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President's Page

FOOTBALL FOLLIES AND SPECTACULAR SPORTS

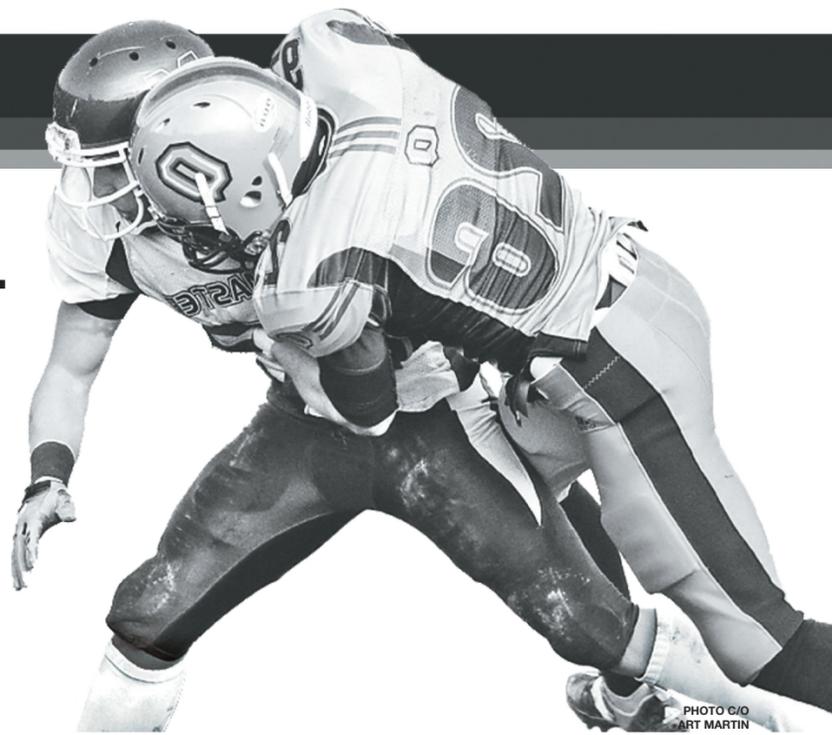


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ART MARTIN



Dear Student,
Have you kicked your trashcan over? Pushed a five year old for no reason? Cried uncontrollably for short amounts of time during your day? Perhaps all three have occurred (at the same time) because you're bummed about the outcome of Mac's football game against Queens this past weekend. It's all right, I hear you, I share your sorrow.

This year was different for a lot of McMaster students. The stands at Ron Joyce had the usual diehard Marauder fans, along with parents and friends, but a different group people began to populate the seats. A lot of us, myself included, never considered ourselves as people "in the know" about sports. We were always the people that smiled and nodded and kept our mouths shut when the topic of sports came up. For those of you who know who I'm talking about, there was a point early this year where you said, "sure, I'll go check out the game."

That small commitment, put

forth thanks to the encouragement of someone or something, lead us to follow and support the football team this year. That enthusiasm managed to get us to travel to Kingston, and had hundreds tuning into CFMU 93.3, eager to hear the play-by-play. Sure we might have winced every time Queens scored a touchdown, but the point was that we were genuinely supporting our Marauders in a way we hadn't in the past.

There's no more football for this season, so what do we do now? Well, football gets a lot of attention around here, being a high profile sport on campus, but there is so much more to be proud of as a newly minted Marauder fan. As I look at sports on campus, I see a lot of opportunities to be proud of our Marauder athletes.

For starters, we have two undefeated basketball teams! On the men's side, eleven wins and zero losses so far has Mac ranked 4th in the country, not the province, that whole damn country! The Marauders play this Friday night at 8pm vs Toronto (ranked 6th in the country). Our b-ballers have also beaten two American teams this year, including Division 3 Franklin College

and Division 1 Wagner College, a team that played in the NCAA's March Madness tournament in 2003. The women's basketball team is 2-0 with wins over Queens and RMC and will host CIS Nationals in March.

Soccer anyone? Our soccer team won the OUA Championship this past weekend over the #1 ranked Toronto Varsity Blues. Our team won four straight games in penalty kicks. They head to nationals in Langley BC as the number two seed. This is the first men's OUA championship since 1992 and goalkeeper Matthew Grant was the OUA player of the week.

I betcha didn't know Mac is a powerhouse in volleyball. Our team is first in the OUA with 6 wins and 0 losses, beating Queens for first place in front of over 1000 fans. The Mac men are ranked number #2 in the country. BUT with #1 Alberta's loss this weekend, Mac may move to up to the top spot!

What else you ask? The men's lacrosse team received the silver medal after a 12-11 loss in the CUFLA (national lacrosse final) to Brock, the #1 team in the country - a tough break after a great year. McMaster University

is no stranger to rowing either. Alethia Hazaras and Emily Loyer won Gold in the lightweight women's doubles at the Canadian University Rowing Championship in Montreal. It was the first ever win for McMaster at nationals for rowing. They beat out Olympians!

I know the loss of our football team last weekend still stings a little, the boys put up a great fight this year and we should be proud of their accomplishments. So raise a glass to our fallen football team, and then raise another (and another, and another) to all our Marauder athletes that represent McMaster and give us even more reason to cheer for the best school in the nation.

By the way, in case you still need a football fix, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats are back in the CFL playoffs for the first time since 2004. Ivor Wynne Stadium will host a playoff game for the first time since 2001 this Sunday. Go Cats Go!

Sincerely,

Vishal Tiwari
President
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ext. 23885

get your personalized

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

only
\$25.00

For More Information stop by the MSU Underground!

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You provide us with the electronic images and we print your customized calendar.

One landscape, or two portrait per page.

*No collages please.

Crafting a worthwhile long-term investment

OUSA releases a comprehensive report challenging the government to shift tired strategies



You will pay for university for the rest of your life. The obvious initial investment is in the form of tuition, but once you've paid your student

debts, your tax dollars will fund our publicly-supported Ontario universities.

You may have heard that McMaster is facing some financial woes. There are two obvious solutions for this problem: One is that students pay more, and another is that the government (read: taxpayers) pay more. Unless either of these measures comes to pass, our university will never be financially sustainable. The government is currently re-examining how both students and taxpayers contribute to the costs of our institution.

We know that the government is not operating with much money this year, so is unlikely that we will see the same multi-billion dollar investments we witnessed in the Reaching Higher plan of 2005. We also know that Ontario students are already paying an unreasonably large share of university operating costs, as well as paying the highest tuition in Canada. Asking students to pay more is unacceptable.

The MSU, along with six other student governments, weighed in on this debate by urging the government to

take the less obvious path. In October, we submitted *Ontario: A Province of Knowledge* to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In this report, we outlined low-cost changes that need to be made to the education system to substantially improve student success and the effectiveness of student financial aid, as well as restore fairness to our tuition framework.

For instance, more important than simply investing more money into the OSAP system is addressing problems in the needs-assessment formula that prevent aid from reaching those who need it most.

Also, we feel it is more important to diversify our pedagogies to accommodate modern class sizes than simply getting more professors into our classrooms. More important than reducing tuition is ensuring those who truly cannot afford post-secondary have adequate access to grants and bursaries.

It is these outside-the-box solutions that OUSA has proposed this year to adjust to the changing landscape of post-secondary education. If you have further questions, please drop me a line or stop by MUSC 201.

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Your MSU representatives want to hear from you.

Look out for Vish on campus in his legendary Kermit the Frog hat on **Wednesday, November 18th**, from 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. to chat with him about your student issues.