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LET THE CAMPAIGNING BEGIN!

See the candidates' statements on current issues—tuition hikes, the transit strike and more

The Year Labour Broke Down in Halifax?

MICHAEL LANGLAIS

These are bleak days for managers of municipal services in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Public transit workers with Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) local 508 walked off the job on the 2nd of February, leaving thousands of students, seniors and workers helplessly scrambling to find new ways to commute.

Water workers with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 108 are in a legal strike position, and could walk off the job with 48 hours notice. Even members of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) local 268, who aren't even due for renegotiation until 2016, have vowed to rally in solidarity with their fellow public servants.

Says firefighter Capt. Jim Gates, President of IAFF 268: "we just don't like what the city and council are doing with our transit workers [...] we understand that municipal politicians can't change, but once they set down the track record, it's very easy for upcoming politicians to follow that, and

we don't want to have anything to do with that kind of process."

“**...workers are fed up with the municipal government, and are teaming up to do something about it.**”

”
The unions are unhappy with the HRM Regional Council, which they blame for refusing to negotiate a fair deal with workers. The key message throughout the rallies, demonstrations and protests of the past week has always been the same, as summed up by Shane O'Leary, Vice-President of ATU local 508: "call the mayor, call your councillor, have your student unions work in your favour towards getting...

CONTINUED IN FEATURES—PAGE 8

Meet the Presidential Candidates



Jared Perry

Smudents,
You may have seen me or my ridiculous facial hair around school recently. We could be friends, you could even hate me or maybe you don't care about SMUSA elections and I'm about to take two minutes of your life that you are never going to get back. Either way, my name is Jared Perry and I am running for SMUSA President.

Summed up, the position of President basically involves the management of two essential tasks. On one side of the spectrum, I would be responsible for representing you on...

CONTINUED IN ELECTIONS—PAGE 7



Aayoosh Sapra

Fellow Santamarians,
How are you? I'll keep it short and sweet. Most of you have probably seen me walking around campus, or chatting to the beautiful ladies that take coffee breaks at Timmies – or having a pint at the Gorsebrook. I am a husky through and through (recently won the Atlantic Engineering Competition in debate, now reppin' all of Atlantic Canada – including our sly neighbors – in the Nationals taking place next month – Like a true Husky!). But what most of you don't know is I am running for...

CONTINUED IN ELECTIONS—PAGE 7



Adam Faber

My name is Adam Faber, and I love Saint Mary's too much to let it get away with anything less than the best. When writing for student publications or running the SMU Journal, I saw many things that were done well, and ways they could be even better. I believe the students and their school have a lot to offer, and the SMUSA President should offer a lot back as well. Building on the good ideas of past students is what I hope to do. I want to make being a student simpler and cheaper with ideas for both the short and long term.

Better Books: A space to leave the...
CONTINUED IN ELECTIONS—PAGE 7



Student Day of Action Rocks Victoria Park

DANIEL TRAINOR-MCKINNON—WRITER

The message of education for all was taken to the streets with Wednesday's massive inter-university protest. Throngs of SMU students and faculty union members came to show their support, only to be met by a veritable ocean of people, twice over, at University Avenue and Victoria Park.

Before some of the speeches began, I was able to catch some peoples' opinions about the issues of the protest. Hanna A., an actress and SMU Student, said she wanted to use her right, "As a citizen to stand up for what I think is right, which is education being free." She wasn't alone in her opinion.

In fact, everyone I talked with held the ideal that education is a universal human right. When asked about the massive debt student's face, Hanna continued, "If you want to be a doctor or lawyer, you pay it back, but what if you're really passionate about religious studies? ... Everybody needs to have the right to study what they want, and have it accessible to them."

As the protest stood tall at Victoria Park, speeches were made. Gabe Hoogers, president of the University of Kings College Student Union...

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
CAMPUS CALENDAR	LEGEND Presented by SMUSA Sporting Event / SMU Athletics Academic Event or Presented by SMU Alcohol Available No Entry Fee for SMU Students No Minors (19 years+ only) Gorsebrook Special To get your event added to the Campus Calendar, send an email to marketing.manager@smusa.ca		February 8 GAMES DAY The Gorsebrook Lounge 11:30am-7:00pm Twister, Board Games, and more! OPEN MIC NIGHT The Gorsebrook Lounge 9:30 pm	FREE SKATE Alumni Arena 1:00pm-2:30pm Bring your own skates WINTER ESCAPE PARTY presented by Appleton Estate The Gorsebrook Lounge 9:00pm-1:00am Get tickets @ SMUSA Office 5 th floor, Student Centre WING NIGHT 6pm - 9pm	Wentworth Ski Trip! \$50: gear, lift ticket, transport and lesson (if needed). Sign up and pay @ the Info Desk. Bus Leaves 9:30am from arena parking lot. ELECTIONS: Board of Directors open Forum Scotiabank Theatre 6:00 pm Volleyball: CBU @ SMU - 7pm Wmn's Hockey: SFX @ SMU - 7pm ALL DAY BRAKFAST The Gorsebrook Lounge	SATURDAY: 11/12 Men's Hockey: ACA @ SMU - 7pm Volleyball: UNB @ SMU - 2pm Basketball: MUN @ SMU Women's: 6pm Men's: 8pm SUNDAY: Basketball: MUN @ SMU Women's: 1pm Men's: 3pm
	13 ELECTIONS: Presidential Candidates Debate Scotiabank Theatre 6:00 pm	SMUSA ELECTIONS 14 Vote at smusa.ca or at various locations on campus Polling stations: 9am-6pm SUMMER COURSE REGISTRATION OPENS TRIVIA TUESDAY The Gorsebrook Lounge 7:00 pm	15 SMUSA ELECTIONS Vote online at smusa.ca or at various locations on campus. Polls close at 6:00 OPEN MIC NIGHT The Gorsebrook Lounge 9:30 pm	16 ELECTION RESULTS PARTY The Gorsebrook Lounge 9:00 pm WING NIGHT \$15 for 20 wings + Thundermug The Gorsebrook Lounge 6pm-9pm (all-ages until 7pm)	17 LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM FULL YEAR COURSES WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY Women's Hockey: DAL @ SMU - 7pm ALL DAY BRAKFAST The Gorsebrook Lounge	18/19 WINTER BREAK Feb 20-24 SMUSA, Husky Patrol, Gorsebrook, Student Centre caf.: CLOSED Loyola Tim Horton's: Reduced hours, to be posted SUNDAY: Women's Hockey: STU @ SMU - 2pm

SOBEY COMMERCE SOCIETY
at Saint Mary's University

Business Dinner
with **Irwin Simon**
CEO of the Hain Celestial Group



Monday, March 5th at 5:30 pm
World Trade and Convention Centre

Contact the Commerce Society Office in the BMO Lounge for more information

Commercesociety.smu@gmail.com

SMUSA Tutor Database is back and we need tutors!

To search for a tutor or apply to be a tutor, visit www.smusa.ca/tdb. You will need to create an account with us to access the database or apply to be a tutor.

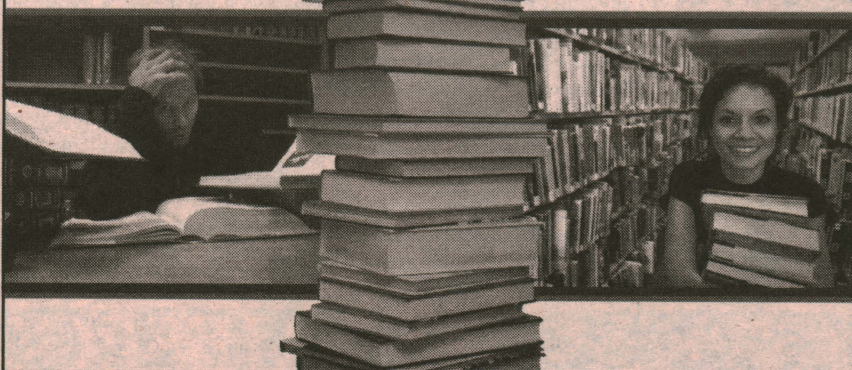
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- Tutors will charge no more than \$15.00 an hour for their services.
- Tutors are responsible for arranging for payment with their student.
- SMUSA is not responsible for any transactions.
- You need to have an A- in the class you wish to tutor.

WWW.SMUSA.CA/TDB

SEARCH FOR A TUTOR

APPLY TO BE A TUTOR



We're hiring!

SMUSA's accepting applications for positions beginning September 2012. It may seem early, but think of how much better your Summer will be knowing you've got a job waiting for you on campus in September!

We're hiring for the following positions:

- **Gorsebrook Bar Staff**
- **Gorsebrook Door Staff**
- **Information Desk Supervisor**
- **Information Desk Staff**
- **Husky Patrol Supervisor**
- **Husky Patrol Drivers**
- **Liquor Services Staff**

Application Deadline:

FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY AT 5:00PM

Job descriptions & applications available at www.SMUSA.ca or at the SMUSA offices on the 5th floor of the Student Centre.

We will be hiring our Vice Presidents and events-related positions in March. Stay tuned.

the journal

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Wednesday 5pm
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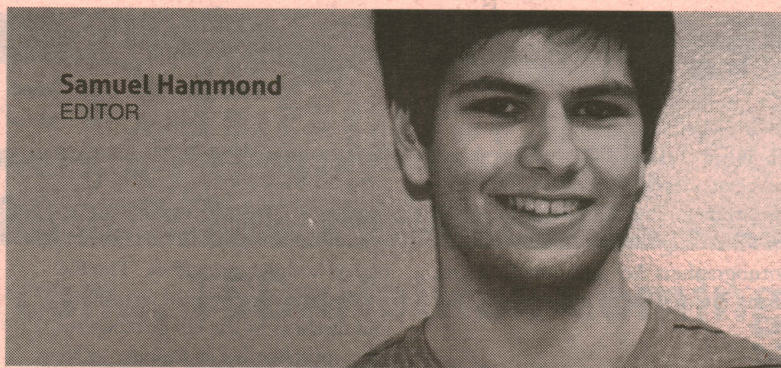
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Disclosure

In this year's election it just so happens that one of the Journal's Editors in Chief is running for Board of Directors. To avoid any conflict of interest or unfair advantages, co-editor and non-candidate Kaylyn Jeffrey has assumed total responsibility for election coverage. For questions contact Kaylyn or the CRO.



Samuel Hammond
EDITOR



Kaylyn Jeffrey
EDITOR

Ground Zero

SAMUEL HAMMOND & KAYLYN JEFFREY—EDITORS

The Saint Mary's University Journal is back. Over three months have gone by since our last issue, October 31st, before a series of unfortunate (and shameful) events precipitated the self-destruction of our newspaper. What was once a preeminent 76 year old student run institution devolved overnight into an empty corner office, Christmas ornaments strewn across the place as if mid-way into decorating the editor had been raptured up to heaven.

All the better if he had. In reality, our editor quit – with resignations from our Director and Business Manager following suit. The most diplomatic explanation falls under the umbrella of 'petty drama' and incompetence – really the most trivial stuff you could imagine. Yet the repercussions were anything but trivial. With our contributors and hard working volunteers confused and their trust violated, the board of directors went into panic mode and essentially shutdown all operations.

Since then a lot has happened. Our not-so-permanent writer Sean Esten moved back home to Maine. Our business manager has been replaced by the fresh-faced Michael Langlais. Also joining the team is the excellent Glen Dufour on layout and design. Finally, there's us – Samuel Hammond and Kaylyn Jeffrey, your new Editors in Chief – and the only two left standing in the rubble after the Journal came crashing down.

We have had about three weeks to prepare this issue from scratch, but it was just in time. It is election season and Valentine's Day is upon us, the Amalgamated Transit Union is holding HRM under de facto house arrest, and Saint Mary's University continues to play host to some of the best college athletics in the country. Simply put, there is a lot to write about.

This is where you come in. The SMU Journal is your student newspaper. Seriously. A small, small smidgen of your tuition goes into funding us. So please participate: Write to us. Submit stories, poems, cartoons, photos, whatever! With more tuition hikes down the line we too often hear complaints that we students are part of the voiceless masses. That is simply not true. The SMU Journal is your forum to shout and be heard. So... Shout and be heard dammit.

While we are starting from ground zero, the Journal will persist so long as there is your volunteer support and enthusiasm. Like our page on Facebook for updates at facebook.com/SMUjournal and follow us on Twitter @TheSMUJournal. Get involved. Add to your portfolio. Your university will be better for it.

Sincerely,
The Editors



John Cusack

Saint Mary's Graduate Making Northern Ireland Documentary

ADAM FABER-WRITER

Having prepared for months to fly overseas and shoot a documentary in Belfast, Northern Ireland, these last two weeks are going by quickly for Saint Mary's graduate Jeff Cusack. "We feel pretty good. It's crunch time right now, so we're pretty busy." On February 13th, Cusack will climb onto a plane with his technical guru, Everett Stone, ready to dive headfirst into the troubled history of Northern Ireland.

"We are trying to examine the conflict resolution efforts in the area, with an eye on trying to recover from the past and prevent it from re-occurring." Says Cusack. The past he is referring to is known as The Troubles. From the late 1960s until 1998, fierce and violent clashes involving paramilitaries and security forces dominated an extended series of clashes in Northern Ireland, leaving more than 3500 people killed – among them nearly 2000 civilians.

Jeffrey and Everett plan on exploring the long-term effects and divisions that still exist, and the steps being taken to close these extreme rifts. "We want to show how important working toward peace is." It's a long road ahead, and the battles of the not-too distant past come through even at a hockey game. "If you go to a Belfast Giants game, the rules are you can't identify yourself with a flag or a soccer jersey... They're affiliated with sectarian identities, and your affiliation is a strong statement. Even being neutral can sometimes be interpreted as a political statement."

Cusack's first experience with Ireland was through a trip with other Saint Mary's students, working with local school populations to reach out and find some common ground. "The schools were amazing, the kids were

great... But walking into the schools it was surreal. Some of them have two layers of spiked barbed wire fencing, because in the past it was very necessary to make sure that nobody could just walk in and do violence to these kids. At some of these schools you would have things that make you expect that it was a military base." He's now going back to share his experience with as many people as he can reach.

The support the two have garnered from both individuals and businesses has been encouraging. Durty Nelly's downtown held an event to raise funds, and is planning to hold another St. Patrick's Day. "I grew up in Ireland in the sixties; when I was a kid every day I'd wake up and look at the newspaper it was constant death and violence." Said owner Joe McGuinness. "A lot of people believe it's a Catholic-Protestant thing, they don't understand."

Cusack feels there is a universality to the Northern Irish issue, "We're ghettoizing ourselves, containing people within our cities. Northern Ireland is a case study in the result of letting division become too important."

Individual donors have also chipped in with donations "From the beginning, people who have heard of this have been enthusiastic. Friends and family are worried we are walking into something dangerous, though. Financially people who have heard of the project donate a little here and there, but that all adds up." He says some smaller television networks have already shown interest, providing the most tangible signs of success to date, which is very welcome. "It was just us out there for so long, hoping this would come together. This is going to happen now, and it's really exciting."

Send a Letter to the Editors!

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The Revolution Will Not Be Megauploaded

KYLE TRIMPER—WRITER

You've probably heard about the controversial bill that was tabled in the United States entitled SOPA, as well as the seizure of the popular file-sharing site Megaupload and the prosecution of its founders. The news is filled with these stories, and the impact of internet sites such as Wikipedia has been widely felt around the globe.

SOPA, or the Stop Online Piracy Act, was a proposed piece of US legislation that would have allowed the US government to take down websites, including online behemoths like Google and Wikipedia, just for linking to websites that contained copyrighted material. They could even order internet service providers to block these sites. The bill would also allow the United States to apprehend and prosecute copyright violators outside of the United States.

The bill was proposed by Texas representative Lamar Smith, and it has lead him to come under intense criticism for several reasons. The first is the concern that SOPA would allow the US government to shut

down any site which it deems contains copyrighted material, such as Google, Wikipedia, Facebook, etc. Secondly, the bill is non-discriminatory, failing to acknowledge the differences between commercial and individual violations.

In contrast, Canada's government has tabled a copyright bill, Bill C-11, that has much more lenient provisions. Firstly, the bill allows the copying of copyrighted content for use at a later date, as well as the copying of content from one device to another (such as from CD to mp3) and the recording of broadcasts (TV, radio, etc.). Secondly, the bill allows use of copyrighted material for the purposes of education, satire and parody. Lastly, the bill acknowledges differences between commercial and individual violations: individuals are protected from excessive penalties imposed by lawsuits by copyright holders (a convicted individual is looking at a penalty of between \$100 and \$5000, far below the existing \$20,000 maximum). Needless to say, parties such as the RIAA, the CRIA, and the US government must be furious.

SOPA is not the first time Smith has been criticized for trying to police the internet. His previous proposal, the Protecting Children from Internet Pornographers Act, was criticized for saving internet users' information and

“SOPA would allow the US government to shut down any site which it deems contains copyrighted material, such as Google, Wikipedia, Facebook, ”

keeping it available for use in non-pornography related investigations without a warrant.

The bill has been vehemently opposed by internet users, as well as government officials, including the US President himself. Vocal and effective protest means that SOPA has

lost its support and has been tabled temporarily. Nevertheless, the US government has proceeded with its agenda as though SOPA had been passed and put into effect. The file-sharing site Megaupload was seized and disabled by the US government, who apprehended its founder in New Zealand and are working on having him extradited.

The problem is that Mr. Smith seems to lack a proper understanding of the internet and its implications. He seems to view the internet as the Wild West; however, by imposing his own brand of martial law, he is being just as unethical and malicious as the worst internet scammer out there. Saving internet users' personal and private information without a warrant in case it may become useful in an investigation at a later date is clearly unconstitutional. Not to mention unethical, immoral, and downright malicious.

Shutting down entire websites due to the suspicion that it may contain copyrighted material is absolutely ludicrous. It's essentially using a broadsword to do a scalpel's job. If

Smith intends to follow this policy, he has only one course of action: to shut down the entire internet. That leads me to Smith's next error.

Smith is stepping outside of his means. At worst, he seems to be trying to create some kind of international law the will allow the United States to police the world wide web, allowing them to go after even those domains hosted outside American territory. Domestically, he is legalizing the tools of a repressive national regime that could censor the internet at a national level, similar to in China. Even leaving this possibility would set the United States back economically and socially by further undermining trust the government, one thing they simply cannot afford.

Simply, SOPA was not thought out very well. No one has of yet created a viable bill to protect copyrights from internet piracy. And personally, I don't think anyone ever will: at least not until the internet itself is outmoded. Back to the drawing board...



Post secondary students are now largely grouped into H/8 - Peninsula South where they can claim their permanent residence when voting.

Students Are Enfranchised by New Municipal Amendment

ADAM FABER—WRITER

A few more students will be able to have a say in Halifax's municipal elections going forward. Recent amendments to the Municipal Elections Act has expanded the choice of districts to unmarried students who live in the HRM. Before the act was amended, an unwed student could only vote where his or her parent's address. The new changes allow these voters to consider themselves a resident of the area in which they spend the academic year.

"Allowing students to choose whether or not they vote at home or at school is a huge step forward for making young people full and valued citizens within their communities," says Alliance of NS Student Associations (ANSSA) Executive Director, Mark Coffin. "The old legislation made it very difficult for a young person to

participate in local government, this legislation makes it much easier."

Coupled with the new electoral boundaries being drawn across the city, this could strengthen the student voice in the city core and other areas. One of the city's hopefuls, Jerry Reddick (a.k.a. The Dawgfather) may see some positive results from this change with his student-centric approach. "It is estimated that the student economy of Halifax is worth almost \$2 billion a year. Now look at the bigger picture: Halifax's GDP in 2010 was \$13 billion. That means that the students of Halifax are responsible for generating 15% of Halifax's GDP." Says Reddick, "Students are a major cornerstone of our economy and are not being represented properly." He is optimistic about the impact students can have politically. "In October 2012, the

sleeping giant is going to wake up and make this city better for students."

Coffin still has steps he would like to see taken, however, to make the timing of the elections more in-tune with the student schedule. "If the government is serious about encouraging youth participation in democracy, the obvious next step is to amend section 10 of the act so that the 'ordinary polling day' for municipal elections across the province happens at some point after December 1st," adds Coffin, noting that students who leave for the summer are still out of luck. "The unfortunate timing of elections in Nova Scotia still sends the message that young people should not be full participants in democracy."

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Patrick Power Librarian Marie DeYoung

Patrick Power Library Pinching Pennies

ADAM FABER—WRITER

Funding reductions are making waves at Saint Mary's, and belts are being tightened all over the campus. The start of last semester marked a 3% hike in tuition fees, approximately \$150 extra for a student with a full course load. "We're getting less money in the front end," explains Steve Proctor from Saint Mary's external affairs, "we have 4% less coming in from the provincial government, our enrolment rate is flat, our costs and salaries are an extra \$1.5 million." Even with an increase in tuition, service cuts were required to balance Saint Mary's budget.

University Librarian Marie DeYoung saw the writing on the wall, so to speak, and arranged for the Patrick Power Library to trim its costs at the lowest possible impact. "We are

receiving \$90,000 less, which represents about 6.5% of our total acquisitions budget." DeYoung explains, "That's going to be shared across the different departments." The Senate has a formula that budgets how much of the pie each department gets, so while the amount of money gotten varies, the cut will be proportional. "Everyone is going to have to decide which publications they can do without. Maybe they'll choose the digital version over the print version, or a certain text will be passed over." Marie outlined other ways the library trimmed spending, all the way down to reducing stationery costs, "You can see I'm nickel-and-diming a bit here, but what we really wanted to avoid was offering less student employment. It's thanks to the students

that we offer the range of services that we do." With a more controlled descent DeYoung hopes to lessen the effect felt by patrons, but she adds that things are simply not as stable as they were before in regards to the budget. "We always had a three year plan, before. With a reduction in government funding we are relying more heavily on student enrolment to pay the bills, so we don't know what year two and three are going to look like."

DeYoung expressed satisfaction with the way the reductions were carried out, citing communication during the process. "There was definitely a dialogue, I could tell it was a cut they didn't want to make. What university wants to shrink their library?"

New year, new student lobbyist

ADAM FABER—WRITER

The Dalhousie Student Union is starting the new year with a new student advocate for Halifax issues; something that SMU once did as a team. "One thing that's interesting is that the student union puts a lot of input into provincial and federal lobbying. However we don't do a lot, if anything, at the municipal level," said Dalhousie student union president Chris Saulnier. The municipal relations coordinator is a part-time job, consisting of advocating to the city and coordinating with other schools. "I'm looking to create a partnership between student unions in the city."

When speaking with Mark Coffin, the Chair of the long gone Halifax Student Alliance that used to represent SMU, Dalhousie and the waterfront NSCC, he talked about how a number of school issues are outside the city's jurisdiction. "One of the things we wanted to focus on was housing affordability. Looking back at it we might have been better off focusing on something else, whereas that's a provincial thing." Coffin now works toward those very same Provincial issues as a representative at the Alliance of Nova Scotian Student Associations (ANSSA). "It's been a while since I talked about these issues," he mused, referring to the city's role in student life like bus passes and downtown safety. The municipal relations coordinator's mandate is to work with other local universities as well to further student interests.

Jacqueline Riemer
Six Low-Cast Maidens
in Search of a Porch

7 January - 4 March 2012

Opening Reception
Friday, 6 January, 8pm
Losar Celebration
& Musikon Concert
Friday, 24 February, 8pm

Saint Mary's University
Art Gallery
Loyola Bldg, First Floor
902-420-5445
gallery@smu.ca
smuartgallery.ca
11-5 Tuesday-Friday
12-5 Saturday-Sunday
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Student Day of Action Rocks Victoria Park

continued from page 1

DANIEL TRAINOR-MCKINNON—WRITER

...and Nova Scotia representative to the Canadian Federation of Students, ...was among the noteworthy speakers. He recalled saying the year before, "Government: Live up to your promises. Reduce student fees. Drop debt." As he built on the momentum of the crowd, he continued his rallying speech: "Our stage is Canada. And we're taking it over. We've seen governments fall across the world because of overwhelming pressure from social movements. Believe me when I tell you that we are being heard today ... In Nova Scotia, education is a right!"

As the crowd moved on, chants like "Education is a right! We will not give up the fight!" resounded like battle anthems. I spoke with Jenny O'Connell, a member of the SMU IDS Undergraduate Society, "This is why I'm here: Education is a universal human right, and the charter of human rights says that higher education should be equally accessible to all, based on merit. And it's not, it's based on money ... It's not fair at all." Jenny added that she had a friend who was "30 thousand dollars in debt, finishing up [their] undergraduate, and trying to raise a baby ... How are people supposed to do that?"

When the protest ended at NSCAD, the focus expanded to incorporate topics like the need for independent fine-arts education and a war against poverty. And with that, everyone enjoyed their last day of bus service. I reflected about talking with first year Chemistry student Daniel O'Hearn, who said: "I don't like the fact that the government is bumping up student fees" When I asked Daniel whether he thought education should be a right, he laconically replied, "Yes I do. In Europe it is, so in Canada, why not?"

Credit Cards No Longer Accepted for Tuition

ADAM FABER—WRITER

As you may have noticed, this is the end of Saint Mary's accepting credit card payments for tuition. The decision was made by the Board of Governors (BoG), a group who manage and control the university and its business affairs. As a group, they vote on major decisions related to university policy, and are made up of many elements of the university, representatives from SMUSA included. November 29th, 2010 a meeting was held by the BoG, and the decision to phase out credit cards was made. When asked after the meeting, then-SMUSA Vice-President Mike Mercer said: "It was either save money, or raise tuition. SMUSA voted in support of discontinuing credit cards."

By removing credit cards as a tuition payment option, Saint Mary's hopes to save the associated fees, which are on average 3% of the amount paid. If an international student paid his or her \$13,000 in fees via credit card, the university would lose almost \$400 to the credit card company. It is estimated by the university the policy change will save \$400,000 in fees. The policy change came into effect January 1st, 2012. The decision will not affect residence and program deposits.

Meet the Board of Directors Candidates!

Leo Yijun Li

Hi Everyone.
My name is Leo. I am a third-year student of Finance and Accounting. I am running in the election to become a member of the Board of Directors of SMUSA. Other than studying hard for exams and making sure my assignments are submitted on time, I have a broad range of interests. Sharing my experience and meeting the challenges of being a university student is one of them. Being a foreign student from China, I needed to work extra hard to overcome the language as well as the cultural barriers of studying in Canada. My experience gives me an objective awareness of the toil of students and a capacity for empathy for their challenges. I am enthusiastic to lend support to you, students at SMU, to promote your well-being and make your experience on campus a positive and memorable one. I have served as the President of the College Fellowship at my church, the Halifax Chinese Christian Church, for over a year. The position has been invaluable for me in the development of my leadership capacity, in knowing my weaknesses and strengths, to be a team builder, and in gaining the skill set needed to be a good leader and a facilitator in a multicultural setting. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the trust of people who elected me into my position. SMU is a cosmopolitan community and it is a big family. I am ready and willing to hear you, to meet you, and to serve you. I will be grateful if you would give me the opportunity.

Michael Langlais

Mike Langlais is making your life better every day. Whether it's the implementation of designated napping stations throughout the campus, finding creative new ways to keep you in touch with university life, or just getting the student community together for the mother of all parties, he is dedicated to making sure that your SMU experience is unforgettable. Mike is committed to the success of societies such as The SMU Journal in creating the rich, dynamic, student-driven environment in which you'll make the friends and connections that will serve you for a lifetime. Actively engaged in the executives of three community organisations in the HRM and bringing eight years of experience in leadership and management positions to the table, Mike Langlais has a vision for the future of Saint Mary's University and knows exactly how to attain it. Why not build on the successes that we already enjoy as SMUdents? Why not dream big, and participate in building an even better university for the future? Mike Langlais does, and he wants you to join him in having a hell of a good time building it. Because you like short naps and big dreams. Vote Mike Langlais – you won't regret it in the morning.

Jason Rondeau

Fellow SMUdents,
Over this campaign period, I am hoping I will be able to convince you that I am a solid choice to represent us on the SMUSA Board of Directors. Past leadership experiences, as well as many different learning opportunities (both across Canada and international) have taught me so much about working with others and accomplishing collective goals. By giving me the opportunity to share what I have learned and sit as a director of the board, I know we can build a strong progressive strategy for SMUSA.

I view the world as a global challenge and will jump at any opportunity to travel and explore new places. I love learning about different cultures, new languages, and the history of different countries. SMU is great for this as we have such a large international presence on our campus. Other passions of mine include the business world, and political science; so, naturally those are the two main focuses of my studies here at SMU.

I am best suited for a board position because, based on past experiences, I have proven that I am a hard worker, I take commitments seriously, I am able to balance my school, work, and personal lives, and I have a genuine interest in helping to develop SMUSA to be the best that it can be.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all. I love meeting new people, so message me and let's talk!

Mike Coady

Hey SMU students!
I am running for one of the seats on the Board of Directors. I am running because I am passionate about Saint Mary's and I want to get as many experiences as I can, and be as involved as I can be, during my time here. Perhaps more importantly why I will make an excellent Director: I am assertive, approachable, interested, easy to get along with, committed, and enthusiastic! And if you don't believe me you can ask my Mom, she'll tell you. If you were interested in my relevant skill set: I have extensive experience working in groups, I am able to read (even dry policies), and I can sit in a chair for long periods of time without fatigue. I'm sure you are already convinced to vote for me, but if you aren't that's okay. I was allotted 250 words, so I still have some time. Do you laugh at funny cat pictures on the internet? Me too! Look we already have so much in common. But in all seriousness, while I took some liberties with my write-up I assure you that I will take my position as Director very seriously and if you have any additional questions you wanted to ask me, you can like my facebook page or just stop me if you see me wheeling around school!

Chimhanda Rumbi

Fellow Huskies,
It's that time of year again when campus is covered with posters competing for your attention and vote. My name is Rumbi and I am a third year Political Science major. I am running for Board of Directors because I believe I can bring something unique to the organization. I stand for Revolution. Unity. Movement. Balance. International influence. (RUMBI). In other words, I would like to bring a positive change aimed at unifying the desires of all executive and non-executive SMUSA members, while moving the organization forward in a progressive direction that balances quantity and quality to mutually benefit all concerned. Lastly, being Zimbabwean, I would like to maintain a sense of internationality, seeing that 23% of SMUdents are from over 90 different countries. I believe I am suitable for the position because I am offering something timeless. I am offering principles. I don't want to make empty promises just to gain your vote, so instead I am offering you what I have: circumstances may change, but principles will always stand. I guarantee I will strive to do my job with excellence, honesty, transparency, loyalty, responsibility, and passion. I want to make your life easier, because YOU are my priority. I am here to serve you and make sure your interests are protected and fairly represented. The power to change the future lies with you. Vote RUMBI. You won't be disappointed.

Neal El-Qaoud

Fellow SMUdents,
My name is Neal El-Qaoud and I am one of your nominee's for the Board of Directors position. As a Commerce student majoring in Finance and Accounting, what I bring forth to the table is an extremely energetic, upbeat and positive attitude in dealing with any type of personal relations.

I am one who is about action, and as a member of the Board of Directors, I would make it my solemn duty to ensure that any and all decisions made on school policy will reflect the needs of the student body as a whole; for I myself am a student. I plan to bring enthusiasm and positive change to the organization, for my belief is that every person, business and organization can always have room for improvement and that we as a school must not settle for anything less than excellence for that is what we deserve.

As a potential member of the Board of Directors, you can rest assured that voting for me is the right decision, unlike the idea of skipping class or choosing a night on the town. I look forward to working with the future President, VP's and the other members of The Board to ensure we bring forth the best upcoming year for our student body.

Vote Neal El-Qaoud for a voice behind closed doors.

Samuel Hammond

My philosophy is that everything is a work in progress, and Saint Mary's University is no exception. My seat on the Board of Directors will be used to represent student interests, from the local to our vibrant immigrant communities, by promoting common sense and pragmatic improvements to our governing policies. We don't need to over-haul the system every few years. Instead, work with what we've got to keep ourselves in budget but ever improving.

Everyday infrastructure like our poor stadium or a residence bottled necked by "elevator modernization" are handled with bad timing and neglect. Meanwhile, tuition is rising faster than the rate of inflation and we are facing cuts to our library as well as academic and sports program. Modesty is a virtue. We should be working on fixing what is broken and saving what is beloved before investing in entirely new projects.

That was my motivation behind rebuilding the SMU Journal. What is a University without a University paper? The same indifference and neglect that caused it to evaporate works its destruction everywhere. Fighting apathy and defending our institutions will be my cause.

There are a number of things that can be done right away with no cost at all. For instance: why do we outlaw Greek life on campus? Why do we spend so much on textbooks when there are legal and digital alternatives? As an Economics student I am taught to see opportunity costs everywhere. Now it is your opportunity to vote to correct them.

Megan Buote

I am currently a second year student in the arts department studying psychology and sociology. I am actively involved in my local community through volunteer work; I love giving back and seeing the rewards it has to offer. In addition I love to take part within the school community whether it is attending events, cheering on our sports teams, being a frosh leader or helping my peers.

I feel I am best suited for a position on the board of directors because in grade twelve I sat on the HRM School Board Committee as a student representative. As the Student Representative I met with both school board members and students, reviewed documents and gave constructive feedback as well as voicing the opinions of my fellow students at the monthly school board meetings. I was also an active member of student council and a student representative for the School Advisory Council; I held these two positions from junior high up until the end of grade twelve.

You should vote for me as I have the necessary experience and drive to represent each of my fellow students as a member of the University's Board of Directors.

Scott Smith

Hello Fellow SMUdents!
My name is Gerald Scott Smith, though I go by Scott. I was born and raised in Halifax and graduated from Halifax West High School in 2009. I am currently studying the sciences at Saint Mary's and plan on majoring in Biology. After my Science degree, I hope to get into either an MBA program or an Education program. Like most students today, I hold a part-time job, myself at Atlantic Superstore, to get through university.

Enough of that boring stuff though, let's get to the point. I am currently one of many candidates running for Board of Directors of the Saint Mary's University Students' Association. Out of all these candidates, why should you vote for me? Because I'm a hardworking, loyal, passionate person, and I love doing what I do. Whether it's where I'm from, my sports teams, or where I go to school, I'm proud of what I am. I want to help make sure Saint Mary's is moving in the right direction. Whether it's my part-time job, or my fraternity, I'm known as a hard worker, and have been entrusted with leadership positions. Now I am asking for you to entrust in me, and vote G. Scott Smith for SMUSA Board of Directors come election time. Don't forget, casting your vote helps to make SMU a stronger school. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and remember, "Scotty DOES know!"

Beth Cole

Hi Students,
My name is Beth Cole and I am applying for a position on the SMUSA Board of Directors for the upcoming 2012-2013 academic year. Why should you care? Well, I am currently in my third year of an Accounting major and would be pleased to represent your needs in my final year here.

Some of you might know me but for those who don't, you might have seen me around the university; at the Tower playing squash, in class, in residence over the last three years, wings at the Gorsebrook, or a couple of the societies I am a member of; feel free to stop me and introduce yourself the next time you see me. I would like to represent our student needs on the Board of Directors and feel that I bring a well-rounded, involved, and informative awareness to the committee. What some students may not realize is how important it is to have an association whose foremost initiatives are for us, the students. Your president and all associates are representatives of the university and you; it is our pleasure to listen to your needs and stand up and battle with the policies and governance on behalf of improving student life at Saint Mary's.

I look forward to answering any questions that you would like to direct to me involving my running to become a member on the Board of Directors. You can find me on Facebook at Beth Cole for Board or email me at beth.cole@hotmail.com.

Alex MacLeod

Cool. Hello all you avid and dedicated Journal readers out there, my name is Alex MacLeod. I happen to be running for SMUSA's Board of Directors for the upcoming school year and it would be most dope to have your support. Some of you may already know me and others may have seen me around campus, possibly leading a large pack of people around campus and showing them the ins and outs of our great university. For the larger population that has no idea who I am, I'll fill you in on what you've been missing. I'm a third year commerce student hailing from beautiful Fall River, Nova Scotia. I am 6 feet tall with striking blue eyes and an easy going, fun attitude. In my free time I like to do homework, listen to music, chill out, or suit up. I'm always up for exciting activities when opportunities, such as this, come along. That description may or may not have partially or fully come from my Plenty of Fish account... In all seriousness, I really care about Saint Mary's and I would appreciate the chance to help influence student life as a member of the Board of Directors. If you see me in the hallways, come say hello or ask me any questions on why you should vote for me. The most important thing is that you all vote for the individuals you think will best suit our University. Thanks guys.

Sylvia Gawad

My name is Sylvia Gawad. I am a third year international science student majoring in Biology and minoring in Psychology. During my time at SMU, I have been involved in a range of societies and campus programs, including a member of the African Society, the Biology Society, the Chemistry Society and WUSC. I am currently a member of Campus Security and a Student Ambassador for Admissions and Recruitment. Being on the Board of Directors would provide me with the opportunity to represent and advocate for students.

My main goal as a board member would be to increase communication between students, SMUSA, and the University's Board of Directors. Through my involvement at SMU, I have had the opportunity to speak with current and prospective University students, and am aware of their interests and concerns. I have heard the differences between what both groups want and expect to get out of attending SMU, and what current students feel they are actually receiving from the school. By restructuring the communication process, students will be more confident that their opinions are being voiced and worked on, which will encourage them to get more involved and stay involved in university programs.

Being from Egypt, working with people from many different cultures, and being involved in a variety of university programs helps me to understand issues arising from different student groups, and know how to respond to them with a more informed and educated perspective. Strength in Diversity. One Board, Many Cultures, Your Choice. Vote Sylvia.

Henry Annan

Dear Santamarians,
My name is Henry Annan and am a second year Biology and Chemistry student. As an active member of the SMU Biology Society, offering tutorials to first year biologists, and as a Student Ambassador, singing SMU's praises to many prospective students, I meet many young Santamarians and continue to be proud of the talent Saint Mary's University attracts each year. Unfortunately, Saint Mary's also faces many challenges that threaten our success as a student body—the most important being the tuition hikes stemming from the incessant funding cuts from the Nova Scotia government. As a member of the Board of Directors, I will make it my ultimate goal to ensure that the plight of the Saint Mary's student is heard both by the SMU administration and the Nova Scotia government. As a well-travelled individual, a member of the SMU African Society, I will also make sure that policies put in place are reflective of Saint Mary's multicultural population. Not many Atlantic Canadian universities can boast of the diversity here at Saint Mary's, and I will make sure that our diversity is always a cause for celebration and is not overlooked! Finally, if I would be so privileged as to serve on your Board of Directors, I promise to be your voice of sustainable change during my entire tenure. With this, I ask that on February 14th and 15th, that you vote Henry Annan as your #1 choice for member of the SMU Board of Directors!

Bafana Mashingaidze

My name is Bafana Mashingaidze and I am a second year psychology student. When I first arrived at Saint Mary's University, there was a welcoming atmosphere that helped me easily adjust to the individual culture that was SMU. I am running for the board of directors and if elected, I will make it my goal to continue this atmosphere of warmth and acceptance. As a student of this establishment, along with the other board members, I aim to show the value of tertiary education to the ruling powers and get them to understand that as they increase fees, they lower the chances of everyday students going through university. If any changes are to be made in the way these institutions are charging for tuition, it has to come from the students, and if voted onto the board, I will make it my number one priority to bring that up at every possible opportunity. This university has been a building block for an uncountable number of professionals and if voted onto the board, I will put all my efforts into developing the school from strength to strength. Success builds character, and character takes you places money cannot. Saint Mary's strives to develop all the aspects of each individual, and helping each individual develop will be my goal.

Meet the Presidential Candidates!

continued from page 1



Adam Faber

continued from page 1

...books you plan to sell would make buying and selling books much easier and cheaper. Drop off your books, pick up your cheque when they sell. We already have the space and people needed to make this a reality, and all of the hassle of trying to meet up with your book buyer would be removed. Many students simply don't have the time to spend chasing a deal, so they wind up paying more than they need to through the book buyback program. By enabling students to help each other save, we get to take control and every student wins while sending a powerful message.

Better Promotion: Students should be able to see what is going on around

Saint Mary's in the blink of an eye. We've got a great website, but events never seem to make their way into the mix online. I'll give societies direct access to the SMUSA calendar so they can easily post their events, giving students a one-stop-shop for what's happening.

Better Communication: Many students feel detached from their student government, unsure as to what they actually do. Even the minutes from board meetings are put up haphazardly and long after they are useful. I promise to release weekly updates detailing the Student Union's activities, not only to help students feel connected and in the loop, but to help train and showcase to the next batch of active students what we can achieve!

These are just three quick examples of how we can build on the great ideas that have already been implemented by my predecessors; I have many more. In a time when universities and governments are looking to find savings anywhere possible, we need to protect and improve the valuable support that SMUSA provides to the student body. I am so proud and humbled by the opportunity to help and support my fellow students. I am ready for the challenge of giving back to the students as much as has been given to me.

www.adamfaber.ca



Aayoosh Sapra

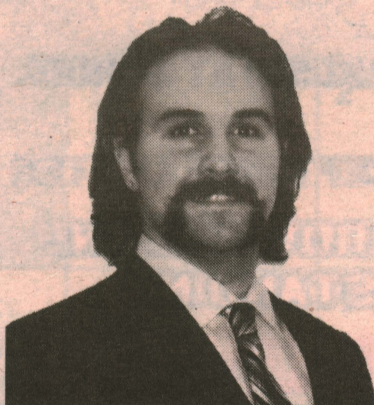
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...President (&CEO) of SMUSA (the SMU student association) – and I am asking for you to be a proactive student and vote for the next President. You might be wondering why that vote should be mine. Simple. Experience.

I bring to the table immense student association and council experience. I have in the past been, and currently am the Vice-President for a student association. My experience even extends back to my high-school days, where I was a Cultural Events Prefect, and Vice-Head Boy. What do I want to do with this experience is probably your next question. My answer to that is a highly comprehensive campaign platform that you will be able to find online. My vision is a more informed and engaged student body that participates in the decision making process as much as the more fun and targeted events I foresee in the near future. And believe me - I plan to exhaust all means to achieve that. Some of the things my campaign platform encompasses are: Lower tuition, introduction of textbook rental Program, the ability to pay tuition in installments, increased on-campus employment opportunities, increased society and student funding, among many more things.

If you would like to read my entire campaign platform – or would like to find out how I plan to achieve the aforementioned goals – like my Facebook page – www.fb.com/sapra2012 or follow me on twitter @aayooshsapra for interesting updates around campus, breaking news on important student issues, snippets of my campaign platform and just fun trivia!

Like I said, short and sweet. Don't forget to follow the campaign, and come to the Presidential debate on February the 13th, vote on Feb 14th & Feb 15th, and remember to get all your friends to vote too! And when you vote, VOTE SAPRA!



Jared Perry

continued from page 1

...a variety of levels, both academically and socially. Comparatively, I would be responsible for the management of all that is SMUSA. As with the recent trend in partisan politics, I hope to create a more accessible and transparent SMUSA, one that better represents the voice of you, the students.

Over the course of this past calendar year as a member of the Board of Directors for SMUSA, I was directly involved with the review and transformation of SMUSA's two main policy documents; the Constitution and governance policy. The single most important part of policy I oversaw was the increased accountability out of the President's office, something that if elected, I plan on following to the letter. I will take full responsibility to meet SMUSA goals set forth at the beginning of my term.

So, why should you vote for me? I'm personable, sociable but more

importantly I have realized a certain balance in University life, allowing me to remain organized and on top of all responsibilities. If something arises that is of concern to you, you can be assured that I will adequately listen to you as such and respond in a reasonable and well-timed manner. I firmly believe that University life encompasses not only staying on top of the academic side but having fun while we're at it. The current aura emitted by SMUSA is one in which students feel out of touch with the inner workings of their student government. I plan on turning SMUSA in to what it was originally created to be, for the students. Accessibility and change, based on student input is paramount to my version of SMUSA.

My involvement in SMUSA and its many functions has shaped me into the person I am today, just like I can be better, so can your student government. I want to make sure everyone in the Saint Mary's student body gets to experience everything they came to University to experience (Well, I'm sure you'll forgive me in saying there are some things socially, I cannot help you with). I have made friends I will have for the rest of my life from SMUSA activities and certainly made memories I will never forget and some I will never remember.

Simply put, I love being involved with SMUSA and believe that this position is well-suited to my creativity and skill set.

That's all folks, thank you for your time. Remember, vote Jared Perry.

facebook.com/jared.perry3

Transit Strike

The Amalgamated Transit Union hasn't gone on strike since 1998, which lasted 5 weeks. If you've been affected by the transit strike Saint Mary's has a few programs that can help. Check out the SMUSA rideshare board on the first of the Student Centre. SMU also has a car-pool forum on Facebook. Or twitter #strikerideshare #dartmouthride #halifaxride #bedfordride and #spryfieldride, or try www.hrsmarttrip.ca.

Having to car-pool with other people doesn't make things any easier. I have to come in sooner and leave later. I'm actually in disbelief that [the union] went that far.

—Nate Severin

I have to wait here for half an hour for my boyfriend to get off work. I'm sure the ATU has their reasons, but it sucks.

—Jennifer Francis



Transit strikers at Parade Square in Halifax.

The Year Labour Broke Down in Halifax?

continued from page 1

MICHAEL LANGLAIS

...the HRM to work out a deal instead of giving us a last-chance agreement." The subtext is even clearer: workers are fed up with the municipal government, and are teaming up to do something about it.

With municipal elections coming up this October, could this mark a concerted effort by union locals to further damage Mayor Peter Kelly's already-damaged image and shake up the current roster of councillors? Or does this simply represent the latest in a long series of bureaucratic gaffes and bumbling on the part of a municipal government that simply doesn't seem to be in touch with its own districts?

Either way, serious breakdowns in communication have resulted in nothing but confusion for stakeholders. Stuttering negotiations between ATU 508 and Metro Transit were repeatedly punctuated with periods of sullen silence, with both parties claiming simultaneously that the other refused to come back to the negotiating table. Strike action was definitively proclaimed by the union on the 31st of January, only to see them return to the table the next day; the late-night eleventh hour attempt at conciliation resulted in little more than confusion for commuters everywhere, who had

no idea whether they would have a ride in the morning.

Meanwhile, we may wake up sometime this week facing serious issues with the water systems that are the lynchpin of our health and sanitation. Councillors will be fielding even more phone calls from angry Haligonians, if not a serious infrastructure crisis – not that they're worried about it. The Council meeting for the 7th of February was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. Workers will be subsisting on meagre strike pay, and non-municipal organisations such as the Dalhousie Faculty Association and the Halifax Typographical Union (think The Chronicle Herald) may be facing strikes of their own.

Ultimately, everyone loses from playing chicken with public services.

Michael Langlais is a commerce student at Saint Mary's and the business manager of the SMU Journal.

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STUDENT DAY OF ACTION!

Education is our Right: Demand it

DANIEL TRAINOR-MCKINNON—WRITER

“POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IS NO LONGER AFFORDABLE FOR ALL” reads a poster on EducationIsARight.ca. Written in all caps, it seems like it is intended to shock people into the realization. Although I know firsthand that it’s true, it doesn’t shock me. In fact, I’m pretty sure no one is shocked, or even surprised by it. I don’t find it surprising that education is no longer affordable for all. Actually, it has never been. For the average household, to go to university means going thousands of dollars in debt. Affordable education is not a possibility without of scholarships or financial aid.

We cannot deceive ourselves through the notion that we live in a truly democratic, fair, and equal society. The recent student protests, the occupy movement, and the amount of people begging for money on Spring Garden Rd. continue to prove the contrary. But what can we do if people like Mayor Peter Kelly continue to squash

any protest in demand of democracy, and people like Darrell Dexter betray the voters with economic moves that supporters never voted for?

We ask for spare change from our government, and they spend it on rock shows and ship-building, as they steadily decrease our quality of life. It took 25 billion dollars to get Irving to build just 21 battleships. It seems like a better option would be to create a student bailout package worth over \$26 thousand for every Nova Scotian. That’s right. The Irving deal cost \$26 thousand, per Nova Scotian (not just per tax payer or student). Do we really have that kind of money to throw around to already rich big oil companies that make profits in the billions every year?

Thanks to Darrell Dexter crawling up Stephen Harper’s behind, we’ll never see all of that money in the hands of the student population (roughly 10 percent of the total NS population), unless they go to work at the big

shipbuilding warehouse for the rest of their lives.

Think of this: Free education for everyone. If everyone were given the money Irving got, they could all attend university for free. This isn’t just a clear option; it ought to be recognized as our right. Since post-secondary education is an essential requirement for making a modest living now, we could all see a future of economic prosperity within our lifetimes. That’s only if the people we allow to rule us would take our interests to heart.

But remember: Since we pay the taxes, we employ the politicians. If they do something we don’t like, we can revolt. We call the shots if we recognize that they’re nothing without us. A students are biggest liability is apathy and indifference. They often treat us like we’re just a mass of mindless plebs. If we stand still while they beat us, they will only be proved right.



Dining @ SMU: February 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 Western Round Up! Theme @ Dockside	2 Wing night at the Gorsebrook	3 Seafood Theme @ Dockside	4 ENTER WIND CHILL PROMO @ ANY RETAIL OUTLET
5 Have you joined the VIP Club? Ask the cashier for details!	6 MEATLESS MONDAYS Pan Geos	7 Thai Night @ Dockside	8 A Taste of Little Italy @ the Dockside	9 Wing night at the Gorsebrook	10 Seafood Theme @ Dockside	11 Try our new Extra Large Coffee @ Tim Horton's!
12 Check out the Mug Shot @ Atrium	13 MEATLESS MONDAYS Pan Geos	14 Treat your valentine to a sweetheart Dinner @ Dockside	15 Watch the LCD screens for info about food on campus	16 Wing night at the Gorsebrook	17 Seafood Theme @ Dockside	18 Gourmet brunch @ dockside
19 Learn about local farmers: "I go local" easels @ Dockside & Atrium	20 MEATLESS MONDAYS Pan Geos WINTER BREAK	21 WINTER BREAK	22 WINTER BREAK	23 WINTER BREAK	24 WINTER BREAK Last Day to Enter Wind chill Event!	25 CHECK OUT THE MENU! www.aramark.ca/nsu/dishroom
26 Looking for vegetarian snacks? Check out the c-store selection of bean salads	27 MEATLESS MONDAYS Pan Geos CLASSES RESUMES	28 Tropical BBQ Theme @ Dockside!	29 Celebrate February B-days @ Dockside	1	2	3



Single on Valentine's Day

KAYLYN JEFFREY—EDITOR

Who says you have to feel bad about being single on Valentine's Day? No one knows you better than you do, so no one can buy you better gifts! This romantic day is a perfect excuse to have a full-fledged you-day. Follow some simple guidelines and you'll be on your way to having a fabulous day.

Get ahold of your craziest single friend. We all have one - the friend that your previous boyfriend or girlfriend never fully trusted or particularly liked. Pal around with them for the day and they may just show you being single may not be so bad after all. Look at all the questionable things they'll encourage you to do without a ball and chain!

Make a plan. Being busy always makes you feel more upbeat, so make a plan from morning to night of what you're going to do that day. Make sure there isn't a second wasted. Do things you've always wanted to do minus a plus one but never got around to. For example, that art gallery you've always wanted to go to or that yoga class you've been planning to try out.

Steer clear of bitterness. It may

be tempting to walk up to the happy couple eating their romantic dinner and say, "This will end and it will not be mutual." However, try your hardest not to do so. People are attracted to happy people who are comfortable with or without someone on their arm.

Stay positive and independent. Don't buy a cat or call your ex-boyfriend today.

Buy something you love. Just because someone isn't buying you gifts, doesn't mean you can't have gifts today. Buy yourself some cute gifts, chocolates, flowers, anything you would want someone to buy for you. Show yourself love, and you'll attract someone who will show you the same kind of love.

Fall in love on Valentine's day. Fall in love with the you that you love and the day you create. It may be a little rocky, but that's okay. You may even find that you inspire other singles to embrace the day with positivity and light-heartedness as well. Happy Valentine's Day to the single ladies and gentlemen at Saint Mary's!

Coupled Up on Valentine's Day

KAYLYN JEFFREY—EDITOR

Valentine's Day is a holiday traditionally designed to express affection and court the one you love. It is a day of expression, usually embellished with gifts and a romantic date. Therefore, what to buy and where to go?

The answer to this question is traditionally the stress that the male endures the day prior or sometimes even the day of. However, truly both should be willing participants, depending on the relationship type and length of time spent previously dating.

Regardless of how long a couple has been dating, one flower (traditionally, a rose) and a small box of chocolates is always appreciated. Men, do not buy her a pink rose if she hates the colour pink and do not buy her chocolates she's allergic to them. Try to be as thoughtful as possible and most likely, she's already hinted at what she wants. If she hasn't, ask her what she likes (favourite kind of flower or chocolate). If you're looking to be impressive and you're incredibly into her (and know the feeling is mutual), jewelry and/or a card that you wrote shows her that you're serious about her. If she had doubts about you, she won't anymore. We want something positive to tell our friends and family and we want you to be better than our ex-boyfriend. Ladies, men are happy with practically anything you buy for them. If you put creativity into it, like their favourite sports team paraphernalia



or box of their favourite snack or anything new from La Senza, they will be endeared. They will think you're adorable for buying them a teddy bear, but will not know what to do with it and feel slightly embarrassed about it around their friends.

The most traditional date would be going out to dinner and a movie. It's important to find a happy balance so if you go to a restaurant he loves, make sure you see a movie she loves or vice versa. Don't forget to make reservations and buy tickets in advance! If you are a new couple or it's a first date, see the movie prior to dinner so you have something mutual to talk about during dinner.

Other dates that are recommendable are bundling up and going to a beach, mini-putting or bowling. Dates that are active bring you closer and are more memorable. No matter what you do, make sure to smile and enjoy each other's company. It truly isn't about what you buy or what you do, those things simply make both parties feel appreciated and adored. It's about the memories you make together.

Happy Valentine's Day lovers at Saint Mary's!

Got a story?

Write for The Journal!

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Love Is Louder

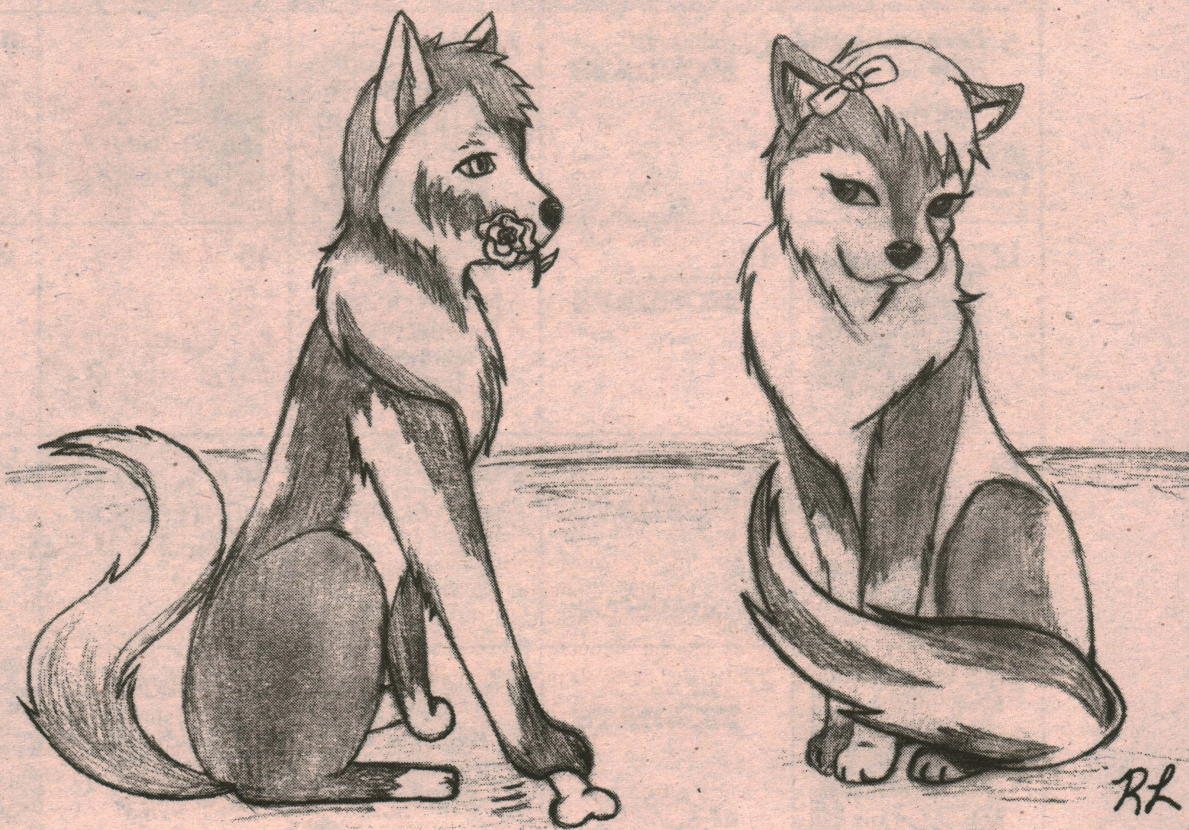
KAYLYN JEFFREY—EDITOR

Love Is Louder is a campaign that raises awareness of bullying and sends a message of acceptance to overcome doubt. The anti-bullying campaign was created by actress, Brittany Snow, The Jed Foundation, and MTV after multiple teenagers committed suicide in September of 2010. The campaign

turns up the volume on love as a means to overcome negativity and pain that is caused externally or internally.

Love Is Louder sends a message even greater than its opposition to bullying. It creates a message of acceptance regardless of gender, sexuality, race, or even self-deprecation. It sends the message that love is louder than anything - the kind of message that starts a movement.

Join the movement by simply raising awareness. Display zero tolerance for discriminatory, hateful behaviour and stand up for the cause that may steal the words of a bully before they are spoken or stop a teenage suicide from occurring. Love doesn't discriminate against the helpless. Love heals the helpless. Follow in the footsteps of love and choose to heal, instead of harm in hopes that bullying decreases and acceptance prevails.



Credit: Renee Langille



Don't be afraid. He won't bite. Mr. Husky is a gentleman par excellence. And he sat down with me to share some of his favourite stories as a mascot for the Saint Mary's Huskies.

Tall Tales from the Husky Mascot

SMU's hard working mascot shares his favourite stories from on the job.

SAMUEL HAMMOND—EDITOR

"OK, so this girl just runs up, wraps her legs around me and starts dry-humping me in front of the entire crowd." Right from the get-go, Mr. Husky lets on why he finds football games the most bittersweet to do. The audience is normally one of the best though the attitudes of the players aren't great, but most of all... sometimes things get a little too physical. "Oh — and this was no ordinary-sized girl," he shudders. "I mean, she wasn't pretty. You could say I was the least husky of the two."

This was their first encounter, but it wouldn't be their last. Fighting his desire that the memory stay repressed, the 6 foot 9 silver Siberian with baby-blue eyes recalls when they met again. "I remember I could see her coming. She had this look in her eye, I was trying to ignore it and avoid her. Then out of nowhere I'm on my back and she is sitting on my face!" The experience was a harrowing one, but to many other dogs that is how you say hello. "I only hope I didn't get any diseases through air contact. Is that possible? I'm not a doctor."

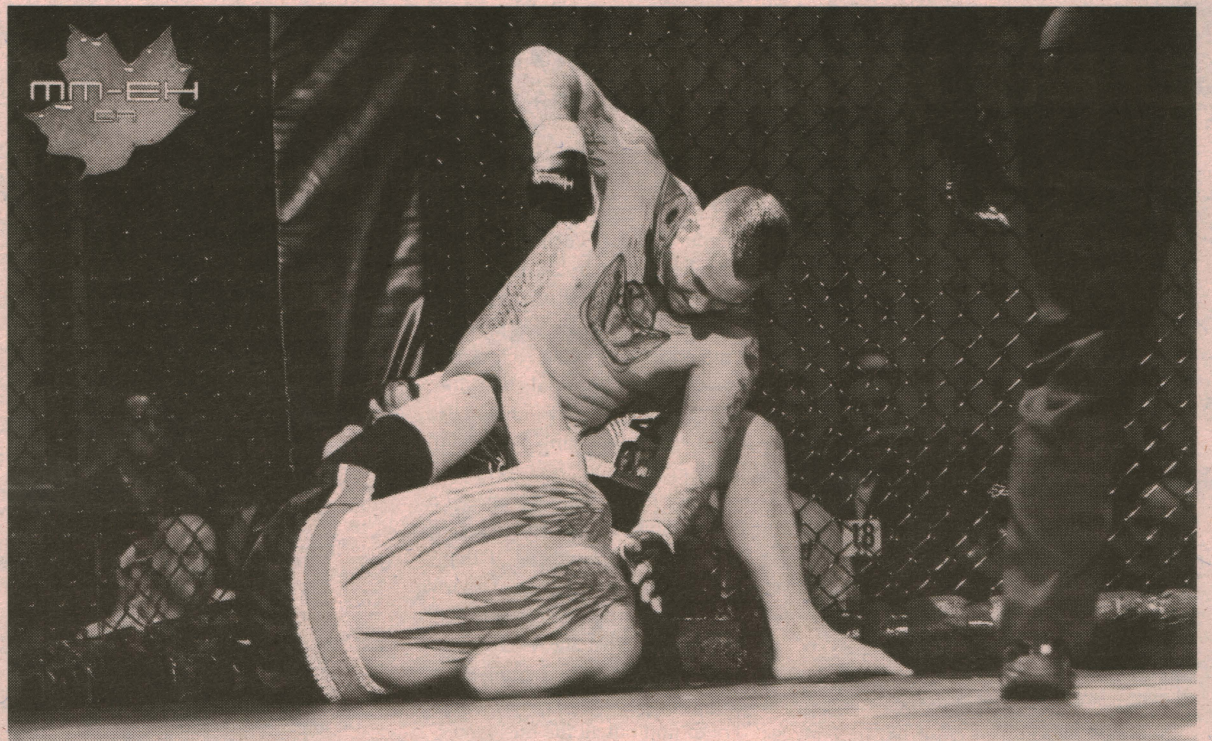
It should now be obvious that what Mr. Husky does takes balls, big balls — though not big enough to be considered for spending cuts. This canine is unneutered almost to a fault. "I like to keep my identity a secret, but sometimes the fact comes out when I'm talking to girls at bars. Girls love it." He even has a theory why: "You know how some girls have daddy issues? Well, a lot of them have doggy issues. Their dog Spot ran away from home when they were eleven and now all they want to do is rub my belly."

Years ago, before Mr. Husky was old enough to leave the bar with his tail between his legs, he was Baldwin the Bald Eagle for Grimsby secondary

school. For two years running he would flap around the Niagra, Ontario school pumping people up. "A lot of people still liked Alec, but in grade 12 I was everyone's favourite Baldwin."

In mascotting for Saint Mary's, Mr. Husky sees a lot that needs to be fixed. "The athletic department needs more funding, but more-so we lack awareness." He laments the number of games he has been to where the stands have been empty. "It would be easier to bring players in if they could come to the games, could come on campus and see that people knew when they were playing next. It would be easier to build a program if there was awareness and potential players saw the student body cared about the team. If you want to build a successful team you have to be able to bring in the best young guys you can, and they need to know that they'll feel important on campus for what they do. That's how you build a dynasty."

He leaves me with the story of the closest he got to being fired. It was a rainy football game and water had pooled on the field. Mr. Husky knew what he had to do. He got a running start, leapt, and landed in a massive puddle next to the opposing team, Acadia. "The Athletic director from Acadia flipped her shit. Apparently, there was even an 89 year old great grandmother who complained. Not because she got water on her, but because she was offended," he says offended in air quotes. "Who gets offended by a little puddle jumping? I guess she probably hadn't seen splashes like that since the Halifax Explosion. Still, the audience loved it. And at the end of the day, that's who I'm there to entertain."



Credit—Chris Harding

Extreme Cage Combat 13 'Armedgeddon'

KAYLYN JEFFREY—EDITOR

The Mixed Martial Arts fans boomed with excitement and anticipation awaiting the entrance of the deadly fighters about to face off against one another in the ultimate battle of strength, endurance and technique. The MMA event, ECC 'Armedgeddon', took place at Casino Nova Scotia on Friday, January 27th.

The event began with two exhibition Muay Thai fights that may make one question the word "exhibition". The flying fists and knees were nothing short of explosive and entertaining. The Muay Thai fighters were Morteza Shahi versus Sonny Adamski and Pat Carroll versus Mike Malott.

The most memorable fight of the night was Gavin Tucker versus Jeremy Henry. Tucker submitted Henry in the second round by rear naked choke, dominating the entire fight with incredible energy and crowd-pleasing

moves. After the win, Tucker jumped on the top of the cage showing his love for the fans. In mutual adoration, the fans made underlying whispers for the rest of the night that Tucker is headed straight for the UFC. There was also a consensus among the crowd that the MMA team, The Titans, dominated the night.

The sport of MMA is gruesome, brutal and dangerous. One would then ask, why participate in something so violent? One of the fighters answered such question after the event stating, "This sport is the best thing I've done with my life." Having been a previous smoker and feeling without direction, the sport of MMA gave him something to strive for, a healthier lifestyle and the strength to believe in himself. There is a resounding feeling the fighters give off — that of strength that comes from extremely hard work, constant training and the drive to succeed. The

sport runs deeper than the ability to physically conquer an opponent. It is equally, if not more important, for the abandonment of fear and the embrace of believing in oneself and overcoming internal doubt.

The following are the results of all seven MMA fights: Tyler Reid defeated Matt Heim via submission due to rear naked choke in the first round. Todd Henry defeated Nathan Hamilton via technical knockout in the first round. Ryan Connor defeated Matt MacLennan via submission due to rear naked choke in the first round. Mark Gray defeated Christ Franck via knockout in the first round. Gavin Tucker defeated Jeremy Henry via submission due to rear naked choke in the second round. Ricky Goodall defeated Jerome Martinez via technical knockout in the first round. Mike Kent defeated Chester Post via technical knockout in the second round.



Ugly behaviour at Rice vs. Loyola hockey game

A drunken line brawl broke out in the stands after a series of on ice fights last Saturday at a hockey game between Saint Mary's two largest residences. What was supposed to be a good spirited game of inter-student hockey turned into a shoving and punching match between upwards of twenty people. Referees scrambled to get the belligerents under control while security ran out the clock on the game.

Last year drunkenness and animal like behaviour was also present, with slurred chants and heckling. Evidently, this year it was pushed too far. Some carried signs that read "Fuck Rice" while another declared "Loyola has herpes." Tribalism and nationalistic stupidity on the level of opposing dorm buildings is a disturbing sign of the shallowness of our civility. If it matters, Rice won 6 to 2.

The Rent is Too Damn High!

SMU MBA student Emo Ikede passes on the advice that has kept him debt free

EMO IKEDE

Loans, credit cards, limited funds and debt. These seem to be a common theme with a lot of students these days. The ever-increasing price of tuition, text books, food, accommodation and just about everything else can add a little more stress to the life of a student. The goal of this article is to look at the realities that students face today, address some of the common financial pitfalls they may encounter and suggest ways to manage or avoid them altogether.

As soon as most students are accepted into university or college, the student loans and credit card applications start coming in the mail, and before they know it, they have access to a lot of credit without having enough time to understand the long term effects of taking on the debt.

As a student, you still have to think about how to finance your education, accommodation, food, entertainment etc. (loans, part-time jobs, parents). The key here is to make sure that your expenses are as low as possible, and you only buy what you need.

You should never rely on your student loans for things other than school, i.e. cars, a trip, or an expensive cell phone package (when a basic one will do). The smart thing to do is to think of each expense as adding to what you have to pay back when you graduate, therefore keeping your expenses as low as possible is your best option. Cell phone packages can run you as high as \$80 a month when you combine the costs for voice and data package. If most of your time is spent in areas that already have accessible wireless Internet, you should consider reducing your data package or eliminating it entirely.

Don't eat out. The truth is that it cost a premium for prepared food when compared to one you make yourself. Granted, if your accommodation setting does not allow you to cook, you can still buy things that can be prepared without cooking, like sandwiches, raw fruits or munchies.

You should always consider the total cost of ownership of items. For example even if you buy a cheap car, you still have to pay for insurance, gas, maintenance and repairs, all of which might add up (in a year or two) to as much as the cost of the car itself.

Remember, what you save now equals what you won't have to pay later (sometimes with additional interest). If your current apartment is in a prime location where the rent is sky high, consider moving to a part of the city that is well serviced by the transit system. You should factor in your estimated travel-time and cost to get to the campus and also the current metro transit schedule (all online) before you decide on place. Remember that the cost of buying a bus pass is less expensive than the total monthly cost of owning a car. Plus you get no surprise repair or maintenance costs.

If your parents live in the same municipality, seriously consider staying at home instead of paying rent somewhere else. The money saved on rent and food would go a long way to helping offset your total education costs. Yes living under mom and dad's roof and rules may cramp your style and sense of freedom, however that is a small price to pay when compared to the debt you can accumulate if you live on your own while in school. If that won't work for you, the cost of sharing a 2 or 3 bedroom apartment with roommates is almost always cheaper than that of individually renting a 1 bedroom one.

Try to find out all the businesses that offer discounts to students in your area, so that you can use them to save money. Major grocery stores offer a 10% discount to students on Tuesday, Bulk Barn has student discount on

“Remember, what you save now equals what you won't have to pay later”

Wednesday, and the some of the malls offer a students discount. The key is to ask each retailer or store if they offer a students discount. You might just be pleasantly surprised.

Get a part-time job to help reduce the amount of money you have to borrow while you are in school, but make sure you do not take on more hours/shifts at the expense of your education.

Before you rush out to sign up for the fastest, top-tier, full programming package for internet and TV, it might be a good idea for you to take some time to examine exactly how much time you might have to use the full features. If you are a full time student, you will not have time to enjoy a 1000 TV channel universe. So why pay for it in the first place. Also if most of your Internet usage were for basic web browsing, email, and the occasionally video stream, the basic high-speed package would do. The idea here is to only subscribe to what you need so that you don't end up paying more for what you would not use.

Seek credit counselling or financial help as soon as you think you are getting in over your head. And it is never too late to start saving a little money for your “rainy-day” fund. It is a great habit to start.

Emo Ikede is a project manager with the Federal Government here in Halifax, MBA student at SMU and the author of a book/blog that teaches people how to save money at ejitech.com/howtosavemoney.



PASS or FAIL?

The Patron Accountability, Safety & Service (PASS) program is a health promotion and safety initiative developed to reduce incidents of underage drinking and violence in and around restaurants and bars in downtown Halifax including the **Gorsebrook Lounge**.

Developed by the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia, with support from the Alcohol and Gaming Division, Government of Nova Scotia, and the Halifax Regional Police, PASS creates a more enjoyable environment for all patrons and staff by keeping known offenders out of all licensed establishments involved in the PASS program.

To find out more, please contact me or visit www.rans.ca.

Leonard Preyra

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G-Spot

WITH
Amanda Dickie



How do I diddle thee? Let me count the ways.

Amanda Dickie's crash course in self-pleasure.

This week we're going to be discussing a personal favourite of mine (and hopefully yours too). Masturbation! Jerking it, spank the monkey, pleasuring yourself, bashing the bishop, wank, diddle and so on.

The key to self-love is knowing what you want, and the best way to figure that out is to light some candles, put on your groove mix, get comfortably sitting, laying down or any other way you see fit and go to town! There are numerous gadgets, methods, settings and opportunities to learn a little something about yourself, your desires, pleasures and basically what gets you off. Sometimes our world gives us some pretty shitty impressions about the ancient pastime, labels like 'self-abuse' and myths about blindness and hairy palms aside, it is perfectly normal if this subject matter or notion of self-pleasure initially puts you off, but stick with me.

We get a lot of messed up messages every day about sexual scripts, lifestyles, morals and a million other things, from people who frankly need to shut the hell up. Here's the deal: what you do with your body, on your time, with or without other people, is your business. So if you're a novice or an expert, don't feel bad, feel the love and get down with your fine self.

When it comes to choking rope, no two people are the same and your personal style and preferences will evolve over time. Maybe you like caressing your chest, hands down

your side or inner thigh, insertion, lubrication, toys, ass play, fast or slow there all kinds of rhythms and methods. You can pleasure yourself alone, with partner(s), on camera or with some strangers on the internet. Your situation and comfort level will set the pace for the activities, adventures and company (or lack thereof).

Start with light touches, strokes and really feel your body's reactions. Some folks are down with insertion and others prefer external stimuli either

“Here's the deal: what you do with your body, on your time, with or without other people, is your business”

across the head of the penis, clitoris, shaft, anus, nether regions, nipples, bonus hole, vulva, tubular, testicles, and perineum either over or under your clothing. Let your mind wander to some sexual fantasies, envision some role play, imagine whatever turns you on, or if you (and your audience) are into it slap on your favourite erotica.

Be sure to tease yourself and keep pacing in mind, unless you're under a time constraint, pushing forward and pulling back stimulation before orgasm can help build anticipation and allow you to experience a variety of peaks and falls within your levels of sexual

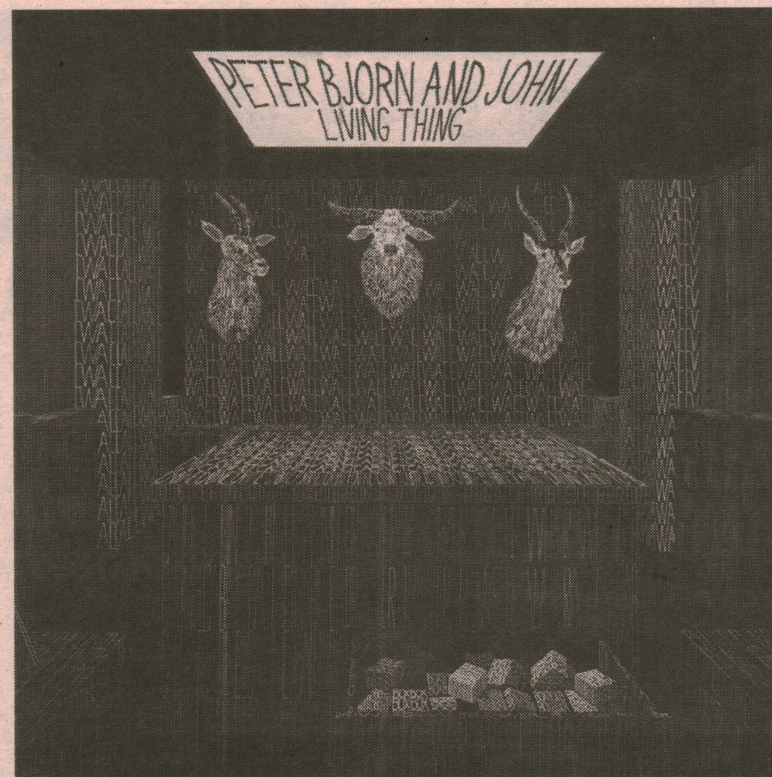
arousal. If you've found insertion is your thing, begin with one or two fingers moving upward until you've reached your comfort level. Varying the speed with which you move your fingers can increase sensation and different angles or hand motions (such as bending your fingers or crossing them over one another) can change the sensation and find a pleasurable spot to apply pressure in either the front or the back.

There are also a variety of different masturbatory toys available for all genders and identities from insertion tools like anal plugs, balls (anal or Ben Wa), Vibes for prostates, g-spots, dual stimulation, doubled ended, vibrating rings or bullets can be placed overtop of or next to sensitive areas to increase blood flow and arousal.

Lubrications exist with a variety of fun extras, names, scents and styles from warming sensations, to tingly, to butter thick and extra thin and slick, so treat yourself to a variety pack and find those that tickle your fancy. There are also a variety of sleeves, fabrics, materials, suction pumps all aimed at differentiating your tactile exposure. Try some latex gloves, hemp ropes, silky gowns, maybe a feather duster, faux fur or pleather can all give different sensations when rubbed or pressed against your body. Depending on the material of your accessories you can experiment with hot, warm or cooled objects to give even more range of sensation. Looking for something racier? There are clamps, clips, cages; restraints and harness to apply sinful pressure to your delicate bits or cage them in to provide restriction. Just make sure you keep the key some place safe!

Whichever way you like to adventure on with be sure to take your time, be gentle with yourself and test out some unexplored waters. Try something you haven't done before, it might just become part of your sexual routine. So consider making a date with yourself this Valentine's Day. Visit your local sex shop and treat your body right.

Amanda Dickie is a 5th year Saint Mary's student studying Women's and Gender Studies. If you ever visit her room don't forget to knock first.



“Living Thing” Peter Bjorn and John—Album Review

DANIEL TRAINOR-MCKINNON—WRITER

It's not that often that you can find really alternative rock anymore, let alone music that sounds like its album art looks. All the way from Sweden, the trio Peter Bjorn and John bring us their album *Living Thing*. It's an exemplary model of neo-psychedelic strangeness that you just don't hear enough of nowadays.

Although the sound of this album is hard to explain, it's somewhat like listening to video games and plastic utensils back up indie singers who ask a goth-rocker to master their album. Here's my track-by-track take on it:

Don't be put off by the opening track, “The Feeling”. It sounds a bit like a mash-up of Red Lorry, Yellow Lorry, and The Postal Service. Don't worry, the rest of the album won't be as empty and dissonant. “It Don't Move Me” follows, and already breaks out of the last track's dissonance.

“Just the Past” is a strange mix of Halloween, disco bass-lines, and hauntingly beautiful piano. Then comes “Nothing to Worry About”, with a slightly hip-hop edge, and bongos to boot.

“I'm Losing My Mind” is like if Trent Reznor jammed with wind chimes. Then, the title track funks the whole thing up with its danceable

creepiness.

Track 7, “I Want You!” is a more standard song (for this album), and it's probably the most poppy song you'll hear on *Living Thing*.

“Stay this Way”, track 9, is another standard-ish song, and the string section sounds like rain falling. Next comes “Blue Period Picasso”. It's not often you hear a song written from the perspective of a painting, and it has a nice sparse-yet-conglomerated sound to it.

“4 Out of 5” is track 11, and though it starts out like The Jesus and Mary Chain, it also has a bit of Beck in its soul. The album finishes with the indie-pop song “Last Night”. Just listening to the harmony between the piano and synths is like taking a bite of black forest cake.

There is a lot to like about this album, but the thing I like the most about it is that it's solid throughout. It has something for everyone. And if Valentine's Day is getting you down, just find some annoying couple somewhere, and shove “Lay It Down” in their faces. Then laugh.



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“Into the Sun” David Myles—Album Review

J. BARBOUR

David Myles is such a professional that he wears a suit to every performance he does. It was part of an agreement he had with his father when he dropped out of law school to pursue a career in music. That passion and dedication is clearly visible in his fifth studio recording, *Into the Sun*. And what's better: he calls Halifax his home. This album is full of clean, acoustic tracks with poignant lyrics that soothe and inspire at the same time. It even includes a bonus track mixed by

Classified. Myles' last studio recording, *Turn Time Off* (produced by Joel Plaskett) on the other hand, has more electric guitar, bass and drums, and has a more bluesy-feel. Both are terrific albums.

The first single, “Long Dark Night,” for example, is a deep, almost traveling song; softly sung with beautiful harmonies. The video, directed by Hiep Vu, is equally beautiful. Other songs on the album have more bounce to them, with clear influence from Paul Simon,

like in “Simple Pleasures,” a rolling, happy song. In fact, most songs on the album are upbeat, lyrically-heavy songs, each telling a story.

This is all contrasted by seeing David Myles perform live. He's a jovial, genuine, funny, and energetic performer. He'll have any audience singing along by his third song. I highly recommend the album and watching David perform live.

The Cranky Professor: Authentic volunteerism and the over-justification effect

MARK MERCER

One of the actions in the proposed academic plan is to create “co-curricular transcripts recognizing extra-curricular activities that contribute to academic development.” Creating such a thing is a bad idea for a whole host of reasons.

One is that extra-curricular activities that contribute to academic development are already recognized on students’ transcripts. Anything that contributes to academic development will do so by having a positive effect on a student’s ability to concentrate, for instance—or on her ability to follow complex trains of reasoning, on her ability to write well, her ability to see fallacies, her ability to appreciate an insight, or on her ability to stay on topic. If something isn’t contributing to one of these abilities, it isn’t contributing to her academic development.

A student’s participation in extra-curricular activities that contribute to academic development will be recognized in that student’s higher grades. Put the other way, if participating in an extra-curricular

activity makes no positive difference to a student’s grades, participating in it doesn’t contribute to that student’s academic development. If we include activities that have no appreciable effect on student’s grades just about anything a student does outside of classes could, in someone’s mind, count as contributing to her academic development, whether in fact it contributed or not.

“**A person who used to enjoy helping out doesn’t enjoy it so much once it’s the source of an external reward.**”

Among the activities favoured by whoever compiles the co-curricular transcript will be volunteer activities: helping out at a food bank, say, or reading to children. But it’s not a volunteer activity if it is done to earn

an external reward. Those who really mean to volunteer their time and effort can, of course, simply not have the activity recorded on a transcript. And then they can compete for jobs with those whose volunteer activities are on display for all potential employers to see.

The point is that recognizing volunteer activities on co-curricular transcripts devalues true voluntarism and encourages students to take a mercenary attitude toward helping others.

Some things we do in order to obtain a reward (or to avoid a penalty), other things we do for their own sake. No one does laundry for the joy of doing laundry, but lots of us play hockey just for the sake of playing hockey. It’s what we enjoy.

Psychologists have noticed something interesting that often happens when we are encouraged by the promise of an external reward to engage in something we think we should value for its own sake. They’ve noticed that our motivation flags, that we find we don’t value or enjoy it for its

own sake.

Some call this phenomenon the over-justification effect. Quite often, a person who enjoys gardening but then begins to receive money or praise loses interest in it except as a source of money or praise. A person who used to enjoy helping out doesn’t enjoy it so much once it’s the source of an external reward. Children who like to read don’t read as much once they can earn stars or quarters for reading.

The effect doesn’t always attend the introduction of an external reward, and sometimes (very rarely) a person will find herself enjoying for its own sake something she was tempted into by an external reward.

Yet when the effect appears, it is destructive. It robs people of a sense of what really matters to them.

The move to have Saint Mary’s introduce a co-curricular transcript is an invitation to the over-justification effect. It’s bound to affect badly the sense students have of what really matters to them.

One might respond that we’ve got external rewards all over the place

already. Students are looking for good grades on papers and in courses, they’re looking for approval from peers, they’re looking to get on the Dean’s list, they’re looking for credentials, and on and on. That’s true, and all of it is worrying.

The fact is, we cannot as an institution do without systems of external rewards. Still, whenever we think to introduce a new one, we need to be careful that it does not diminish the student experience. Right now at Saint Mary’s, as our university in ethos and commitment becomes an institution concerned primarily to prepare graduates for the work force, we don’t need anything else to come between us and what matters to us for its own sake.

Mark Mercer is a philosophy professor at Saint Mary’s University who enjoys writing The Cranky Professor for its own sake. He can be reached at mark.mercer@smu.ca



Jeffuhson Bethke, creator of the Youtube hit entitled “Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus”.

Re-li-gion (noun)

The Semantics of the Youtube Hit “Why I Hate Religion”

KYLE L. TRIMPER—WRITER

There’s a fellow out there right now on the vast internet named Jeffuhson Bethke who has a new video entitled “Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus”. Not one to shy away from controversy, with this contentious thesis statement, this video has apparently caused quite a splash, and has been met with both acclaim and criticism. I avoided watching the thing for a long time: firstly, I don’t care a whole lot for rap or poetry and this video contained a mix of both; secondly, the guy frankly looked like a bit of an idiot.

Eventually I caved and watched the video, after having read an article on the subject, as well as a video by Fr. Robert Barron on the subject. In this video, Bethke raps/talks about how religion is a man-made invention, as well as how Jesus was against religion because he opposed Jewish religious authority.

While much of his theology is basically correct his views on religion and Jesus’ look on it is flawed. Bethke claims that Jesus came “to abolish religion”. In fact, this is not so. Fr. Barron correctly draws attention to Jesus’ own statement that He has “come not to abolish [the Law or the Prophets] but to fulfill them” [Matt. 5:17 NIV]. For those of you who need clarification, the Law refers to the Law of the Jewish religion. Remember, Christianity didn’t exist at that time! Jesus was not against religion: rather, He was against religious corruption and hypocrisy, as Barron also correctly states, and was, as Barron points out, “a loyal, law-abiding Jew”.

However, Bethke’s error may actually be less of a theological one

than a semantic one. Bethke tosses the word ‘religion’ around a lot, but does he actually know what it means?

“**People are confused enough right now about religion. Don’t confuse them further.**”

Merriam-Webster online contains several definitions for the word ‘religion’:

re-li-gion (noun): 1. the service and worship of God or the supernatural; 2. commitment or devotion to religious faith or observance; 2. a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices; 3. scrupulous conformity: conscientiousness; 4. a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith.

None of those definitions seem to match the point he’s trying to make. And if he is using “religion” in the sense of 1, 2, or 4, he is shooting himself in the foot. He is not trying to argue that Jesus is against the service and worship of God or the supernatural: that would be ludicrous. Furthermore, by these definitions, Bethke is in fact practicing religion in his video. Firstly, he is demonstrating the service and worship of God; secondly he obviously has a cause, principle, and a system of beliefs that he holds on to with a lot of ardor and faith. Despite wanting to “abolish

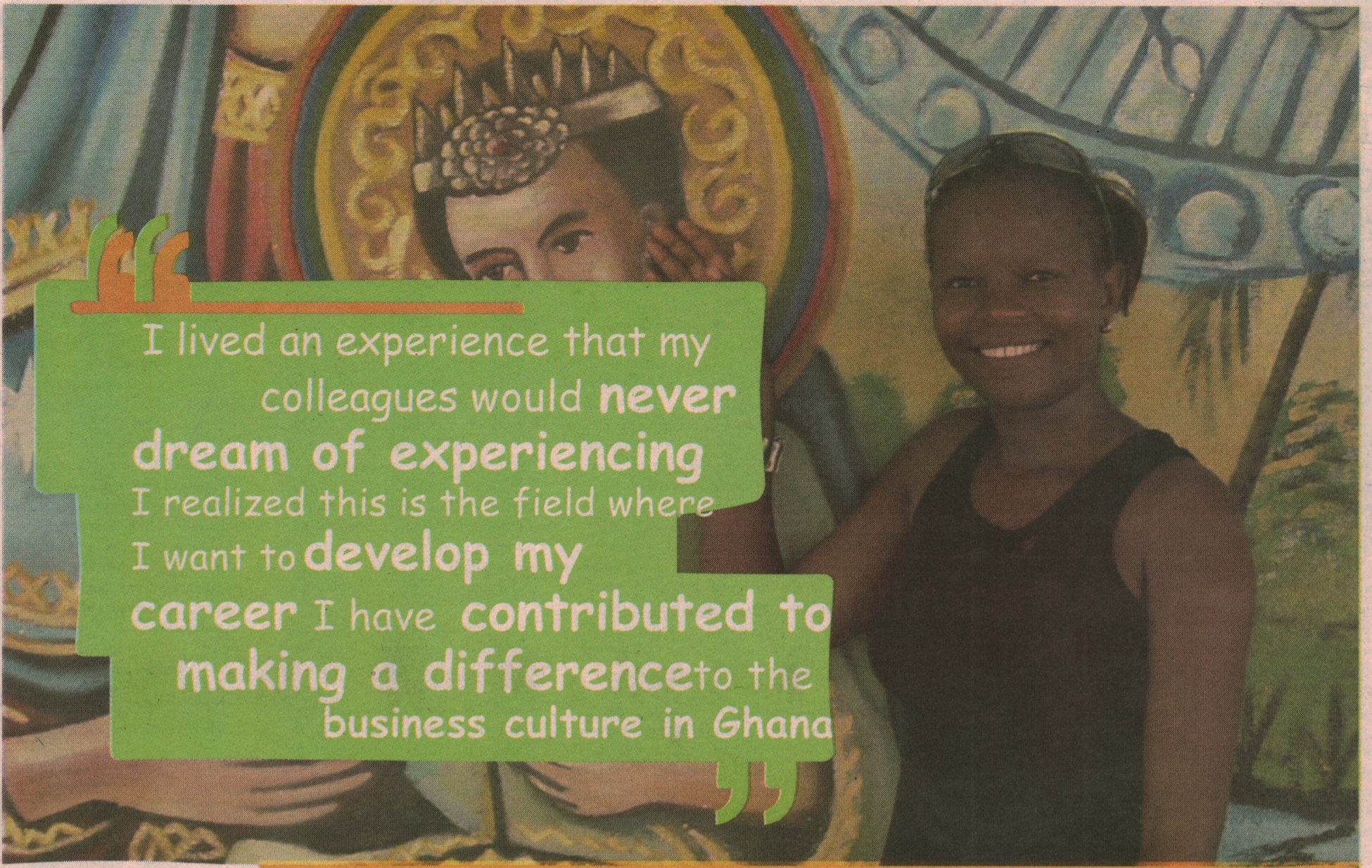
religion,” Bethke is an extremely religious man.

Bethke is not the first person I’ve encountered bashing religion while using the word incorrectly. Popular apologist Tim Keller, in his book *The Reason for God*, (which I highly recommend to skeptics and religious alike despite the flaw that I am about to point out) uses ‘religion’ to refer to ‘salvation through moral effort’, and ‘gospel’ to refer to ‘salvation through grace’. Keller claims that religion is sin and ends up reaching the same conclusion that Bethke does: that religion is a rejection of the gospel of Jesus.

Keller’s conclusion makes perfect sense given the definition of the term that he has attributed to it: however, the definition is his definition, one made to both simplify Christian theology and to appeal to a secular audience. Keller does admit that he uses his definitions for the purpose of his discussion, but that does not make it any less fallacious.

The lesson here is that while denouncing religion may make Christianity look ‘cool’, it is fundamentally incorrect. Bethke’s failed attempt at apologetics has single-handedly dealt a great blow to both religious and skeptics alike. Simply put, words have meaning. People are confused enough right now about religion. Don’t confuse them further.

Kyle L. Trimper is a student at Saint Mary’s and author of the blog The Caustic Christian. Go to CausticChristian.blogspot.com to read more.



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