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Get on board with Grand Theft Bus...page 7.

SMU Conflict Resolution Society returns from a successful trip to Ireland...page 4.

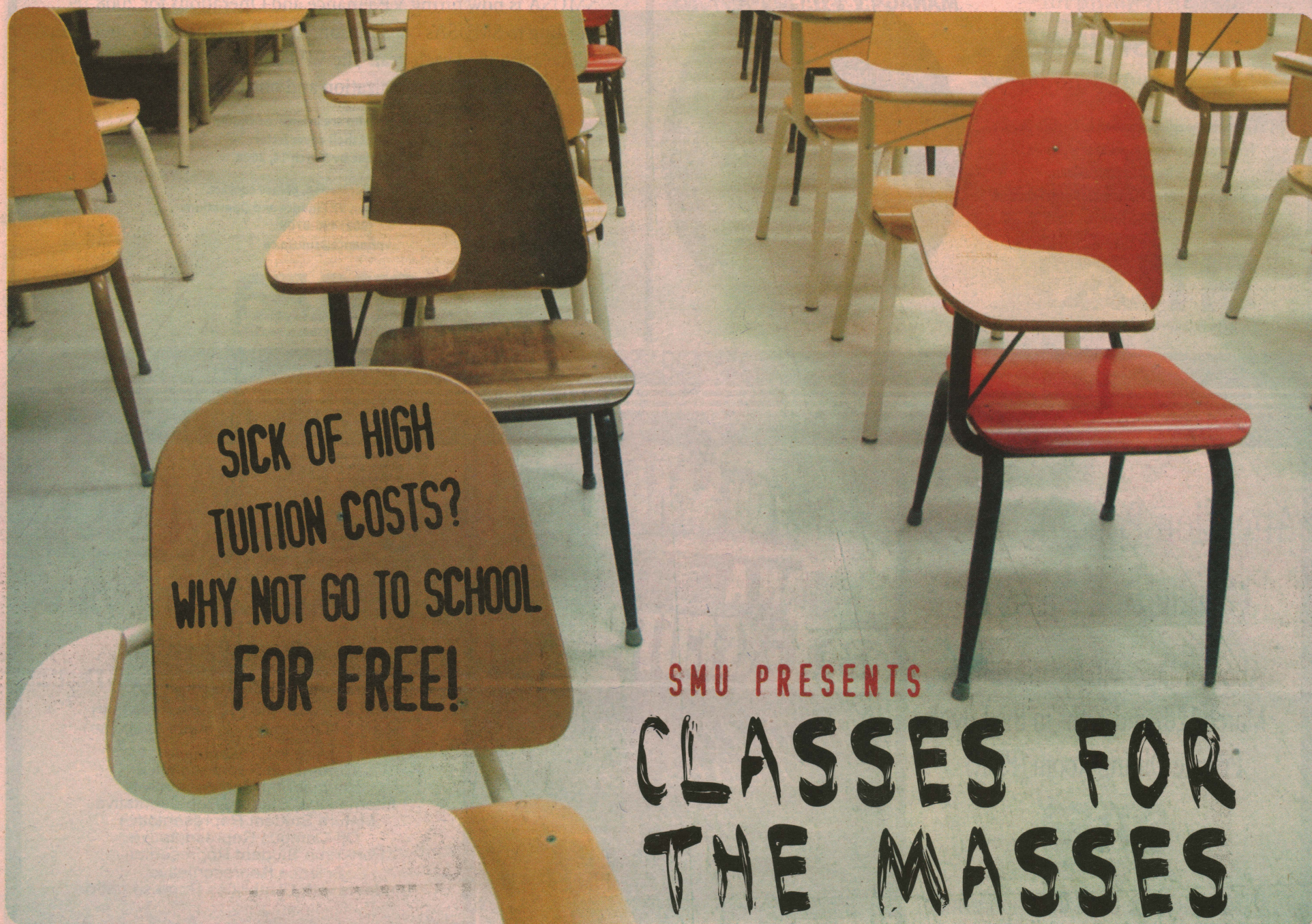
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THE JOURNAL

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



KIM DARES

Yes, it is true, many Universities are opening up access to their course lectures and other materials at no charge to the public. The Open Courseware Consortium website boasts access to educational programs at close to 100 institutions worldwide. Many of these universities post everything from lecture notes and videos to final exams and assignments.

With this technology, university learning is open to everyone with internet access. There are no fees for accessing the sites and there is plenty of opportunity for those interested to dabble in a wide variety of courses.

These programs aim to provide university-level learning opportunities to anyone interested. Many of the programs listed on the Open Courseware Consortium are available in several different languages, allowing even greater access.

The catch? Those who do all the coursework free online do not receive course credit or a degree for their hard work. Still, the Consortium website

and others like it allow people to attend classes in Japan or Taiwan from the comfort of their own homes. These programs also allow the chance to pick and choose what you learn. The information can also be used to help people complete research or learn more about a specific topic of interest.

There are courses on the Consortium from Universities and Institutions in Australia, China, France, Japan, Spain, the United States and many more. Many of these institutions offer instruction in their national language allowing the opportunity to learn a new language as well.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) allows the public access to lecture notes, videos, exams and other valuable resources and was the most visited Institution on the Consortiums page as of December, 2007 with over 1.5 million hits a month. MIT has posted information from over 1,800 courses, nearly all of it's curriculum and over 90% of faculty and staff have voluntarily contributed to the project.

There are currently no

Canadian Universities with courses listed on the Consortiums webpage. Vancouver's Capilano College, located in North Vancouver, BC, is listed as a contributor to the Consortium. Even though course material is not available on the Consortium, institutions such as Capilano College, contribute to the program by offering translation or distribution services.

It seems odd that Canada has some of the highest tuition rates anywhere, yet Canadian Universities are unable, or unwilling to provide free access to courses online. Nova Scotian universities like Saint Mary's are certainly no exception. Students at SMU are paying at least \$508 for each course they take, multiply this number by ten and then add on student fees, textbooks and living expenses and a year at Saint Mary's costs students well over \$6,000.

This raises the question: why are schools in countries that are viewed as less developed and economically struggling, able to provide their citizens with free education

and allow free online access to courses to those in countries like Canada and the United States? An Arts degree is an Arts degree, so how can one cost so little and another so much? Even within our own country there are students attending paying less than \$3,000 in tuition at universities like Memorial in Newfoundland, for a degree that is at least comparable to that of one received at Saint Mary's.

Taxes pay the education costs, including at the university level, for students in Scandinavia. The situation is similar in Cuba where education costs are substantially subsidized to ensure equal access for everyone. Vietnam also offers an affordable education.

If a system can be worked out in countries like Cuba and Vietnam, how come "more advanced" countries like our own cannot find a way to lower costs? Scandinavians pay a lot in taxes, but they also receive a lot for their money, free healthcare and education, including university. Sure there are problems with the system, but there are problems with every system

- that doesn't mean that it isn't still benefiting people.

In the western world a degree is becoming a necessity to those looking to get a "good job," yet for many universities it is virtually inaccessible due to the high costs. Therefore a cycle is created, the way to get a good job is to get an education, yet you need a good job (or parents with good jobs) to pay for that education. University in Canada is not accessible to all those interested and the efforts by the Consortium and it's partner universities are trying to at least make university level knowledge accessible to those who want to learn more, but cannot afford the costs.

Saint Mary's University is making changes to ensure that university education is accessible to the public in a couple of ways. If you have noticed any visitors in your classes this week, they are probably participating in Saint Mary's University International Learning Week open classes. The University opened up classes in Arts, Business and Science to the public for the week of March 3rd-9th.cont'd page 5

smusa NEWS

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SMUSA is now hiring VP Finance and Operations for 2008-09.
According to SMUSA's constitution, the VP Finance and Operations
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Candidates who are interested should
submit their cover letter
and resume by March 14, 2008.

For further information, please contact:
Bilguun Ankhbayar, VP Finance and Operations
(902) 496-8708
vpfinance@smusa.ca

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PERSPECTIVES

Letter From The Editor: The panic surrounding medical notes

AMANDA WENEK

For any International student at Saint Mary's, a visit to the emergency room of a local hospital in order to get a Medical note costs the SMU Health Care plan \$330. But why would any student go to a hospital for a doctor's note, when there is an on-campus health clinic that provides them? One Saint Mary's professor said "the medical notes from the Student Health Centre are useless" when demanding that the student get one from a doctor at the hospital.

In every class a professor prepares a syllabus outlining their policy on missed tests and examinations due to sickness. They most often demand a medical note in the cases of missed exams, major projects and presentations, or class time. But they also demand that the sick note was issued on

the day of the missed exam or assignment. Jane Collins, the manager and RN of the on-campus Student Health Centre, had two things to say against this demand: that it's very unfair to ask the students to come into school when the whole point is they are too sick to leave their house, and that having them come in sick increases the chances of spreading their sickness around campus.

Jane said, "We have had students show up at Student Health vomiting because they are still ill, and have come in from Bedford on the bus because they can't write a make-up exam unless they are seen on the day of illness". She said this past week alone, she sent four students home in cabs so they didn't have to endure the long bus ride home in their state of illness. Jane notices that many of these students come to the clinic in a panic, thinking they have to come in that

day in order for their note to be valid.

Dr. Paul Dixon, member of the registrar who oversees medical notes, e-mailed the professor who said that Student Health Centre notes aren't valid. He argued that sending students to the hospital to get these notes is a waste of the tax payer's money and the school's health plan money. The Dalhousie Student Health Centre charges \$5 for a Medical note, and the Family Focus Clinic charges \$15 on top of the charge for the visit. SMU's health clinic provides the Medical notes free of charge to the student. It costs the health care plan \$28.64 for each note.

Every student should check with their professor about whether they really need to come in on the day-of in order to get a Medical note; even though the syllabus may state a strict policy, that may just be a formality and the professor may be more understand-

ing when it really comes down to it.

The Student Health Clinic advises any student that is ill, and knows they are unable to attend an exam, to call the clinic right away to report the illness. Inform them that you are missing an exam, or in some cases, a lab or a class that requires a note for missed class time. Give your name and student number, tell them all of your symptoms, and set up an appointment with Jane or one of the doctors to get a medical note. Also, e-mail your professor right away and tell them you are ill and you can't write the exam, or whatever it is you might be missing, and that you are getting a medical note from the Student Health Centre.

The Student Health Centre wants to emphasize that you don't necessarily need to come in on the day that you are sick to get the Medical note.

Letters to The Editor

Fromage Halifax. And the awards go to...

JACQUELINE ANTORTH

There is one event that shouts truth almost as powerfully as Colbert; one program that defies the premeditated promotion of over-rated celebrities. It is an hour long commentary on the past years' cheesiest contributions to the music world: "Fromage", hosted by the ever infamous Ed the Sock. I look forward to "Fromage" all year long; craving the gritty voice of my favourite sock puppet as he calls out whiney pop princesses, melodramatic emo bands, washed up has-beens, and one hit wonders, all while providing a raunchy and harsh knee-slapping good time, but this year was different. This year "Fromage" did not air on MuchMusic, leaving me with a sock-puppet-sized hole in my heart desperately needing to hear Ed dedicate 2007's cheesiest video to, once again, Queen of Cheese Miss Britney Spears-Alexander-Spears-Federline-Spears.

I have come to terms with this life-altering disappointment; however, I still feel that, in the spirit of bad judgment and in honour of Ed, a tribute should be made to Halifax's cheesiest. I mean, if we don't publicly criticize people for taking themselves too seriously,

how will they know they're wrong? I realize that taking on the task of handing out cheese awards is a huge responsibility and, really, who could do this better than Ed? I know that I'm no Ed the Sock - well, I was Ed the Sock for Halloween, so I guess I kind of am like Ed - but either way I'll do my best to deliver you the truth about cheese, Halifax style.

And the award goes to...

Cheesiest Way to Belittle a Stranger - I don't have beef with Dal. It's a good school and a worthwhile way to spend four years, but this is for those lovely Dal students who insist on harassing me for attending SMU when we're at a party or a pub. I'm out to have a good time, not to get that "oh, you go to Robie Street High" look. In case you weren't aware, all of those stereotypes of SMU as being a party school are outdated and inaccurate. God, open a freakin' book, Dal student.

Plus, acting self-righteous and arrogant because you think you made a better decision by taking business at Dal and calling me lame for choosing to take business at SMU demonstrates your ignorance; why would I go to Dal? To pay higher tuition fees for either an equal or lower quality of education

or just to fit in with snobs like you who ruin the reputation of your school?

Cheesiest Boys-Night-Out Bar - You can't hand out any legit Fromage awards without mentioning the "Dirty P", and by "hand out awards", I mean "make fun of" in the university newspaper. The Dome is definitely a ladies night out, but when you're at the Palace it's the boy's night to shine. They put extra care into gelling their hair, starching their collars so that they pop just a bit more than the next guy's, tucking the front of their shirt behind their oversized belt buckle, and scrunching up their sleeves to give the appearance of bulging biceps.

They're more brazen at the Palace, honestly believing that girls want to jump them once they catch a glimpse of their new Sean Jean outfit or their trendy sweater vests (which, P.S., does not add class to your persona - you're still at the Palace). Thus, they put zero effort into their game - it all goes to appearance. Now, I know what you're thinking: "Jackie, girls at the Palace put a lot of effort into their appearance, too." While I do admit that Palace attire for females is only rivaled by sleazy establishments like Ralph's or

the late Sensations, does it really take that much effort? They wear non-dresses and most of these girls didn't even put on a bra! Definitely not a time consuming process.

Cheesiest Song Request - Most bands and street performers in Halifax are pretty good at taking requests for songs considering the fact that drunk people are constantly shouting song titles at them all night. What's super lame, though, is when someone, amongst shouts for Brown Eyed Girl or Last Dance, requests Nirvana. We get it, you know there's a band called Nirvana you shameless name-dropper. What you don't get is that Nirvana, while exceptional and thought-provoking, is not rock-out music, and, in a typical bar setting, is not appropriate. By the way, you usually don't even have a specific song in mind - you just keep shouting "NIRVANA!"

Cheesiest Way to Leave a Bar - This is to the girls who wear the spandex-ey Kelly Kapowski dresses in the middle of winter and then walk home from the bar without a jacket. Really? You're that cheap that you're risking frost bite to avoid paying \$1 coat-check? Unless

you're doing Bayside cheers to stay warm, Kelly would not approve.

Cheesiest Restaurant/Marketing Strategy - You knew this was going to happen - I can't ignore the biggest cheese factory the Maritimes has to offer: Dartmouth. I just recently found out they're planning to build a Hooters on "the wrong side of the Harbour". Those responsible for the opening of this franchise are planning to market it as a family restaurant. A family restaurant. Called Hooters. Where notably large-breasted, scantily-clad women serve food to you and your children. I hear the wings are really good.

Ok, so let's say that you, as a middle-aged family man, can convince your wife to go to Hooters. Let's say that during your meal you don't stare at, fantasize about, or objectify the waitresses. Let's say that your daughter doesn't develop an eating disorder, a poor body image, or a false perspective on how to interact with men, and your son doesn't learn that womanizing is ok. You still don't read Playboy for the articles, watch porn for the story line, or go to Hooters for the wings.

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A city of impressions: Saint Mary's students visit Belfast

LAURA MACINTOSH

To say that Belfast and Northern Ireland left impressions on the twelve Saint Mary's students who spent their Reading Week overseas is a tremendous understatement. From meetings with Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and the British Irish Secretariat to working with hundreds of students in primary and secondary schools around Belfast and Ballymurphy, we certainly had a jam packed schedule. Thankfully the work week runs the same in Northern Ireland as it does here, so we had weekends on either side of the trip to adjust to our surroundings and recuperate from an intense week.

After catching a red eye from Halifax, we arrived at the Heathrow International Airport where we went through biometric scans and all kids of spy-like security checks before spending a few hours of layover in one of the world's busiest airports. Let me just say, the shopping in the terminal was bigger and better than Mic Mac Mall.

From Heathrow it was off to the George Best Belfast City Airport where we arrived groggy and jet-lagged in the early afternoon. That Friday air was crisp and warm by our standards for a February day, despite the locals complaining about the chill. We taxied to our dorms at Stranmillis University College and after a brief unpacking it was time to explore the city.

Saturday and Sunday were a time to explore the history of Northern Ireland; whether touring through the Shankill and Falls road areas to take in the many murals of war and peace, or heading out of Belfast to the Giants Causeway or Londonderry.

The Giants Causeway was a beautiful sight of natural architecture. Rolling cliffs of green set on the serene bays and a shoreline of mystic rocks told the tales of the Spanish Armada and generations of fishermen families.

Partaking in a walking tour of Londonderry with a long-time resident was certainly one of the most interesting history lessons I've ever had the pleasure of being a part of. From the walled city to the Bloody Sunday memorial to an up close and personal look at the murals of Free Derry, the history-rich town was a sight to behold.

The nitty-gritty began on Monday when SMU students were taken to St. Bernadette's Girls Primary School to meet with the teachers they would be partnering with throughout the week, as well as the Peaceful Schools International workers they had been working with in preparation. The day was filled with informative workshops on why Peaceful Schools does what it does, how it is so successful and why we, the Saint Mary's students, were partnering up on this important voyage. The teachers were more than welcoming, warm, and accommodating to all of us, which allowed a little sigh of relief. After Hetty van Gorp's inspirational speech we were all ready to get into the schools and spread the word on sustainable peace. The razor-wired walls and spiked fences surrounding the schools gave a backdrop for our talks of peace.

Tuesday began with an early morning visit to Stormont, includ-

ing a tour of the parliament and a closed meeting with Martin McGuinness MP. After answering our questions regarding politics to preferences, McGuinness told us of the importance of our visit to his country. Next, we headed to North Belfast to the Boys Model Secondary School where, in the end, over 70 students attended our first workshop. Talk about an intimidating first run, we certainly weren't expecting a group of 15-18 year-olds as our first audience, and 70 of them at that.

The boys, who showed interest in becoming student ambassadors, were phenomenal. They truly listened and participated in our workshop, with the odd laugh at our quirky accents. With a group so large it was hard to keep track, so we used a 'talking stick'; one of those mini-Canadian flags that quickly became our trademark with the boys. After the session, which focused on conflict resolution and anger, we had a chance to talk freely with the young men. From Guitar Hero and Lucky Charms to "what the hell is poutine?!" and stories of sectarianism at work; nothing was off

children were more than willing to absorb what we had to offer. Another SMU student was surprised by a young girl wanting her home address as she was coming to visit in a few weeks.

Thursday marked St. Clare's Primary, a co-ed school in the West-end of Belfast that is built along part of the peace walls. The playground looked grim, as the backdrop was one of the towering peace lines dividing Nationalist and Unionist areas. The children at St. Clare's gave me, personally, some of the most enduring stories of the trip. My little buddy who promised to stop bullying (of his own accord), and one who had clearly been through terrible times were two of my most memorable faces. The two boys carried on a small conversation of their own, as if no one else was in the room, where one consoled the other and made a promise that if the bullied boy ever needed anyone to talk to about being bullied, his new friend would be there to listen. The two decided in the midst of our workshop that they were going to be best friends, and even dedicated their peace tree leaves to that decision.

The peace tree was an exercise in finding something peaceful within each child's life and depicting it on a leaf-shaped paper to create a flourishing tree in a classroom window.

Those little instances are what made us all realize that what we were doing can have a positive impact. In

a later conversation with several of the students I was told, "It means a lot more coming from you big kids than it does the same teacher who we listen to every day". As if that wasn't enough, when the gang was eating lunch we looked out into the playground to find well over one hundred children waving emphati-



Brian LeBlanc

Mural depicting Guernica

limits in our conversations. It was interesting to see how easily the conversation shifted from conversations about cell phones to ones of paramilitaries or running through the Catholic area in a Rangers track suit on St. Patrick's Day. It was an interesting first look into the lives of students living in some areas of Belfast. It seemed too early, but the bell had rung and it was our time to leave, so with a signature on that mini-Canadian flag we were on our way back to the college to reflect on what we'd just encountered.

Wednesday was St. Bernadette's Primary School, an all girl's school in West Belfast, where our team worked in groups to visit as many classes as possible. The girls were adorable, but the team did, however, learn not to trust the young ladies with pins. After a few self-stabbing incidences, the Canadian and Nova Scotian lapel pins were a huge success and little pig-tailed Irish girls were even cuter when talking about how much they loved their new presents in their precious accents.

These girls certainly knew our topic well; bullying. We were shocked to hear such explicit answers to our questions of 'what is bullying' and 'how does the bully/bullied feel?'. It was solemn to realize such young faces were hiding such grave experiences. At the end of our stay at St. Bernadette's, the girls wanted to practice their school play for the group. A great performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat later, two of our male students found themselves the centre of a 'hostage attempt'. The girls swarmed our boys, not wanting to let them go; it was a moment where we realized these



Students at St. Aidan's Primary took time to pose 'peace' with SMU students

cally at us, a group of 'big kids' from Canada. Talk about your celebrity moment.

The last school we had the pleasure of visiting was the all boys school of St. Aidan's Primary School in Ballymurphy, an area plagued with a skyrocketing suicide rate. Walking into the school courtyard past the razor-wire fences after the gates were opened from an indoor security system, there stood a large mural depicting a suicide helpline and counseling service. The boys told the most haunting stories I've ever heard; from fathers being kidnapped to having to taxi into school every day to avoid having death treats followed through with, but they were still willing, even eager, to learn. Some of the brightest faces came from St. Aidan's, and an impromptu game of basketball against the 'big kids from Canada' showed all of us that despite having been through terrible times, these kids are still kids; children who like to play and have fun.

The little ladies and gents we encountered gave us many precious memories, along with many solemn ones. Stories of jailed or killed family members rolled off their tongues so matter-of-factly during our peace tree exercise; we realized the realities of these chil-

dren are of our worst night mares.

The following are some of the stories of our SMU students.

Brian LeBlanc said of one of his favorite moments; "seeing that a painting of 'Guernica' was part of the murals. This painting is an extremely anti-war/pro-peace painting as it depicts a bombing during the Spanish civil war. This certainly gives me hope that people really realize that peace is the answer."

Jen Schwartz said of the experience; "My biggest conflict in school was which Power Ranger I'd pretend to be at lunch (because my best friend and I always both wanted to be the pink ranger). I have a family that's all alive and well, and I can feel safe when I walk around my community. For some of these children, one or both of those things would be a luxury. I thought that I was going as a teacher to these children, when in reality, what I came out with was much more than I bargained for. This experience has been the best thing I have ever had the privilege to be a part of."

The team would like to thank all those involved, from Bridget Brownlow, PSI and our Canadian supporters to Barnardos, the teachers and administration of the schools in Belfast.

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NEWS

University classes for free?

...cont'd from cover

The majority of these courses were intro-level, Archaeology, Sociology, Literature, Critical Thinking, Business Management, Statistics, Dinosaurs and their World, and Global Change just to name a few.

Additionally Saint Mary's has been offering free courses at Public Libraries in the Halifax-Dartmouth Area for over a year now. Some of the lectures are part of the Lunch and Learn Lecture series in which Professors give a lecture from a course around lunchtime and it is open to everyone, the course subject and professor change on a regular basis so these just give a sample of what the course is all about. There are also occasional regular Saint Mary's classes held at the Libraries which are set up a little differently. These are usually

2.5 hour long courses, and the first half of the lecture is open to the public whereas the second half is reserved only for students enrolled in the course.

Beware when searching for free online courses on sites like Google, as a lot of spam sites may show up in the results, or sites encouraging you to sign up or pay. But keep looking because there are free sites available. It is best to check out the Open Courseware Consortiums page, www.ocwconsortium.org/, or other University websites. Carnegie Mellon University (located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) offers course material in many science related subjects free through their Open Learning Initiative, www.cmu.edu/oli/.

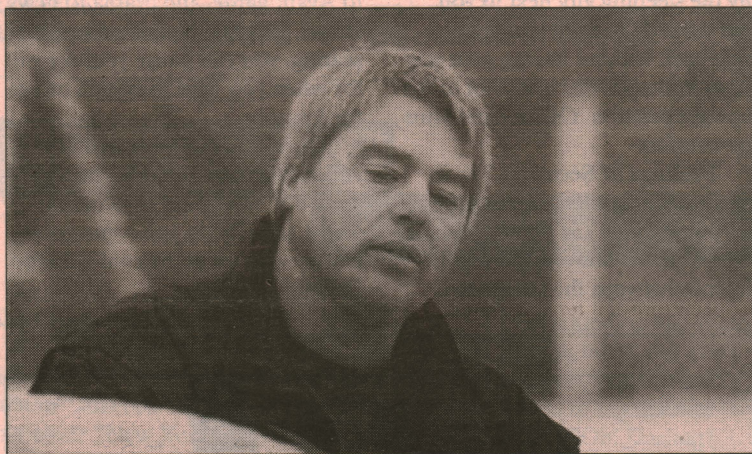
The University of Washington also has a great online course program offering free online lessons

in a variety of courses including World War II history, The American Civil War, Greek Mythology, Heroic Fantasy, and Gulliver's Travels, to name a few. To access these and many other courses visit the website www.outreach.washington.edu/openuw/.

Free online courses are making University learning available to many individuals who may not have been able to access it otherwise. But these programs also to serve to benefit those already attending university as they provide the opportunity to take courses in other areas of interest that may not be provided here at SMU. Most of all however, programs such as these draw attention and raise questions about the important issue of accessible education, which cannot be addressed enough.

CRIME WATCH

The Case of Dr Charles Smith



RESSA PETERS

On October 24th, 1993 Robert Latimer of Wilkie, Saskatchewan killed his severely disabled daughter Tracy. He put the twelve year old in the cab of his Chevy and ran a hose from the exhaust pipe in. He sat in the back and watched as her life ended. He confessed to the police after initially maintaining she died in her sleep.

Latimer's daughter Tracy was born with severe cerebral palsy that affected her entire body due to oxygen deprivation at birth. It was estimated she only developed the mental capacity of a four month old baby at most. As she grew she experienced multiple seizures daily and frequent pain. Because of her anti-convulsant medication, she could not be put on any pain medication stronger than Tylenol. She endured numerous surgeries for scoliosis and hip dislocation before she reached puberty. Her condition deteriorated constantly and her family was faced with the decisions of more surgeries in her future, including one to remove parts of bone in her leg. At the time of her death she weighed 40 pounds.

Latimer was initially charged with first degree murder (which means a pre-planned act with intention to kill) and in 1994, he was found guilty of second degree murder (which means intending to kill someone without elaborate planning) and sentenced to the mandatory life imprisonment with the possibility of parole in 25 years. The Crown agreed that Tracy did suffer pain but that she also had joy in her life, smiling when her family took her to the

carnival and that Latimer did not have the right to end her life.

Latimer appealed his sentence when it was discovered in 1997 that before his trial the RCMP questioned potential jurors about religion, abortion and euthanasia, potentially leading to an unfair trial. He received a second trial in 1997, again finding him guilty of second degree murder and giving

him life, he was given the possibility of parole in one year. Judge Ted Noble granted him a constitutional exemption from the minimum sentence stating that minimum 25 years would be "cruel and unusual punishment." He argued Tracy's murder was a "compassionate homicide" and that Latimer was not a threat to the community and required no rehabilitation.

However, in 1998, The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal overturned Noble's ruling and imposed the sentence of 25 to life with a chance of parole in ten years. In December of 2007, Latimer was denied parole due to 'the lack of insight into the crime he committed'.

On February 27th, 2008 Latimer's parole decision was overturned and he is in the process of being released to serve day parole at a halfway house in Ottawa. His conditions are that he participate in counseling and not be caring for any disabled person.

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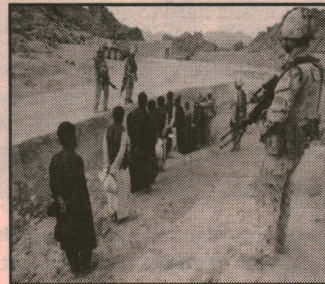


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NEWSFEED



DETAINEE TRANSFERS RESUME

Canadian Officials in Afghanistan have resumed the transfer of those in custody to Afghan Authorities citing new safeguards against torture that have been put in place since the transfers stopped in Nov. 2007.



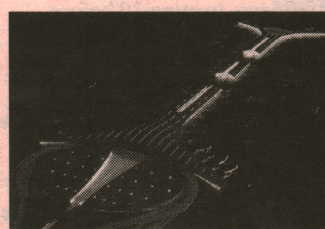
PRINCE HARRY PULLED FROM AFGHANISTAN

The secrecy surrounding the Princes' mission was broken leading to a UK decision to pull the Prince from the war-torn country where he had served as an air controller since December as it may put him and others at risk.



IRAQ OFFICIALS SUPPORT EXECUTION

Saddam Hussein's cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majid "Chemical Ali" will be executed within the next month for his role in the 1980's slaughter campaign against Kurds. Iraq's presidency gave approval for the hanging.

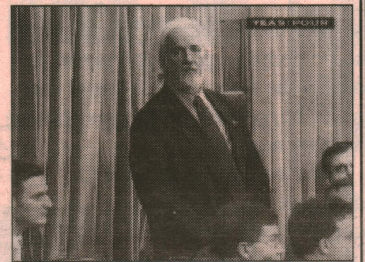


WORLD'S BIGGEST TERMINAL OPENS

In preparation for the Olympics, Beijing has opened the world's largest airport terminal. Over 10,000 people in 10 villages were evicted to clear land for the 31km long, 785m wide dragon shaped terminal.

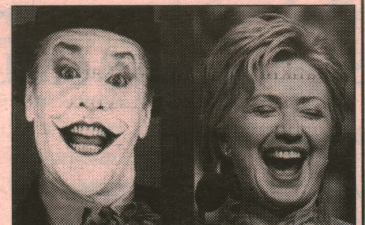
CONSERVATIVES CAUGHT IN BRIBE SCANDAL

Before the Conservatives came to power, allegations are coming out that they offered a \$1 million bribe to MP Chuck Cadman into voting Conservative in a confidence motion. The Conservatives deny it happened.



JACK SUPPORTS HILARY

Actor Jack Nicholson has made a compilation video of clips from his various films and made them apply to Hilary Clintons presidential campaign. Films used included Batman, A Few Good Men, and The Shining.



CANADIAN SOLDIER KILLED BY IED

Trooper Michael Yuki Hayakaze, 25, was killed in Afghanistan by an Improvised Explosive Device just days before his mission was to end. Hayakaze is the 79th Canadian soldier to be killed in Afghanistan.



ISRAEL PULLS OUT OF GAZA

After 5 days of intense fighting, in response to Palestinian rocket attacks, Israel Defence Forces pulled tanks and troops out of Northern Gaza. At least 110 Palestinians and 2 Israeli's were killed during the fighting.



Canada Detainees: www.theglobeandmail.ca, Prince Harry: Associated Press, Chemical Ali: Fox News, Beijing: holgr.tumblr.com/post/14250072, Cadman: www.ecanadanow.com, Jack and Hilary: <http://vatosplace.blogspot.com/2007/11/reaons-to-not-vote-for-hillary-clinton.html>, Canadian Soldier: www.canada.com, Gaza: www.cnn.com Getty Images

BUSINESS

Comparison Corner: Airlines. Air Canada takes on Continental, and wins



LAURA MACINTOSH

What's in an airline? While to some people a plane is a plane, to others the safest way to travel can never be too safe, or too luxurious for that matter.

I've recently been able to compare two international flight companies; Continental (the US based company) and the Star Alliance conglomerate; in particular Air Canada and British Midland Airways (BMI).

The measures I chose to base my ratings on include the following; service of flight staff, in flight meals, cleanliness, comfort, feel-

ings of security, and entertainment.

Service of flight staff: Almost all of the flight attendants I encountered were very personable, from that poor guy who had to mediate an altercation with a drunk man from Toronto to Halifax, to the entertaining woman who said "We'll just be turning down the cabin lights now, we find everyone looks better that way" after a very long layover in Newark. Despite the BMI attendants sexy hats, I think Sandra "or Shanika if you didn't like my service" put Continental over the top. It's nice to have a staff that's able to make people laugh, despite upwards of

a 22-hour layover.

In flight meals: Since I slept through most of the Star Alliance meals, I figured some objectivity was in order. Other travelers in my group were quite impressed by the meals provided by Air Canada. From real milk with the morning cereal

to a choice between Salmon and Chicken, the selection was fantastic. There was also a vegetarian option available. The Continental option was less than impressive. Although Continental was tastier, the selection from Star Alliance in both meals and snacks puts them in the lead. I'll take the option of pastries over pretzels any day.

Cleanliness: While both airlines provided blankets in packaging, the pillows were a different story. I found someone else's hair on my Air Canada pillows where my Continental seemed clear of potential lice and dandruff. While the seats of all planes were kept

quite clean, Air Canada seemed to lack in checking the seat pockets for garbage from previous flights. Cleanliness has certainly come a long way, however Continental gets the edge.

Comfort: This was a hard call. For the short flights from Halifax to Newark or Belfast to London, the BMI planes certainly took the cake. There wasn't any difference between first class and economy and the seats were spacious and comfortable. Unfortunately for Star, more weight needs to be given to the longer leg of the trip, and which airline can keep you comfortable longer.

While the Air Canada Boeings are much more spacious than the Air Canada mini-jets, if you don't have an aisle, you'll want to stretch after about two hours in the air. On Continental, however, there was plenty of room to move about beneath the seat, so even in a middle position it was more comfortable than an Air Canada aisle. The seats are bigger and further apart, so not only do you not have to worry about getting elbowed by the sleeping guy next to you, but the lady in front can put her seat back without having your tray slam into your ribs if it's not in the upright position. Continental wins on comfort.

Feelings of Security: The in flight safety guide is pretty much the same for all the planes I was on, but there was one glaring difference between the companies.

On Continental, the floatation device is either an inflatable life vest or the seat cushion which has arm straps to hold on to. I don't know about you, but if I'm floating in the middle of the Atlantic I would prefer the life vests that come standard on all Air Canada flights, even the little ones. There's something about "remove seat cushion and hold on for dear life" that just doesn't scream safe. Go Star Alliance for having life vests under every seat.

Entertainment: Which airline provides more fun for that 8 hour flight!? Once you're done bickering about how there were so many more direct flights you could have taken, you'll be happy to have the extra time to catch up on Dexter or Grey's Anatomy on Air Canada.

While Continental has some nice screens and I hadn't seen Ratatouille before, I much preferred the individually operated seat-back televisions in the Air Canada Boeing. The choice was phenomenal; the touch-screen operated system lets you decide between movie and television genres, from Hollywood to Avant-garde, and drama to news shows. Despite the uncomfortable seating, you can pause your screen for when you have to stretch or use the lavatory.

Overall Air Canada and Star Alliance win, with great entertainment and floatation devices that might actually do you some good if you wind up in the cold Atlantic Ocean.

Support ACE SMU at the ACE Regional Competition

JAIME SZEGVARY

Witness the top student leaders and student entrepreneurs from across Eastern Canada in action on Friday March 7, 2008 at the World Trade and Convention Centre, 1800 Argyle St.

Student teams and student entrepreneurs compete for prestigious awards by showcasing their community projects and entrepreneurial ventures to live panels of business professionals.

This is a unique opportunity to witness the power and enthusiasm of Canada's future business lead-

ers who are not only planning for the future but taking action today by implementing entrepreneurial ventures in their communities to assist others while gaining valuable hands on experience.

The 2008 ACE Regional Exposition, Eastern Canada is an amazing event that brings together over 200 attendees including top students, faculty, alumni, business professionals and supporters from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland.

9am to 4pm

Three competitions will take place: (Locations will be provided

at main registration desk on the 2nd floor)

- HSBC SIFE Financial Education Challenge, proudly presented by HSBC

- TD SIFE Entrepreneurship Challenge, proudly presented by TD Bank Financial Group

- Student Entrepreneur Competition, proudly presented by CIBC Small Business

4pm to 5pm

The Regional Champions of these three competitions will be awarded at the official awards ceremony in Suite 301/302 on the 3rd level.

Tax tips for students

TINA QUELCH

Post-secondary students attending college or university full-time are eligible for the Textbook Tax Credit. A student can claim \$65 for every month they qualify for the education amount. Part-time students can claim \$20 per qualifying month. The credit does not depend on how many textbooks you purchase - it is standard for every student who qualifies.

Under the old tax rules, only the first \$3,000 of a scholarship or bursary was tax free. Recent changes have exempted all scholarships and bursary amounts from being taxed if the related program qualifies for the education amount. This includes scholarships at the elementary and secondary school level.

For students who depend on transit to get to campus, keep your passes to claim the Transit Tax Credit. The program was recently

expanded to include some electronic tickets and weekly passes purchased for four consecutive weeks. You need the receipts or transit passes to back up your claim.

Students turning 19 before April 1, 2009 should file a tax return even if they had no income. This will allow them to collect the GST/HST credit for the first payment period following their birthday.

Students will receive a T2202A for the amount of tuition paid for 2007. This form allows you to claim tuition and education amounts as well as the Textbook Tax Credit. The student must use the amount on their tax return first to reduce their tax payable to zero. Any amount remaining may be carried forward for use in another year, or may be transferred to a spouse, parent or grandparent.

If you move more than 40 kilometers to take a summer job, you may be able to claim moving

expenses against your employment income at the new location. Deductible expenses include travel, transportation, storage and the cost of meals and temporary accommodation for up to 15 days.

Interest on government student loans is deductible if some of the loan is repaid during the year. Loans and credit lines outside of the government program are not deductible.

A local H&R Block tax professional is available to speak about tax tips for students.

About H&R Block Canada: H&R Block Canada prepares nearly two million tax returns annually, making it Canada's leading tax preparation firm. Headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, the company serves Canadian taxpayers in more than 1,000 offices across the country. Additional information about H&R Block Canada is available at 1-800-HRBLOCK or visit www.hrblock.ca

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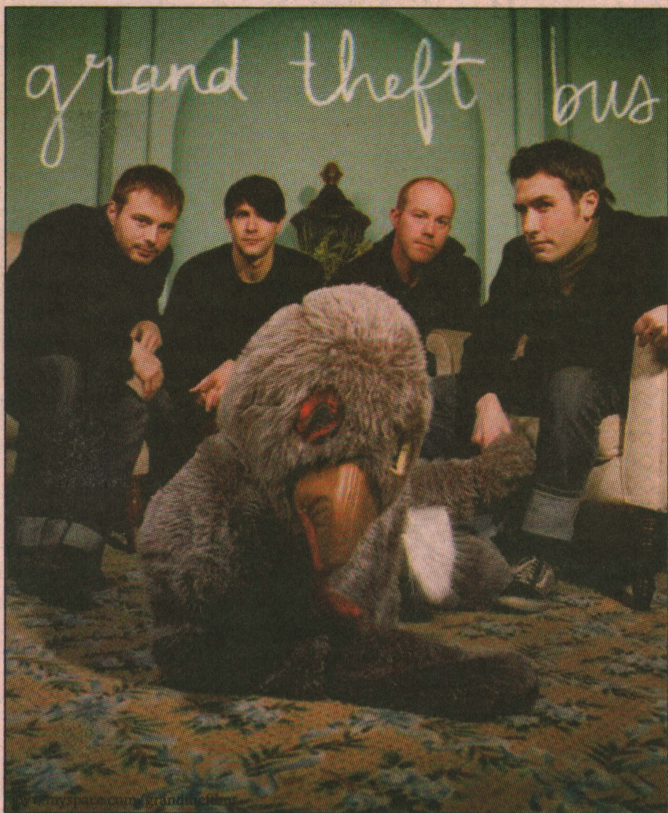
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



RESSA PETERS

Fredericton-spawned rock outfit Grand Theft Bus released their third disc, *Made Upwards*, last Saturday with a good old

fashioned jam at the Marquee club. Local act Sleepless Nights joined them with their own new release *Turn into Vapour*. The two bands were accompanied with live music by The Fussy

joyrides into Halifax

Part, The Establishment, The Slate Pacific, SHare and Doug Mason.

Grand Theft Bus has a reputation extending far beyond middle New Brunswick as one of the hardest working and touring bands in the maritimes. They've played an average of about 150 shows a year since forming in 2000.

Made Upwards, their first cd since 2005's *Flies in the No Fly*, starts off with an energetic foot-stomping jam song entitled "Do I have to dance" that, even on cd, gives you the urge to do just that. If you doubt that they can play beyond the basic three chords, the delicate picking on the next song "Automatic" showcases a mellower sensibility. Many of the songs on *Made Upwards* tread the delicate waters between quiet introspection and heavier, bluesy sounds with ease. "Private Wars" is a soft, mainly acoustic melody that's easy to sing along to with its heartfelt lyrics about "scars upon our

hearts" and "private wars fought in our minds". "Roses" is an incredibly sweet and optimistic ode to the simply enjoyable things in life like "travelling down the road with you and stoppin' to smell the roses" that never falls into sappy or cliché territory.

The hooks are catchy enough and the lyrics are singable and easy to understand but as to whether any of the songs will stick with you long after you've stopped the CD is questionable. They seem to be good enough to gain fame in the maritimes but not quite special enough to gain recognition across Canada. However, they are evolving and experimenting with sound and perhaps they may find the magic formula in the future for fame and fortune.

On "Automatic" the band sings "it's an honour to be here/ what we have it should be handled with care", they've earned that honour and they should be smart enough to handle it appropriately.

Bite Sized Entertainment



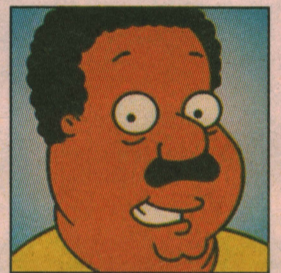
NEW CDS OUT:

From the Coop by Buckethead, Warpaint by The Black Crowes, Afterparty by Cadence Weapon, Float by Flogging Molly, Good Time by Alan Jackson.



NEW MOVIES OUT:

March 7th
10,000 BC, College Road Trip, Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day, and The Bank Job.



FAMILY GUY SPINOFF

Fox is toying with the idea of a family guy spin-off centering around neighbour Cleveland. Can he handle his own show and not be just a token or one note character? Oh, who am I kidding, everyone on Family Guy is a one-note character, it'll be a hit.



TV GEEK'S PICK OF THE WEEK

New Amsterdam - Thursday and Monday on Global
This new show debuts this week on Tuesday with a probable repeat of the pilot before the next few episodes. I'll watch at least one to find out how a show about an four-hundred year old detective searching for his true love to give him the gift of mortality could possibly not be terrible.



YOUTUBE OF THE WEEK

Crank Dat Soulja Boy
Spongebob
Even if you hate the song, this one is pretty funny. The facial expressions of Spongebob, Patrick and Squidward make that ridiculous "YOU" even sillier.

Photos: www.wikipedia.org, www.stewiesplayground.com, www.tvgazer.com, www.perfect-party-ideas.com

CD Review

Across The Universe Soundtrack

CAT SANDERS

I was going to review Cat Power's new album "Jukebox" this week, then I heard her cover "New York, New York", a Sinatra classic, and I died a little inside. It upset me so much that I spent hours in seclusion in an attempt to find an album that I will stand by. I picked the soundtrack to the Beatles inspired musical "Across the Universe".

I beg you not to judge the CD by Evan Rachel Wood's covers of "Hold Me Tight" and "It Won't Be Long". They're nothing short of annoying. However, I respect her for taking on this challenge. She had no musical background, save for her slightly creepy relationship with Marilyn Manson, before joining the cast.

The pretty and understated T.V. Carpio, also of "Rent", casts the classic "I Want To Hold Your Hand" in a totally new light. Going from an upbeat 60's tune to a lovelorn ballad, this is a strong point. This is her unexpected and fantastic solo. For the most part, disc one has the more lighthearted songs on the album. One notable exception is "I Want You (She's So Heavy)". When a striking Joe Anderson tells me that he "wants me so bad" I feel more than ready to oblige.

The second disc starts with "I Am The Walrus" as sung by Bono. Bono is incapable

of not sounding like Bono. I liked it, but if you don't like Bono, skip this track.

One of my favorite songs is "Oh! Darling" as sung by Martin Luther McCoy and Dana Fuchs. Her gravelly voice brings to mind Janis Joplin and his is a smooth compliment. His rendition of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" will impress the boys and make the girls swoon.

"All You Need Is Love" sung by Jim Sturgess may actually make a pessimist glow. Being backed by the Dana Fuchs band just made it better.

This isn't a Beatles album. It isn't meant to be either. Julie Taymor, one of three writers of "Across the Universe" calls the soundtrack "the score and inspiration for the story". It's nearly impossible to get the best of the album in a bubble. I can imagine hardcore Beatles fans wouldn't like it much at all. However, it never disrespects McCartney, Ringo or the memories of Har-



ison and Lennon. I highly recommend both the album and accompanying film, which was released on DVD February 5th. For Beatles fan it may be a walk down memory lane. For those unfamiliar with their impact on music history, it may open new doors.

Prelude to the brawl to end them all

DAWN DAVIS

On February 29th, Nintendo opened its doors to retailers for a preview of the much-anticipated Super Smash Bros Brawl for the Wii. Taking place in a 'secret location' the popular new systems were set up in corners of a boxing ring. This set the stage for the game that will take another step on the behalf of Nintendo.

This installment of the Smash Bros introduces

many new characters, several which have been anticipated since the beginning of the series. Sonic the Hedgehog, Kirby's Meta Knight, Pitt of Kid Icarus and Metal Gear's Solid Snake all come head to head in the fighting game. Each character has four unique moves and one special final smash "super attack".

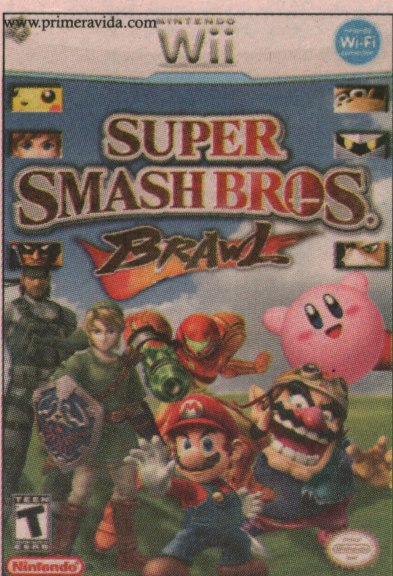
Nintendo's event gave sales associates a chance to taste test the first big game release of the year.

Super Smash Bros Brawl will finally bring online play, exchangeable materials (with

a level editor) and competitive achievements to the Wii.

So how did the game perform? After about three hours in the ring, a certain Nintendo fan is quoted to have said "I just jizzed in my pants a little."

The official North American release date for the game is Sunday, March 9th. It will be sold at most retailers, such as EB Games, Future Shop, or Wal Mart. If you own a Wii, this game is a must-have.



Will the real actresses measure up?

ROBERT SPEIRS

Once upon a time, a young actress fled the isolated fishing hamlet of Halifax for the big city to become a film star....

Let's face facts: Ellen Page is short, only 5'1" (154.9 cm), and her short stature may have caused her not to walk away with a slightly shorter Oscar statue. She just did not measure up: talent, yes; height, no.

Many hoped Ellen would win a Best Actress Academy Award for Juno; but fans and industry reprobate discuss an actress' box office draw, talent, avoidance and submission casting-couch skills, weight, and, of course, upper and lower body expansion. They rarely discuss the all important issue of height.

The tallest Best Actress is Nicole Kidman who clocks-in at 5'10.5" (179.1 cm). Her height explains why so many puny actors have stood on boxes or sat in high-chairs to kiss her, including Tom. (Swedish beauty Ingrid Bergman (5'9") was just tall enough to royally annoy the ego of Humphrey Bogart (5'8.5").) Louise Fletcher, Gwyneth Paltrow and Charlize

Theron are 5'9.5" (176.5 cm), but two of them are blondes. The shortest Best Actresses were Janet Gaynor and Helen Hayes at only 5' (152.4 cm).

Ellen's best chances were back in the 1920s and 30s when Best Actresses tended to be shorter.

To make matters worse, only 9% of Best Actresses were younger than age 25. Ellen is only 21, so she may be growing. Only 3 (4.5%) of Best Actresses were born in Canada, and only 24 (35.8%) were born outside of the Excited

States.

Unfortunately, Ellen will continue to face vertically stiff competition because most people tend to be taller now because of government breeding programs. So, to alleged adults who want their children to grow up to be beautiful, healthy and tall actresses: choose your breeding partner

very carefully (investigate family genetics) ensure everybody in your family consumes vast quantities of nutritional supplements, growth hormones and steroids, and perhaps send your offspring to one of those clinics in China to have their leg bones stretched.

This year's nominees presented especially unfair competition for Ellen.

The winner, Marion Cotillard clocks in at 5'6.5", a whole 5.5" taller than Ellen. Julie Christie is 5'2", only one inch taller, but she is older.

Being Canadian, a politically undesirable (not physically, of course) foreigner in the blessed Excited States of Silly People also did not help Ellen. It is so obvious that she was shutout by that French chick because the Yanks wanted to suckup to France for years of Frenchie-bashing (yet meant in a fun Jerry Lewis way, of course).



Did Nicole's height snag her her Best Actress Oscar?



Ingrid Bergman (left) was also a critically acclaimed actress known for her height.

Most people agree that Ellen Page is a talented actress, but perhaps just too new, too young, and too Canadian to win an Oscar -- definitely too short.

Don't fret, Ellen. People still appreciate you, but in a clean, pure, mainstream, Christian and flexible juxtaposition.

Personally, I was hoping for a chick-fight between Ellen and Kristin Chenoweth who is all of 4'11", but alas....

Photos: Nicole Kidman - www.virginmedia.com, Ingrid Bergman - www.fjallbacka.com

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WEDNESDAY

The Blown Gasket Orchestra at The Seahorse, 10pm, \$5

The Medium Mood, The Establishment, Play Guitar at Ginger's Tavern, 10pm, \$5

THURSDAY

FAST TIMES 6.0 with NYC's **The Rub, Albertasaurus**, art exhibit by **Bill Young** The Marquee, 10 pm, \$10 door/\$7 advance.

Fraud off! Recognize and protect yourself from identity theft. Dal's McGinnis Room, 10am- 3pm.

FRIDAY

Bedouin Soundclash at the Marquee Club, 10pm, \$20 advance or \$25 at the door.

Janus, Aquestrya and Sun's Omen at Gus's Pub, 10.30pm.

SATURDAY

Windom Earle, Wax Mannequin, BA Johnston and Shotgun Jimmie at Gus's Pub

SUM 41 at the Cunard Centre, doors open at 8pm. (All ages) Tickets at Dal Arts Centre box office, 494-3820

SUNDAY

U.B.U. a cabaret-style performance symposium with spoken word, dance, DJ and more. 7pm at the Bus Stop theatre. Tickets \$4/\$6 at Venus Envy or Junk and Foibles.

FEATURES

Costa Rican crash course

ELI STOLL
Far Flung Travel Writer

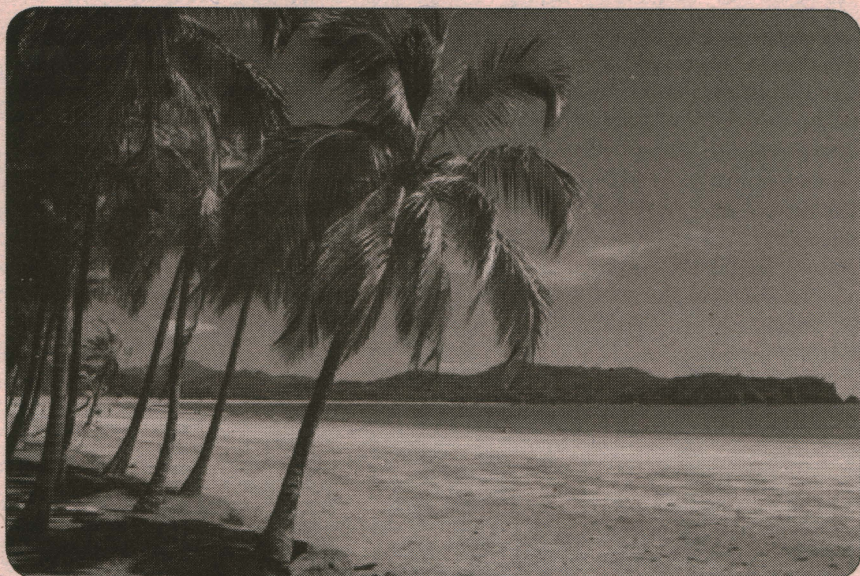
I left for Costa Rica on very short notice with no knowledge of the area and a Spanish vocabulary of about 20 words (including the numbers one through ten, which I learned from a Sesame Street song). I was unconcerned though, because what little literature I read beforehand informed me that all Ticans (the local term for Costa Ricans) learn English in school much as we Canadians learn French and besides, I was looking more for beautiful weather and scenery than deep conversations. After two months, I could count on one hand the number of native Costa Ricans I met who would or could speak English, despite my being in a moderately touristed area on the Nicoya Peninsula.

Costa Rica is a modern, sophisticated society with an extensive network of protected areas to preserve its natural beauty and an increasingly well developed tourism industry to show you all around these areas but at a substantial price. The currency is roughly on par with Canada as are prices for goods and services. There are still deals to be had, but they are mostly for the local, or at least those fluent in Spanish, so if you plan a vacation or work term here, budget accordingly.

The lack of Costa Rican themed restaurants might signal to you that the country isn't known for its cuisine. Rice and beans are common, vegetables and spices are not. A few things you must try would be the local fruits—the best pineapple, mangos and cantaloupe of your life from my personal experience. Although a glance at the sign in a Halifax grocery store will tell you that many of these fruits come from the Central American region, you shouldn't have to be told that produce grown to be picked green for export taste nothing like those grown for domestic consumption, as I found out first hand.

On the coasts, fresh seafood is also a treat although learning the name of the fish on your plate will probably elicit vague answers and tolerant smiles from your host.

Coffee is generally served with hot milk. This is what is known as café con leche. In a restaurant, a server will circulate with two pots;



Wait a second! Is this a postcard? No, but it could be. The Bay of Tambor, Costa Rica

one with strong coffee and the other with hot milk and then they will pour a mixture of the two as per your direction. I drank a death defying amount of coffee in my time on the Bay of Tambor, and would do so again given the chance. I brought as much as I could handle home but could never recreate the exact flavour, which is less bitter yet more robust than the watery, acidic coffee

or simply enjoy the waves and sun, the beach is what most Norte Americanos are in Central America for. It really is a living postcard of palm trees, pale sands and azure seas. The water is bathtub warm and full of life. Schools of tiny fish will swim past you and tiny jellyfish occasionally leave a telltale mark on very sensitive or sunburnt skin. Make sure you buy a disposable camera capable of underwater photography and take it along on a snorkelling expedition. The sediment in the water may prevent you from taking award winning photos but the snaps will be worth every penny in memories.

Unless you are in the heart of San Jose, you can almost walk out of town and into the jungle but if you aren't with a local guide that you trust this isn't advisable. A quick journey to one of the hundreds of maintained national and municipal parks is more advisable. Wildlife preserves are often truly wild and you will get as much of a jungle experience as you need without scorpion or spider bites included. Machete cut paths wind through acres of forest where giant trees, liana vines and ferns host rare butterfly species. Three main species of primate hold sway on the Pacific Coast: large black Howler monkeys whose loud calls can carry for kilometres and often wake you up in the morning, smaller white faced Capuchins who are popular film stars and the tiny endangered Spider monkeys.

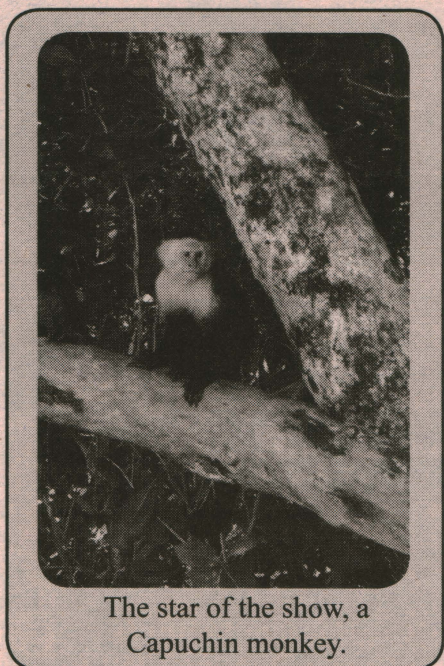
Costa Rica is an excellent first trip for those interested in visiting Central America but who may feel uneasy about the area. It is safe and modern while still being exotic enough to justify the price. On the tip of the Nicoya Peninsula, sun and surf are king but there are as many opportunities to discover as a traveller could want, even if your Spanish never made it out of elementary school.

I'm drinking right now.

There is a thriving surf culture on both of the coasts, largely comprised of Anglo tourists and ex-pats from Australia, New Zealand and the US. There is also a slightly more established hippy vibe which arrived in the late sixties with the first wave of ex-patriots and is particularly strong on the Pacific Coast, in villages like Montezuma. Montezuma is an excellent base to explore the area and hosts the only vegetarian restaurant I found on the Nicoya Peninsula.

Whether you surf, aspire to surf

Photos courtesy of Eli Stoll



The star of the show, a Capuchin monkey.

Relativism and Tolerance

MARK MERCER
The Cranky Professor

Relativism about value is the thesis that what makes an action right is simply that it conforms to the norms or codes of the culture of which the person whose action it is is a member. What makes an action wrong is that it fails to conform or violates those norms or codes. The relativist thought is that one is acting well just if one is doing the sort of thing that's done around here, while one is acting badly just if one is out of line with what's done around here.

Relativism, I hazard to say, is the theory of value to which the majority of students at Saint Mary's subscribe. I bet that most students here would agree that a person is not at all acting wrongly if what that person is doing is in line with the values embedded in the folkways of his or her culture. Relativism is popular, I again hazard, because tolerance is popular and relativism seems to imply that we all should be tolerant of each other's ways. It is wrong to interfere with someone who isn't acting badly, runs this thought, and since people aren't acting badly when they are acting in conformity with the norms of their culture, we would be wrong to interfere with someone who is acting in conformity with the norms of his culture, even should what he is doing be something wrong for one of us to do.

The most common argument in favour of relativism, an argument heard with depressing frequency, goes like this: People from different cultures disagree with each other about right and wrong; therefore, whether an act is right or wrong depends on which culture one has in mind. This argument is absolutely dreadful. If it were strong, then so, too, would be this argument: Paleontologists from different universities disagree with each other about the origin of birds; therefore, whether birds evolved from dinosaurs or instead evolved from another class of reptile depends on which university one has in mind.

A better argument in favour of relativism begins with the thought that when we evaluate something, we do so against a set of standards. To evaluate something correctly, though, means evaluating it against an appropriate set of standards. Thus, to evaluate an action correctly, one must evaluate it using appropriate standards. The only appropriate standards by which to evaluate an action are the standards of the culture to which the agent of the action belongs. Therefore, whether an action is right or wrong depends on the standards of the culture to which the agent of the action belongs.

This argument fails. What

makes a set of standards an appropriate set by which to evaluate something is not that that set is used by some group of people. It is, rather, that that set serves the purpose you want it to serve—you, the person doing the evaluating—and serves that purpose well. If you have reason to evaluate an action by what you take to be the standards of your culture, your reason is not that they are the standards of your culture. It is, rather, that you will serve your purpose well by using those standards. Relativism about value is beset by all sorts of conceptual troubles. For one, if relativism is true, then psychological, sociological, or anthropological knowledge suffices for ethical knowledge.

If you want to know whether it would be all right for you to reveal Martha's secret in order to protect Sally, ask a sociologist. For another, we all belong to many cultures. What's wrong in one is right in another. Revealing Martha's secret in order to protect Sally is for you both right and wrong. For a third, the relativist's prime directive—do what in your culture is the thing to do—cannot, for the relativist, be sound merely relative to a culture. Relativism, then, is ill-supported by argument and most likely false. Should we be worried, then, about our commitment to tolerance? No, we shouldn't, for relativism doesn't in fact support tolerance.

Whether you are wrong to try to impose your way of life on others, the relativist must say, depends on the values embedded in the folkways of your culture. If you belong to a tolerant culture, then it would be wrong for you to treat others intolerantly. But if you belong to an intolerant culture, then it would be wrong for you to refrain from forcing your ways on others. The lesson of these reflections? If you are looking for a reason to support your commitment to tolerance, look not to your culture but to tolerance itself.

Does this mean, then, that there is one true morality after all? That if we are properly to commit ourselves to tolerance, tolerance must be a true value? Not at all. Recall the relativist's prime directive: do what in your culture is the thing to do. Hearing this, one's first thought is why should I do that? That something is the done thing around here ought to leave one cold. If you have a reason in a case to do the done thing around here, it certainly isn't that it is the done thing around here. Now consider the directive: do the right thing, the thing that honours the true values. One's first thought ought also to be why should I do that?

If you have a reason to do the right thing, your reason isn't that it's the right thing to do.

LET'S GET BAKED WITH MAT AND DAVE

Baking along with us on Let's Get Baked is the experimental pop rock machine that is Grand Theft Bus. They're helping out with a spicy entrée called dahl (also spelled dal, dhal, daal; pronounced like the doll you play with), which is a dish that is quite common in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh and usually consists of red lentils or beans. Make sure you tune in to CKDU 88.1 fm on Thursday's at 5 o'clock to hear your favourite indie bands mix it up in the kitchen, or find the show through the website; www.letsgetbaked.ckdu.ca. Until next time, bakers!

Ingredients:

3 tablespoons peanut oil
1 medium yellow onion
1 tablespoon fresh ginger, grated
4 garlic cloves, minced
juice of 1 lime

1 teaspoon salt
1 cup dried red lentils
2 tablespoon tomato paste
4-5 cups water or vegetable broth
5 plum tomatoes, chopped
1 cup lightly packed chopped fresh cilantro

Spice blend:

2 teaspoon mustard seeds
1 teaspoon fenugreek seeds
1 teaspoon coriander seeds
1 teaspoon cumin seeds
6 whole cloves

4 cardamom pods
2 dried red chillies (seeds removed)
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions:

In a sauté pan over medium heat, toast the seeds (but not the dried red chili) for about 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove them from the pan and let cool. Transfer the seeds to a coffee grinder, along with the dried red chili and cinnamon, and grind to a fine powder. Over a medium to high heat, oil up a soup pot, add the onions and sauté for five minutes. Add the garlic and ginger and sauté for five more minutes. Add the spices and salt, sauté for five minutes more. Add four cups of water and stir to deglaze the pot. Add the tomato paste and lentils. Bring to a boil then lower the heat a bit and simmer for 20 minutes. Add the tomatoes, lime juice and cilantro and more water if it looks too thick. Simmer for 10 more minutes, or until the lentils are completely tender. Pile everything on a plate and dig in, you've got dahl!




Two members of Grand Theft Bus pose alongside their new dahl, all set for playtime.

Photo: Mat Dunlap

THE JOURNAL PRESENTS T&A ASKS...

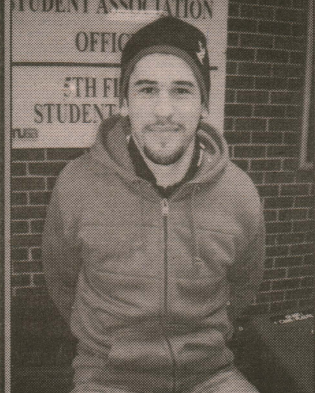
Q & A with Tom and Amanda

“SMU has opened up select courses to the public, for free. What are your thoughts on the cost of post-secondary education, particularly in Nova Scotia?”



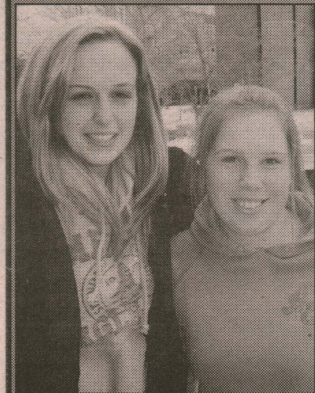
JOYCE ZHANG
4TH YEAR FINANCE

“I pay an international difference, so I pay \$1080 per course. I’m not sure how this compares to other universities. I know Acadia is more expensive... costs are just too high.”



FARIS GHANEM
3RD YEAR FINANCE

“It’s very expensive. If you go to Ontario or somewhere, it’s cheaper. Overall, SMU is a good university though.”




ERIN ROWE
3RD YEAR PSYCH

“It’s really expensive, and I have to live with my parents because of it!”


JILL ROBINSON
1ST YEAR ARTS

“It’s way too expensive.”




OLUYEMI ODEDOYIN
4TH YEAR BIO & PSYCH

“Costs here are high... the highest tuitions in all the provinces. It’s worth it though, it’s a good place to study.”



BENEDICTE LUNDA
2ND YEAR FRENCH

“I think it’s quite high compared to other provinces. Last week, ‘Grants Reloaded’ were here comparing costs to other provinces. NS had the highest tuition. Students need to work with SMUSA to reduce costs.”



SEAN KAVANAGH
4TH YEAR MGMT

“It’s kind of ridiculous. I’ve done a project on it in the past, and costs are way higher than they need to be. If they can be lowered in Quebec, why not here?”

Photos courtesy of Tom Westoll

SMUDOKU

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

LAST WEEK’S SOLUTION

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

HOT	OR	NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Husky Patrol • AWARE Fashion Show • Carrie Underwood • Party Gras at the pub • The Hotham Brothers • Are You Smarter Than A SMUSA Exec? • Science AND religion • 10000 BC • No strings attached • 30-hour Famine 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still needing to take it because its so cold • Tripping on the runway • Jessica Simpson • Having more beads than you can remember • The Jonas Brothers • Copying the answer • Science VS religion • The Spiderwick Chronicles • Getting attached anyways • Famine

G SPOT

Straight to the point

SS RANDY BLUE

“Hey G-Spot, I’m gay and single. I seem to keep getting crushes on straight guys from my school. Do all gay guys fantasize about straight guys being gay or is it just me?”

Do all guys fantasize sexually about people they can’t have? Definitely! Straight men are like the Holy Grail for a gay man. There are thousands of gay porno’s that feature nothing but straight men, and even more specifically, the cream of the straight man crop, the jock. Then again, what could be more attractive than a group of physically well built men all getting sweaty together and then getting clean in a communal shower?

Gay guys aren’t the only ones that fantasize about people they can’t have. Ask most straight

men what they fantasize about and you’ll find out they have a similar fetish towards lesbian women. Does it mean that a self-respecting lesbian woman is going to sleep with some guy who gets his kicks from thinking about two pairs of breasts mingling together? Not necessarily. But it also means the chances that you’re going to end up romping in the locker room with your favourite straight man are slim.

There is some hope, however. There is a growing number of the population that now consider themselves to be bisexual. This could be your big break in landing your straight man crush. Although they may be getting their fix of the vagina one night, there’s a chance that you two can mingle the next night and the allure of him being straight is still pretty strong.

As for you gay ladies out there, if you find

yourselves in the same situation where you sometimes fantasize about straight men then you’re more valuable than O negative blood. You are one of the most popular fantasies amongst horny straight men. It also happens to be that lesbians will often get crushes on straight girls.

Back to the situation at hand though, there isn’t much you can do about your crushes. You can try to get to know the straight guy you’re crushing on. Buy him some coffee from time to time and maybe even take him to dinner. He may never change teams, but if his game is ever rained out then he knows he can play pickup with your team, he’ll probably want to play at bat, but who knows...he may even want to play catcher.

Until next week everyone, keep it safe and keep it wrapped. If you have a question, then send it in to smu.gspot@gmail.com

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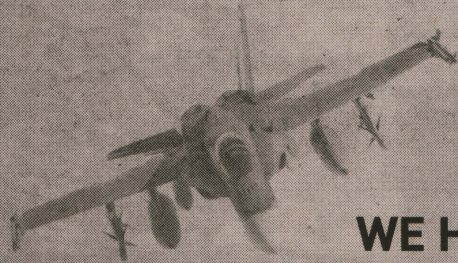


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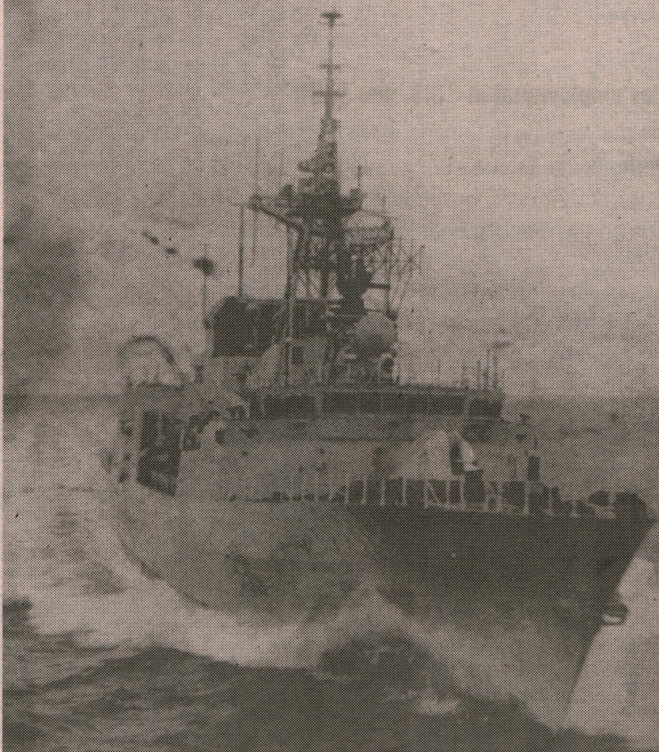


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SPORTS

Huskies sweep UdeM in three straight



www.smuhuskies.com

Marc Rancourt has been responsible for two goals and four assists in the play-offs with Scott Hotham sinking three and assisting two.

ROBBIE NAUFFTS

Saturday night spelt the end of the year for the Aigles Bleus as Saint Mary's took them three and zero in the series. SMU will face-off in the Finals for the first time in six years against the Varsity Reds for the At-

lantic University Sport championship which will be a best-of-three series. The winner will head up to Moncton for the CIS Championship for the overall title this season.

UNB finished the season in first place with 26 wins, one loss and one loss in overtime. Saint Mary's finished second with 20 wins, five losses and three overtime losses. SMU is has only behind with six goals for than UNB this year having 136 goals. SMU and UNB have played each other four times this season with UNB taking the win all four times.

Also the Huskies have been playing with several key players still out of the line-up. Ryan Bowness is still out with a concussion and Dan Rudisuela is on the disabled list with a knee injury. There is still no word if either player will return for the finals starting this week. Don't count the Pack out though; remember that the Huskies started the semi-finals off with their third line scoring three goals against UdeM.

SMU sends four to NS All-Stars

By Robbie Nauffts

As the season ended for Saint Mary's Women's team two weeks ago, there were three players who still had a reason to lace up their skates for the University.

Saint Mary's had a powerhouse hockey team that finished second place in the AUS regular season and battled hard against St. FX for the championship. Even though the X-Women took down SMU, it is the Huskies who are making up the majority of the Provincial All-Star team this year to play in the Esso Women's Hockey Nationals, held in PEI March 11th to 15th. At the end of the AUS championship forward Kori Cheverie, defenseman Amy Dawson and netminder Jill MacIssac made the first team to play for the province. Courtney Schriver will be on the second team as she finished the regular season with 17 goals and 17 assists, finishing fourth in the lead scorers.

The Esso Women's Nationals

is an All-Star tournament featuring some of the top players across the country in 10 teams. Ontario is the exception as they usually send the provincial winner to the tournament. The tournament started in 1982 and has been a big event ever since. Be sure to try and catch a game or two on television and look for your players representing the Huskies and Nova Scotia.



Jason MacDonald
Amy Dawson will be standing the blue-line on Nova Scotia's All-Star Team this year in Prince Edward Island

Huskies at Home This Week

Men's Basketball AUS Semi-Finals
Friday March 7th vs. UPEI @ 8:15pm
Halifax Metro Centre, \$12.00 for the Day

For more Final 6 Games Information visit
<http://www.atlanticuniversitysport.com/final6/>

Final schedule was not available for Men's Hockey at time of print. Visit www.atlanticuniversitysport.com late Tuesday for more information.

ASSHOLE OF THE WEEK

"I believe that the asshole of the week should be Brennan Vogel. He wrote the letter to the editor last week about the questionable bar staff at the Gorsebrook. After speaking with the bouncers mentioned in the article I found out that Brennan was in the wrong. He needs to get his head out of his ass and realize that in a bar the customer isn't always right and more often than not they are the ones who are wrong. The Gorsebrook shouldn't apologize to him and there needn't be a "grounds for removal" sheet in a bar. He hurt his own dignity the moment security asked him to get off the bar chair and he told them "No, we are having a good time".

-Al Gagnon

Send your Asshole of the week to
sports.smu@gmail.com

Video Game of the Week: Patapon

NICK MADORE

Sony's PlayStation Portable handheld gaming system doesn't get enough love. It's a great little platform, but it always seems to be overshadowed by Nintendo's handheld, the Nintendo DS, its dual-screen competitor. There's nothing wrong with the DS, per se; it's just a total attention whore. Hopefully Patapon will turn some heads, maybe sway some opinions on Sony's miniature merrymaking machine.

You play as The Almighty, the deity to the little, black, one-eyed tribesmen called Patapons. With no guidance and under constant attack from the evil (they're red and black, and the red/black combo always means evil, right?) Zigatons, you've come to lead them to victory over not just the Zigatons, but anything else that stands in their way, be it a wall, a rock, or a giant crab monster.

Patapon is an interesting game to try to classify, as it has elements of a couple of genres. First, it's a rhythm game. To control your adorable little Patapons, you must enter in the correct sequence of drum beats to the in-game beat, controlled by the X ("don"), square ("pata"), triangle ("chaka"), and circle ("pon") buttons. For instance, to move forward, the pattern is "pata-pata-pata-pon." After each command, the tiny anthropomorphic eyeballs will sing the command you've just entered and

execute it. If you can keep the beat for long enough, you'll enter Fever mode that triggers joyous singing from your Patapons, as well as more powerful attacks. Mess up a beat, and you're back to normal.

Secondly, it's a real-time strategy game, in that you have to micromanage the resources and "ka-ching" (the in-game currency) in order to create more powerful Patapons, equipping them with better gear, and sending them out in the right order for maximum destruction. There are several types of Patapon of varying ranges and attacks, including the one who just carries the flag, called the Hata-pon. The other Patapons can't go too far away from the Hata-pon, who stops when the others go to attack. This means you can't just keep entering the attack beat to go through the level to the next enemy. This sometimes gets annoying, as some enemies tend to run away while you're attacking them (wouldn't you?), and can easily escape if you don't kill them right away.

The game's upbeat atmosphere is furthered by its cartoony, minimalist visuals. To just sit and watch someone play the game (which, short of cuddling, can be difficult on such a little screen), it looks like a kids' game, which is not the case. Although the game is rated E for Everyone, it can get pretty tricky, and is clearly marketed toward the casual gamer of any age. Overall, the game is very happy, with your

wee warriors dancing around a fire in between levels, and making charming little comments here and there while attacking ("Spank them bottoms!"). This may be a good or a bad thing, but you will have the beat stuck in your head for the rest of the day. There's no way around it. Personally, though, I love it. Patapon is not perfect, however.

First off, there's no pause. Pressing Start shows you the different beats you can enter at the bottom of the screen, and Select gives you the option of returning to your camp, losing all progress you've made on that level. The control scheme, while innovative and fun, is slightly flawed. At the risk of messing up your combo on your way to Fever mode, you have to finish typing in each command. This gets annoying when your enemy dies after you just started putting in the attack beat, or when you realize you should've attacked a bit sooner so that damn bird with the meat you need to make a really powerful guy won't notice you and fly away, only to have already pressed the first button of another command.

Patapon retails at \$19.99, which is quite convenient for the dirt-poor college student. If you have a PSP, I'd definitely recommend picking this one up. If you don't have a PSP, maybe now's the time to start saving your pennies and looking into it.

Nick Madore Joins the Journal as our Video game Guru



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