo, Festival Director. "Our growing team is approaching film selection with a fresh energy, scouring the globe to find the best films to screen here at home." Submissions for the Call for Entry may be of any genre and length. Once accepted, they are programmed into nine programming streams: Atlantic Focus; Canadian Perspectives; International Perspectives; The Late Shift; Frame x Frame (animation); 'That's So Gay'; ViewFinders at the AFF; Focus on France; and Special Programs (retrospectives).

Entrants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decisions by August 10, 2007.

As the regional film and television industry continues to flourish, the Atlantic Film Festival plays a strategic role as a leading forum for film in Atlantic Canada. Internationally the festival continues to develop its status as a gateway to the North American market. Local filmmakers and actors who continue to participate in the Festival and have gone on to international acclaim include Mike Clattenburg (Trailer Park Boys: The Movie), Thom Fitzgerald (3 Needles, Hanging Garden) and Ellen Page (Stone Diaries, Hard Candy, X-Men 3).

The 27th Atlantic Film Festival takes place September 13-22, 2007, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The Atlantic Film Festival is a production of the Atlantic Film Festival Association (AFFA). AFFA also produces Viewfinders: International Film Festival For Youth (April 24-28, 2007), alFresco filmFesto (Summer 2007), and Strategic Partners (September 14-16, 2007).

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SPORTS

Both St. Mary's Hockey Teams Lose Their Captains

TAYLOR IS RELEASED, CHOMACK STEPS DOWN



www.SMU.ca

BY: ADAM COSTELLO

The AUS hockey playoffs are a mere few weeks away and the St. Mary's Men's and Women's hockey teams both just recently lost their team Captains. Jordon Chomack, voted as Captain at the beginning of the season by his teammates, was confirmed to have left the team last week, with coach Trevor Stienburg citing the reason as being academic. Chomack, a 4th year science student from Calgary, had three goals and five assists as the Huskies Captain this year, playing in 18 games throughout the Men's current 2006-2007 campaign. This news came a little over a week after St. Mary's Women's team coach, Lisa Jordan, announced team captain and 4-time AUS all-star, Lindsay Taylor, was released from the club for the remainder of the season.

For the men, the news comes at a rather unpleasant time, as veteran defenseman and leader, Tyler Noye, was recently announced to be out of action for the rest of the season after learning he had a blood clot in his left lung. While the team is fighting for position as the season winds down, now without their captain,

coach Stienburg explains that while there are numerous character players that could step into that role, he emphasizes the 'C' isn't currently an issue. "We have a hand full of guys that could be a team captain on any team in the AUS, but naming a captain isn't something we're going to bother thinking about right now. We might add an extra 'A' out their but other than that I don't think it will be given a too much thought."

Despite losing their captain, the men came away from a road trip last weekend with a loss against STU, 6-4, and a win over UPEI, 4-1. The more likely solution for the Huskies this season, with just one regular season game left to play, will be to all assume that leadership role together; the men's hockey team seems to possess a balance this year that was not as noticeable in previous years. While their ranks have been spread thin, leadership doesn't seem to be as much of an issue as just continuing to play smart and hopefully keep winning games.

In fact, Stienburg is more concerned about losing another body on the bench than losing his Captain, "If our program could afford to bring in

a few more guys for years like these, which seems to be every year, it wouldn't be a problem. It seems we always lose guys near the end of the season, resulting in too many guys playing too many shifts without a break."

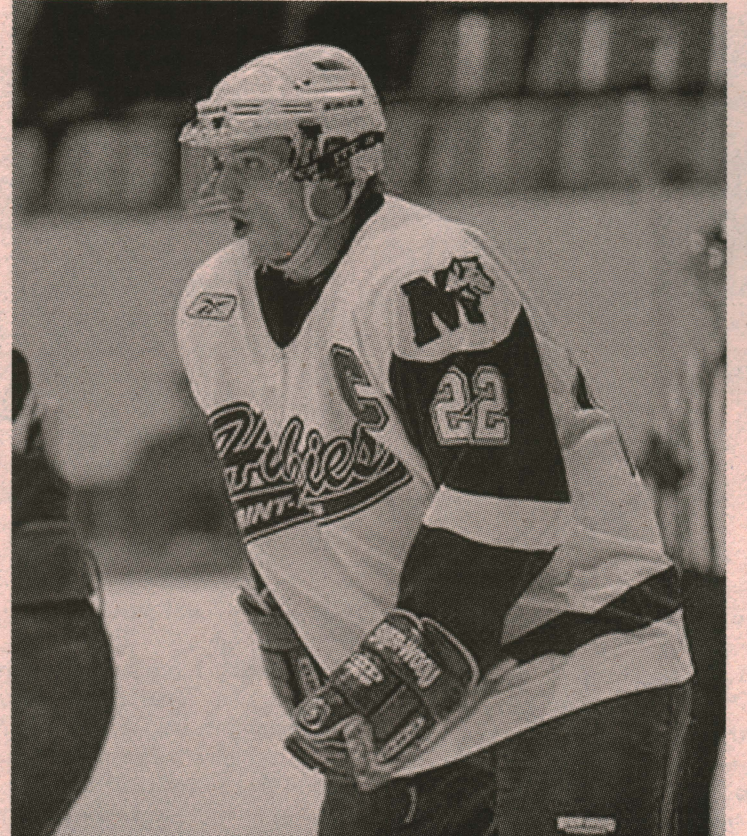
For the women, the situation is a little more complicated. Two weekends ago, sophomore blue-liner Kori Cheverie and third-year forward Lindsay MacInnis, were suspended for two games after breaking curfew with Taylor in Montreal during an exhibition series last week. While Cheverie and MacInnis received only suspensions, Coach Lisa Jordan explains that for Taylor, there could not be anymore leniency.

"There was no one specific incident that probably deserves removing her from the team, there were about three infractions that broke team rules and three strikes was enough. It got to the point where she was becoming more of a distraction rather than the team leader that she was expected to be."

It may sound harsh but Jordan explains all parties involved realize this is what's best for the team. With the women currently sitting tied for top spot in the conference, focus must be centralized on what happens on the ice, not off of it.

"She has the respect of every player on the team. It's just that other players see this type of thing and what ends up happening is they think there is a double standard. The preparation off the ice just wasn't there and going into the AUS championships, I needed her head to be as much in the game as the rest of the team. She's been supportive of the decision, we've talked about it and she understands it needed to be done. She's a fantastic kid and I love her to death, but coaching-wise and player-wise it wasn't working out in terms of her commitment level. She understands that and respects that and it means a lot to the team that she does. It may not have been an easy decision to make but it was something that had to be done."

On the ice, Taylor has been one of the top women's hockey players this province has ever produced. An AUS all-star in each of her first four seasons, Taylor captured CIS Rookie of the Year honors in 2002-03, and



www.SMU.ca

was a CIS first-team all-star in 2004-05. She was eighth in league scoring with nine goals and 17 points in 13 games this season

While Taylor finishes her university career with 80 goals and 184 points in 74 games, Jordan explains that Taylor will by no means stop supporting the team - not by a long shot.

"She came and met with everyone at practice last week after some time had passed and the dust had settled, she wanted to come in and apologize to the girls. She came to the teams games last weekend and I know that she'll be there anytime she can, which really means a lot to the girls."

While the timing was a little distressing, dealing with these issues now rather than during the playoffs may help exert providence toward their playoff aspirations. Courtney Schriver has assumed the role of Captain and her team has not missed a step since, currently tied for first atop the conference on the back of a 6 game win streak. However, they still have 4 games to play with 3 of them coming against St. FX, Dalhousie and Moncton - the

three teams near them at the top of the standings. As for the void left by Taylor's departure, as far as skill and leadership is concerned, St. Mary's still matches up evenly depth-wise with any team in the league.

"Losing your best player and someone who is one of the most dynamic players in the league isn't easy" Jordan explains, "because we've lost that on-ice go-to person. But what has happened is the rest of the players have realized they have to step up in what they've been able to contribute and it's really brought us closer as a team. We've got a lot of forwards that are capable of playing a lot of different roles and excelling at it."

Also, with Courtney Schriver on the team, leadership shouldn't be a problem either. "The first thing I did was tell Courtney I was going to put the 'C' on her jersey. She's tearing it up on the ice and she's doing exactly the same off the ice. Schriver had 3 goals and 3 assists last weekend as the Huskies beat Dalhousie 2-1 and Mount Allison 7-0.

Basketball Diaries

BY: MATHEW BIRD

The Saint Mary's Men's Basketball team suffered a disappointing 1 point overtime loss to the Dalhousie Tigers by a score of 84-83 this past

week but followed up the loss with a victory over the Memorial Sea-Hawks 83-73.

Clint Bateman scored a team high 27 points against the Tigers, while the sharp shooting of Mark McLaughlin

netted 25 for the Huskies.

The Huskies led at half time by a score of 42-41, but after the final buzzer they found themselves tied with the Tigers. Dalhousie then edged the Huskies in overtime 9-8.

Against the Sea-Hawks, Saint Mary's led throughout the majority of the contest. The win evened their record to 7-7 on the season. The Huskies have six games remaining before the AUS playoffs begin.

On this night Saint Mary's was led by Mark McLaughlin, who put up 26 points and sank 10 of his 18 shots. Clint Bateman chipped in 17.

Despite leading most the contest, the Huskies had a hard time defending Justin Halleran, who scorched the Huskies for 25 points, keeping Memorial at least within range of SMU throughout most the contest. Memorial tried to press the Huskies in the second half, but SMU was able to consecutively break the Sea-Hawks full court press down the stretch.

The Huskies were tenacious on defense, causing the Sea Hawks to turnover the ball 14 times. Saint Mary's point guard Mark Ross was able to find spot-up shooters in transition, dishing out 7 assists in the process.

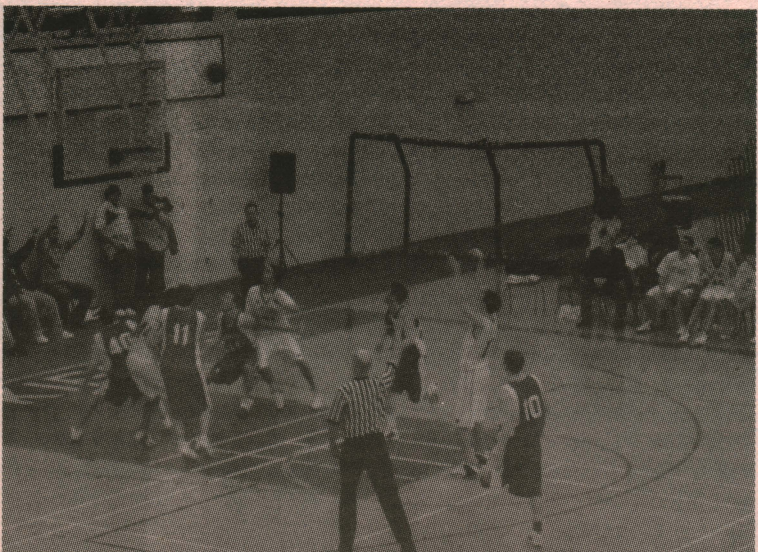
Saint Mary's seemed to rely on jump shots as opposed to their inside post game. Ikeobi Uchegbu scored 13 points, making the best out of the few opportunities he had to post up. Saint Mary's will need to beef up their inside game if they are to compete with the bigger teams down the stretch. They managed to keep the rebounds close in this one.

The Saint Mary's women's team will also see the Dalhousie Tigers twice more in AUS women's basketball this season, and their first goal is simple: find an answer for Kate McNeil.

McNeil scored a league-high 33 points last week in leading Dalhousie to a 69-54 win over Saint Mary's at

Dalhousie. The six-foot-one McNeil also added eight rebounds and matched Saint Mary's by herself in the third quarter, netting 14 of Dal's 20 points in the frame. The Tigers held a 51-34 edge on the rebounds, pulling down 20 offensive boards, and outscored the Huskies 42-22 in the paint. Alise Brown netted 15 points and Venessa Ryan added 14 for the Huskies.

Later that week against MUN, Katherine Quackenbush of Halifax and Maegan Seaward each scored 15 points to power visiting Memorial to a 69-54 victory over the struggling Huskies. Alise Brown had 11 while Jennifer Bray added 10 herself on top of 11 rebounds. Memorial at one point led 44-17 over the Huskies, who have now dropped six straight games after winning four in a row. Fortunately though, the now sixth-place Huskies (4-9), are guaranteed a playoff berth because they are hosting the tournament this year.



THE JOURNAL SPORTS ROLLBACK

SMU ATHLETES RAISE OVER 2400 DOLLARS FOR 65 ROSES FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS RUN

Last Tuesday, the second annual athlete auction was held at the Gorsebrook. Athletes went on stage and were auctioned off to the highest bidder for a date that included a 3 course meal at Niche. Over 2400 dollars was raised in the effort, up from 2200 the year before. The highest bid included a bid of 240 dollars for St. Mary's football player Jacques Lumbala. Proceeds are used in the 65 roses for Cystic Fibrosis run, held Saturday April 7th at 10am at the Tower. Proceeds from the run last year were tagged at around 5000, however, this year organizers are hoping the number to be closer to around 10 000.

STARS ON WHEELS TO STORM THE TOWER, THURS, FEB 13TH

SMU athletes will hopping in wheel chairs to take on the Nova Scotia Flying Wheels in a Fundraising game for the Abilities foundation on Thursday February 13th. The Game will take place between the women's and men's basketball games scheduled at the tower for that day. SMU athletes are required to compete in wheel chairs. People interested in contributing can either buy 50/50 tickets throughout the game while volunteer's will be accepting donations throughout the game.

MOOSEHEADS LIMP TOWARD PLAYOFFS

The Halifax Mooseheads were swept last week in a pivotal home-and-home series with the P.E.I. Rocket. The Mooseheads fell by scores of 8-6 and 5-3. The sixth-place Mooseheads (25-27-3-3) are now 11 points behind the fourth-place Rocket and four points behind the fifth-place Bathurst Titan. They'd be three points out of fourth had they won both games against P.E.I. While the Mooseheads are still on the verge of making the playoffs (only the last place team in the 8-team eastern division does not participate in the playoffs) they are in no position to go beyond the first round at present. Also, Mooseheads forward Bryce Swan, taken off the ice on a stretcher on during the first game against the Rocket with a neck injury, didn't make the trip for the second. It has been reported he suffered a soft-tissue injury after crashing into the boards on a missed check. There is no set timetable for his return, but it is believed by management he won't be out long.

HALIFAX MUNICIPALITY GETS CANADA GAMES

The Canada Games Council announced Monday that Halifax, Nova Scotia will be the host city of the 2011 Canada Winter Games. Nova Scotia had already been granted the Games, but three regions were competing to be the host: Colchester County, the Highland region and Halifax Regional Municipality. "From the time that the bid books were received in the fall of 2006 we knew that the 2011 Games were in good hands in the Province of Nova Scotia," said Sue Hylland, President and CEO of the Canada Games Council. The 2007 Canada Winter Games will be held in Whitehorse from Feb. 23 to Mar. 10.

ST. FX MOURNS LOSS OF RUGBY STAR MICHELLE BIRKS

The StFX athletic community is mourning the loss of one of their own. X-Women rugby athlete and fourth year Human Kinetics student Michelle Birks from Unionville, ON

died suddenly of a heart arrhythmia early Friday, February 2. Michelle was a member of the X-Women rugby team who won the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) rugby championship this past fall, under the guidance of head coach Mike Cavanagh. Michelle was a valued member of the close-knit team, scoring 20 points this past season from the wing position. Over the past three seasons of Atlantic University Sport (AUS) competition, Michelle tallied 126 points, earning her the distinction of StFX and AUS all-time leading scorer. She also holds the AUS record for career conversions with 26 and the record for most conversions in a single game with six. She was named an Atlantic conference all-star in 2004 and 2005 for her athletic talents and was an academic all-Canadian.

PICTOU'S JOEY MACDONALD GETS FIRST NHL WIN

Joey MacDonald, a native of Pictou Nova Scotia, got his first career win starting in goal for the Detroit Red Wings last week, as veteran netminders Dominik Hasek and Chrsi Osgood are both out with injuries. Detroit scored three first-period goals, chasing goaltender Miikka Kiprusoff, and beat the Calgary Flames 7-4 on Sunday. While the Red Wings out-shot the Flames 50-20, MacDonald will get at least one more start as Hasek isn't expected to be back for a few more games.

NEW NHL IRON MAN BLOCKS SHOTS TOO

Colorado Avalanche defenceman, Karlis Skrastins passed Tim Horton's NHL record iron man streak this past week for most consecutive games by an NHL defenceman. Not only that, but Skrastins is third in the league in blocked shots and second in the league last year. Blocking shots is the number one cause of injuries to defencemen in the NHL, illustrated this year by guys like Pronger, Niedermayer, Ballard and Boynton all going down with resulting injuries. Skrastins, a native of Latvia, has now played the equivalent of six straight seasons without missing a game.

MESSIER WANTS TO BE GENERAL MANAGER OF RANGERS

Mark Messier announced last week that he wants to be the next general manager of the New York Rangers. The Rangers already have a general manager in Glen Sather, Messier's old coach and friend. Messier think that because he won that Stanley Cup 13 years ago that he has the right to just bypass the system and be handed a job he's not qualified for. Knowing the Rangers, the job's his.

FLAMES PICK UP STUART AND PRIMEAU / STARS PICK UP FORMER MOOSEHEAD

The Boston Bruins traded defenceman Brad Stuart, forward Wayne Primeau and a conditional draft pick to the Flames on Saturday for defenceman Andrew Ference and forward Chuck Kobasew. It's the second big deal made by Flames GM Darryl Sutter in the past two weeks. Calgary acquired centre Craig Conroy from Los Angeles on Jan. 29. Stuart, a key player in last season's deal that sent former Bruins captain Joe Thornton to San Jose, had been mentioned in recent trade talk because of his upcoming free-agent status. Also last week, The Dallas Stars acquired former Halifax Moosehead's winger, Ladislav Nagy, last monday from the Phoenix Coyotes in exchange for a first-round draft pick and forward Mathias Tjarnqvist.

TANK JOHNSON PLEADS GUILTY

Chicago Bears defensive lineman, Terry "Tank" Johnson, pleaded guilty to violating probation in a 2005 gun case last week. A Cook County Judge denied a request to lift the player's house arrest, but said Johnson could leave his home to attend practices. Moran delayed sentencing until March 15 so that a pre-sentencing investigation could be done. It was the same judge that allowed Johnson to travel to Miami for the super bowl. Johnson was arrested on misdemeanor weapons charges on Dec. 14 after police raided his home in the Lake County town of Gurnee, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago, and found six unregistered firearms. At the time, he was on probation in a November 2005 Cook County case. In that case, he'd pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge stemming from an arrest in which a nightclub valet reported seeing Johnson with a handgun in his sport utility vehicle. Johnson has pleaded not guilty to the Lake County charges in the latest arrest. Johnson's bodyguard, Willie B. Posey, was arrested on felony drug charges after the raid on Johnson's home. Posey was shot and killed two days later during an early morning fight while he and Johnson were at a nightclub in Chicago. The Bears suspended Johnson for one game for being out at the club.

DALLAS COWBOYS NAME WADE PHILLIPS AS HEAD COACH

Wade Phillips, who spent last season as defensive coordinator for the San Diego Chargers, will now assume the role of head coach in Dallas. Phillips was the man who coached the team that was victimized by the Music City Miracle, when his Bills went 11-5 and lost in the playoffs on the Titans' kickoff return touchdown with seconds left in the game. Phillips was replaced the following year. How will he deal with Owens? He might not even have to. Owens has said he's willing to come back, but isn't sure the team wants him. Just to be safe, he cleared out his locker and stripped off his nameplate. When team owner Jerry Jones gave Phillips a tour of the locker room last week, it was the only nameplate missing.

FORMER NBA PLAYER ANNOUNCES HE IS GAY

John Amaechi is now the first NBA player to come out publicly and announce he is gay. Amaechi, a centre who spent five seasons with four teams, is scheduled to appear on ESPN's Outside the Lines on Sunday, and his autobiography "Man in the Middle," was released Feb. 14. Three years after his playing career ended, Amaechi has become the sixth professional male athlete from one of the four major American sports (NBA, MLB, NFL, NHL) to publicly announce his homosexuality. Former NFL running back David Kopay came out in 1977; offensive lineman Roy Simmons and defensive lineman Esera Tuaolo came out more recently. Glenn Burke, an outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Oakland A's in the 1970s, and Billy Bean, a utility player in the 1980s and 1990s, also have come out. Amaechi, 36, who is British, competed for Penn State, then played 301 NBA games over five seasons. The six-foot-10 centre averaged 6.2 points and 2.6 rebounds in the NBA. He began his career with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 1995-96, then spent a few years playing in Europe. He rejoined the NBA to play for the Orlando Magic from 1999-

01, then played two seasons for the Utah Jazz.

FORMER RAPTOR ROBERTSON ARRESTED ON SIX WARRANTS

Former Spurs and Toronto Raptors star Alvin Robertson, twice sentenced to jail time for incidents involving former girlfriends, has been arrested on six warrants, including an alleged violation of a protective order. Robertson, 44, a three-time NBA all-star with San Antonio in the 1980s, was picked up Wednesday after an officer on routine patrol got a hit for a warrant and pulled over a vehicle Robertson was in.

CANADIAN SIGNS WITH USC

Trey Henderson, a 6'3, 265 pound Tight End/Defensive Lineman, out of Richmond, B.C. has signed a letter of intent to play for the University of Southern California Trojans. Henderson is the first Canadian to play for the Trojans, who sport the #1 recruiting class, according to ESPN.com. Henderson will more than likely play his natural position, Tight-End,

while at USC.

GONZAGA BASKETBALL PLAYERS SUSPENDED AFTER DRUG POSSESSION

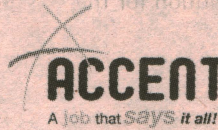
Josh Heytvelt and Theo Davis have been suspended from the Gonzaga Men's Basketball team after their arrest this past Friday night for possession of drugs. Police said they pulled the car over because its tail lights were not working. The arresting officers smelled marijuana and searched the car. Police found marijuana and magic mushrooms inside of the car. Heytvelt, a 6-foot-11 sophomore forward, is averaging 15.5 points and 7.7 rebounds per game and has been considered a frontrunner for West Coast Conference player of the year. Davhis, a 6-9 freshman, is red-shirting this season undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his shoulder to repair ligament damage.

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BOB PROBERT



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SPARKY ANDERSON



GORDIE HOWE

BY DANNY CAREW

This past Thursday, Halifax hosted the 35th Annual Sports Celebrity Dinner, an event held to raise money for the King's Meadow Home. Among the guests were some of the greatest figures from 20th century sports: Sparky Anderson, Gerry Cheevers, Paul Coffey, Bob Probert, and Mr.

Hockey himself-Gordie Howe.

The Halifax Progress Club is a volunteer fundraising group. The club was established in 1965 and is comprised of fifty male members who generously donate their free time to raise money for select charities. Money is raised through ticket sales, donations, prizes, and corporate sponsorships. The King's Meadow Home is a residence for ten

adults with mental disabilities who are supervised by a professional team of residential counselors near Windsor, Nova Scotia.

The event began with a reception at 6pm, followed by dinner at 7pm. Last year, the event sold out with 1100 people in attendance. My table was #125, so it was quite evident that this year's attendance had matched, if not eclipsed, last year's number.

Sitting at my table was an older couple from Moncton, Bob and Gloria, who were given tickets by their daughters because they both love Gordie Howe. As a matter of fact, Bob told me that he saw Gordie play in 1963. Speaking of Gordie, the gentleman sitting next to me, Dave MacIntyre, played against Gordie in the IHL. In 1997-98, Gordie suited up for the Detroit Vipers and played one shift so he could be the first person to play hockey in six different decades. I was also fortunate to sit with Bruce Mansour, a member of the Halifax Progress Club.

Rod Black, veteran sportscaster for CTV, emceed the dinner. Rod has emceed the event for the past five years.

Before dinner, the audience was able to watch a video taped earlier in the day that showed members of The King's Meadow Home and the honored guests. Both parties sat, dined, and laughed. The highlight reel illustrated to the audience the real reason why all of us were gathered tonight: to raise money for the residents of the King's Meadow Home.

After dinner, Gordie Howe began to make his rounds. As he approached our table, Bob jumped up and shook his hand. Bob had met his hero. Gordie put his arm on my shoulder, but I didn't want to divert him from his conversation with Bob because this was Bob's moment, not mine. Bob was in tears and so was his wife.

The first speaker of the night was Gerry Cheevers. Cheevers was a goalie for the Boston Bruins throughout the 70s. After he retired from the Bruins, he went on to coach the B's from 1980-85. Before he was drafted, he was property of the Toronto Maple Leafs until the Bruins drafted him in 1965. He won two Stanley Cups in 1970 and 1972. Cheevers' unusual stitch-pattern goaltender mask came after a puck had been flipped up and hit him in the face during practice. Cheevers skipped out of practice and went to the dressing room. Bruins coach Harry Sinden followed him to the dressing room, where he found Cheevers drinking a beer and smoking a cigarette. Sinden told Cheevers, who wasn't injured, to get back on the ice. To make fun of

the incident, John Forestall, the team trainer, painted a stitch mark on his mask. In keeping with tradition, every time Cheevers was hit in the face with a puck, a stitch mark was painted on his face mask.

Cheevers directed his first question of the night towards Maple Leafs fans: "Are there any Maple Leafs fans out there?" A few people raised their hands. Cheevers mockingly responded, "Good. I'll go slow then." Cheevers was definitely the funniest speaker of the night. He even managed to take a shot at Don Cherry: "I played with Don up in Rochester. We had four defensemen and he was our fifth." His stories kept everyone rolling in laughter.

Bob Probert, arguably the best known brawler of all-time in the NHL, was up next. Bob played for the Detroit Red Wings from 1986-94, and he finished off his career with the Chicago Blackhawks, retiring in 2002. Bob was famously known for his on/off ice antics. Throughout the 80s and 90s, he and teammate Joe Kocur were known as the "Bruise Brothers." In 2004, Probert was arrested for allegedly parking his BMW SUV on the wrong side of the street and entering into an altercation over drugs with bystanders. Several police officers intervened and had to subdue Probert with a taser and stun guns. He was later acquitted on all charges related to this incident. Despite his legal problems Bob appears in over twenty charity hockey games per year, speaks at conventions, and conducts youth clinics. Probert talked about his fights, which was exactly what the audience wanted to hear. He went into great detail about his rivalry with Tie Domi and other brawlers. Bob is a class act, on/off the ice.

Paul Coffey was third to speak and he was without a doubt the most charismatic and endearing speaker of the night. Coffey is the 10th all-time leading scorer in NHL history. Coffey's career spanned for 20 years with stops in Edmonton, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Detroit, Hartford, Philadelphia, Chicago, Carolina, and Boston. Earlier in the night Gerry Cheevers mentioned that Bobby Orr said, "Coffey was the greatest skater to play." Coffey responded, "There was only one Bobby Orr and I'm proud to be mentioned in the same breath." Paul talked more about his teammates than he did about himself. He reminisced about the glory days of the Oilers, where he won three Stanley Cups. Coffey also spoke about the magic of the Pittsburgh Penguins winning the cup in 91. Coffey paid homage to Nova Scotia: "I forgot about how beautiful Nova Scotia is." He even gave props to the Trailer Park

Boys when he took a sip of rum and coke and said, "The real after party is at Bubble's Mansion." Today Coffey owns a Toyota and Nissan Dealership. Paul Coffey is the man.

Some of the greatest managers in the history of baseball were lousy players in their playing days. Sparky Anderson fits this model. Sparky was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2000, after managing the Cincinnati Reds from 1970-1978, before moving on to manage the Detroit Tigers from 1979 - 1995. Throughout his managerial career Sparky won three World Series: Two with the Reds (1975, 1976) and one with the Tigers (1984). Sparky spoke about his failures as a player, which led him to becoming a manager: "I loved to play the game...I just couldn't. It's not a shame, it's the truth." Sparky played one full season in the Majors with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1959 as a second baseman. In his lone season in the big leagues Anderson hit .218. Sparky was a third base coach for the San Diego Padres for two years before being promoted to a manager with the Reds. When asked if he misses the game, Sparky responds, "I don't miss the game, I miss the players." Sparky is a living legend and his legacy today is not just his baseball accomplishments, but his commitment to charity. In 1987 Sparky founded CATCH, a charity to aid underprivileged children in Detroit.

When it was time for Gordie to speak the entire crowd rose for a standing ovation. Gordie Howe's accomplishments are too long to list. Howe talked about how he spent an entire winter shoveling snow and in return for his good deeds, he received his first pair of skates. Howe gave reverence to Sidney Crosby when he describes how they first met: "He (Sidney) didn't say a word. When you see a kid of that nature, only good things are ahead of him." Howe reminisced throughout his speech, even taking jabs at today's players: "I received \$2300 for my first contract. I feel sorry for the players today." Howe broke down into tears when he thought of all the kids out there who need help through charity.

Players are giving back to charity after having so much given to them throughout their illustrious careers. Charity is something that is always needed. The night was a success as expected. The Halifax Progress Club should be commended for their efforts. Check out www.halifaxprogress.ns.ca to learn more about the charities and events which they host.

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