

Volume 1 - Issue 4

January 2003

Jargon

published by the students of msvu

How not to be
Hustled at Pool

New Year's Resolutions and
Self-reflection

A Biography:
George W. Bush

This month's feaures

THE UNION PAGE

WINTER CARNIVAL '03

Jan. 23: 3rd Annual Kumoniwannaleiya

Hawaiian Party at Vinnie's Pub

Jan. 24: Urban/Hip Hop Concert feat.

Klepto & Kassai at Vinnie's Pub

Tickets at the door. Call Vinnie's for details!

Jan. 25: Dance Marathon At Vinnie's!

Jan. 26: SUPER BOWL SUNDAY PARTY

AT VINNIE'S PUB!

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THE ALEXANDER KEITH'S CUP CHALLENGE

**THE RACE IS ON! WHICH RESIDENCE HAS THE
MOST SPIRIT AND WILL COME OUT ON TOP?**

The Golden Girls? The Key Lime Twists? The Aquaholics? The Hella Good's?
The Red Devil's? The Crackhouse? The Pink Ladies? The Busty Babes In Blue?
The Pink Playa's? Birch 5?

Which Residence is THE Residence?!

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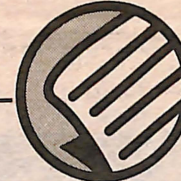
The Students' Union is now accepting
resumes for the position of
CRO - Chief Returning Officer
for the spring general elections!

All interested persons should submit
their resumes to the Students' Union
Executive Vice President at
the Rosaria Information Desk or by
e-mail to: suexecvp@msvu.ca

All resumes must be accompanied by
a cover letter and must be received
no later than 5PM, January 28th.

Vinnie's
PUB & LOUNGE

**FREE POOL
TOURNAMENT
MONDAY'S AT VINNIE'S PUB**



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Time to Test our Provincial Education



by: Andrea Newell

*Times are changing,
or at least the
ministers are...*

A lot can happen over the Christmas break. For most students it was a time to sit back and put our feet up for a well-deserved rest. But, as we were all soaking up the rays from the glowing tube, the Nova Scotia government was busy at work. The Hamm government decided it was a perfect time to make some changes in the department of Education. Yes, I too was confused at first. Let me try to explain.

According to a news release issued Dec. 19, 2002, from the government of Nova Scotia's Web site, ten Ministers were moved to new departments. For those of us who are not up to date on Nova Scotia politics, there are only 14 cabinet positions, so we are talking a major shuffle here people!

The moves students should be most aware of are those happening in the Education Department. The Honourable Jane Purves, MLA for Halifax-Citadel, has been reassigned as the Minister of Health. She has handed her desk over to the new Minister of Education the Honourable Angus MacIsaac, MLA for Antigonish.

The obvious question to ask here is "why?" Why did the Premier move Jane Purves out of Education. Some may suggest that perhaps her positive support of a student-debt relief program for the province, in December 2002 was so strong that it may have infringed on the broader plans of the Hamm government, forcing a move. Other critics, unsatisfied with the Minister, may feel that it was due time to switch up the seats.

So what does the Ministers' shift mean for us? Well, according to the government of Nova Scotia, "The mandate of the Department of Education spans the public school system, community colleges, universities, a comprehensive system of adult learning, public libraries, and other programs and services to support lifelong learning." This means university funding. As we all know in Nova Scotia, as well as across Canada,

post-secondary education funding is a major issue.

The Canadian Federation of Students offers some food for thought:

"Tuition fees for Canadian colleges skyrocketed 237% between 1990 and 1999."

"Over 1.4 million Canadian family units reported student debts in 1999, up from 490,000 in 1984." That is more than double in fifteen years!

"The total amount of outstanding student loans were 6.2 times higher in 1999 than 1984."

Closer to home, Dalhousie students woke up this past week with the threat of a possible 47% tuition hike next year. Although the Dalhousie spokesperson was quick to distance herself from that figure, it may be a way of justifying an eight or ten percent increase. Either way our earning power as students will not magically increase by ten percent this summer. Dal is the bellwether, as they set the trend for other Nova Scotia universities. You can bet that if the largest university in Nova Scotia sneezes, then other schools like the Mount will catch pneumonia.

So things are little rocky in the financial area for university students. This change of the Minister of Education in our provincial government could be a glimmer of hope. This could be the start of a whole new approach to our situation.

So what is this new Minister going to do, what changes are going to take place? This is the key question, and you can help us find out. Jargon is inviting you, the readers, to express your opinions, concerns and questions directly to the Minister himself. All you have to do is write a letter to the Honourable Angus MacIsaac and drop it off to the Jargon newsroom. We will publish letters and send them all to the Minister. So come on, get out your pen, and put your thoughts down on paper. We want your voice to be heard!

Halifax Rockers Unite for CKDU Benefit Concert

HALIFAX, N.S. - Border Crossing, a program on Dalhousie University's campus-community radio station, CKDU-FM, will be hosting a special concert during the station's Funding Drive, where some of Halifax's finest rock acts will perform rare acoustic sets.

"Whippin' Out the Wood: Halifax Rockers Unplugged" will take place at The Marquee Club on Thursday, January 30th, 2003, boasting a stellar lineup of top local hard rock and punk acts - Hell City Love, Dead Red, Blackout '77, and Jon Epworth & The Jesus Band, who will each perform a half-hour of acoustic material.

"Whippin' Out the Wood promises to be an exciting and unique musical showdown," said Claudia Ortiz, 2003 Funding Drive Administrator. "CKDU-FM's Funding Drive is the reason for this formidable collaborative effort. We invite everyone who is passionate about music and excited about community radio to join us and to enjoy, because there will be more..." Tickets to the event will be \$5 and available at the door, with all proceeds headed towards CKDU-FM's 2003 Funding Drive.

Whippin' Out the Wood will mark only his second solo performance to date... While Blackout '77 has previously played acoustic sets, bassist Greg Baller is constructing an acoustic bass especially for the event... Dead Red will have a instrumental shift, with vocalist Francis Hall relinquishing his bass to guitarist Jud Haynes, while drummer Peter MacMillan joins Fabian O'Brien on guitar... Headliner Hell City Love's front-man Desmond Troyer promises lots of surprises...

Boasting the slogan "With your support, radio can be free for all," CKDU-FM's Funding Drive aims to raise over \$50,000 to cover the costs of maintaining the station. CKDU-FM is the only campus-community radio station in Halifax; broadcasting a range of programming from current affairs to locally-produced hip-hop to classical music, all produced by community volunteers. The CKDU-FM Funding Drive runs from Friday, January 24th until Sunday, February 2nd, 2003.

For more information, contact:
Jon Bruhm, Event Organizer
Ph: (902) 423-0111 / jonholio@ns.sympatico.ca / <http://ckdu.dal.ca>

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New Management At Vinnies

by: Jason Firth

Vinnies opened its doors to the New Year and a sellout crowd on the first Thursday of the semester. With the addition of a new manager and promotions, the pub is already showing new perspective and energy.

Keegan Dawson (4th year history major), feels that the future of Vinnies and general school spirit at the Mount is dependent on continued willingness to support student services. Although the pub has beverage prices that generally beat any bar in Halifax, Dawson says "(This is) not about drinking... pub nights foster school spirit." Attendance is being bolstered by organized efforts from Student Council and Athletics and Recreation: they are showing potential for getting the student body to act.

For instance, Keith's Residence Challenge is getting students more involved in events on campus such as fanboosters for the women's basketball team. Karaoke night at Vinnie's on January 17th was its first event. Non-stop singing and laughs from familiar faces rocked the house until the wee hours. Make sure to come out to the next installment at the dance marathon Saturday January 25th!

Vinnies is really about bonding with other students and friends. While a full sound/light system is pumping all night, you can still hear your friends. Chances are you'll know just about everyone here, and

you can expect to be treated with respect by pub staff. It is the best spot in metro to have a crazy time in a safer environment.

Side note – Our badass Jagermeister Flag (only one of four in metro) was recently reinstated after a brief controversy. The flag features a stag and cross from the vision of Saint Hubertus, patron saint of hunters. "Jagermeister" means huntmaster in German, and originally was reported to contain deer's blood.

On The Job Hunt

by: Natalie Dawes

Have you started looking for a job yet? Whether you are graduating and looking for a permanent job or just looking for a summer job, now is the time to start your search. Leaving it until March or April usually means no job at all or getting that job that nobody else wants. The Mount's Career Planning Centre has all kinds of tools to help make your job search a successful one.

We have two workshops coming up that will be helpful for anyone looking for a job. They are: Interview Preparation: Learn how to dazzle an interviewer, Wed., Jan. 29, 10 a.m.-12p.m. Finding A Job After Graduation: Tips to help you succeed Fri., Jan 31, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sign up for the workshops in Evaristus 218 or call Gisela at 457-6567.

We also have two summer employers on-campus early in February: Kenmont and Kenwood Camps Jobs Information Booth Mon., Feb. 3, 10 a.m.-4p.m. in Seton Link

Drop by to learn about summer camp positions!

Camp Tidnish Jobs Information Session Wed., Feb. 5, 4:30 p.m. in Evaristus 367

Pre-registration required, visit: http://www.msvu.ca/student_affairs/calendar/registration.htm

There are a many things to keep in mind when you are starting your job search. The following tips are just examples of the information you can learn from visiting the Career Planning Centre or attending one of

our workshops.

Do a self-assessment: Know what kind of job you want and what you can offer an employer

- Pay attention to your interests, values, and skills
- If you are having trouble identifying these, visit a career counselor

Identify Potential Employers: Remember both the visible and hidden job markets.

- Visible markets include job search websites like workopoliscampus.com/msvu where the Mount posts all incoming jobs, newspaper ads, HRDC Job Bank, university departmental bulletin boards, company postings (in-house, websites), and employment agencies.
- Hidden markets include personal networking, newspaper articles, company newsletters and websites, yellow pages, directories related to your field of study, and volunteering.
- Make sure that your family and friends know about your job search. They may know of other opportunities or be willing to mention your name to their contacts. They may also know of jobs that aren't advertised.

Research Potential Employers: This will help identify what you can contribute to the organization.

- Research products and services they offer and what they look for in employees.- Research contact names: Make sure you get correct names, positions, and spellings.
- Make sure you understand the application process and schedules, and that you complete all the steps properly.

Prepare Your Promotional Tools:

Appropriate resumes, cover letters, and interview skills

- Prepare a professional resume no more than 2 pages long.
- Always address your cover letter to the appropriate individual, maximum 1 page.
- Make sure to include why you want to work for the company.

Search online: <http://jobs.gc.ca>, www.workinfont.ca, www.jobbank.gc.ca, www.jobspress.com, www.monstertrak.ca (password: occupation), www.gov.ns.ca/econ/pep/nseps, and www.workopoliscampus.com/msvu (password: occupation)

Good luck with your job search and remember, the Career Planning Centre is here for you. Come on up to Evaristus 218 and say hi!



These uncouth youth, have become stylistic rolemodels for Mount hippies

Hippies

by: Carla Morgan

For the first time in twenty years, MSVU is facing an infiltration of hippy-type students who plan to "change the world for the better". Mary Blige and Pete Diddler, regular sitters and people watchers in the link, have noted a recent sequence of suspicious events since the commencement of classes in January. "We noticed a trend of unkempt and unusually unruly hair in passer-byers" exclaimed a distraught P. Diddler. "At first we just assumed that we had fallen behind in the 'new winter look' so we went and bought all the fashion magazines the store had, and nothing! Unruly hair is definitely not cool" Although the majority of MSVU students claim to continue to enjoy a secure sense of apathy, many complaints have been made of "overly political" and "speculative" conversations.

The Conservative Retailers Assassination of Progress (CRAP) has distributed a leaflet describing the look and personality of a hippy. "They don't appreciate brand name clothes (Agar!) and they have a tiring tendency to overanalyze things, even our trusted government and corporate policies". The CRAP leaflet concludes with a advisory stating "If you see one don't run, just avoid eye contact and repeat to yourself ten times 'Ignorance is bliss', or 'never underestimate the power of self delusion'".

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Feb 3 Rosaria Student Centre, Room 105 @ 2pm

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Guest Speaker Pat Rochon from GAP Adventures

South East Asia & China
Jan 21 SMU Loyola Private Dining Room @ 7.00pm
Guest Speaker Pat Rochon from GAP Adventures

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HALIFAX FUSION

by: Brent Jewers

Consider this an open letter to students and friends of students in Halifax.

I'm coordinating a massive party on February 7th. It's called **Halifax Fusion**. It's gonna rock, but the show is about making a difference. Generally, I think we know why it's good to make a difference and for the most part we're all pretty decent, giving people. Living in Atlantic Canada requires a deeper elemental form of charity just to get by. Without our own abundant kindness, shit would really fall apart around here. (Pardon my French, but you're an adult and I like to swear). We're all trudging through a certain amount of anxiety over global conflicts right now, as our safety feels threatened. It's pretty overwhelming. I don't feel like I'm able to change that, so instead I'm throwing a giant party. Halifax Fusion.

I'll try not to get preachy, since that shit drives me mental. Really I'm just some guy putting on a party where the proceeds go to charity. It's now an annual gig and it's gonna be a huge night. Last year's show rocked!

I was getting pretty down about all the bad news in the press, so I thought if I put together this event it might get some attention and displace some of the ugly news, while legitimately helping great causes and providing tons of fun. So I am inviting you to Halifax Fusion on Friday February 7. (Unless being creepy or starting fights is your thing, then you oughta stay home). Just happy fun positive times at Halifax Fusion. Free stuff for hundreds of people and the best night of music \$15 will ever buy you. Oh yeah, we've got free food at 8PM. Pizza, subs... you won't be disappointed. Grab an ice cold Sleeman product while you're there (since they're helping us make this happen! Yee Ha!)

You'll have a great time at The Marquee Club on February 7th for three reasons:

Great music.
Great cause.
Tons of prizes.

The line up is amazing. If you know good music, you'll be there. If you don't know these acts, it's worth looking into. Robbie Fulks (playing upstairs), Tom Russell, and John Borra (playing downstairs) are coming in from out of town and the rest of the line up is packed with hot local talents like The Joel Plaskett Emergency, Human, and Matt Mays and El Torpedo. In fact, the entire night is filled with awesome music (See the ad over there on this page... Look for it, look for it...) If you want to know more about the performers, check them out on our website www.HalifaxFusion.com - download some sample tunes and then get to the show. They'll all have CD's available at Halifax Fusion or you can check out the display for the show at SAM's on Barrington.

The great cause is that we're donating the proceeds to charities you help select by voting on our website

www.HalifaxFusion.com. I'm not taking a cent of the money either. It's tremendously fun volunteer work. It will be a success if I look at the crowd this year and see tons of people having a great time.

So how can Halifax Fusion help you out? Well, free food at 8PM and music that you'll remember forever. Free stuff for hundreds, and not just junk. We're talking about two trips to Montreal, a Burton snowboard, three XBoxes, a guitar, A Sony mini-system, a sweet computer desk and tons more (check out our website for a detailed list that we're adding to regularly).

Come have some drinks, eat some food, listen to some music, help cool causes, and party like it's 1999.

Residence Challenge

by: Andrea Newell

The MSVU Alexander Keith's Cup Challenge, an inter-residence competition, kicked back into gear on Friday, January 10th, at Vinnie's Pub. The competition features residence students broken into ten teams. Each team will compete with the others to see who can accumulate the most participation points by March 15th. The idea of the contest is to encourage school spirit and participation in residence life.

Points are awarded on the basis of student participation in school spirited activities. So far, teams are adding up their scores from attending a beach party at Vinnies and two Mystic Basketball games. Dressing up for the occasion, such as sporting blue and white colours at the games, can earn team members more points. Also, events called "point grabbers" can occur at any of the activities, at any time, so you can keep the points rolling.

It appears that on campus, a potential residence rivalry could be simmering between the Birches and Assisi. The Birches seem to be full of gusto, challenging Assisi to show some team spirit at an upcoming challenge, only time will tell. The current standings are as follows:

1st The Crackhouse

2nd The Aquaholics

3rd The Key Lime Twists

4th TIE: The Golden Girls and The Pink Playa's

6th The Pink Ladie's

7th The Hella Good's

8th The Red Devils

9th The Busty Babes in Blue

10th Birch 5

Upcoming point earning events include the Kumoniwannaleiya Hawaiian Party, a Dance Marathon, Football Challenge and a Newfie Nite.

So what's in it for you? Well, as residence students you are eyeing a good-looking prize. The winning team will receive a privately catered party at Vinnie's, an engraved Keith's Cup Trophy, personalized Championship T-Shirts and other team awards.

For more details you can talk with your resident assistant for a complete listing of rules and regulations as well as a detailed calendar of events.



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American Assimilation

by: Sharon Godsell

This past summer I went to France to gain work and life experience abroad. When you travel to another culture you have expectations. In France, I was expecting croissants, chocolate, french men, fashion, and of course the Eiffel Tower...and they were all there just as they should have been. However, things I didn't expect were McDonald's on every corner, people watching movies to sub titles and listening to music they couldn't understand. I didn't expect that France was turning into the States, nor for that matter did I suspect that the rest of the world was. I stepped out of my severely American influenced life, expecting a new culture only to find a recycled American one.

Culture is being lost and replaced by a non-culture culture. Thousands of years of heritages and tradition are being replaced by Big Macs and rap music. On January 14th 2002, Bush choked on a pretzel and it was on the front page...the front page! It shocks me that newspapers think that the public cares that much about Bush almost choking. Honestly I'm sure that there were no lack of deaths that day, but going over the archives all I found was Bush and a picture of that ugly booze he got from NOT CHEWING HIS PRETZEL!!!

A large reason we hear about the Americans so much is because they have so much control of the media. There are about four or five major TV networks, Viacom and Disney to name a few, that control all the stations. These companies go to foreign countries and offer to sell them one and a half hours of production cheaper than it would cost to produce one minute of their own. And it's not America's fault they can offer such a deal...is it? Either way, there it is, America the great promoter of FREEDOM of choice, making it very hard for foreign countries to have a choice. A country that likes to see itself as diverse is creating a monopoly of its own country. The US is making it hard to see what other countries have to offer, the world has become their mirror.

Talking to the travelers there general opinion was that it was abominable what happened on September 11th. But they were asking "Why was America getting so much attention when it was happening to them, when it's been happening to other countries for centuries? Why is it when something happens in America everyone hears about it?" The conflicts in Ireland have been on going for decades. People in China are

killed everyday for going against the ideas of their dictator leadership. And before Sept 11th, the average American didn't know where Afghanistan was, not to mention what the woman and men were going through under the severe regime of the Taliban.

The media is a powerful tool. So are our brains. Learning to question all that we hear is the only way we can ensure we are getting the accurate story. Or more importantly that we are not being excessively shown the unimportant story while other very relevant stories go unheard.

Trying to Sort out this Mess of a World

by: Robin Folvik

Those of us who pay attention to the media, trying to figure out what has gone wrong with the world, can find things pretty scary. Its hard to know what is worse, the terrorists or the so called War on Terrorism. The United States seems hell bent on lashing out at whatever enemy they can find, their government administration behaving in a way reminiscent of the madness that led to the deaths of a million and a half Vietnamese during the Vietnam War.

Whatever problems one may find with anthropologist Margaret Mead's work, her "And Keep Your Powder Dry" (1942) is worth a read. Writing after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour, Mead discusses America's tendency to go to war or support aggressive actions, if convinced that they have experienced an unprovoked attack. This belief, along with the desire to uphold 'rightness,' justice and good, fuels a willingness to sacrifice certain 'peace' time conditions and rights. For example, wartime conditions require citizens to unite to 'fight for the cause,' on the domestic front or otherwise, to accept the loss of rights of undesirables and critics of the state, and to allow the government to maintain a veil of secrecy around its actions.

Of course, to foster conditions conducive to these beliefs, there must be a "wrong", an injustice and an evil that is easy to discern. Today this dichotomy, where one group must be 'good' simply because another is 'evil', is so ingrained in our minds that even the most sophisticated critic simultaneously recognizes this simplistic thinking while ingesting and accepting it with every daily report consumed. It is much easier to digest the images, ideas and media we are spoon-fed, no matter how bitter the taste, than to

wade through mass amounts of information needed for a complex, critical lens. However, more and more Americans and Canadians are beginning to recognize that an accurate picture of the world requires active engagement with the news.

Do your own research, question what purpose there may be to report stories in a certain manner, and ask yourself who is on the board of the corporation or company. For example, Colin Powell's son is the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairperson in the United States. (<http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/powell/>) Hell, question what I am writing! Check to see if that website exists, and if I got my facts right.

Wait! Now wait just one freaking moment, I thought these were the bad guys? You mean to tell me I have to learn about this country now? But weren't they our allies once? Or was that...What happened to...oh, he's still bad...phew, at least I didn't spend all that time learning for no reason.

'Bad' and 'good' are simplistic concepts that innumerable people employ when confronted with a difficult situations. We cannot fall back on such narrow interpretations to understand the events unfolding in front of our eyes (well, at least as much as we are allowed to see). Yet, it is easy to resort to these categorizations, and the ground is ripe for growing seeds of doubt, mistrust and suspicion of, well, anything that seems 'different.' I have heard enough stories from people on both sides of the border who have either witnessed or experienced hateful language and/or treatment based on country of origin, religion, race, and ethnicity to believe that they are not simply isolated events perpetuated by anti-social, misguided individuals.

For anyone else who wishes to deepen their understanding of issues at large, there are always free lectures offered around Halifax on any topic imaginable. If you have a spare credit to pick up, there are a number of courses offered at the Mount that are worth your while. Here are a few courses that I recommend: "The Roots of Peace and Conflict" offered by the Peace and Conflict Studies program, "Women, War and Peace," "Revolution, Reform,

Reaction: Protest Movements in the United States" offered through the history department and "Gender and International Relations" offered through the Women's Studies department. Although I have not necessarily received answers to any of my questions through these courses, I found (and you will too) that the background information I received from these courses has filtered into my daily dialogue with anyone who will listen.

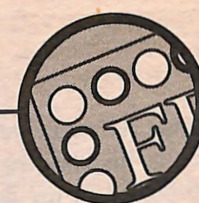
Behind all of this is a feeling that I have trouble articulating, a desire to call a certain nation a Big Bad Bully. Ah, but can one ask for complexity, for critical analysis, for acceptance and for trust when one feels such disdain for another? As much as I am appalled by the warmongering of the current American administration, they are not America, and considering that Bush lost the election, they can't be said to represent Americans. All I can leave with is that there is no magical panacea available - one nation's downfall will not give rise to the creative forces needed to heal the rifts that have formed between people of the world.

Until that mythical time when I manage to figure this out, I will remain in the library reading, in the classroom learning and drinking coffee late at night (shade grown, bird friendly, organic fair trade, of course) while discussing my concerns with various friends and family.

BUSH JR. TACKLES THE ISSUES

DO I SUPPORT PILOTS TAKING PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS? I SUPPOSE IT DEPENDS ON THE DRUGS. I MEAN, I TOOK DRUGS AND I HAVE GOOD BRAIN EXPECTANCY. BY THE WAY, I THINK IT'S TIME WE FINISHED THE JOB TRUMAN STARTED IN WORLD WAR II AND DESTROY JAPAN. I DON'T TRUST COUNTRIES WHO HAVE EMPERORS.





The Man Behind the Bush: A Look into the Life of George W. Bush

by: Jenn Gillespie

George W. Bush officially took his first step onto the carpet of the Oval Office as President of the United States on December 18, 2000. He became President after a bubbling mountain of controversy erupted in the State of Florida, spreading doubt throughout the United States.

The counting of ballots and legal banter stretched the election for five weeks until all was said and done. A mandatory recount was ordered in Florida after the winning margin was less than 1000 and it was noticed that the ballots cast in this state were different from those used in the rest of the country. To make a confusing story a bit more indigestible the ballot was hard to read. The area that voters were to punch, in order to cast a vote for Gore and his counterpart Lieberman, was near the area of little-known candidates Buchanan and Foster.

Because of the mix-up and unclear presentation of the ballot in Florida, 19,000 votes were considered spoiled and thrown out of the official count. Voters remarked that because of the confusion and names close together, they marked two boxes instead of just one, thinking they had to vote for the President and the Vice-President. In American elections one vote counts for the two running mates. Each of the ballots that were marked twice was discarded.

Other Florida voters believed they were voting for Gore and Lieberman only to discover after-the-fact that they voted for Buchanan and Foster. Although enough votes were not cast for Buchanan and Foster to cause a stir in the Presidential race, the vote ended up split more than anticipated in the confused state of Florida.

The controversy did not end once the recount was over. In total more than 30 legal proceedings manifested themselves in five state and three federal courts. There were even cases filed challenging the Florida electoral process. This election became even more historical when the Florida Supreme Court became involved and ruled that George W. Bush and Dick Cheney had indeed won the election. This decision was again a close call. The Florida Supreme Court ruled 5:4 in Bush's favor. Banter and decisions by Supreme Courts continued until Bush and Cheney were declared the official winners.

If you are not completely confused by this yet, here is another bit of information. The

Governor of Florida is Jeb Bush: George W. Bush's younger brother. Whether you believe in a correlation or a coincidence is your decision.

This election, and the weeks following, will be studied by American schools for years to come, or so it is speculated by the editors of Bush v. Gore "The Court Cases and the Commentary". E.J. Dionne Jr. and William Kristol wrote a 340 page chronological explanation, which for me raised more questions than it gave answers. Nonetheless it is a good political read.

So when all was said and done Bush and Cheney won the race and Al Gore conceded victory to another Bush in the White House on December 13, 2000. George W. Bush and his father George H.W. Bush became the first father and son to serve as President since John Adams and John Quincy Adams. But what would be this Bush's claim to fame?

As far as campaign promises are concerned, in the beginning of his mandate the Bush government approved a \$1.3 trillion dollar tax cut: the same number that surfaced in his election campaign. Other items followed incorporating George W. Bush as an American household name. But will he be remembered for tax cuts or for his declaration on the evening of September 11, 2001?

People have differing opinions about President Bush especially since the tragedy of September 11. The President the people of the United States knew as a man who lead from his heart stepped up and began to lead with his mind. The speeches he gave in the days following the terrorist attacks gave many people, Americans and their allies, pride while at the same time instilling a new kind of fear. His decisions may be harsh and we may never know the full story, but it is hard to deny that this man has guts.

Throughout the month of September 2001 and even now, images of planes crashing and people dying are almost in competition with shots of a concentrating President, his staff and family. The need to end the terrorist threat on America and its allies has since been overshadowed by a threat known well to the Bush family: Saddam Hussein.

Is it all connected? The Bush adminis-

tration has chosen to group terrorist cells, Hussein and the potential for his weapons of mass destruction, and most recently North Korea, into an "Axis of Evil". According to this government, there is no distinction; any threat to the United States will be dealt with leaving us to wonder what the future holds. On December 18th of last year in an interview with Ken Walsh (USNews), President Bush commented, "the biggest issues facing us in '03 will be continuing the war on terror." But before we can look at the future decisions of George W. Bush and his government, it is helpful to look at the President's past.

Born the first child of George and Barbera

Bush in 1946, George W. Bush is described by the White House as a "people person". This personality may have been contributed to by the close relationship he had with his mother. Another factor may have been the death of his younger sister Robin when Bush was only seven years-old. This "people person" was said to take time during his years at Andover Academy to talk to anyone.

Andover was highlighted when Bush became head-cheerleader. Perhaps this is not a role we consider in the portfolio of the President of the United States, but it is documented in a NEWSWEEK 2000 issue. From there Bush took the spotlight, some-



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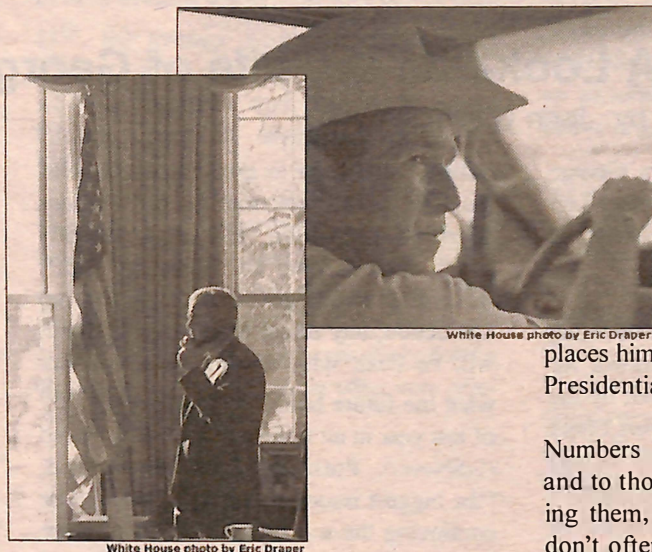
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thing he would retain for years to come. After his cheering days were done, Bush followed in his father's footsteps to Yale University.

During his years at Yale, and later at Harvard Business School, "Dubya" (as he is known for the W in his name) left the spotlight of cheering and became a party-loving fraternity man. With the onset of the war in Vietnam, Bush was among many who did not want to seek battle. At the same time, Bush did not want to become a political embarrassment to his father. Finding the middle ground, and perhaps an easy way out, Bush enrolled in the Texas National Guard. The party-boy made another brief appearance in 1976 when he was arrested in Maine for drinking and driving.

Bush eventually settled down after university and met the woman who would be his wife. The quiet-mannered teacher and librarian, Laura Welch, became a member of the Bush family and later came twin girls Barbera and Jenna. Today the Bush family is completed with two dogs, Spot and Barney, and a presidential cat named India. Although family was and remains a big part of Bush's life, we must not forget his passion for baseball. Today's President was once the managing partner and part-owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team.



This cheerleading, frat boy, baseball-buff is now the President of the United States. Balancing the everyday life of family and mixing in the pressures of, quite possibly, being the most powerful leader in the world can't be an easy day for anyone. Bush is constantly under a microscope. Rumors continue to filter through the media about a one-time drug addiction and problems with his daughters.

Although Bush may have the support of many Americans and allies world wide, criticism is never far behind. Critics aside,

we must consider why toward the end of 2000, a Gallup poll showed Bush's approval rating nearing 90%: the highest this type of reading had been in six decades. Perhaps the current Gallup reading for his second year in office (Jan. 20, 2002 – Jan. 19, 2003) at 71.5% also speaks volumes. This average places him eighth on the list of all-time high Presidential approval ratings.

Numbers may mean volumes in statistics and to those who spend their days crunching them, but to the average citizen they don't often mean as much. However, to a President who's election win was based so controversially on numbers, they probably mean a lot more.

So you may think George W. Bush won the election fairly or you may simply be standing by and watching. Perhaps you like the man, agree with the President, or at least respect this leader of a nation; or none of the above. Undeniably George W. Bush is a man with an interesting past and a very heavy mandate. The world is in conflict. The international disagreements mount. People need change. If George W. Bush can be the man he and many American people

believe he is, peace through the conflict may be only a step away.

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The Basics of Billiards and the Particulars of Pool: A Beginner's Guide to Pool

by: Andre Duchene

Pool was originally a lawn game, similar to croquet, that was played around the 15th century in Northern Europe and probably France. Eventually pool moved indoors and was played on a table with a cloth similar to the cloth we see today.

As in croquet, the balls were originally pushed using a mallet rather than struck using a cue. At this point the table had both, pockets for scoring and banks for the simple purpose of keeping the balls from falling off the table. Players quickly noticed that it was near impossible to strike a ball adjacent to a bank with the large mallets. It, therefore, became habit to strike balls against the bank using the back of the mallet, the longer and narrower handle. The back of the mallet was referred to as the "queue", or tail in French. Needless to say it is from this that we now have the word "cue." The cue didn't come into being until the 1600's.

Despite its popularity today, eight ball is a very young game, having only been created shortly after 1900.

Information courtesy of the Billiards Congress of America (www.bca-pool.com)

Pool today:

Pool is truly a strange game today. There are few games in which people invest so much of their self-esteem. Through pool people can feel tough or cool, even sexy. None of this really makes much sense. To say that you're tough because you can play a mean game of pool is like saying that you would scout out prizefighters on a golf course. The fact remains however, people are perpetually investing their egos in their ability to play pool. What is strange is that, despite this, few people take anytime to get good at the game. The emphasis is on potting single balls, not on controlling the cue ball so that you can run the table. If a shot is certain, these sorts of players will, almost invariably, smash the cue ball as hard as they possibly can, sacrificing any hope of guaranteeing a good placement for their next shot.

Needless to say, this creates an interesting dynamic. With very little work and concentration your below average pool-player can rise far above bar-room mediocrity. This can have very pleasing consequences for women in particular.

Cont. Next Page...



Student Research Opportunities Norah Stephen Oncology Scholar Awards

The Norah Stephen Oncology Scholar Awards are funded by *Cancer Care Nova Scotia* to foster an interest in the field of oncology (cancer), among undergraduate and graduate students in Nova Scotia.

A total of ten awards will be granted each spring. Five awards will be dedicated to cancer-related research projects including, but not limited to, basic science, cancer informatics, epidemiology, outcomes and/or sociobehavioural research. The remaining five awards will be dedicated to clinical training/experience projects. Each award, worth \$5000, covers stipend support for the student for a maximum of 14 weeks.

Interested candidates and their supervisors are invited to complete an application, outlining the project or practical experience directly related to the study of cancer, and submit it to CCNS with the required attachments on or before Friday, February 14, 2003.

Applications are available by contacting Christine Lockett by phone at 902-473-3851 or by email at christine.lockett@ccns.nshealth.ca

Applications may be mailed or faxed to:

NOVA SCOTIA
Health

Cancer Care Nova Scotia
1278 Tower Road, Bethune 543
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Phone: 902-473-3851 Fax: 902-473-4631

Cont. From Page 8 (pool)

Tough guys, quite frequently take pool very seriously. There is an accompanying expectation that women are generally not very good at pool so the guys can show them the ropes. Truth be known, there are few things more amusing than watching women demoralize men on the tables. If a woman wants to achieve a tough gal façade, trouncing a host of macho men on the pool table is a surefire way to do it.

Now before you can even begin to play pool at any level there are a few basics you need to learn. Master these basics and you'll find yourself able to give a good game to anyone that hasn't taken pool too seriously.

The first element that needs to be understood is the bridge.

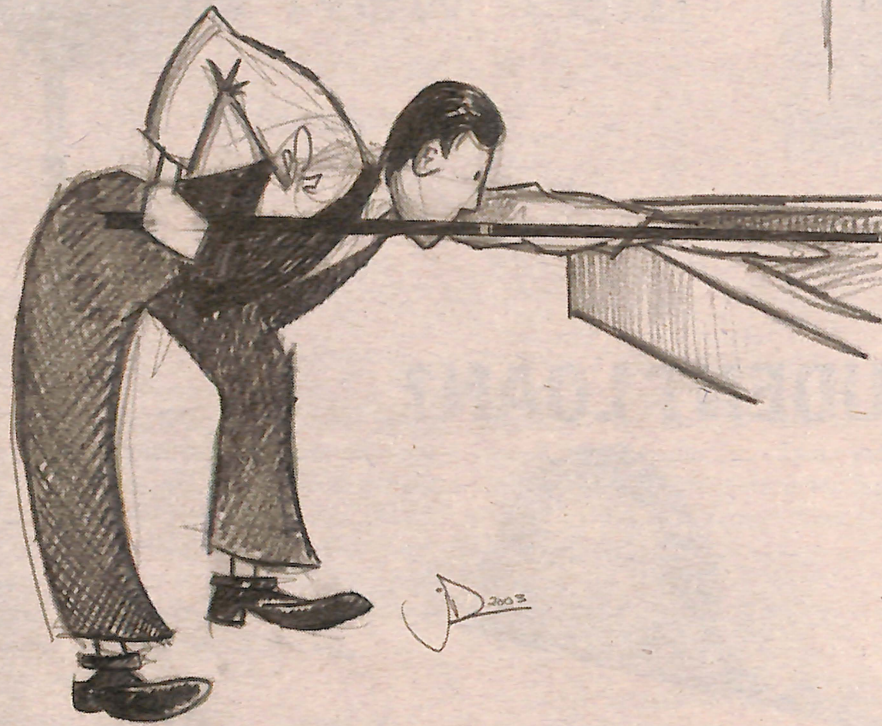
When you're holding a cue (the stick used to strike the cue ball) one hand is holding the back of the cue and one hand is placed firmly on the cloth, supporting the cue. This hand forms what is called the bridge.

There are a variety of bridges. To begin, you really only need one.

Place your hand on the table a comfortable distance from the cue ball. You have to place your hand FIRMLY on the table. This hand must not move when you are shooting! Spread your fingers out and grip the cloth. Press your thumb as close to your knuckle as you can. You'll notice that a little "V" is formed between your thumb and the knuckle. The cue will rest in this groove.

When you stroke your shot the cue should be moving in a straight line, not up and down and not side to side. To prevent the cue from moving up and down you must not grip the cue too firmly with your back hand.

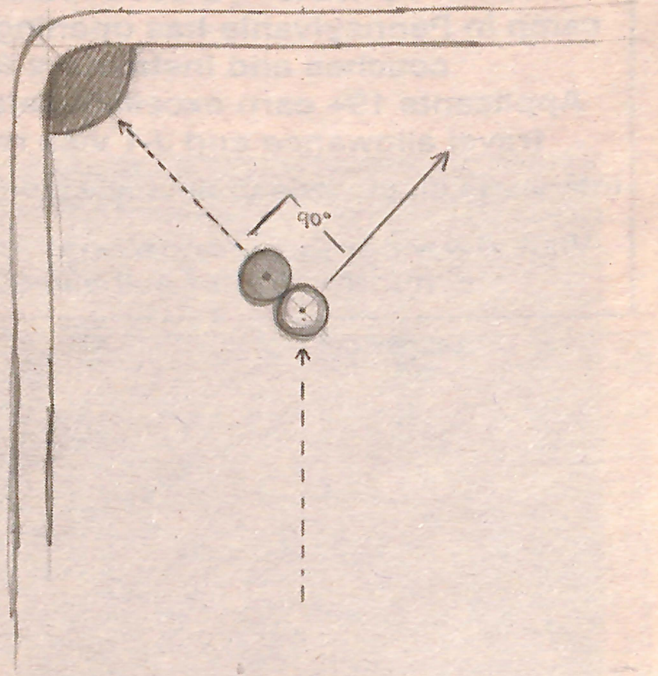
Your stance is very important. If you're not comfortable or you're unstable, you haven't a prayer of making that shot. One leg should be bent forward while the other should be extended straight back. Your bent leg will be on the same side as your bridge hand. Most of your weight should be on your front leg. Between your stance and your bridge hand, you should be quite stable.



One thing you'll notice is that virtually everyone "feathers" at the cue ball before striking it. This is the process of practicing a stroke until you're comfortable. Believe it or not this isn't just for show. While you feather you should pay attention to whether or not the cue is move in a straight line. If it isn't then you've got a problem. When feathering try not to take too many "practice strokes." If you're confident of your shot then you shouldn't take ten or twenty strokes to shoot. You'll just psyche yourself out.

When you finally take your shot it should just be a continuation of the feathering motion. Your shot should be smooth and it should follow through the cue ball. Don't make your shots jerky. It doesn't take much to push the cue ball across the table and normally that's all you'll need. Generally speaking, the harder you hit the ball, the more you sacrifice in accuracy. There will be occasions where you will want to hit the cue ball hard (if you're trying to be showy for instance), but hitting the cue ball unnecessarily hard is not the way to win a game of pool.

So you're ready to take that shot! The question now is "how do I aim?" Pool really is just physics in action. When the cue ball strikes another ball, draw a line that passes through the center of the two balls. The object ball will travel along this line. So to figure out where you want to hit the object ball just reverse the process. Draw a line from the pocket, through the center of the object ball. This will show you where you want the cue ball to strike the object ball.



Perhaps the most important aspect of shooting is where your eyes are. When you strike the cue ball your eyes MUST be on the contact point on the ball you're aiming for. Your body follows your head and, subtly, your head follows your eyes. Pool is a game of precision. Although your body will naturally take care of the smallest subtleties of your shot if you trust yourself, you will miss inevitably if your eyes are wondering. The most common mistake is for your eyes to be on the cue ball when you strike it. If you do this, when you strike the cue ball your eyes will follow it, your follow-through will be compromised and your stroke will go crooked. If you're only going to do one thing right make it keeping your eyes focussed on the object ball.

From what has been said it looks as though it would take about three minutes to take a shot. Fortunately, performing all of the above takes about fifteen seconds each time, from when you decide which ball to aim for to when you take your shot.

Now, if you want to win a game of pool there are few other things you can do.

Presumably, the majority of the pool that you'll play will be at the bars. Without fear of contradiction it can be said that these tables are not perfectly flat. Years of jump balls, spilled drinks across the felt and people slamming balls on the table will have caused slight imperfections. What this means is that you can't hit the ball too lightly when you're taking long shots or else the ball will curve. For close shots you can still hit the ball as softly as you like. Bottom line: don't trust the tables at bars. If you're at Dooley's or Breakers you shouldn't have any problems with inconsistencies in the table.

Cont. on Page 11...

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Cont. From Page 9 (Pool)...

If you find that you have a hard time sinking individual balls you will want to hit the balls such that they stop close to the holes. This does two things, it sets you up for next shot and it is one less pocket that your opponent can't shoot at because it's blocked. This is called a pigeon and it can be really annoying when your opponent has two or three of them.

At a low level of play the winner of the game can be decided from square one, simply because one player chose the better suit (stripes or solids). After the break take a moment of pause before you shoot if the table is still open. Don't necessarily take the ball that's the easiest. If all the stripes were bunched up and on the rails except for one pigeon while all the solids are free your best bet would be to go for solids if you thought you could sink one. The bottom line here is just to take a moment to assess the table before you try to pick a suit.

Finally, don't get intimidated by the eight ball. Nineteen out of twenty players choke on the eight ball. The funny thing is if you're playing to win, the eight ball is the only one that matters. You won't win for sinking seven in a row and you won't lose for scratching, until you get to the eight ball. It's no different then the other balls though. Don't feather for a longer time just because it's the eight ball and, for God's sake, don't smack the cue ball extra hard because you want to sink it extra well. If you crank the eight ball the pool Gods will bite you in the ass. You'll scratch and you'll lose. Mathematically, this doesn't make much sense, but let there be no mistake, it will happen almost every time.

Above all, don't sweat it. That I even wrote this article seems to imply that I don't follow my own advice. The fact remains however, pool is just a game and it's essentially useless unless you can have a good time at it. Good luck and have fun.

Changing Reflections: Self-Improvement in the New Year

by: Seela Amaratunga



To help you keep your New Year's Resolutions for 2003 here are some words of the wise on staying fit, losing weight, quitting smoking and above all else, getting rid of stress. Incidentally, these "wise words" aren't my own, but rather, are drawn from a variety of credible sources. I'm not just tooting my horn.

First off, some food for thought on motivation. Motivation is best described as the factors that energize human behavior, a drive that pushes us toward setting and achieving goals. Ultimately, we are striving for self-actualization, a state of self-fulfillment in which an individual realizes his or her highest potential in a unique, personal way. Keep these terms in perspective as a good starting point in reducing stress and maintaining a fulfilling lifestyle.

Reducing Stress:

The most effective way to deal with stress is to be active and self-aware. First off, figure out the current stresses in your life and work out a way to minimize them. Secondly, establish a better way to cope with life stresses that are unavoidable. Some good strategies to make note of are:

-Set achievable goals that still present a

challenge (but are not impossible). Allow yourself to let go of your perceived failures (a lot of times our perceived failures aren't really failures at all).

-Say no to unnecessary or unimportant tasks.

-Estimate a realistic timeframe to complete tasks and give yourself a bit of extra time for breaks. Effective time management is a big factor in stress management. Keeping to a realistic schedule and keeping tabs on time management can significantly cut out unnecessary stress.

-Set up extra time in your schedule by eliminating a task that is not really necessary (like doing the dishes) and using the time for relaxation (anything from rigorous exercise, meditation, reading, drawing/painting, listening to music, etc. is great). Exercise and relaxation are particularly good methods for coping with unavoidable stress.

-Reshape your outlook on change and potential problems. Instead of seeing change in a negative light (as many of us do), reframe your opinion by looking at a potential "problem" as a new challenge to be met and a new opportunity for personal growth and strength.

Another important source of stress is


conflict. We come across it every day and very few of us deal with it well. The key to handling conflict is reshaping our view of the perceived problem. Since this is sometimes difficult, it's important to allow yourself an emotional release by embracing your gut feelings and finding a strategy to cope with, or overcome them. One of the worst things we can do is bottle feelings up inside.

Here are some suggestions of activities to reduce stress:

Take a hike/Go for a ride. The HRM has a number of excellent and diverse trails. There's Point Pleasant Park, Long Lake Provincial Park, Shubie Park in Dartmouth, York Redoubt, the Jacks Lake trail off Hammonds Plains Rd., and of course the walking trails at the Mount.

Take up a new hobby. The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) offers non-credit, continuing education courses in a wide variety of areas including photography, jewelry making, web design and many more. The local community colleges, Dalplex, the YMCA, YWCA, etc. also have many varied programs offered throughout the winter.

Cont. Next Page...



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Cont. From Page 11...

Conquer a fear. Some extreme sports to try in Nova Scotia include paragliding and sea kayaking (winter paddling in a pool is available through Mountain Equipment Co-op if you're too chicken). Rock-climbing is also a very cool thing to try and MEC opens its climbing wall to the public for free every Thursday (5pm-9pm) and Saturday (10am-2pm).

Take up an exercise that develops synergy between mind and body. Pilates, Tai Chi, Yoga, Martial Arts are all great examples. It's a good idea to do some research before you join any of these activities and pick the one that best suits you.

Healthy Eating and Weight Loss:

Hunger and eating are closely tied in with motivation and stress. Furthermore, society governs our eating habits whether we like it or not. This can be an obstacle to healthy, happy living. We are affected by what society deems appropriate eating behavior and eating material, and by this I mean junk food. For some people, food can present an escape from unpleasant thoughts and realities.

A good starting point to eating healthy and weight loss is to find out your Body Mass Index (BMI). BMI is a simple calculation based on an individual's height and weight that is an indicator of obesity and underweight. It's also important to consult a doctor or nutritionist if you have any concerns.

To calculate your BMI:

BMI (in pounds and inches) =

$$\left[\frac{\text{Weight in pounds}}{\text{Height in inches}^2} \right] \times 703$$

BMI (in kilograms and meters) =

$$\frac{\text{Weight in kilograms}}{[\text{Height in meters}]^2}$$

This is how BMI is rated (in adults the rating is the same for men and women):

Underweight: BMI less than 18.5
 Healthy Range: BMI between 18.5 and 24.9
 Overweight: BMI between 25 and 29.9
 Obese: BMI over 30

These BMI ranges are based on medical research that looks at the effect body weight has on disease and death. BMI itself doesn't equal body fat percentages.

Cont. Next Page...



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Cont. From Page 12 (resolutions)...

On it's own it's not a diagnostic tool but more of a helpful indicator.

Tips Towards Good Nutrition and Losing Weight:

A surefire way to lose weight is to focus on health and happiness as opposed to just shedding the pounds. As usual, happiness is a key ingredient for the recipe so be sure to keep smiling.

A great starting place is to set up a reasonable long-range diet that includes all of the essential nutrients and minerals.

Find a good doctor or nutritionist recommended book on how to build a healthy, well-rounded diet. With boatloads of information available this shouldn't be too hard! Drink more water- it helps to speed up metabolism and is beneficial in body functioning.

A high-protein, low carbohydrate, low fat diet is considered the accepted standard for safe, gradual weight loss.

Choose carbohydrates from good nutritional sources like fruits and vegetables, and wholegrain products.

Maintain unsaturated fatty acid intake by eating fish, butter, drinking 2% milk, yogurt etc. (unsaturated fatty acids are also good for you because they are an essential source of fat soluble vitamins).

Try to limit your intake of saturated fats (found in a lot of processed foods) that really aren't so good for you.

Eat more frequent meals of smaller portions, this is beneficial in improving metabolism.

Avoid eating large meals after 8 p.m., you'll sleep better and it's easier on your digestive system.

Quitting Smoking:

National Non-Smoking Week is January 19th to the 25th and what better time to quit? With the new provincial legislation restricting public smoking to bars after 9 p.m. and the recently increased tobacco taxes, why not kick the habit? New help is also available from the Medical Society of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Cancer Society for smokers who want to end their addictions.

First, have a glance at some of the recent smoking figures in Canada:

According to a 2001 Health Canada report, the "Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey" showed 54% of Canadian smokers intend to quit in the near future and 17% are getting ready to do it right now.

More than 50% of all Canadian smokers have already quit.

Here in Nova Scotia, the numbers show a similar trend with 76 % of Nova Scotians currently non-smokers.

The quitting trend is here and so is evidence that smoking is seriously detrimental to our health. When willpower is not enough to kick the habit, here are some effective quitting tips from the Medical Society of Nova Scotia:

Make the decisive choice to quit and take active steps towards quitting.

Understand and control the triggers to smoke. Learn to avoid them. This may involve changing aspects of your daily and social routine.

Find supportive people to talk to.

Make a trip to the doctor to find out if smoking cessation medication could help your quitting process.

Keep in mind that smoking took a year or two to become part of your life and it might take a year or two to learn to live without cigarettes.

Your doctor's office supplies the most up-to-date information on smoking including pamphlets to help you quit. As well, the Canadian Cancer Society has just opened a Smokers' Helpline for anyone thinking about quitting or getting ready to quit, as well as for smokers' families. The helpline can also arrange additional phone help for smokers, including the process of learning to live without cigarettes.

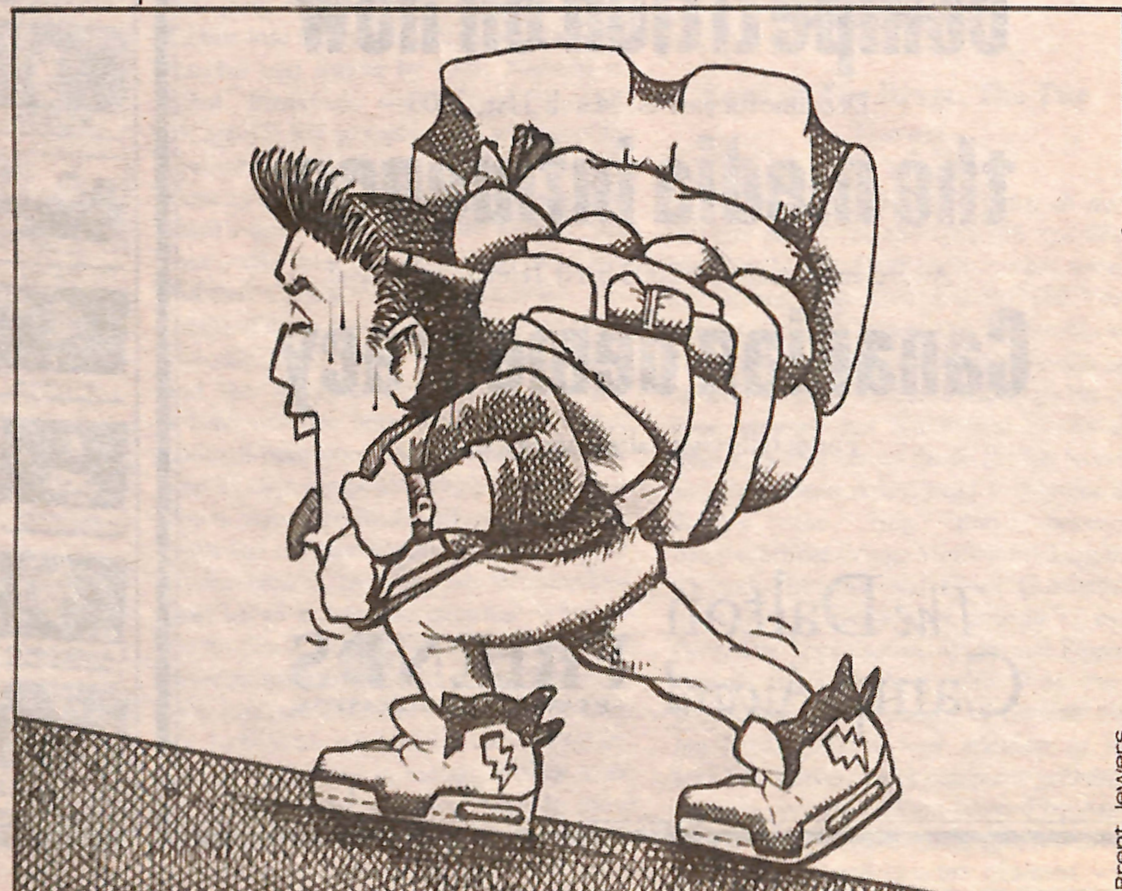
The Smokers' Helpline number is 1-877-513-5333

And the last suggestion to living life better in 2003: Make more Alive choices!

The most "alive" choices we make also seem to be the risky ones. A good tip: don't stumble from obligation to obligation, don't let your inner critic make all of your life choices. Live life!



"Shakespearean Snowman"



Brent Jewers



msvu Jargon

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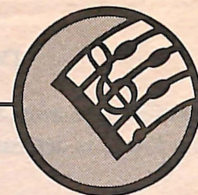
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Q104 THE DAILY NEWS TROJAN

"I DID 'THE WORM' AND WON A SKATEBOARD!" - A girl who came to last year's show.


**Movie Reviews by
Rob Broderick**

**New Release of the month: Y Tu
Mama Tambien (And Your
Mother Too)**

From Mexico, *Y Tu Mama Tambien* is an Oscar contender for best foreign language film. Director Alfonso Cuarón (*Great Expectations*) gives us an unflinching look at sexuality and loyalty that is both thought provoking and funny. Best friends Julio and Tenoch, are two hormone-ridden teenaged boys who set off on a summer road trip to a legendary beach. Along for the ride is Luisa- the 28-years-old wife of Tenoch's cousin. Julio and Tenoch's friendship becomes strained when their mutual desire for Luisa mounts. The plot becomes even more entwined, as Luisa's free spirited nature clashes with a secret that is tearing her up inside. If you scratch below the surface, you'll find that the film is truly a commentary on Mexican society. Through narration the story explores politics and the treatment of the lower classes. *Y Tu Mama Tambien* is both funny and brutal in its honesty. Will Julio and Tenoch still be friends by the end of their trip? What is Luisa's heart-wrenching secret? Watch *Y Tu Mama Tambien* to find these answers. Recommended for anyone who craves a film that is real.

The Good Girl

Jennifer Aniston finally does a film worth some positive talk. Unless, of course, some of you thought Leprechan was Oscar matral. Aniston plays Justine, a housewife bored with her stoner husband (played by John C. Reilly) who hates her job at the "Retail Rodeo." Justine begins an affair with her mentally unbalanced co-worker named Holden (Jake Gyllenhaal). The *Good Girl* is shrouded in dark humour and illuminated in beauty from beginning to end. Aniston is truly worthy of the Oscar hype. The DVD contains deleted scenes with optional commentary, an alternate ending montage, and a hilarious gag reel, making *The Good Girl* a great home release.

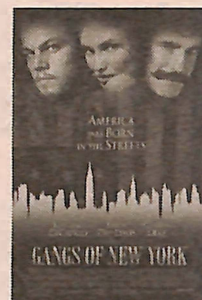

Canadian Film Pick: Fubar

Most Canadian films are weird, meandering pieces of crap. *Fubar* is an exception. This faux documentary centres around two life-long slacker buddies named Terry (Dave Lawrence) and Dean (Paul Spence). *Fubar* follows the drunken duo's exploits through events like a testicular cancer scare, late night drunken bouts, an encounter with a prostitute, afternoon drunken bouts, morning drunken...does anyone see a pattern yet? I can see why beer companies stay in business. Anyway, *Fubar* is by no stretch of the imagination a sweeping epic or a sad melodrama. It is a wicked, drunken good time, funnier than most American comedies. If you are looking for a funny film- turn up the cool, turn down the suck, "just give'r" and watch *Fubar*.


Catch Me If You Can

He's a doctor. No, he's an airline pilot. No, he's ... a seventeen-year-old kid? Based on actual events, *Catch Me If You Can* tells the story of Frank Abagnale Jr. (Leonardo DiCaprio) - the youngest con man in United States history. Between the ages of 16 and 21, Abagnale posed as an airline pilot, a lawyer, a doctor, and had a brief stint as a substitute French teacher. In that same period, Abagnale cashed several fraudulent checks in the United States and 26 other countries totalling approximately \$2.5 million. Chasing Abagnale is federal agent Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks). Relentless, Hanratty is determined to put Abagnale behind bars in the name of justice. *Catch Me If You Can* is a very clever, very hilarious film. The performances are the best we've seen in a long time. Leonardo DiCaprio is full of wit and charisma as the young Abagnale. This truly is DiCaprio's

best performance since *Titanic* ... or *Gangs of New York*. Christopher Walken has a strong presence as DiCaprio's father Frank Sr.. What I'm not too keen on is the casting of Jennifer Garner (T.V.'s "*Alias*") as a high-class prostitute. Garner's role is quite small for the amount of hype surrounding her appearance. Other than that, *Catch Me If You Can* is deserving of the Oscar attention its been receiving. Steve Spielberg has proven himself again, topping his last box-office hit, *Minority Report*. An extra helping of Spielberg never hurts, catch it while you can!


Gangs of New York

Were the mean streets of New York ever safe? Violence helped shape many nations, including the United States of America. Set in the mid 1800's, *Gangs of New York* paints a vivid portrait of America with images of power struggles and violent confrontations. Much of the violence occurs in New York City's famed Five Points area. Such confrontations pit native (non-aboriginal) New Yorkers against newly arrived Irish immigrants. In the opening scene, an Irish gang who call themselves the Dead Rabbits lose a battle as their leader (named Preacher and played by Liam Neeson) is killed. Preacher's son, played by Leo DiCaprio is left an orphan and sent away to a reformatory, only to return to New York sixteen years later in an effort to avenge his father's death. They target: the sadistic, yet honourable ruler of Five Points, Bill "The Butcher" Cutting (Daniel Day-Lewis). *Gangs of New York* isn't all about frivolous violence. It's about how the world changes and the struggles against that change. Where violence once made a difference, political back door deals become the new way of claiming power. The people of Five Points refuse political influence until the walls literally start coming down. When the smoke clears, two men are left standing (sort of) to ponder the question: What do we do now? Instead of settling things in a peaceful manner, violence erupts. Fighting, in this instance, is more of an effort of futility. To hold back is to delay the inevitable. The performances in *Gangs of New York* are phenomenal. Day-Lewis steals the show as bad guy Bill "The Butcher". His character, however, presents us with a bit of a

quandary. As the audience, we're conditioned to hate Bill "The Butcher" because he's the villain. Bill is portrayed as brutal and often merciless. However, Day-Lewis' character has a certain charisma that makes us like him. Bill "The Butcher" is a villain we can adore in spite of his evil nature; or at least, what we consider to be his nature. I'm not saying we should all light a candle for poor Bill, but we should at least appreciate the brilliance and talent that is needed to pull off such a performance. DiCaprio is also noteworthy for his portrayal of a young Irishman, driven by thoughts of vengeance. Cameron Diaz gives her best performance since *Any Given Sunday*. Diaz plays a street-wise thief who catches the eye of DiCaprio's. My only problem with Diaz's performance is her accent. There were times when I wasn't sure if Cameron Diaz was supposed to be Irish or British.

Gangs of New York is a masterpiece of filmmaking. Martin Scorsese is truly one of Hollywood's greatest directors. This is Scorsese's best film since *Goodfellas*. The violent bloodletting is a glimpse into the violent history of America's past. From the first swing of a club to the last slash of a blade, *Gangs of New York* is by far one of the best films of the New Year.


**Lord of The Rings: The Two
Towers**

Hobbits and Elves and Orcs, oh my! Hobbits and Elves and Orcs, oh my! The battle for Middle Earth continues in *Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers*. The *Two Towers* picks up where *The Fellowship of the Ring* left off. The fellowship has split up to head on three different paths; giving us three separate but intertwined stories to follow. Hobbit heroes Frodo (Elijah Wood) and Sam (Sean Astin) head to Mordor to destroy the ring they possess. Aragon/Strider (Viggo Mortensen), Legolas (Orlando Bloom), and Gimli (Johnathan Rhys-Davies) chase after a band of evil Orcs. The Orcs capture Merry and Pippin, Frodo's friends. Along with these three stories, we see the return of Gandalf (Sir Ian McKellan). A new addition to the L.O.T.R. universe is a computer-generated character named Gollum (voiced by Andy Serkis). Gollum (a.k.a. Smeagol) is a small, freakishly twisted creature obsessed with

regaining the ring that he lost. The same ring Frodo is determined to destroy.

The Two Towers is far more enticing than The Fellowship of the Ring. The battle sequences are more intense and more epic in scope. The fights are brutal, but not horribly graphic a la Saving Private Ryan. The visual aspect is quite impressive. The 3D effects are deceiving in that some images look amazingly real. The performances are worthy of praise. Best performance goes to Christopher Lee who plays the evil wizard Sarumon the White. Lee is most famous for his roles as Count Dracula (in several horror films), the title villain in the James Bond film The Man with the Golden Gun, Lord Summerisle in The Wicker Man, and most recently as Count Dooku in Star Wars - Episode 2: Attack of the Clones. Lee's role as Sarumon is his best to date, and should warrant an Oscar nomination.

Director Peter Jackson does a masterful job of bringing J.R.R. Tolkien's world to life. Although Jackson doesn't have the status of a Spielberg or a Cameron, he was able to boldly film all three Lord of the Rings stories back to back. Next December, The Return of the King arrives in theatres to finish the trilogy. By then, Peter Jackson's status should rise a little higher. Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers is one of the best films of the year, and a superior sequel to The Fellowship. This year: One ring to rule them all, one film to rule the world.

Just Married (a.k.a. Dude! Where's My Wife?)

I don't have much to say about Just Married. It follows the same tired formula of any romantic comedy. Boy meets girl, they get married, wackiness ensues, they split (usually guy's fault), guy makes zany move to get girl back, the freakin' end. Oh, and along the way the guy earns the respect of girl's friends and family. The only twist on this romantic comedy are the actors (real life lovers Ashton "Dude! Where's My Car?" Kutcher and Brittany "8 Mile" Murphy) and some of the situations the two young lovers find themselves in. Most of the wacky situations are seen in the trailer, though there is the odd unexpected moment that was found in the film. There is no irony to Just Married except the fact that I actually liked it. I know - "What the f**k?!" In spite of being the same old, Just Married is a funny film. I haven't laughed that much in a long time. It's the kind of film I call "stupid fun". There is no deep meaning, nor does it require much thought. It's purely entertainment. Kutcher continues to be the same, loveable dumbass that he is, while Brittany Murphy remains adorable. My

favorite scene is the one where the two freak out in bed at the sight of a cockroach. Kutcher is especially funny when he becomes paralysed with fear. If films like Two Weeks Notice or Maid in Manhattan don't do turn your crank, then I suggest you try getting engaged to Just Married.

LOCAL BAND REVIEW:

DEXTER

By: Lara Sifton

I recently had the chance to sit down with a band that's been getting some well-deserved attention as one of Halifax's rising stars. The good old buoys from Cape Breton call themselves Dexter. Together band mates Adam Chiasson, Andrew Al-Khouri, Fred Green, Jonno Mac Dougall, and Kyle Varley combine their unique styles to create an eclectic mix of rock, pop/rock, blues, and even a little celtic. Two years after forming, Dexter just released their first album titled *Say Hello* at the Dal Arts Centre on January 18. Make sure to check out Dexter's website: www.dexterband.ca for upcoming shows.

As for the rest, I'll leave it up to the guys...

How'd you get your name? What's it mean?

The name Dexter comes from a statue that Andrew bought in the Dominican Republic. "I named him Dexter because I thought he looked like a Dexter to me. Then when we started jamming and getting the band together, the statue was in the same room that we were playing so we decided to call the band Dexter."

How did the band form?

Andrew wrote a bunch of songs and basically wanted to form a band. It started with me (Adam), then Fred and Jonno, and a little later, Kyle.

Do you write your own songs? Cover others?

All our songs are original, written mostly by Andrew with the exception of a few. We enjoy doing a few covers in our live shows, but we choose them very carefully. Our goal when choosing a cover song is to pick one that we can add our own twist on so it will sound original.

Who are your influences?

There's too many influences to list that I'm afraid I'll have to leave out a few. We all have our own individual influences. As a Saxophone player, Charlie Parker and Lester Young are my two favourites. Like most people our age, the Dave Matthews Band is a big influence for all of us. We have a very strong Cape Breton influence. Not just in celtic music, but Cape Breton music in general. There are a lot of talented musicians down home that no one ever hears that we learn a lot from.

When do you plan on cutting your next album?

As of right now, we are more focused on promoting our first album. We're hoping to get into the studio by the end of the summer. Our next album won't be too far away though. At the time of the first album, we had enough songs to do another album, and since then, I'm sure we could record two more.

What are your goals, personal and professional?

Our goal is to become full-time musicians. We couldn't think of a better way to make a living than by playing music. On other levels, we have goals that we'd like to improve as a band in certain ways, try some new things, grow as a band, and as individual musicians.

Where do you want to be in 10 years?

Ten years from now, is a long time away, but if all goes according to plan, we'll all have our degrees, and be playing full time.

Is the band a full time commitment? What else do you do?

All five of us are university students. The band is a not full time commitment during the school year, but it is during the summer. Three of us go to DAL, one is at St. FX, and one is at UCCB. It's tough finding the time to play. A lot of travelling is involved. It would be much easier if we were all in the same town, but we make the best of what we have.

What do you guys do for fun?

Music is what we always used to do as a hobby, but now it's becoming more of a career. Andrew and I (Adam) like to play a lot of sports. Playing pool against each other is always fun with a competitive edge. I love to travel, so playing in a band is a great way to do both at the same time.

Ever had any conflicts of musical interest?

There may have been a few minor conflicts, but nothing too serious. Andrew is the main songwriter, so sometimes he'll come to us with a song that the rest of us aren't too

crazy about, but that doesn't happen too often. We all come from different musical backgrounds. Fred and Jonno played a lot of heavier music (hard rock, etc), Kyle is a very strong blues/rock player, Andrew and I played in a celtic band for a few years. One might think that given our musical backgrounds there would be lots of musical conflicts. That's what makes us unique.

What would make you kick someone out of your band?

It would definitely have to be something big for that to happen. A lack of dedication could potentially cause a few problems, but I can't see Dexter different from the way it is now.

Do you have any groupies yet?

If by groupies you mean a dedicated following, we do. It seems lately that the crowds at our shows are getting bigger and bigger. Our groupies are our friends. They're very supportive and have been since day one.

If you could have any musician join your band, who would it be? Why?

That is a tough question. We have lots of friends that are amazing players. On a higher level, I think Ben Harper has a lot of great ideas and writes some great songs.

Have you ever had to make personal sacrifices for the band?

We make personal sacrifices all the time but it goes with the territory. Every musician has to make sacrifices for their trade.

How do you manage your time?

Very carefully. When booking shows it's very important to be organized with respect to dates. I make sure I know everyone's spring break and exam schedule well in advance. I also made the guy send me their class schedules at the start of the year. School is our number one priority right now, but we try to play as much as we can. When playing in a band that travels a little bit there is lots of time to study in the bus.

What does your mom think of all of this?

Our parents are very supportive of us. They watch over us, but don't get in our way. They made it clear that school is at the top of the list, and they know that we know that. Our parents are great. They make it out to as many shows as they can. None of us live at home now, so when we play a gig out of town, the phone is ringing off the hook wondering how the show went.

If you could rid the world of any musician, who would it be? Why?

That's a tough question. We don't have a lot of respect for those 'fabricated' musicians- the ones who don't write or play their own music. To me, these people are in it for the wrong reasons. I'd like to rid the world of all of them! There are so many talented people and bands that will never get the chance because there's only room for so many people. I must say though that I am relieved to see someone like John Mayer make it big. There's a guy who has talent.

BEAUTY MARK

HOMEMADE FACIALS A MUST THIS WINTER

By: Vivienne Mata

Cold winds mixed with frost and heavy snow falls mean dry and unmanageable skin for most of us. When winter hits we layer on our woolies to keep from catching cold, but how does our skin protect itself? Usually becoming dry and irritable, our winter skin problems can be solved with basic moisturizing routines. Sometimes, however, a girl has to pamper herself!

You can expect to pay fifty dollars plus for a facial at one of Halifax's finest spas, but nothing beats gathering up some of your closest girlfriends to have a facial party all your own. All you'll need is a trip to the supermarket to find the ingredients for your own fun and fantastic facial mask and scrub!

*Note: These recipes are for normal skin types.

Peachy Facial Mask Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 medium peach
- 1 tablespoons honey
- 1 package of oatmeal

Directions: Boil peach until soft, mash with fork, add honey and oatmeal until reaches a thick consistency. Apply to skin. Let sit for 10 minutes and rinse well with cool water.

Cucumber-Berry Facial Scrub Recipe

Ingredients:

- ½ cucumber
- 1 tblsp yogurt (preferably plain)
- 5 strawberries
- 1 tblsp honey

Directions: In a blender, combine 1/2 cucumber, 1 tablespoon yogurt, strawberries, and 1 tablespoon honey. Apply to face and allow to dry. Gently wipe off with damp washcloth.

These recipes will give you the perfect mix for soft, manageable skin...just add a few girlfriends and you're favourite chick flick and its an instant recipe for a girls' night in!

WINTER SKIN: HOW TO HANDLE THE COLD

By: Vivienne Mata

Winter is great... but it sure does a number on your skin. Whether you've spent a day out on the ski hill or even just walked to class, you can bet you'll start to notice dry, itchy skin.

Many of us have our own ways of handling the cold and keeping our skin soft. I know I certainly do. But after speaking to my dermatologist I have some new tips for keeping your skin soft and moisturized when battling those cold winds.

Some of these tips are new and some are old but they are the best in making sure that your skin stays baby soft.

Always have body lotion on hand. Dermatologists highly recommend Cetaphil Moisturizing Lotion. You can find it at any drug store for about \$17. Although it seems a little pricey, it has been known to sooth skin and is by far one of the best lotions on the market. Another great lotion at a cheaper price is Vaseline Intensive Care Extra Strength lotion and at \$4.95, you're getting a great deal.

Chapstick is the best way to keep your lips soft and moisturized. Softlips has an array of flavors at \$2.99 per stick. Make sure to use a medicated lip balm- not the products that promote scent and taste over moisture. When showering, body wash is ideal but it also takes away some of the skin's natural nutrients. Be sure that your body wash is odorless, perfume free and if you find it makes you skin itchy, stop using it immediately.

Try to take a bath in lukewarm water with a half cup of baking soda once a week. This relieves your skin and stops any irritation that might occur from the cold.

Last but not least always remember to wear a cotton shirt underneath your wool sweaters. This reduces any reaction that your skin might have to wool and allows the skin to breath.

With these helpful hints, your skin will feel soft and you will not have to worry about the dry skin blues this winter. So remember to follow these tips and have fun in the snow!

CURRENT GALLERY INSTALLATION EXPLORES TRAGEDY OF TIANAMEN SQUARE

By: Lara Sifton

Meandering around the MSVU art gallery, one might think they've entered a film studio. Images resembling film stills litter the walls in a poignant reflection of the tragic events of Tianamen Square. These images, along with an Academy Award nominated short, comprise the Mount's current gallery installtion, entitled *Sunrise Over Tianamen Square* by artist Shui-Bo Wang.

Wang's personal experiences as a teacher who attended the Tianamen Square protests with his young students during which the People's Liberation Army gunned down protestors, are reflected in his work.

As a former member of the Chinese Communist Party, Wang left his home country at the age of 28 following the pro-democracy protest of Tianamen to study in Canada. He now resides in Montreal as a filmmaker.

The animated film documentary, which features Wang's intricate drawings and family photos, traces his family's history alongside the history of China. He delves into the anger and bitterness he came to feel towards a government with which he once held the utmost respect and devotion.

Animation is seen in its simplest form in *Sunrise Over Tianamen Square*. Using only a camera and his drawings, Wang's technique is uncomplicated. Moving the camera over his still art, the film becomes jerky and raw in nature. Wang's own soft voice-

over flows with enchanting music to affects the viewer's deepest emotions.

Sunrise Over Tianamen Square runs until March 2, 2003 at the MSVU art Gallery, located at 166 Bedford Highway, Halifax. Make sure to check out Media Arts professor Bruce Barber and Chinese expatriate George Quan's discussion on the film from a Chinese artistic activist perspective February 16 from 3-5pm at the gallery.

The gallery is open Tuesday to Friday from 11am-5pm as well as Saturday and Sunday from 1-5pm. Admission is free. For more information contact Sarah Hollenberg, Programming Co-ordinator at 457-6160.

UPCOMING EXHIBITION TO FEATURE WARHOL, ZIMMERMAN

By: Lara Sifton

Opening February 8 in the E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre, the MSVU art gallery presents *Like a Candle*, an eclectic instalment featuring Andy Warhol's famous screenprint, *Marilyn Monroe* 1967 alongside waxen candles fashioned in the form of Princess Diana.

Fellow Haligonian Catherine Jones is creator of the Princess Di figures. Some of the figures, which Jones lit as votives on the anniversary of Diana's death, will also be displayed in the show.

The instalment focuses on themes of celebrity, glamour and death in media-ridden North American society. The accompanying exhibition brochure features an essay by Mount Cultural Studies scholar Natasha Hurley.

Before *Like a Candle* arrives, however, the gallery plays host to its next exhibit entitled *Optical Illusions*. The informal reception on January 26 will commence at 2pm in the



gallery whereat the artists and exhibition curator will conduct a walkabout tour.

Optical Illusions brings to the Mount the works of artists Carl Zimmerman, Freda Guttman and Darci Mallon. Difficult to put in layman's terms, the exhibition's press material explains the works as, "amenable objects [that] provide a basis for illusion-making of a different order. [They] use metaphor and allegory to explore the critical and expressive possibilities of lens-based optical illusionism."

Zimmerman explores illusion as deception in *Landmarks of Industrial Britain*. The subjects of his photographs are the tabletop sized stages he constructs to simulate enormous architecture and to trick viewers of his art.

Freda Guttman's works entitled *Monotomy is Nourished by the New and Ur-History* centre around the major cataStrophic events of recent history. Guttman's art consists of imprinting replicas of antique phonographs and rotating vinyl discs with archival propaganda photographs from the Third Reich.

Our Red Scarf by Darci Mallon is a series of photographs concerned with memory. Mallon's exhibition revolves around a pact she made with a terminally ill friend.

Optical Illusions runs until March 8, 2003. The gallery is open Tuesday to Friday from 11am-5pm as well as Saturday and Sunday from 1-5pm. Admission is free. For more information contact Sarah Hollenberg, Programming Co-ordinator at 457-6160.



CD Reviews

Never a Dull Moment
Tommy Lee
MCA Records 2002

My mother always told me if you don't have something nice to say don't say anything at all. But since it's my job to review some unfortunately horrible CDs, I'm allowed to voice my opinion on trash like Tommy Lee's latest, *Never a Dull Moment*. Quite frankly Tommy should be sued for false advertising. His CD is full of dull

moments like *Afterglow*, *Face to Face*, *Fame*, and *Why Is It*. I'm still not sure whether it's supposed to be a rock CD, or the remnants on the cutting room floor after Justin Timberlake's debut album. Of the twelve tracks, *Hold Me Down* is the least irritating. Lee laments about the struggles of pursuing his aspirations while people try to prevent him from succeeding. **In a Nutshell:** Quite a few "dull moments"

Surf
Roddy Frame
Cooking Vinyl 2002

In a day and age where few performers actually write their own songs, I applaud Roddy Frame for his attempts in *Surf*. The problems, however, lie mainly within this domain. While the music of most songs is melodic, the lyrics seem awkward. It's not that they're too complex or controversial; they are in every essence of the word simple. Someone should've reminded Frame that not every line in every song has to rhyme. This isn't Romper Room. If you're going to make the lyrics rhyme do a better job than 'aflame' and 'fame', 'interlace' and 'space', or 'gone' and 'bygones'. The lyrics become such an irritant that they destroy the value of his gifted guitar playing. Hopefully Frame will take the road more commonly traveled and pay someone to write his songs next time around.

In a Nutshell: Problematic Lyrics are a cloud on this otherwise sunny effort

What it is to Burn
250 mL Finch
Drive-Thru Records 2002

250 mL Finch's *What it is to burn* is the perfect musical balance between light rock and punk. This surprisingly enjoyable disk has a sound reminiscent of *Simple Plan* but with more substantial lyrical content. Stand out tracks include *New Beginnings*, *Letters to You*, *Stay With Me*, and *Post Script*. Among the songs that stand out in a "what the hell am I listening to" type of way are *Grey Matter*, and *Untitled*. Their titles are appropriate due to their lack of entertainment value. These few tracks are obviously fillers that make the listener doubt their previous praises, of a nearly perfectly balanced CD.

In a Nutshell: An adequate, angry, letter to an ex-girlfriend

A New Day at Midnight
David Gray
Arista Records 2002

Singing the praises of David Gray's *A New Day at Midnight* is no difficult task. Gray's lyrical genius is surpassed only by his hyp-

notizing vocals that send the listener into an emotional whirlwind. He has a way of capturing feelings in music that has only been duplicated by the likes of Dave Matthews and John Mayer. A succulent mixture of pop and folk rock, Gray uses a backdrop of techno to set the stage of this elaborate production. In *Caroline* we hear the perfectly balanced and blended elements typical of Gray. The honest and soul felt feelings about love that were masterfully displayed in 2000's *White Ladder* can be seen in songs like *The Other Side*, *Be Mine*, *December*, and *Easy Way to Cry*. The uniqueness of this album surpasses that of his previous attempts.

In a Nutshell: Every sensation about love infused on a 12 track CD

Dawn
Dawn Robinson
EMI Music Canada 2002

The voice and attitude of hip-hop diva Dawn Robinson combine elements of soul and R&B in her debut album, *Dawn*. Formerly of Lucy Pearl and En Vogue, Dawn showcases her solo talents throughout the entirety of this twelve-track disc. With provocative lyrics about love, life and the hurt that accompanies both, *Dawn* is a sing-out-loud line-up that fails to disappoint. We get a feel for the essence of this powerfully up and coming artist within the first several tracks. *Still*, *Set it Off*, *Fed Up*, and *Meaning of a Woman* are songs to watch for. *Envious* is this CD's standout single, mixing Eve's vocals with Missy Elliot's lyrics. A song complaining about the gossiping ways of woman who are jealous of her success, *Envious* becomes a ballad that every woman can relate too: "It's kind of funny 'cause they keep on talkin' trash about me they know nothin' 'bout me so tell me why, they gotta be so envious?" **In a Nutshell:** Female empowerment at its peak

The Bathroom Wall
Jimmy Fallon
Universal Music 2002

Hilariously funny is the simplest yet most understated way to describe Jimmy Fallon's *The Bathroom Wall*. In this half music, half stand up album by the SNL Weekend Update co-host, Fallon shows the lighter side of university life in funny-but-true routines like *Chris Rock was my RA*, *Gotta Get a Fake ID*, *Dorms*, *Shower Baskets*, and *the Walk of Shame*. *Hammertime*, the stand-up portion's final track is the icing on this delectable stand up cake. The songs by Fallon, on the other hand sometimes leave something to be desired. *Idiot Boyfriend* is the perfect picture of that one boyfriend every girl dreads, and *(I Can't Play)*

Basketball could very easily be mistaken for the Beastie Boys, whom he thanks but does not give credit to on the track. The remaining three songs seem to try too hard to capture our attention.

In the end, it's Jimmy's stand up comedy that draws us in for a second, third and even fourth listen.

In a Nutshell: Laugh until you cry.

B a t t l e o f the bands

A Little Deeper
Girl Interrupted
Ms. Dynamite vs. Ms. Jade
Polydor Ltd. 2002
Beat Club Records 2002

In this fight of the Misses we have two solid contenders: Ms. Jade in one corner with *Girl Interrupted* and Ms. Dynamite in the other with *A Little Deeper*.

Produced by Missy Elliot and Timberland, Jade accompanies them and several others including Nelly Furtado, Jay Z, Nate Dogg, Lil' Mo, and Nesh on the 17 track disc. Dynamite on the other hand, doesn't have this all-star cast. Jade's standout tracks are the hit single *Ching Ching* featuring Nelly Furtado, *Count it Off* featuring Jay-Z, and *Ching Ching Part 2* featuring Timberland. Dynamite's take-notice songs include *Dyna-mi-tee*, *Put Him Out*, *Brother*, and *It takes More*.

Both discs combine rap and hip-hop, however the winner in the battle between the underdog and the over supported? It would seem that all the extra talent on Ms. Jade's disc should help her, but instead it diminishes her talent and replaces it with big names that drag her along rather than boost her listening potential.

Ms. Dynamite has the stronger emotions, vocals, and lyrics which help her convey enjoyable music in a less "in your face" fashion.

Both albums are ambitious but it's the underdog that takes the musical crown. **In a Nutshell:** Ms. Jade has the jewelry, but Ms. Dynamite is the real jewel.



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Horoscope

By: Keiran Gibbs



Aries- This month may seem to be too slow and draggy for your normally energetic nature Aries, but you can be assured that this is only preliminary to a month that will be filled with chaotic surprises. Of course no secrets can be given away this early in the game, but I will extend my supernatural powers to you in a small dose by offering you this completely un-valuable piece of info...something (or someone) from the past is on it's way back into your life, so it's about time to fine tune your self-reliant personality because you will make no new friends upon this return.



Taurus- You're dependable nature usually makes you a first choice for friendships everywhere Taurus, but your self-centred tendencies have made others wary of you as of late. Have no fear, all of this will change in the upcoming month you big bull. My psychic powers of course cannot be compromised by telling you exactly what will happen, but let this be known, you're about to find that you have been wrong about everything you ever thought you knew.



Gemini- So your brain has become tired and dull due to lack of stimulation throughout the tired and dull month of January? With you're dual personality you would think there would be something interesting for you or your twin. Well, certain very exciting surprises are a-brewin' in the back dear Gemini, so let me offer you this easily disregarded piece of info- it's time you (or your twin) acquire a new appreciation for spicy foods.



Cancer- You have been keeping it all inside again Cancer, and though this has probably led to some artistic masterpieces you are quickly on the verge of an emotional

eruption. While you are one of the few signs in the zodiac to actually appreciate the darkness and cold of the current month, you will find that the next one will be a kind of a personal saviour to you. This is not by chance rather it is a direct result of your current efforts. Advice from me to you: the more you create now, the more fruitful it will become later.



Leo- In the extended hours of January darkness you find it very hard to shine through Leo. However hard you try you just can't let the sun shine in. While you find this very frustrating you will soon find that other frustrations will be the focus of your attention. While I shan't tell you what these frustrations will be, I shall tell you that more than anyone else you have the capacity to deal with your problems with a sort of sick sense of delight.



Virgo- While January is a very ambivalent month for you emotionally Virgo; February contains some secrets, which will result in a very unified emotional response. Although I cannot compromise my oath to secrecy, I can and will help you to prepare. First, take all schedules you have made for the upcoming six months and tear them up. You need not concern yourself so much with the dimension of time any longer.



Libra- Are you happy or aren't you? Are you where you want to be or are you feeling completely lost? These are some questions that have been weighing heavily on your mind Libra. But luckily for you the next month is storing some fundamental secrets that will clear your brain of any indecision has been clouding over you lately.



Scorpio- Most of the other zodiac signs have trouble dealing with the gloomy winter nights, but not you dear Scorpio.

Nor will you have any trouble figuring out exactly what secrets are in store for you next month. All it will really take is for you to learn a little discipline. Once you learn to utilize your detective tendencies, there will be no hiding anything from you.



Sagittarius- This is a great month for you to exercise your studious nature Sag. You prefer to be in mentally stimulating situations, which is exactly where you'll find yourself in January. February may prove to be more challenging, and while I cannot tell you in what way you will be challenged, I can tell you that with a sharp mind you should be ready for anything (or so we can hope).



Capricorn- you have been doing very well in the business realm of you life. You seem to be the head honcho around the work area and people respect what you say because they know how important power is to you. Will February be as good to you? Maybe. I know but can't tell. Guess you'll just have to wait to find out.



Aquarius- Your head has been in the clouds for a long time Aquarius. You know this, people tell you all time and frankly you could figure that out for yourself. The problem is that the stratosphere gets very cold at times, especially in the winter. Although there is no immediate remedy for the chill you are experiencing, I predict that something warmer is headed your way.



Pisces- In the winter water freezes and often so do fishies. This month you can be one of two things, a cold fish or a human. It's really up to you to make the decision, but you should know that changes are occurring in the background and you'll have to decide in what form you'll be best prepared to face such metamorphoses.



From the editor...

My name is Dane Butler and I will be taking on the role of editor for Sexuality in Jargon here at Mount Saint Vincent. It is the goal of this section to be informative, interesting, and perhaps a little provocative.

Sexuality is an important part of us all. It is a part of being human, or of even being alive for that matter. This section will do its best to focus on many different aspects of sexuality including the homosexual, heterosexual and gender differences.

Along with regular features, I also hope to have in this section a number of feature articles relating to issues in sexuality. Some of our regular features will be "Wood Wise" and "The Vagina Chronologies" both dedicated to exploration and information about our genitalia. I will endeavor to place reader polls into the section as an attempt to garner feedback from the student population on various issues. As of this point we do not have an advice column, however, I am here to answer questions if need be and if there is interest we may launch an advice column again in future issues. I have a lot of ideas which to this point are not ready to be in print, hopefully they will come along and this section will grow and improve. I will always be looking for submissions, ideas, and writers for this section. If you are interested I can be reached for the moment at jargon@msvu.ca.

Also just a quick note and thanks to Sandra from the Queer/Straight alliance for the great info she provided me, and also thanks to Jargon editor, Andre for giving me the chance to run with his idea.

Readers Poll

This is your chance to make your voice heard on the question of the month. This is the first issue for the sexuality section but why pull punches. Let's start off this feature with a big question.

Is it OK to be gay?

You can send in a yes or no answer, or give reason if you like. Please send your responses to jargon@msvu.ca.

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The Vagina Chronologies

by: Dane Butler

Yes it is true. Chronologies is not a word. In fact if it were a word, it implies that it would have something to do with the space-time continuum. But it doesn't, because it is my word and I will use it the way I please. In this case it is the title of this section on the female anatomy.

Demystification is certainly a focus of this section, and in that spirit, let us explore the clitoris. The clitoris is a very broad topic, and one that could never be adequately covered in this space. The clitoris, or "clit", "love button" and so on. Much like the penis, the vagina and surrounding parts can come in many different shapes and sizes. The clitoris is widely considered to be the main female sex organ. Sex organ in this case meaning it has the most to do with female sexual stimulation. We are speaking generally in this case, although it is true that most women cannot attain orgasm without clitoral stimulation.

The clitoris, unlike the penis is somewhat mysterious. The penis is right out there, visible and available. The clitoris is not always so. The clitoris is not visible all of the time. Like the penis the clitoris will become erect during sexual arousal, in this state it should be easier to find. Some clitorises are small, or deep in the tissue, and some are large and rather obvious. When erect the clitoris will be firm to the touch, unlike the soft spongy tissue which surrounds it. But remember if it is very hard and immovable, that is likely the pubic bone.

The clitoris is covered with a fold of skin known as the clitoral hood. This is essentially the same as the foreskin for the male. As with foreskins the clitoral hood can fully or partly cover the clitoris in varying degrees.

Genitals in general are all about variety. Again, covering the clitoris in a short article like this is not easy in the least. There are any number of places to go from here, techniques of pleasure, potential medical issues, hygiene and many others. For now we will leave it here, and in future issues we will explore the issue more. Double entendre? I think not.

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Queer Straight Alliance Explained

by: Dane Butler

Curious about the Queer Straight Alliance I asked Sandra, the co-founder of the group, a host of questions.

1) What is a Queer/Straight Alliance?

A Queer/Straight Alliance is a group where people of all sexualities, genders, sexual preferences etc. can get together, have fun and raise visibility of sexual diversity on campus.

2) Why have a Queer/Straight Alliance?

When I first came to the Mount I felt like I was one of the only lesbians on campus.

After people started figuring out that I was queer, several people that I know (and some that I didn't know) started pulling me aside and telling me that they were gay and/or bisexual.

My girlfriend and I figured that it would be a good idea to start up a society so that people on campus know that they're not alone and have support if/when they need it. It's also a great way just to meet interesting people who also share a non-judgmental viewpoint.

3) When/Where do you meet?

Our next meeting will be Monday January 27th at 2pm in the Crow's Nest (in Rosaria behind the overstore). Look for further updates on meetings and events on our bulletin board on 2nd floor SAC or e-mail to get on the mailing list.

4) Who is welcome?

EVERYONE!!!! By the nature of it being a Queer/Straight Alliance, no one's sexuality is labeled by showing up to the meetings or events; the only assumption made about members is that they have an open mind in regards to sexual diversity.

5) What activities do you have ongoing?

For this coming term we hope to do a pub crawl, maybe a movie night, bowling/mini-golf, another potluck (BBQ maybe, if the weather ever gets nice enough) and another sexuality awareness week where we hope to host the AIDS quilt on campus and also put on presentations, a Venus Envy sex-toy workshop and a sexuality awareness visibility campaign.

6) Why have a Queer/Straight Alliance as opposed to just a queer group?

I believe that it's important not to draw a line between who's queer and who's not because that's when people who aren't completely sure where they stand in their sexuality get intimidated by labels and we want to make sure that everyone feels comfortable in being a part of the group.

I have also found in my personal experience that some of my greatest support in being queer has come from people who I identify as being straight and I wouldn't want to deny anyone of such support.

Furthermore, I believe that segregation based on sexuality is wrong (funny that!) and that the queer and straight communities can potentially make a lot of change together. After all, it's about diversity, right?

To further clarify the name of the society, the term "queer" is used in this context to encompass people of all genders and sexualities who do not necessarily identify as "straight". It is used in place of the term "gay" only to be more inclusive in our goal to welcome not just gay men but everyone in the queer community.

Wood Wise

by: Dane Butler

Priapism is a persistent, often painful erection that can last from several hours to a few days. The priapism erection is not associated with sexual activity and is not relieved by orgasm. It occurs when blood flows into the penis but is not adequately drained. Some of the causes may be alcohol or drug abuse, especially cocaine or various prescription drugs. There may be some physical cause such as spinal cord problems, injury to the genitals, or blood diseases such as leukemia and sickle cell anaemia.

Treatment is important because a prolonged erection can scar the penis if not treated. In most cases the treatment involves draining the blood using a needle which is placed in the side of the penis. Just when you thought five minutes in the middle of math class was an eternity.

On the subject of erections: Let us now discuss the non-priapism erection. That is to say an abnormal erection, or one with a severe angle or bend. A slight angle or bend in the penis is common and quite normal. However when the angle is greater than thirty degrees and is sharp or abrupt you are getting into the territory of severe curvature. This condition is referred to as Peyronie's disease. In the vast majority of cases this is caused by tissue damage affecting the erectile tissue, or hard plaques forming in the erectile chambers. When erectile tissue is injured, if it is not cared for, the tissue can heal improperly and become scar tissue. In this event the scar tissue may cause severe bends or angles.

Breakage of the penis can also cause the tissue damage needed for abnormal erections. Yes, despite there being no actual bone it is possible to "break" the penis, although trust me guys you don't want me to explain it. A doctor may potentially be able to treat this condition however it is not an easy fix. Surgery is a potential treatment for Peyronie's disease however one must meet many criteria before it is considered. Holistic methods such as vitamin E are recommended as an attempt to heal the scar tissue. It is still possible to have normal sexual relations with an erection that has a severe bend, it just means you need to be more creative with positions and pace so as not to make yourself or your partner uncomfortable. But hey, there are worse things than having to try new positions.



This term is not meant to offend anyone and (believe me) there has been and continues to be much discussion on this topic within the group.

7) Goals for the future of the Alliance?

Just to keep going... (that's not asking for too much, is it?)

Each year we've had different members and different ideas and I'm just looking forward to what comes next (whatever that may be).

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions please email .

Under The Knife

by: Dane Butler

Trying to come up with a catchy title is not an easy thing. As it stands, this title may have little, or everything to do with this article. The article that follows is an attempt to cover all bases of circumcision: the reasons for it, the reasons against it, and current social religious and legal standings of circumcision today. Now before you go off and decide this may not be very interesting, the words penis and vagina will appear a lot during the article. Hopefully that will maintain your interest.

Circumcision is a serious topic, as is female circumcision and female genital mutilation (FGM), which will also be covered in this article. In terms of the research on male circumcision there is the chance that writings from doctors or authors may be biased due to their cut or uncut status. That is to say a doctor who is not circumcised was more likely not to advocate the practice, as a doctor who was circumcised is more likely to advocate that practice. The best attempt was made to be unbiased in either direction although of course I have my own opinion.

This is a surprisingly touchy issue with some people, which delves into issues of human rights, freedom of choice, and aesthetics as well.

Currently Canada's medical ethics standards do not permit doctors to perform non-therapeutic infant circumcisions. Today in Canada circumcisions are typically only performed for religious reasons or medically in the treatment of an illness.

There is not enough evidence to show when medical circumcisions began. Some research indicates that it began in Britain in the 1800's as a cure for male masturbation. Finding a cure for masturbation was important because at that time it was believed that masturbation was the cause of a number of ailments. I tell you nothing could be worse than having hairy palms, tragic indeed.

Circumcision did not curb male masturbation, but it did send the sales of baby oil through the roof. As medical science advances these theories were naturally dismissed and the issue of circumcision was looked at a little closer. The general determination in most medical circles is that circumcision is not necessary. In fact the Canadian Pediatric Association has stated

three times in 1975, 1982, and 1996

upholding and strengthening their position that "circumcision is not necessary, and may be harmful to the infant".

While you ponder that let us move onto the female side of the topic. Female circumcision is not common in North America, and is typically only found in women who immigrate here. There are many levels of severity to circumcision of the female. It could simply be an incision made into the clitoral hood, this is certainly the least severe method although it can still lead to other complications. From there it gets much worse, bordering on barbarism in some cases.

I apologize that in this area I find it hard to maintain my bias as I find this practice to be deplorable. A pharaonic circumcision of infibulation removing the clitoris and labia minora, and stitching up the labia majora so that only a minimal opening remains for urine and menstrual fluid can escape. If sexual relations were to occur the husband would have to cut the stitches to perform the act.

According to various studies there are approximately 80 to 130 million women and girls who are affected by female genital mutilation. Typically a girl between the ages of 5 and 12 will undergo this procedure, age 7 being the average.

There are reasons that a culture follows these practices, although none of the major religions support female genital mutilation. It can be a matter of custom and tradition, to preserve the virginity of young girls and limit the sexuality of women. It affirms a woman's identity in certain cultures and brings girls into womanhood, and establishes eligibility for marriage.

The UK as of 1985 has a "Prohibition of female circumcision act". The World Medical Association issued a statement in 1993 on the condemnation of female genital mutilation.

Aside from increased susceptibility to infections, potential for hemorrhage and bleeding of adjacent organs, permanent damage to health is also likely. There is also the need to consider the psychological effects on the victim, and the effects it has on the health of the victims' sexuality.

Female Genital Mutilation can cause any number of problems during childbirth. It seems that one focus of this practice is on restricting females pleasure in sexuality, it

is considered to be beneficial for the husband, and that a woman who is victim to FGM will be a good wife and make her husband happy. What do you think? Doesn't seem worth it does it?

Let us now move back and finish the discussion on the male genitalia. In the world today most circumcisions are performed for religious reasons. The United States is one of few countries, which will routinely circumcise infant males at birth. Circumcision is most popular among the Jewish and Islamic faiths where that doctrine was set out centuries ago.

In Judaism it is the Brit Milah, meaning "the covenant of circumcision" that is performed by a trained rabbi called a Mohel. The Islamic practice is similar in that it takes place in the family environment, performed by an individual who is not usually a doctor.

I could write a whole paper on the practices of these two groups regarding this issue but there is not enough time in the day or space in this paper, so please don't feel as though I am slighting the religious angle that is not my intent.

Some reasons I found for circumcisions were, aside from religion, hygienic reasons, aesthetics, improved sexual stamina, potentially reduces chance of catching or spreading infections.

Some reasons for not circumcising are that it is our natural form, may injure the child or scar the penis and affect function of the penis. There are more reasons for both sides, most of which can easily be argued away.

The uncircumcised penis is not necessarily less clean than the circumcised penis. If you have foreskin, you need to clean under it, it's like any part of your body and if you do this the your penis will be as equally clean as someone who is circumcised.

Aesthetics are a matter of opinion whether discussing art, genitalia, or a mahogany

coffee table. Some people think all penises are ugly, some think all are great, some

think some are ugly and some are great, some thing cut dicks and better than uncut dicks. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder as it were.

The question of sexual stamina is interest

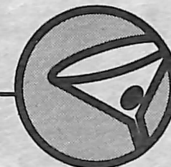
ing though. Circumcision does reduce sensation in the penis, so in theory that means greater stamina, and yes an uncircumcised man is likely to be more sensitive. That does not mean that all circumcised men have better stamina, but some are more than likely to experience minutely increased stamina. Regardless, stamina can be learned or aided anyhow which may come up in a future article.

One interesting thing that I read, and a couple of female friends agreed with is that there may be a correlation between the circumcised penis and discomfort during sex. This is not to say this research is in any way proven.

The belief of the doctor was that the uncircumcised male with his "sheath" intact has much smoother penetration and freedom of movement than a man without the "sheath". My friends tended to agree, that there is more friction with a circumcised male, which makes for a little discomfort. However both agreed that it wasn't a huge difference.

So to cut or not to cut, that is the question. Under our medical laws in Canada there is no choice, unless you pay money for the surgery, which is considered cosmetic.

Circumcision based on religion will no doubt continue. There has not been much evidence to support that either practice is dangerous. We do know from research that female circumcision and female genital mutilation are very dangerous practices. As with many things in this world we are stuck with a matter of opinion, you are likely to support the side you are most closely affiliated with. So hood or no hood, resolution to this debate on an individual level is likely a long way off.



The Women's Studies, Peace and Conflict and Global Village Societies, the Queer-Straight Alliance and the Student Union are planning a week of free education from February 3-7. This is to draw attention to rising tuition costs and the increasing lack of accessibility to post-secondary education. We are looking for anyone who wants to help or teach a class. Give us your ideas! Current plans include a guest lecturer from Dalhousie, a knitting class, and films.

Contact r_folvik@hotmail.com to get involved.

Thank you one and all for making our goal a reality.

January is once again a busy month for the society. We are now looking for volunteers to go out into the community on Caritas Day (January 27) and give a helping hand to those who need it.

Also, we are hosting a MSVU day camp through the recreation department. Volunteers are needed to help set up and take down the decorations and participate in the fun and games.

Anyone interested in volunteering in one or both of these events can stop by the office in Seton 545, give us a call @ 457-6463 or drop us an email: canadianstudies.society@msvu.ca.

Keep you eye out for our semi-annual New-to-You sale taking place on February 12, 2003 from 8:30-2pm in Seton floors 1, 3 and 5.

All the best for 2003!

FSGN Society

The FSGN Society held it's first meeting of 2003 on January 14th. We want to thank all those who attended. A supper is being planned at Montana's for Thursday, January 23rd, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.. We are also planning a Downtown Social for February 1st. T-shirts for the event will be sold Tuesday, January 21st at noon, for \$10.

We are also hoping to get everyone together for a Mooseheads Hockey game on March 12th, 2003. Another very important event that should be marked on your calendar is the FSGN Career night on March 19th at 6:30-8:30 in Seton 404/405.

This is a great opportunity for students to meet with potential employers in the field of Family Studies and Gerontology.

The next FSGN Society meeting will be on January 28th at 12noon.

For more information on upcoming events, please check out our website: www.fsgnsociety.homestead.com or email us at fsgnsociety@hotmail.com.

History Society

The History Society is welcoming new members for the winter semester.

We will be meeting on Tuesdays at 1:45pm each week in SAC 508.

The society will be offering help with papers, tests, exams and other projects students may have in their history classes.

The society room is located in SAC 522 and office hours are posted. Appointments can also be made. The society also has some events planned for the winter semester that it will report on periodically.

Mark Adams and Keegan Dawson
President and Vice President, MSVU
History Society
Seton Academic Centre, 552
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Global Village Society

The Global Village Society will hold a discussion group on Wednesday January 29th at 1:00pm in the Crow's Nest in Rosaria.

The world did not stand still while we were on holidays and there is much to discuss. Topics for this discussion will include: update on the situation in Iraq, death row inmates pardoned, tuition rumors in Halifax, and lots more.

Everyone is welcome to our discussion and all topics and opinions are welcome. The Global Village is currently working on hosting a 30-hour Famine in the month of March. Look for more information on a bulletin board near you in the coming weeks. For more information or to add yourself to our e-mail list drop a line to

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January 19 - Interviews continued

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