



THE JOURNAL

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

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**THE BIG RIP OFF:
THE NEW ARAMARK MEAL PLAN PG 6**



SMU SECURITY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE PG 5



WHAT HAS SMUSA DONE FOR SMU? PG 8



Saint Mary's University Students' Association

Answering the Tough Questions

Welcome back or welcome to Saint Mary's University! As you can see by looking around campus, we're all going to see some changes to the comfortable, familiar face of SMU this year. To that end, SMUSA is no different. A new executive, a new governance model, and a few new full-time staff are all here with the hopes of enriching student life. This space is a product of that. Each week, you can email us at SMUSAtoughquestions@gmail.com with your tough questions. We will pick

the questions that focus on issues that affect the widest audience of students or have the greatest impact on our community. To get started, we've picked a question that has been asked of us several times during the Services Expo.

Why Can't I Opt Out of the U-Pass?

The U-Pass transit pass provides full-time students with unlimited access to Metro Transit's buses and ferries (if you are

taking on of the Link buses, you must pay the difference between regular Metro Transit fare and Link fare) during the academic year. The U-Pass program became effective in 2003 at SMU when it was approved by student referendum. Just like when students vote for a new president, the majority rules, so there was a levy on student fees created specifically for the U-Pass. In 2007 the cost of the U-Pass to full-time students was raised to \$117 (or \$14.63/month, as opposed to

\$64/month for the standard price of a Metro Transit student pass) for the 8-month academic year. This increase was accepted by the students in a vote.

The U-Pass program exists in a similar manner at many other universities across the country, including Western Ontario, Queen's, Trent, Victoria, and Guelph.

Under our current governance model, the U-Pass levy will be put to vote again in 2013 to determine if the student body's needs have changed.

Campus Events This Week:

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10: Society Expo and Super Centre (9am-6pm) in the Quad and inside the Student Centre - FREE!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: The Bounce Roadshow/Coca Cola Dance and Awards Celebration (10pm-1am) - Included with Frosh Pack purchase or \$15 at the door

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: SMU football is back! Bus trip to St. FX. Bus leaves from the Gorsebrook parking lot @ 11am, returns after the game. Bus and game ticket: \$15.

Sign up at the Info Desk. NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN ORIENTATION WEEK EVENT; you must sign up and pay to come.

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ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT PIECES OF WORK FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JOURNAL. THESE SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOON ON SUNDAY THROUGH THE PROVIDED EMAIL ADDRESSES. SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THESMUJOURNAL@GMAIL.COM OR AT WWW.SMU-JOURNAL.CA. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR MAY BE NO MORE THAN 400 WORDS. ALL SUBMISSIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO EDITING.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

JEFF CUSACK
Editor-in-Chief
(Hey, we want you to write for us, see the bolded text below.)

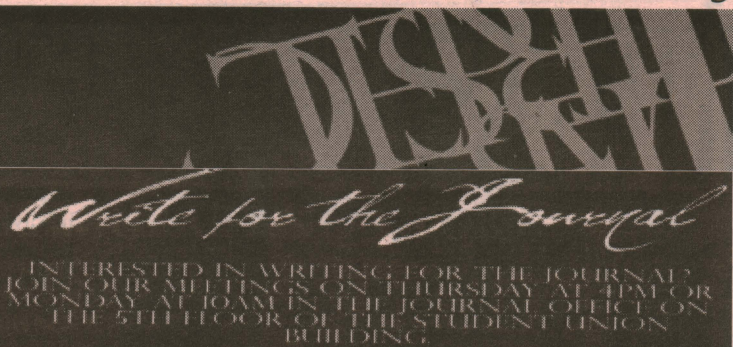
It's the beginning of yet another year at our beloved Saint Mary's University. For those of you who are new to Saint Mary's, welcome to the university, prepare to have a wicked time. For those who are returning to the university, welcome back! If you're reading this letter, you've probably already figured out that The Journal is the campus newspaper of Saint Mary's University. This year I, Jeff Cusack, will be your Editor and Chief. Along with the fantastic editorial team that's working with

me this year, we hope to put together a really great paper that you can get something out of. Whether it is through News Editor Kim Dares bringing you an exclusive university scoop, Arts and Entertainment Editor Nick Madore acting as your guide to the Halifax music scene, or through the work of anyone else on The Journal team, we hope that this paper will have something for everyone.

If you have something to say, we want The Journal to be your voice. We are always looking for new writers at The Journal. You don't have to be a professional writer to be published here, just try your best and send us what you've got, we'll make sure to find a place for you. If you want to

submit something to us, **send your articles or letters to thesmujournal@gmail.com.** We wouldn't mind seeing your face too, every Monday the diligent editors of The Journal come to put together the paper, and we're here for the entire day. **Drop by our office on the fifth floor on Mondays and talk to us about your writing, or help us edit some articles.** We'd be glad to have you, and the contributors who work with us tend to end up with some nice perks like **free passes to big concerts** and free pizza. Can't make it on Mondays? Let us know at the above email address and we'll find a good time to meet you. Remember, if you want a **paid job with The Journal** sometime in the future, you've got to contribute to us first!

Maybe you're strictly a reader, not the writing type. That's awesome, but I strongly encourage you all to get involved with something. Join a society, an athletic club, or some other university activity. The more you put into your Saint Mary's University experience, the more you will get out of it. This Thursday there is a society expo showcasing many of the groups on campus. If you have classes that interfere with attending the society expo, I recommend **prioritizing the society expo** over classes, you have classes all semester, but the society expo only happens once. From all of us at The Journal, have a great first week!



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR HALIFAX EXPERIENCE

KIMBERLEY DARES
News Editor

If you are new to the city or just looking for new things to do around town read on to find a few ways to pass time this fall.

Halifax is a city full of museums and art galleries of various sizes. The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Museum of Natural History, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic or the Discovery Centre are the most well known, but there are also many smaller art galleries around Halifax, including Zwickers off Spring Garden Road. Many offer student prices that amount to less than \$10 a visit and depending on where your interests lie they could provide hours of entertainment. The bubble room at the Discovery Centre is always a good choice and the

museums change their main displays up every few months so if you aren't interested right now be sure to check again.

On a nice fall day Point Pleasant



Image Source: <http://www.halifax.ca/districts/dist22/images/>

Park is just a short walk from SMU. It's a great place to exercise, or go for a leisurely stroll. It also offers a picturesque view of the Atlantic Ocean. Pack a picnic, or your camera. Also be sure to take a walk through the Public Gardens on Spring Garden Road, they close for Winter in November though so go early.

Not to be missed the Halifax Farmer's Market is something to check out Saturday mornings. Bread, crepes, vegetables, jewellery, plants, live music, coffee.. you name it, you'll find it at the Market. Bring your own bag and prepare to collect all the goodies you can carry!

Like Beer? Or knowing how things are made? Take a brewery tour at the Alexander Keith's Brewery, the Garrison Brewery or the Propeller Brewery. Enjoy freshly made beer, or

skip the beer and just go to see how it's created. Either way it's time well spent, as long as you are of legal age.

If you feel like a movie check out the Oxford Theatre on Quinpool Road, it's a Halifax landmark. The location of many local film screenings the Oxford is the oldest theatre in the city and definitely the most exciting place to see a movie. For information on what's playing you can find it (and movie times for all other theatres in the city) on the Empire Theatres website. There is also a regular theatre in Park Lane Mall if you are looking for more selection, and an Imax Theatre in Bayer's Lake.



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The Journal Wants you! Join our meetings on Monday in the Journal Office on the 5th floor of the Student Union Building

NEWS

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Image Credit: "Sid the Kid," Andrew Vaughan / THE CANADIAN PRESS

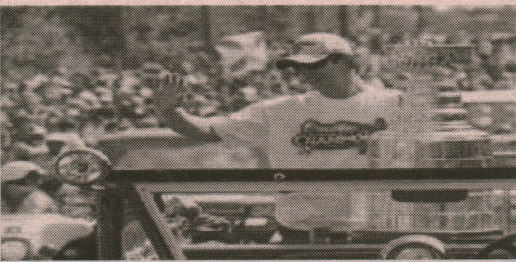
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NEWS YOU
MAY HAVE
MISSED

NOVA SCOTIA GOES TO THE POLLS.

Darrell Dexter and the NDP won the most seats in the June Provincial Election. He is the first NDP Premier in Nova Scotia history. Leonard Preyra (NDP) was re-elected for the Halifax Citadel Riding, Diana Whalen (Liberal) is the representative for Halifax Clayton Park, and Maureen MacDonald (NDP) was re-elected for Halifax Needham. In early August former Premier Rodney MacDonald resigned as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party fuelling speculation he may be appointed to the Senate.



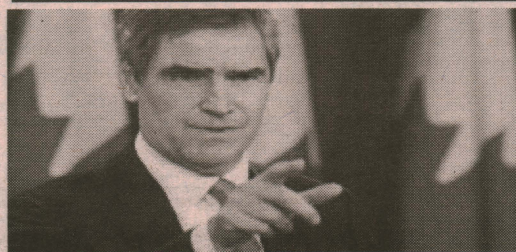
NOVA SCOTIA'S OWN SIDNEY CROSBY & THE PITTSBURGH PENGUINS WIN THE STANLEY CUP.

"Sid the Kid" brought the cup home to Cole Harbour for his 22nd birthday on August 7th. The Cup was welcomed at CFB Halifax, paid a visit to the IWK Children's Hospital before it was a paraded down the streets of Cole Harbour in an old fashion fire truck. A lucky 87 fans were selected to meet Sidney and get a picture with the Cup.



SEWAGE PLANT FAILURE CAUSES A STINK.

After the January failure of the Harbour Sewage Plant just 7 months after its opening there were many concerns about the harbour's stench during the hottest summer days. When temperatures soared well about 30 in mid August the smell near the Harbour grew worse in some locations leading to angry waterfront business owners and displeased visitors. The City hopes to have the Plant repaired and in working condition by the spring of 2010.



MICHAEL IGNATIEFF ANNOUNCES THE LIBERAL PARTY WILL NO LONGER SUPPORT THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT.

In early September Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff made the announcement that his party will no longer support Stephen Harper's Conservative Government as it has mismanaged Canada's economy and not provided the unemployed with enough support. The Liberals have said they are prepared for a fall election and Ignatieff recently launched a series of pre-campaign commercials with the English slogan "We can do better" and the French slogan "We deserve better."

Hi Everyone! Thanks for picking up this year's first issue of The Journal! I've been involved with the paper since starting at Saint Mary's in 2006. I started off proofreading before becoming News Editor my 2nd year and then Features Editor 3rd year. I'm back as News Editor for my last year at SMU and super stoked about it! I'm going to try and make news as exciting as possible with coverage of many SMU and community events. If you have any comments, suggestions or articles feel free to drop me a line at news.smu@gmail.com or stop by The Journal office, 5th floor of the Student Centre.

STAYING HEALTHY ON
CAMPUSKIMBERLEY DARES
News Editor

Washing your hands frequently is just one way to prevent illness while at school. University is a very social environment and preventing the spread of germs can be difficult at times.

Sharing is supposed to be a good thing right? But sharing can lead to a lot of missed classes and assignments if you aren't careful. Sharing lip gloss or chapstick with a friend may seem harmless enough but could lead to the unintentional spread of illness.

The same goes for sharing drinks or cigarettes. These are typical party activities that could make you pretty sick as many common germs are spread through saliva. Also remember that alcohol and cigarettes can lower your immune system making you more susceptible to illness.

Drinking lots of water and getting lots of sleep are both easy ways to help boost your immune system. Eight is a magic number, as it is recommended individuals drink about eight glasses of water or other

fluids a day and get roughly eight hours of sleep a night.

Eating healthy will also help prevent you from getting sick as well it can help you get better faster if you do. Try and eat three meals a day and keep the five food groups in mind when selecting each. If you are on a meal plan that doesn't allow for three meals a day, granola bars, fruit, yogurt, and crackers could provide a good mid-day snack. Skipping breakfast is not recommended as it can lead to an overall unwell feeling and often leads to over eating later in the day.

Avoiding eating as a social activity can help prevent unwanted weight gain such as the dreaded "freshman 15". Late night eating is the worst so unless you are truly hungry skip the 12am pizza, even if everyone around you is chowing down. Also keep in mind that excessive consumption of alcohol can lead to weight gain as it is full of 'empty calories'. Exercising regularly can also help keep your body in shape and better prepared to fight off illness. Membership to The Tower is included in tuition making it harder to find an excuse not to exercise.

"SHARING IS SUPPOSED TO BE A GOOD THING RIGHT? BUT SHARING CAN LEAD TO A LOT OF MISSED CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL."

DON'T FORGET THESE DATES!

The first month of school is always hectic but there are two very important Friday's coming up so mark these dates on the calendar now to prevent any hassle later. Friday September 18th is the last day to register for add or drop classes without financial penalty. It is the last day to file an application to graduate in the Winter or Spring 2010 Convocation, applications can be picked up at the Registrar's office. The 18th is also the last day to pay first semester tuition before it is considered late. Friday September 25th is the last day to

opt-out of the Student Health Plan. Canadian Students who have proof of other health insurance can waive the fee online through SMUport, there is a SMUSA Health Plan Waiver Tab with easy instructions. International students have to visit the student health plan office on the 5th floor of the student centre.

If you are graduating in the fall of 2009 you should also watch the bulletin boards on campus for the upcoming dates and times that AboutImage will be here to take yearbook photos.

Write for the Journal

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE JOURNAL? JOIN OUR MEETINGS ON THURSDAY AT 4PM OR MONDAY AT 10AM IN THE JOURNAL OFFICE ON THE 5TH FLOOR OF THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING.

GETTING INVOLVED ON CAMPUS

KIMBERLEY DARES
News Editor

So if you're new to Saint Mary's and looking to make friends and connections here are a few tips. These may be particularly helpful if you commute from home and looking to find a place at SMU.

Check out the Society Expo outside the Student Centre this Thursday, September 10th. Meet current members of many SMU societies, see what appeals to you, and put your name on an e-mail list or two. Many of the societies have events that could allow you to become extremely involved with as an organizer or moderately involved with an attendee depending on what level of commitment you can make. If you miss the Expo be sure to check bulletin boards around campus for society event postings or check out the full list of societies on the SMUSA website.

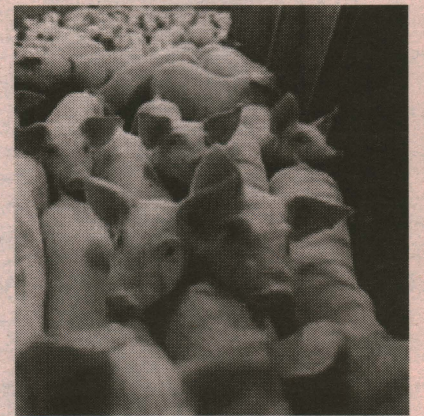
Attending events in your discipline can also be a great way to get involved on campus. Throughout the year most, if not all, disciplines at SMU hold events open to majors, minors or just interested students. Examples of these events include

public lectures, guest speakers, debates, and meet and greets. They are usually free of charge and offer a great way to meet other students in your field, as well as Professors and the Chair of the Department.



MEMBERS OF "PIT CREW" SLIDE AFTER A TOUCHDOWN.

all of whom are helpful people to know. If you want to play a role in student af-

PROTECTING
YOURSELF
FROM H1N1KIMBERLEY DARES
News Editor

No matter where you spent your summer vacation you have heard of H1N1, or the Swine flu Pandemic. Since becoming widespread earlier this year the Flu has caused 67 deaths in Canada and close to 2200 worldwide.

The University sent an e-mail to all students regarding prevention measures on campus and what to do if you are experiencing symptoms. In case the e-mail landed in your junk mail, the basic symptoms of H1N1 are not unlike those of the regular flu. Fever, chills, headache, muscle and joint pain, sneezing, sore throat, eye pain, cough, lack of appetite and unusual tiredness have all been reported as symptoms. They last about a week and are generally mild in healthy individuals; those most at risk are the very young, elderly, pregnant or others with weakened immune systems.

To help prevent the spread of H1N1 hand sanitizing stations have been placed around campus, particularly around dining areas. There are also signs in all washrooms regarding proper hand washing techniques. Students, Faculty and staff are also being asked to cough or sneeze into your shirt sleeve or arm rather than the palm of your hand to help keep germs off surfaces.

If symptoms do appear it is requested students avoid coming to campus until they have been symptom free for a 24 hour period. The Nova Scotia Department of Health has issued a similar request so if you believe you have Swine flu it's best you stay home. The only exception being if you fall into a high risk group as then you should seek medical attention.

The best thing you can do is prevent the illness by frequently washing or sanitizing your hands, particularly before eating or touching your face.

fairs at SMU get involved with SMUSA run events. Sign up with the volunteer co-ordinator to help out in the SMU community, attend SMUSA sponsored events, and vote in the elections. Getting involved with SMUSA can lead to job opportunities as well as great friendships.

Check out sporting events at The Tower, The Forum, or Huskies Stadium. Admission is free with your student ID, and if you let yourself feel the excitement of the crowd it can be a great time. Huskies football is an always popular choice, if you are really ambitious get a painter's jumpsuit and join the "Pit Crew," a group of students that slide down a hill in the Stadium following every Huskies touchdown. Football isn't the only awesome SMU sport; check the Sport's Section of the Journal every week for a complete listing of Huskies at Home games.

Getting an on-campus job can also help you meet other students. The Student Employment Centre has online listings for jobs on-campus that are updated regularly and also posted in the Centre on the 4th Floor of the Student Centre.

www.smujournal.ca

FEATURES

THE JOURNAL

FEMINISM! OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE BRITNEY SPEARS

HEATHER MACLEAN
Contributer

Depending on where you're from, you may not have heard a whole lot about this thing called 'feminism.' I know I sure didn't, growing up in Pictou County. As an undergrad at Dalhousie, I became a feminist, and my Women's Studies classes and professors had a profound influence on my evolution. I was interested in taking a Women's Studies class my first two years at Dal, but was afraid to register because I believed the ridiculous stereotypes about feminists.

I was afraid of what would happen to me if I took a class. Maybe the world would never look the same. Finally, in my third year, I got over my fear and took Women and Music, followed by Women in History, Feminist Philosophy, Gender and the Media, you get the picture. My world did change—for the better. A common criticism of Women's Studies is that it doesn't have any "real world" applications, but for me that's not true. I'm constantly applying my Women's Studies knowledge outside the classroom, because, and this may shock you, we are gendered beings.

Women's Studies have also made me a more empathetic person, I think in part because it taught me to be critical and look beyond the surface of things. When Britney Spears gyrated her way onto the pop culture landscape back in 1998, I took in her schoolgirl outfits and lyrics that begged some boy to hit her, baby, one more time and dismissed her as a skank. As I read about feminism and grudgingly admitted that some of her songs were catchy, I didn't see her as some fame whore or a helpless victim of the big bad patriarchy, but as a girl who had been her family's breadwin-

ner since puberty, doing whatever it takes to stay on top. In the music world, that means selling some advertiser-friendly version of sexuality. I'm not saying that Women's Studies will cause you to have an epiphany about Lady Gaga, but it will change the way you see the world and your place in it. So if you find yourself eyeing those Women's Studies classes, go ahead and take one! I promise that you will have fun. If you want to talk to some feminists, you can take the elevator up to the 5th floor of the Student Centre and visit the SMU Women's

Centre, you could even volunteer there, it looks great on a resume. I'm on the Board of Directors, and I know the ladies have some great programming lined up for this year. You may have noticed that I haven't defined feminism in this essay, that's because there are as many feminisms as there are feminists. Part of the fun of becoming a feminist is creating your own definition, one that you will constantly redefine. So I ask you: what does your feminism look like?

THE CRANKY PROFESSOR

THE JOURNAL, THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT SAINT MARY'S

WISHFUL BELIEVING

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Believe according to the strength of your evidence and only according to the strength of your evidence, or so at least taught David Hume, the eighteenth-century philosopher whose account of the nature and limits of reason continues to set the terms of debate.

To the extent that your evidence in favour of a proposition is weak, Hume said, hold lightly your belief that that proposition is true. To the extent that your evidence is strong, hold your belief strongly, with real confidence that it is true. If you have evidence both ways, believe in accordance with the weight of evidence overall, but maintain a level of doubt appropriate to the evidence against. If evidence is more or less equal both ways, suspend judgment. Certainly suspend judgment should the evidence you have fail to meet proper standards of evidence for belief.

Proper standards of evidence? Some people are more credulous than others; perhaps by nature we are all at least a little prone to believing things readily. Even so, as we gain experience and note the example of others, we fashion and firm more exacting standards of evidence. For the most part we do this unconsciously, or at least unthinkingly. There's a danger that as our habits of belief develop and improve, we'll become too exacting, thereby cutting ourselves off from some amount of truth and understanding. This danger, though, is more speculative than real. More likely is that despite our efforts we fail to become

exacting enough. So the first task on this view of believing responsibly is to acquire proper standards for believing. To meet this task, we study probability theory and statistics, for instance, and we investigate the methods of science.

The main task, though, does not concern belief or reasoning at all. The main task concerns the will. Even a person whose standards of warrant are high might simply fail to live by them. The chief obstacle to believing responsibly isn't believing in light of poor standards of belief. It is, rather, believing against one's standards of belief, believing in violation of them. This phenomenon, the phenomenon of believing a proposition in violation of one's own standards for belief, we call wishful believing.

We believe a proposition wishfully when our belief is sustained not by evidence but by our desire that the world be as the proposition describes. Keep the evidence the same but subtract the desire; if the belief disappears, then the belief was held wishfully. Sally believes that Martin is still alive. Since, though, her belief is sustained not by whatever evidence she has that he is alive, but rather by her desire that he still be alive, Sally believes that Martin is still alive wishfully.

Why care to believe responsibly? Why care always to believe in accordance with high epistemic standards? If Sally does better from her own perspective by believing that Martin is still alive, why shouldn't she believe he is?

One argument against being open to believing wishfully tells us

that since beliefs held wishfully are less likely to be true than beliefs held on good evidence are, we should always be concerned to believe only on good evidence. The key idea in this argument is that acting on a false belief is no way to get what you want. Thus, prudence counsels us to have high standards for belief and to endeavour to live up to them.

The argument is unsatisfying in two ways. First, not all beliefs we might hold wishfully are beliefs we can act on in ways that could get us into trouble. One who believes wishfully that God understands him and loves him will not order breakfast or apply for a job in a way different than one who doesn't hold this belief. Second, the argument underestimates our ability to violate our norms prudently. Safe drivers obey the speed limit—for the most part. That is, sometimes they speed, for they recognize that overall in the situation it's worth sacrificing a tiny, tiny bit of safety to gain something else that matters.

In the end, the only strong reason one could have for refusing to be open to believing wishfully is that one wants to understand things as they are. Since to understand something is to have true and interconnected beliefs about it, one who believes something wishfully doesn't understand the thing about which he has beliefs. He doesn't understand it, even if his wishful belief is true.

Now the project of understanding things as they are attracts only a minority of people, or perhaps only a minority of people pursue it frequently and committedly. Yet for those who do pursue it frequently and committedly, the project of understanding things as they are is never to be traded for any of the bliss that might come from believing what one wants to believe.

"KEEP THE EVIDENCE THE SAME BUT SUBTRACT THE DESIRE; IF THE BELIEF DISAPPEARS, THEN THE BELIEF WAS HELD WISHFULLY."

IN THE END, THE ONLY STRONG REASON ONE COULD HAVE FOR REFUSING TO BE OPEN TO BELIEVING WISHFULLY IS THAT ONE WANTS TO

FROSH WEEK KICK OFF

ALEX CLARKE
Features Editor

Frosh week started with a bang on Sunday night at the student center, and for sure the Journal was there in full force. As one sun sets, another one rises. As we all know, Orientation week is the first step for first-year students of 2009/10 in university and Sunday night was an awesome experience to start the Frosh week off. The SMUSA organization did a great job welcoming the new students with the annual Casino Night, where you can dress up and challenge your fellow first-years to a variety of casino games to win all sorts of prizes. The night ran like a well-oiled machine, thanks to great planning by Amy-Dawn March, a fourth-year psych major who was one of the main organizers along with her 100 or so leaders that volunteered for the experience. Right off the bat, things got crazy with over 200 frosh students socializing and getting familiar with each other for the new year. The night was definitely fun for both students and leaders as each was able to feed off each other's excitement.

For those who were unable to attend, you missed a night of pure fun and enjoyment. Everything about the night went well, even with a surprise rap battle featuring SMU's very own Kayo, who also has an opening spot for Beanie Man next week. The night incorporated free refreshments like popcorn and drinks while students played casino-like games such as poker, blackjack, roulette. It's probably no argument that the most intense had to have been the poker table. First-year guys were mostly entertained by friendly competition where first year girls were mostly entertained by frosh leaders, a natural expectation. As it moved along, the pure excitement of the night attracted more and more students. Girls were walking around with male boxer shorts in their hands and guys were walking around with female bras on or walking on leaches, showing that each person participating and bringing

their own brand of unique flavor. If you weren't caught up in the games or moved by the entertainment of random lap dancing then you was busy trying to increase your chips. New students enjoyed friendly competitive gameplay with the comfort of knowing they weren't playing with their own money, while also battling for each other's attention. The highlight of the night had to be when a beautiful new student came up to me and asked me for my boxer shorts so she could win money. (Oh you tease!)

The great atmosphere, coupled with exhilarating music, moved time faster than expected. One second you would be on a hot streak and the next they were taking bids on concert tickets. By the end of the night the floor was littered with cups, chips, money and a pair of socks; evidence of a great night. Frosh Week - Turf Burn Those that didn't attend the Casino night had more frosh opportunities the next day at the annual Turf Burn. This event, being one of the most popular for frosh week, was a fun in the sun experience for students to enjoy which was also held by Ashley-Dawn and her frosh leaders. Teams had an opportunity to go head to head in a mixture of eleven games including monkey soccer, Huckle buckle, Maid Marian, and the Longest Line, which featured a nice display of bodies.

Not only did SMUSA put in a great effort to make sure Turf Burn went off smoothly but there was also attendance by other organizations that wanted to lend a hand. While the students enjoyed games in the sun they were listening to the great tunes of 101.3The Bounce, and the Royal bank of Canada was also in attendance with their own booth game offering a cash grab contest with an opportunity to win \$500 in cash money. A timed rotation allowed for students to experience each game to their full enjoyment. Immediately following the games students relaxed and socialized at an all you can eat free barbeque courtesy of the SMUSA organization.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BATMAN: ARKHAM ASYLUM

NICK MADORE

A & E Editor

Batman: Arkham Asylum is the Batman game fans have been waiting for a long time. I have no problem saying it's the best Batman game to date, both in terms of the quality of previous Batman games (or rather, a lack thereof) and the polish and care that went into this one. Not only does it stand on its own as a great action game, but when you're playing it you really feel like you're playing as Batman

The premise is simple, yet just clever enough to explain why all of these super villains are attacking Batman all at once. After an all-too-easy capture of the Joker following his latest escape, his sidekick Harley Quinn, working on the inside as a doctor, locks Batman inside Arkham Asylum and sets Joker free to run amok and cause havoc within the asylum's walls. Obviously this involves setting everyone free. The plot progresses into a bid for power over the creation of a Titan serum, leading to super-powered, bulked-up henchmen and the villain Bane.

Set up as an open-world game, Batman: Arkham Asylum takes cues from games like Metroid, requiring you to obtain new pieces of gear as well as updating old gear in order to gain access to new areas of previously-explored locations. Most of said locations house the game's collectibles. In this case, the collectibles come in the form of riddles and trophies set up around the island by none other than the Riddler himself. Musing

through your mask's comm system, he'll give you clues of things you have to, essentially, take pictures of. For example, the first riddle you solve (the only one you HAVE to solve) reads: "Don't cut yourself on this Sharply observed portrait". Right next to you is a painting of the asylum's warden, Quincy Sharp. As you can see, oftentimes the riddles are pretty lame and obvious, and are made even more obvious by the inclusion of hidden maps that light up locations of riddles on the in-game map of the island and its buildings. These riddles aren't necessary; they're just a distraction and timesink for the completionists among us. There is a neat little epilogue after solving the last riddle though, so it may be worth your while.

Your gear is upgraded through an XP system. You gain XP by solving riddles, completing game objectives (easily reviewed by looking at the map with the press of a button) and defeating bad guys. Most of the upgrades pertain to your armor and gear, but there are several unlockable combat moves as well. A personal favourite would have to be the inverted takedown, which involves Batman hanging upside-down and stringing up a hapless henchman as he strolls by underneath you. This is but one of the many utterly badass ways you can take down an enemy. The combat in B:AA is really something the programmers should be proud of. A free-flowing system, Batman seamlessly leaps from one baddie to the next, delivering blow after devastating blow. It's a simple system; the above is achieved by pointing in the bad

guy's direction and pressing a button, but when one takes into account the various counters, stuns, and different pieces of gear needed to take some of these guys down, the end result is a well-orchestrated ballet of beat downs. As your opponent lies on the floor, you also have the option to finish them off, where Batman jumps on their chest and punches them in the face. Yes, it's as fun as it sounds. It's even more fun when the game screws up and does it backward, and Batman ends up sitting on their face and punching them in the junk. I have a sneaking suspicion that that's not actually a technical error, and is in fact intentionally brutal. Either way, I can't get enough of it. The beat downs in this game are just so satisfying.

The game also shakes things up with the inclusion of "Detective Vision": a visual style that helps the World's Greatest Detective more easily pick out clues, and shows you your enemies through walls to help you better plan your attack. Upon targeting someone in-game, a small note appears beside them detailing their current status: calm, nervous, frantic, etc. Certain rooms require you to stealthily dispatch a room full of hostiles, usually packing guns. This usually involves swinging from gargoyle to gargoyle (there are a surprising abundance of stone gargoyles inside some of the buildings' larger rooms) and taking them out one by one in a number of ways. When you ultimately take someone down, Joker will usually alert them on the PA, and the other hostiles in the room will move over to investigate. This is where

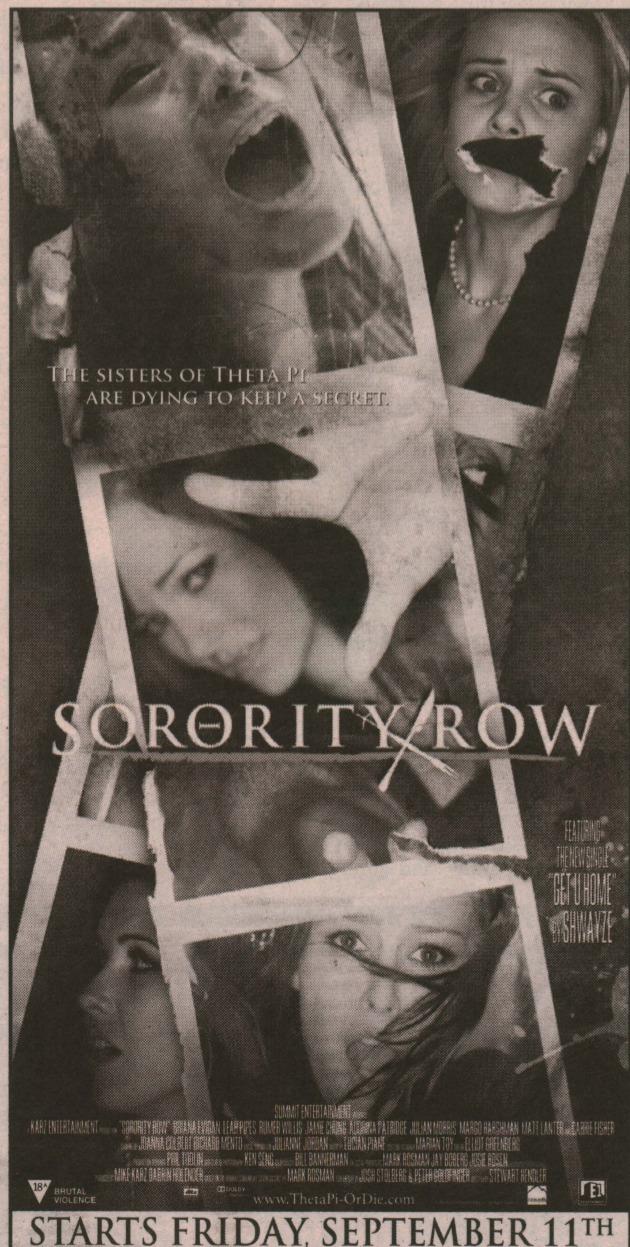
the inclusion of their current status comes into play: the more people taken down around them, the more nervous and panicked the henchman will become. Unfortunately, these rooms often show off the game's limited AI. When you're spotted, all you have to do to lose their scent is swing across the room a few times and suddenly they can't find you. Not only that, but if you're hanging upside down, even if you're not even a foot above them as they're walking toward you, they just won't see you.

Instead of typical levels and boss fights, the game uses each enemy's traits creatively. An outstanding example is how Batman interacts with the villain Scarecrow. As you probably know, his whole deal is that he has a certain drug that causes people to experience their worst fears. Several times throughout the game, as you're leaving a room, you'll notice gas faintly oozing in through the vents. The next room will lead into madness, as Batman is, in one instance, forced to relive his parents' death. These eerie moments are followed by weird little "hide-and-seek" matches between Batman and a giant Scarecrow, looking for you with glowing orange eyes as you make your way across a ruined landscape in order to make it to a spotlight, which apparently temporarily defeats Scarecrow, restoring your sanity. My description doesn't do it justice; it's way cool. It really breaks the monotony of making your way to the next area and clearing it of goons.

The game features a nice array of

distractions from the main story to keep you entertained throughout the game. Each room and area of the game is evenly split up so that you're not playing the same thing over and over again. After a short while of investigating something, you may encounter a room with a number of enemies, or you may be required to perform some specific task unique to the situation. Aside from the main story, the game includes a small number of "Challenge Rooms", which come in two varieties: Combat and Predator. The Combat rooms involve dispatching a small room full of bad guys, and the Predator rooms involve taking out a large room full of bad guys without being noticed. Scores on these rooms are uploaded to a scoreboard, so you can always go back and try to beat someone's high score.

A mix of action and exploration, stealth and in-your-face beat downs, Batman: Arkham Asylum is an outstanding game with only a few minor glitches and faults. The riddles are a little dry or easy sometimes, but there's just so much about the game that shines that its downfalls are easy to overlook. The voice acting is phenomenal (featuring the cast of the early-to-mid 90's Batman animated series), the presentation is crisp and clean, (with no obtrusive HUD to speak of,) and the controls are fluid and easy to master. If you have the time and money, I definitely recommend at least renting this one. Batman: Arkham Asylum is available on the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360.



Martimes - SMU

My name is Nick Madore and I am your new Arts & Entertainment editor for this year. As you may or may not recall, I began writing for the Journal way back in winter 2008, mostly writing articles about video games quite casually. Last year I got a little more serious, writing something almost every week, again, mostly about games. This year I plan to overhaul the A&E section, throwing in more articles about music, more weekly features, and a few other surprises.

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DILSHAD INTERVIEW

NICK MADORE

A & E Editor

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to interview Dilshad Vadsaria, who plays Rebecca Logan on the college dramedy Greek. Set in the United States, the show deals with "Greek life" -fraternities, sororities, and everything involved therein, with each house named by Greek letters. Fortunately for us Canadians whose knowledge of such things extends no farther than films like Animal House or Revenge of the Nerds (one of this writer's favourite films of all time), the show deals with subjects our demographic are familiar with.

Reminiscent of a college-age Degrassi or 90210, Greek mainly focuses on the characters and activities of the Zeta Beta Zeta sorority house along with a couple of fraternity houses and the lives and loves of its members. A ZBZ sister herself, Rebecca Logan is the daughter of a senator who was recently involved in a prostitution scandal. Often playing the "rich bitch" role, Rebecca lashes out in different ways, breaking down some friendships and building up others. An emotional roller coaster personality-wise, she seems to have calmed down and opened up to those around her as of late.

Dilshad acknowledged that the show's portrayal of college life at the show's fictional Cyprus-Rhodes University wasn't similar to how life was in reality at her alma mater, the University of Delaware. Dilshad explained "It's very different. For example, I worked to put myself through school and I had to take out a lot of loans on top of that. My character doesn't have to worry about any of that." She continued, "we don't necessarily show our characters studying as much, because that's not really entertaining [to show the characters] studying all the time. There are factors of that in the storyline and whatnot, but I remember studying, gosh, all the time and having labs on top of that and having two jobs on top of that." Unlike her character, Dilshad did not pursue the Greek lifestyle during her time at Delaware. "Working two jobs and having to pay for my own education and taking out loans; [being in a sorority] may not have been the smartest thing for me. But rush was a lot of fun and it was a great experience. I'm really glad I did that because there's no other experience out there like it."

Greek, being the provocative, relevant-to-our-demographic show that is, deals with a spectrum of topics, but the focus of several story arcs have dealt with homosexuality. Dil-

shad asserts that the writers make great attempts to treat that theme with realistically. "[Creator, writer] Patrick Sean Smith is really sensitive to that, him being part of the gay, lesbian, transgendered community, so they try to make it very, very realistic. I think it plays true now, as opposed to maybe 10 years ago when people would probably not be as open to being gay, or being lesbian. I think now, you can go into high school and I think students are openly accepted for being gay. It's not as big of a deal, where that wasn't really the case just a few years back. But there's a stigma to that, still, and I don't think we really have to be naïve to that." The writers also take into account the personal lives of the cast. "Calvin, who is played by Paul James, comes across some things that he may bring across himself, but also things he experiences in his [fraternity] house. So I think that it balances that out pretty realistically. Depending on what part of the world we're in, it's not going to be as much of a stigma as it might be in a smaller town depending on who you come across. They do a really good job of that, being able to relate to people who may be going through

Continued on page 9 under "Dilshad Interview Continued"



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BUSINESS & SCIENCE

ALOHA JOURNAL READERS!

My name is Mo, and I will be editing the Business and Science section of the Journal for the 2009-'10 school year. I am looking forward to sharing my thoughts with you as well as my life experiences through the business and science realm. I want you to be wowed and a bit uncomfortable when you read my section as it will be edgy and thought provoking. I will be taking journalism to another level on a solar plane and you will be my passengers. Whether you choose to stay on said plane or jump off the choice is yours to make. With your help I want this section to be that masterpiece that can be exposed in an exhibit, so that others can marvel at the accomplishments that are showcased at this majestic paper. Well... maybe that was a bit much, but you get the point. Please send me your feedback and/or contributions and I'll be happy to add them in.

WHAT BUSINESS IS THAT OF YOURS

Cadbury, the British candy maker, rejects Kraft's 16.7 million dollar offer to merge companies. Though Cadbury's stocks have been in the toilet lately, the company wants to stay true to the Crown. If Kraft takes over who knows what turn the chocolate compa-

UNRELATED, BUT I JUST HAD TO SAY...

- The Metro customers who pay in pennies... enough said.
- Full bloom conversations on the sidewalk that involve three or more people blocking the walkway
- Yes... I'm talking to you... the folks who walk around campus with the high smelling perfume and over priced night club attire. You're the reason why we're called Robie Street High.
- Closed shower curtains... don't ask
- The write ups on the Vitamin Water bottles. Those are HILARIOUS!
- The changes faces Facebook
- If you see a lost freshman wandering the halls of McNally North with a new backpack and 5 brand new books trying to find a Loyola class, take time to direct them where they need to go.

THE ACE SOCIETY

STEPHEN SMITH

Ace Society

At ACE SMU, we realize how important coffee is to university students. But instead of buying coffee every morning, and waiting in that mile-long 8:30 am Tim Hortons line, why not get yourself a self-timed coffee maker? Not only will you save money, but you'll save the environment too. Just try to not look too smug when you breeze past the hordes on your way to class early for once.

The members of ACE SMU heard the

same things from their mothers that you did from yours: breakfast is the most important meal of the day, you should eat breakfast, blah blah blah. To be quite honest, we never listened, but you can learn from our mistake. Breakfast is a cheap and easy way to make the most of your day, it leads to better grades, a cheerier mood, and actually helps you lose weight because it fends off the urge to grab that 10 am donut between classes, or pig out at lunch. So grab a box of Rice Krispies and some milk, spread some peanut butter on toast, or throw some fruit and yogurt into a blender for a delicious (and portable) smoothie! And after that, call your mother, she misses you.

ACE SMU's motto is "Defining The Path Of Champions", and last time, we discussed how to be a breakfast champ. But what about lunch? The Dockside beckons with its greasy delights, but why not think ahead? Take your favourite dinner recipe, and make twice as much as you need. Then sit down to a fantastic meal, and package up the rest for tomorrow's lunch. Done!

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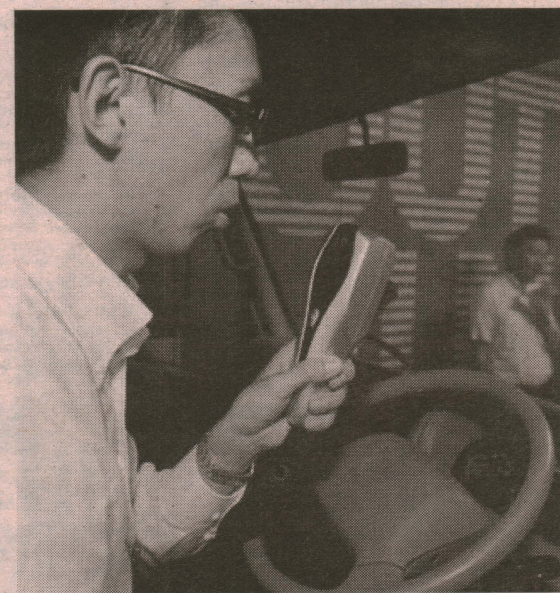
Courtesy of: www.chinavision.com

The solar vest charger hails from China. This device beats Anderson Cooper 2-1. It's not the most stylish piece of attire, but if you're looking to save the planet and charge your electronics on the go, this is for you. The vest charges 5-20 volts and comes equipped with solar panels that inform you about how much power is stored in the vest. You can purchase your solar vest charger for \$134.18 CAD online while supplies last. There is also a youtube link on the website to illustrate the usages of the solar vest charger. http://www.chinavision.com/product_info.php/pName/solar-vest-solar-battery-charger-for-portable-electronics/

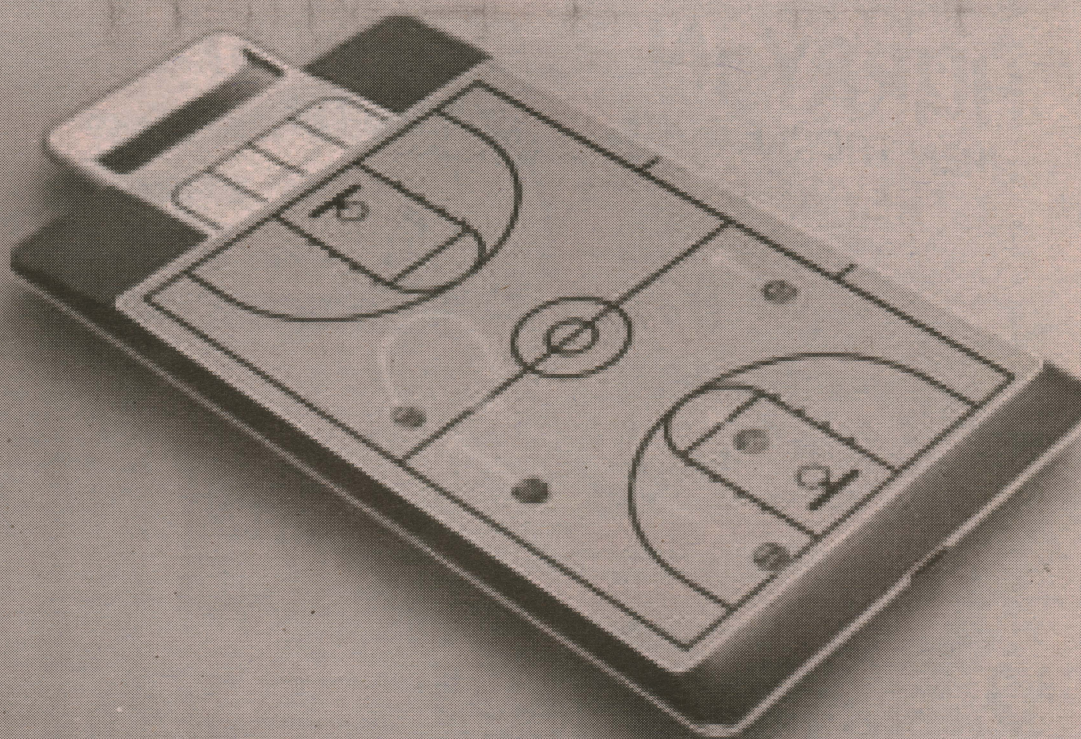


Toyota Integrates Breathalyzers in Cars

MADD will be thrilled to know that Toyota will soon introduce breathalyzers in its cars. Nissan is also following suit due to drunk-driving laws enforced in the United States. When the driver breathes in the device, the car determines whether he or she is capable enough to drive. The ignition shuts down if high levels of alcohol are detected in the driver. If this is mandatory, how do you get drives to use it? Would the car not start until you breathe on the device? This is how it starts folks: the machines are slowly taking over.



Basketball



High Tech Clipboard for Coaches

Huskies coaches, lend me your ears! This clipboard is the solution from Gordon Yeh from Iota Creations. Batteries are included and there are templates for fields and courts. The plays that the coaches draw up can be reviewed by the players over and over. I know right! There is also the electronic writing feature where you can draw those lines like they do on Television when a play is being reviewed. This is the best thing since slice bread for coaches. It is not certain as to where these are sold at the time, but check your budgets; they're the next best thing.

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DILSHAD INTERVIEW CONTINUED

something that would be the same, and having questions and wondering.”

Not only do the writers take into account the personal lives of the cast, but the cast sometimes meets the writers halfway and researches what their characters might be like in reality. “It’s important for me to know things like where she lives, and what kind of house she lives in, who her parents are and what her everyday life is like. I started with political figures and their daughters. The Bush twins, that was a big one, and other senators with their daughters that I looked into, too, just to get me started. Af-

ter that it kind of takes on a life of its own, but that was my starting point.”

We spoke briefly of what happens to the characters in the upcoming season of the show. “I can’t tell you how it ends because, frankly, I don’t even know. We haven’t shot the season finale so I don’t have the full picture yet, but I do know that this season we’re shooting is going to be rocky for ZBZ. We’ve lost our #1 stance and we’re really fighting to get it back. It’s a big deal to the girls, obviously. Now there’s another sorority that’s going to come in and take their place. We didn’t expect it, so now it’s kind of

hit us. We have new leadership under Ashleigh, so it creates all this drama within the house with her trying to be a president, and the girls wanting to be #1 again, and the pledges saying, ‘what’s going on, this is not what we signed up for,’ there’s a lot going on.”

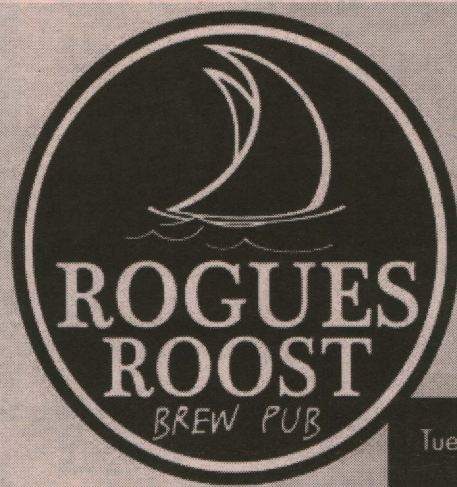
Season 3 of Greek premieres in Canada later this fall on MuchMusic. For now, you can watch full episodes on MuchMusic.com/TV/Greek. Though, if you’re anything like me, you can figure out “other ways” to obtain TV shows online. Not that any member of The Journal condones piracy of any form, of course.



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SPORTS



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 Saturday 12 September Lethbridge @ SMU 12 noon

Men's Soccer
 Sunday 13 September CBU @ SMU 315 pm

Women's Soccer
 Sunday 13 September CBU @ SMU 1 pm

Asshole of the Week!

This goes out to all you people who walk unbearably slowly and take up the entire sidewalk. Normally it doesn't matter, I'll just go around but when I have an entire weeks worth of groceries in my hands how about having some consideration and situational awareness and moving off to the side or not walking three abreast with your buddies at a pace that would cause a snail pain. You may not have anything better to do but some of us have lives and responsibilities that we have to get back to. Smarten up and walk like real people.

Asshole of the week submissions can be sent to sports.smu@gmail.com and can do not have to be sports related. Assholes can be found anywhere.

Assholes can be found anywhere!

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SPORTS EDITOR JASON MACDONALD

I am indeed Jason MacDonald, Journal Sports Editor and in honour of this being the sports section I would like to give everyone some of my stats.

Academic Year: 4th
 Years I have Worked at The Journal: 1 year as sports editor, 1 more year as sports photographer.
 Sports Played: Rugby with SMU RFC and Ultimate Frisbee
 Favourite Sports: Hockey, Rugby, Olympic freestyle wrestling

This year I would like to improve coverage and student attendance at women's sporting events and all games in general. Remember these are students just like you and deserve all of the support that you can give them.

That's enough about me for now, if you are a student, athlete, coach, manager, trainer, volunteer or have any other possible affiliation with a sports team or not don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, comments or gaming tips you can think of.

Hope to see you all this season!
 Jason MacDonald
 Sports.smu@gmail.com

INTRAMURAL AND CLUB SPORTS

JASON MACDONALD Sports Editor

Saint Mary's University has a long history of Academic and Athletic excellence and though there are men's and women's varsity teams there is another group of sports teams that are less well know but equally successful and fun for the participants, intramural and club sports.

The intramural sports include Co-Ed Broomball, Competitive and Recreational Soccer, Flag Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball Tournament Softball, Men's and Women's Volleyball, Golf Tournament, Badminton and Ice Hockey in the Fall. The Winter Intramural sports include Broomball Co-ed Tourn., Co-ed Indoor Soccer, 3-on-3 Basketball Tourn., Co-ed Basketball, Mens Rec. Basketball, Mens Comp.

Basketball, Co-ed Rec. Volleyball, Co-ed Comp. Volleyball, Loyola-Rice Hockey Chall., Badminton Tournament, Dodgeball Tournament, Ice Hockey All of the Intramural sports can be signed up for through the Intramural Office, 2nd floor of The Tower.

Club sports are teams that play outside of the AUS, generally teams that aren't common to all universities in Atlantic Canada or competitions between schools of different sizes. Club teams include Men's Baseball, Dance Team, Men's Rugby, Field Lacrosse, Cheerleading, Martial Arts, Equestrian, Curling and Golf. Practice times and competition schedules can all be found at www.smu.ca/athletics/intramural/clubs.html as can all contact information for the teams.

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



Photo Credit: Jason MacDonald



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TURFBURN™ 2009



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JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor

It's that time of year again, yep that's right, it's time for frosh to make asses of themselves while O-week coordinators and leaders watch in glee. Turfburn is a time honoured frosh-week event, it's a chance for students to meet other first years, play silly games, have fun and of course rip on Dalhousie (more like Dal-lousy) as much as possible.

Turfburn 2009 was a rousing success, an energetic group of frosh sang and cheered along, after some gentle prodding from leaders, to renditions of "There's A Hole In the City/Valley/Province and it's called DalU/ Acadia/The X-men", "The Lion Hunters Saga" and general loudness. The Frosh class also got their first of many addresses from Dr. J Colin Dodds.

To help encourage the frosh with their participation the Facilitators and Group Leaders are an energetic group of SMU students who are always willing to do what is needed to make their charges get pumped be it public humiliation like SMU-ing your Butt

or just being that little bit louder than the frosh and forcing them to keep up or get out.

Once the requisite amount of cheers and songs have been sung the frosh were broken down into 20 teams and proceeded to compete at 10 different events and games including a lemon toss, giant twister, human knot, huckle buckle, monkey soccer, full body Rock Paper Scissors, longest line (an excuse for frosh to get naked) and a bucket pass. Tokens are awarded for the team that wins the games and the team with the most tokens at the end of the day are given first place in line at the BBQ later. Winning is also a matter of pride for some frosh, to beat out 400 other frosh at games is a big deal, it is a memory that you will cherish for all time.

Turfburn is the traditional kick off to frosh week and other frosh events, for a complete listing of the remainder of frosh week event see the Frosh Week section in Feature

THE JOURNAL WANTS YOU

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INTRAMURAL AND CLUB SPORTS

JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor

The 2008-2009 season was a very successful one for the Saint Mary's Huskies. The SMU Football Team, the pride and joy of the SMU community finished their season ranked #1 in the AUS and made it all the way to the Uteck Bowl, proving their might as a football powerhouse and making Huskies young and old proud to cheer for SMU.

Also successful were the Men's Hockey Team, Women's Rugby, Men's Soccer and Women's Volleyball teams, all four teams were ranked 2nd in the AUS and had impressive records as well.

With many returning players and a large pool of new talent coming into the varsity community in the 2009-2010 season the Huskies can expect nothing but more success in the up-coming years, possibly enough success to help thrust the Huskies into an even more prominent position and make everyone proud to play or cheer for them.

Photo Credit: Jason MacDonald



SMU ATHLETES HONOURED

JASON MACDONALD
Sports Editor

The Saint Mary's Department of Athletics and Recreation honoured varsity athletes this spring at the sports award banquet. The banquet was a night of laughs, tears and

more laughs. The event was hosted by Joe Doherty and Jamie McInnis who shared banter back and forth and with the coaches helped keep the event light and funny.

There were numerous awards given out including recognition to graduating players and 3rd year players but the awards that everyone wanted to hear were Male and Female athlete of the year and team MVP, all are listed below.

FEMALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
Year Amanada Smith, Basketball - 1st year,
Owen Sound, ON

MALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
Jahmeek Murray, Football - 1st year, Missis-
sauga, ON

PRESIDENT AWARD FEMALE
Christena MacRae, Volleyball - 4th year, Lo-
wer Sackville, NS

PRESIDENT AWARD MALE
Marc Rancourt, Hockey - 4th year, Glouces-
ter, ON

UNsung HERO AWARD
Scott Brophy, Hockey - 3rd year, Torbay, NL

MANAGER OF THE YEAR
Paul Mason, Football

STUDENT THERAPIST AWARD
Ashley Merrithew, Hockey

**OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VO-
LUNTEER**

Annelie Vandenberg
TEAM MVP'S
CROSS COUNTRY (F&M)
Kelsey Daley & Brad Orchard
TRACK & FIELD

Christine Carey & Garret Ramey
RUGBY

Adrienne MacDonald
MEN'S SOCCER

Jonathan MacNeil
FIELD HOCKEY

Maria Barreiro
WOMEN'S SOCCER

Heidi Pentz
MEN'S HOCKEY

Marc Rancourt
VOLLEYBALL

Christena MacRae
FOOTBALL

Joel Lipinski
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Kelsey Daley
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Mark McLaughlin & Joey Haywood
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Kori Cheverie

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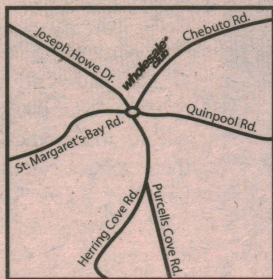
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