

the other press

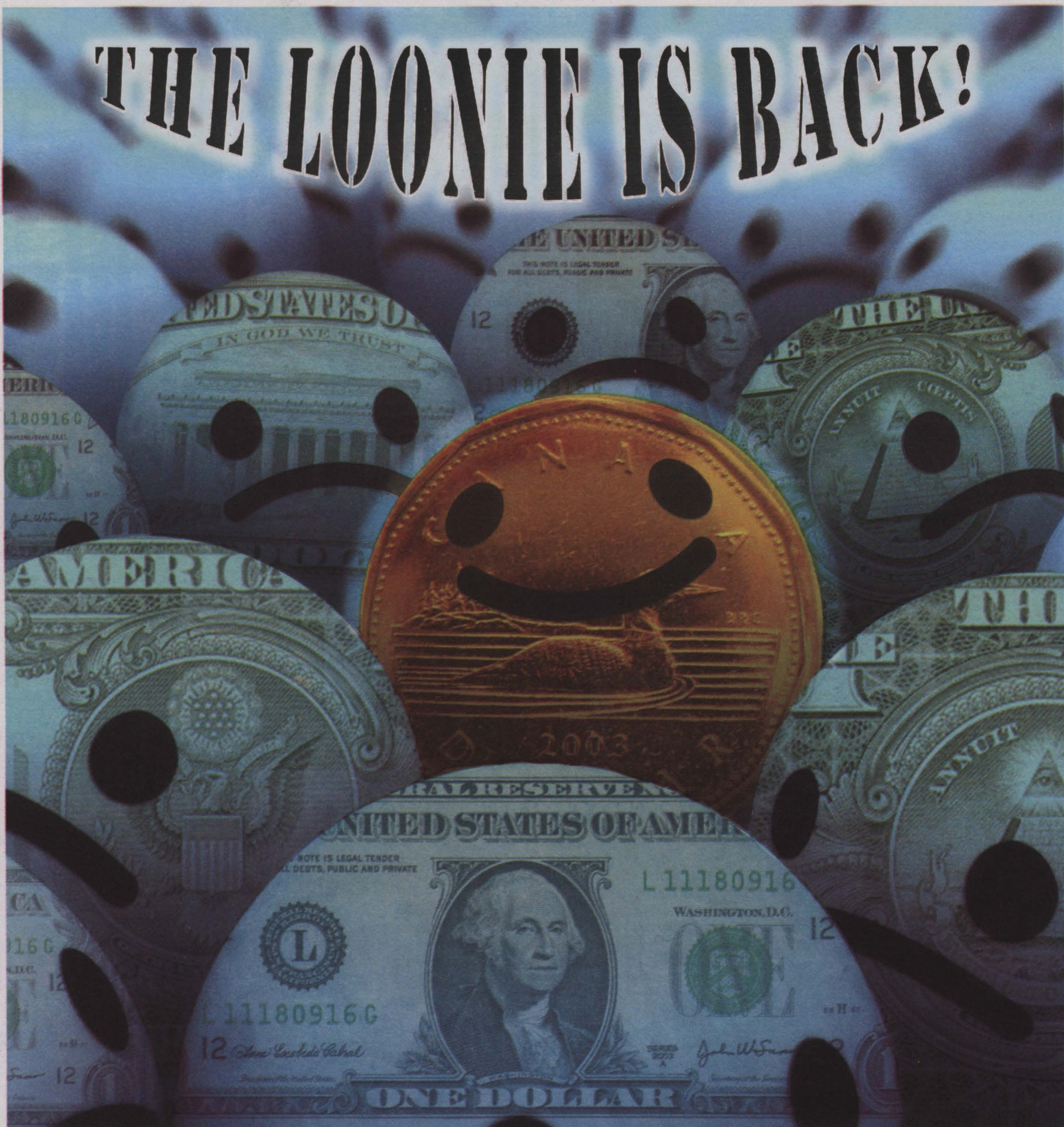


theotherpress.ca

the douglas college student newspaper since 1976

Issue 8, Vol 34, November 1/07

THE LOONIE IS BACK!



The Other Press

THE OTHER PRESS
PUBLISHED SINCE 1976

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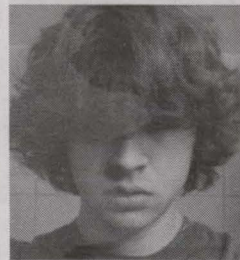
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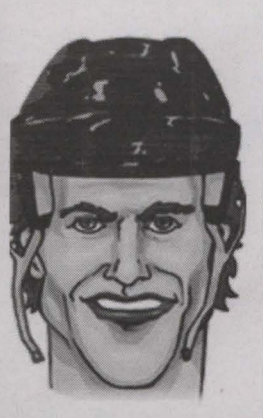
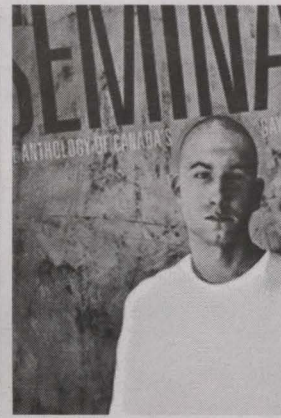
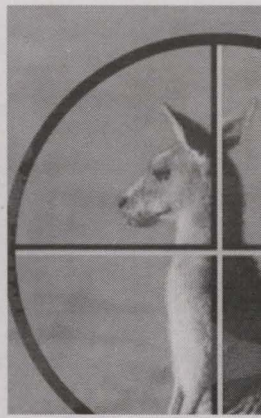
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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Anyone can submit to the Other Press. The weekly deadline for submissions is Thursday for publication the following Thursday. Letters to the Editor and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday noon and can be submitted to the editor at: editor.otherpress@gmail.com All other submissions should be forwarded to the appropriate section editor. Please include your name, email address, word

count, and submit via email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the attention of the appropriate editor.

The Other Press is open and accountable to all students. All major decisions are made via a democratic voting process. Any person who has contributed to at least two of three consecutive issues of the paper can enjoy full voting rights. Those interested in joining the Other Press collective should contact the editor at editor.otherpress@gmail.com

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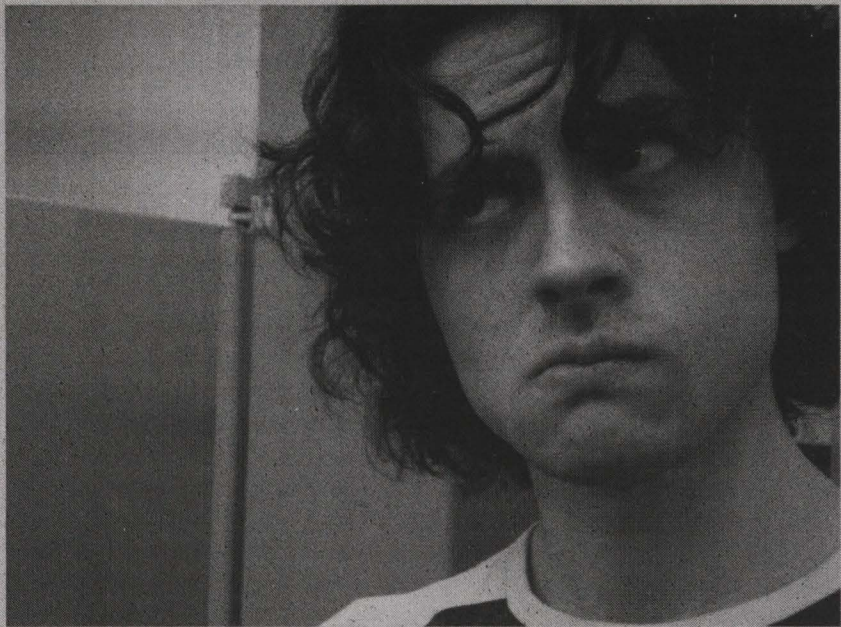
The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the Student Union. Today we are registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by a board of directors. The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the

Canadian University Press (CUP), a cooperative of student newspapers from across Canada. The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is racist, sexist, homophobic, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary.

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LETTITOR

Why are we unpopular?



There was a time when I was feeling a bit depressed about the future of the paper. As the summer semester came to a close, the OP was rather understaffed and underappreciated. We weren't getting many contributors, a lot of our articles were sub-par, and the paper seemed to suffer from an overall lack of fresh ideas and new blood.

Thankfully, things have made a decided change for the better in recent months. We hired a dynamic new sports editor, Garth McLennan, who has consistently churned out some great stories for our once dormant sports sections. We've also seen the rise of the LOLeriffic "Other" News section thanks to the great work of our own resident T. Herman Zweibel, "Salty" Liam Britten. And some talented new regular columnists have emerged, like Ducan DeLorenzi, Patrick MacKenzie, and Mark Fisher.

Our "cash for features" gimmick seems to have taken off swimmingly as well. We now offer \$50 to anyone who writes us a decent article of over 1,500 words, and judging from recent issues, students have responded most favourably to the incentive.

And of course the regular OP staff hasn't been disappointing either. Fine opinions continued to be churned out by the ever-sassy Dr. Sex... er, I mean, Laura Kelsey, and one can't beat Luke Simcoe's coverage of awesome indie bands I've never heard of.

Despite it all, it would still be a stretch to say the Other Press is a huge success. We're *successful* and competent at what we do, but people aren't exactly banging down our doors to get involved. Even letters to the editor are rare. It's not just an OP problem, though. Hell, last week the SFU newspaper had to run letters to the editor from *other schools* just to fill the space. And of course one can't talk to a student politician these days without hearing weepy tales of five percent voter turnouts and below quorum meetings.

If I may take a page from Hillary Clinton's book, I'd like to start a *conversation* on this subject. Why do *you* believe students aren't as interested in things like student newspapers and student government as much as they used to be 20 or 30 years ago?

Obviously we all have busy lives of our own, and we have to pick and choose our priorities amid an already packed schedule of work, school, family, and friendship obligations. But what's made student stuff fall so far to the bottom of the scale?

It puzzles me, because from a student perspective I don't think the social environment is much different now than it was in past decades. The issues may be different, but there are still a lot of important debates to discuss, and a consistent lack of forums for youth opinions to be heard. Similarly, there is certainly no shortage of ambitious young people with solutions and ideas to share. So why are student papers and student unions so unpopular?

Are we perceived as too elitist? Too intimidating? Too irrelevant? Let me know, dear readers.

J.J. McCullough
Editor in Chief of the Other Press

Interested in current events? Like to dig up dirt?

well then, perhaps you should

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Defence Rests in Pickton Trial

By JJ McCullough, Editor in Chief

Another key phase of the ongoing trial of accused serial murderer Robert "Willie" Pickton concluded last week, with defense lawyers finishing off their final arguments and cross-examinations. For weeks, Pickton's lawyers have been hoping to show "reasonable doubt" on the mass-murder allegations by presenting evidence which calls into question Pickton's mental competence to commit the murder of half-a-dozen women. Many of the claims of the prosecution were also called into question during cross-examination, including several pieces of physical evidence.

According to police, Pickton made many damning statements shortly after his initial arrest in 2002, including a now-infamous statement to an undercover officer which he bragged about wanting to kill "an even 50" women." In the preceding weeks the defense has tried to cast doubt on the validity of many of these statements by attempting to portray Pickton as a man of limited mental capacity who was too slow to comprehend notions of self-incrimination. His low IQ scores, limited vocabulary, and socially

awkward manner were all likewise used to construct an image of a man who was simply too stupid to be the most successful serial killer in Canadian history.

Though the defense has never denied that the remains of the six victims were found on Pickton property, they have greatly downplayed Pickton's relevance and instead called attention to the fact that the vast Port Coquitlam property was a popular hangout for many shady characters, the actions of whom Pickton was supposedly largely unaware of.

The reliability of many Crown witnesses was also called into question, with several changing their stories upon questioning by defense lawyers. Questions were also raised about bloodstains found in Pickton's motor home, with defense expert witnesses casting doubt as to whether or not the stains provided sufficient evidence of a murder.

The next key date on the trial timeline will be November 13, when closing arguments will conclude. The jury is expected to begin deliberating about a week after.

Though Pickton has been charged with the murder of 26 different women,

only six of those deaths are the subject of the current trial. A second trial for the remaining 20 will be held sometime later, on a date to be announced on November 20.

The trial has been conducted at

the New Westminster offices of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, a building which is adjacent to the New West campus of Douglas College.



Uncertainty Clouds Apparent Gang Murders in Surrey

By Edward Murphy

The recent shootings in Surrey that left six dead, including two innocent bystanders, may be just the beginning of an escalating gang scene in the Lower Mainland.

The scene was one of BC's worst mass murders. On Oct 19 police entered suite 1505 at the Balmoral Apartment complex in Surrey to find six dead, along with 22-year-old Chris Mohan and 55-year old Ed Schellenberg, the two innocents determined to having been caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. Schellenberg was a fireplace repairman doing his rounds in the building, while Chris Mohan's presence is more unclear, but he does have a clean criminal record. The other four men, Eddie Sousakhone, Corey Lal, Michael Lal and Ryan Bartolmeo, were all between the age of 19 to 26. They all have a history of criminal offences, including resisting arrest, illegal weapons possession, and drug trafficking.

The building's strata council had

decided weeks ago to talk to the tenants of 1505 in response to the amount of people seen coming in and out of the suite, which had raised suspicions of drug trafficking occurring. The motive of the attack is still unknown after over a week of investigation, despite the efforts of Surrey police's gang crime unit. Over the last month there have been three gang-related shootings occurring in public places, killing several gang related affiliates, yet most of the perpetrators remain free. But until now no innocent lives had been taken in the name of gang violence.

As to who committed the mass murder, many theories prevail as the Police have not released any information and are presently outreaching to the community for help. Some believe the killings were a retaliation for a money loan as the four men were in serious amounts of debt. Another source reported that it was a matter of betrayal; an associate of the men killed got greedy and murdered his way through six people for money and free drugs, which would help explain

the current lack of information on the topic. Either way, the significant matter is that innocent people were lost to

senseless crimes because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time, which could happen to any of us.



You Can't Throw That Out!

Garbage Rules to Change across MVRD

By JJ McCullough

Residents living in the 21 municipalities of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (formerly known as the Greater Vancouver Regional District) will no longer be able to throw away most forms of paper, organic waste, or chemicals alongside their normal garbage come January 1st. New rules passed by the MVRD—the supra-governmental organization that controls waste standards in its member municipalities—have recently tightened restrictions in an attempt to reduce the amount of potentially recyclable trash that winds up in landfills. The initiative is part of the district's "Zero Waste Challenge" and the new restrictions are currently being promoted in an awareness campaign across member cities.

Garbage in the MVRD is already segregated into three distinct categories,

but these will now be more strictly defined. "Blue Box" recycling bins, traditionally used just for newspapers, cans, and plastic bottles, now must be used for the disposal of any form of paper waste, including office paper and cardboard, as well as any drinking reciprocal other than milk jugs. All organic garden waste must now be disposed of in special "yard trimming" bags, while chemical-based items such as medicines, paints, and computer parts will only be disposable through special pick-up.

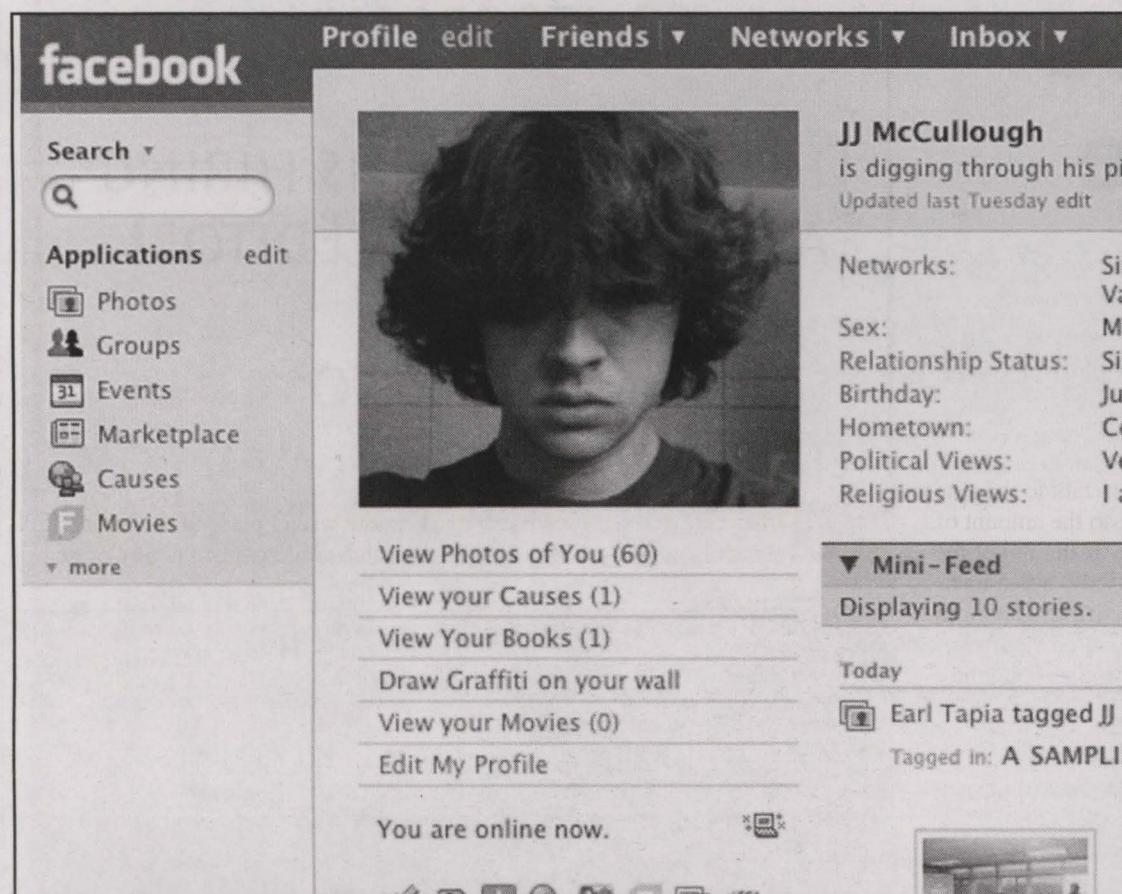
According to MVRD officials, enforcement of the new rules will remain up to the member municipalities, who control garbage pickup. The MVRD itself, however controls landfills, and will begin fining cities who attempt to deposit waste that contains over five percent banned materials.



Facebook Redefines Privacy, Says Prof

Social-networking goes beyond connecting with friends

By Alex Bill, The Muse (Memorial University of Newfoundland)



ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — While Facebook.com is arguably one of the most popular websites among students, the overwhelming amount of personal information available on the site has raised privacy concerns and new questions about what we consider private.

While Facebook users do have some privacy settings available to them, such as limiting who can view their page, Facebook maintains the right to

use the information in almost any way it chooses, including selling it to the highest bidder.

Lyle Wetsch, a professor of business at Memorial University of Newfoundland, and computer science professor Ed Brown argue that people are mistaken to believe that their Facebook information is private in the first place. "There is really no expectation of privacy in areas such as Facebook, as the terms of use are

very clear. Once you post that information it is freely able to have anything done to it, so viewing publicly posted information by a student is not an invasion of privacy," Wetsch said.

Brown said that students are perhaps too young to have experienced the consequences of sharing too much information. "Until you've had someone steal a credit card or you're in a peer group with those kinds of activities where people have run into problems, it's simply not going to be something that's on

your mind," he said.

Employers have caught onto the act as well, realizing that there is much more personal information available about applicants than there was a generation ago. A recent survey by the Creative Group found that half of advertising and marketing executives search online for information on potential hires, usually through MySpace or Facebook. Of those, 14

percent claim to have decided against hiring a candidate because of what they found. And while students may not fret over the sensitive information they expose now, publishing on the internet is a nearly permanent move.

"Unfortunately, you can't [delete] the information once it's out there. So the stupid things you've done when you're a teenager are now going to be retained in cyberspace well into the rest of your life," said Brown.

Wetsch said that the utilization of Facebook and similar social networking sites is possibly changing what newer generations define as private. Many users, though, do not understand that what they are sharing with their friends is likely viewed by others, as well.

The proliferation of the site has also forced some academics to question why individuals may choose to reveal so much information about themselves, often to lists of 500 people or more. "I'm sure there's a certain amount of voyeurism in everybody, and if you're in an environment where it's an accepted practice than it would tend not to be questioned," Brown said.

Wetsch said that the motivation may not be as benign as sharing between friends. "In many cases it is a status thing that has nothing to do with friendship or trust. Sometimes it is like a house party that got out of control, and sometimes the more it grows, the more an individual may feel more important."

What's New at the Student Union?

As a student at Douglas College, you are automatically a member of the Douglas Students' Union (DSU). The DSU is your union; it is separate and distinct from the College and works to represent the interests of students to the College Board, Education Council and administration, as well as to the municipal, provincial and federal governments.

The DSU also provides many useful services such as: faxing and photocopying, lockers, medical and dental coverage, fun events, space for meetings, the ombudsperson, and more.

There are many opportunities for you to get involved in campus life. Come by the Students' Union Building (the SUB) in New Westminster, or the Students' Union's office at David Lam to get involved in the campaigns for an accessible education, join a club, or find out how to access all of the services and amenities provided by the DSU.

As a member of the Douglas Students' Union, you are also a member of a larger organisation called the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

which represents students across the entirety of our proud nation. The DSU represents Local 18 working together with many other locals from the BC Component of the CFS.

For the last few years, one can say that the DSU society was in a time of recession. There was lack of representation and internal controls which has slowly brought the DSU into Receivership. In January 2007, the courts had appointed the receiver manager to bear the responsibilities of the building(s) and the finances.

With this year's new board of directors, progress has already begun. In order to correct the situation, the following steps have been taken:

Honoraria Timesheets

- We are now implementing that all elected student representatives to submit bi-weekly timesheets of their hours and activities to the Honoraria/Timesheet Sub-Committee.

Room Bookings

- We now require payment by cheque for each room booking from outside organisations. Inevitably, space for

students is free and all room bookings are recorded to avoid double occupancy.

Building Securities

- We now require the College Security to check the DSU identification tags and log-in/out. All of the elected student representatives have these ID tags with a picture and an expiry date.

All of these amendments have been implemented in line with the policies set by the DSU's Representative Committee 2007-2008 as outlined above. We trust that these changes that we have made and that of future representatives will bring satisfaction for our membership and the return to solvency.

As we continue to work together and through change, we will eventually achieve our goals to get out of receivership. This will be a benefit for all of the student body of Douglas.

In regards to campaigns, the DSU Campaigns Committee is focusing on Climate Change Solutions. At Douglas College, our goal is to make the College a much more greener campus. We are advocating with the college to

implement paper recycling bins in each classroom for the short run plan and in the long term, we are determined to see can/bottle recycling.

One of our newest initiatives is a "Water Taste Test!" This campaign is to gain awareness of the difference between tap water and bottled water. Really, there is no difference, except for the convenience the buyer is paying for the bottle. This is an opportunity for the Douglas Students' Union to inform students about our service of free water at the DSU and also to promote reusing the same portable water bottles. What is most concerning is that bottles from bottled water are regularly thrown out in the garbage which inevitably will plague our landfills. Even when bottles are recycled, it still cause some waste to accommodate.

If any students have ideas towards the campaigns of the Students' Union, please contact the Chairperson of the Campaigns Committee, Ally MacGrotty the External Relations Coordinator for the Douglas Students' Union.

An Official Update From the Treasurer of the Student Union

Students of Douglas College, I, Roohafza Rahimi, have great news regarding Douglas Students Union financial status. After speaking with our auditor (Calvin Tompkins), I am pleased to announce that the financial statements for 2005 are complete. Calvin Tompkins as well as our receiver manager Marne Jenson feels that it is in the best interest for the Douglas Students Union to complete and sign off the financial statements for both 2005 and 2006. 2005 will not be signed off until 2006 is complete. Calvin Tompkins does have all the financial records for 2006, and as of September 1, 2007 he has been working hard in completing the financial statements for Douglas Students Union.

Douglas Students Union has had many events that we have held for our students; we had a couple of BBQ's, a couple of pub nights and a pancake breakfast. All these events have been a success, also all the information to these events is offered to our students. Feel free to come by and take a look.

Roohafza Rahimi
Executive Treasurer



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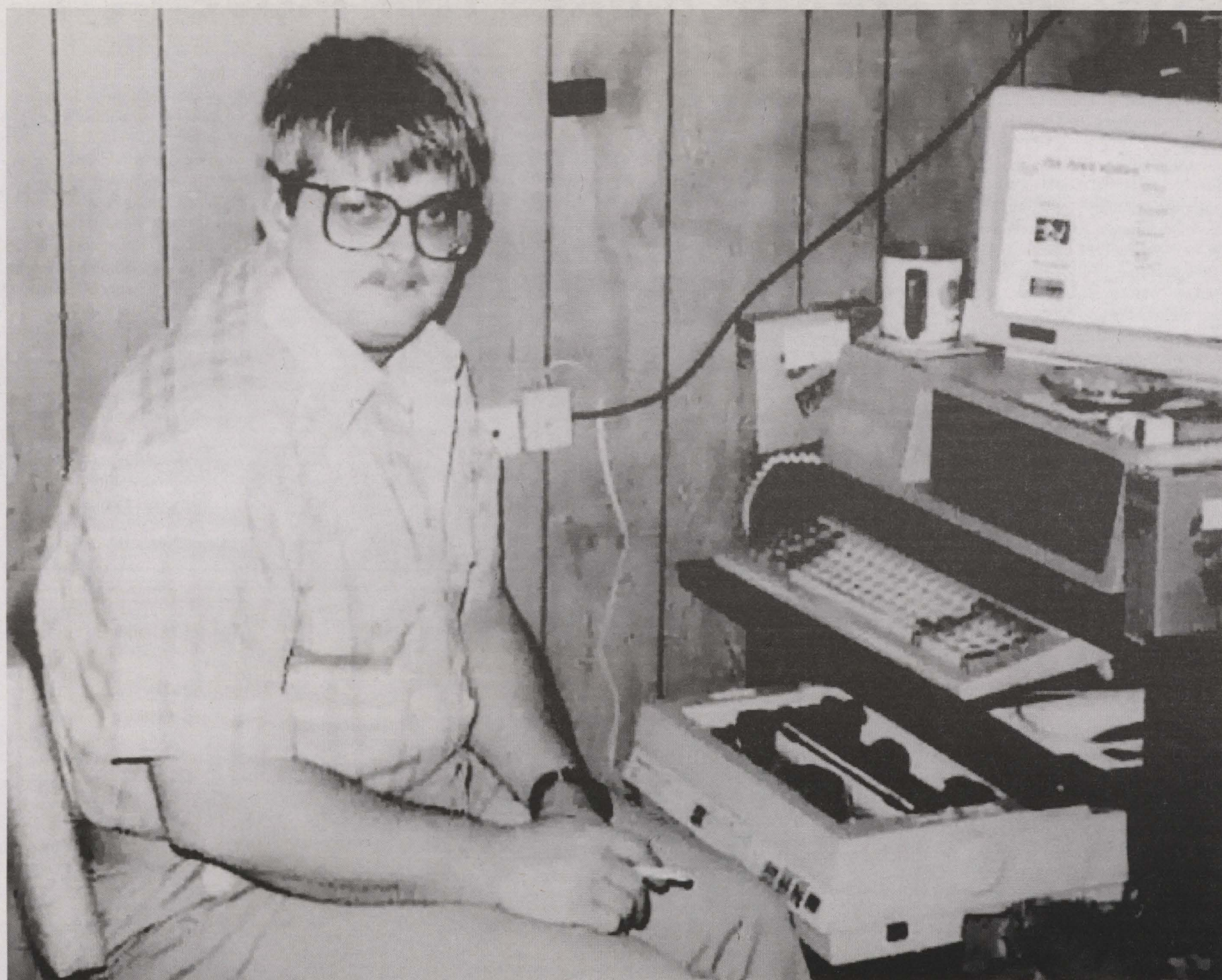
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The Sexy Loonie Makes Her Move

By Dennis Leong

This just in! The Canadian dollar is at par with the US!

Those of us with even a slight interest in our economy—or rather, our economy in relation with the American economy—have probably been watching our loonie creep up on the US greenback over the course of the past year.

And by “watching,” I’m talking about occasionally glancing in the business section of the newspaper. After all, when you’re done checking out the sports section and the “new” *Peanuts* comic, what else is there to read?

But something strange happened a month ago: The Canadian dollar reached par. Well actually, it cock-teased us by stepping over par only to withdraw at the end of trading. It wasn’t until the next day when it finally pulled off those cotton fibre panties and said “use me and abuse me—greenback style!”

It was like a switch had been flicked. The teeming masses, salivating at the deals to be had, broke loose the minute the dollar hit the big one dot-oh-oh. Border trips were hastily arranged and we rolled en masse towards the 49th, eager to snap up cheap bargains across the border. It was fast, and it was furious. And like all good things, it didn’t last long. Two things snuck up: Politics and ignorance; it’s funny how those two are always together.

People demanded cheaper prices in Canada. Why, if our dollar was so magnificent, should we be paying higher prices in Canada for the same goods that are cheaper in Uncle Sam’s neck of the woods? Our dollar is strong! And like a... well, like a minority government scrounging for every last vote, the federal Conservatives leapt to the defence of consumers across the country.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty agreed with consumers and called for all retailers to lower their prices to reflect the buying power of our sexy, shiny loonie. To show he meant business, he called a meeting with the retailers of Canada as if they were a physical entity joined at the hip and easy to transport into meeting halls. But Jim Flaherty had

And so our hero saved \$11.75 minus the cost of a plane ticket. This should be a nail in the coffin, not of the retail industry of Canada, but of Mr. Flaherty’s pathetic career as a cabinet member. It’s not the retail industry that he should be cautioning, it’s his own government.

Let’s forget that most of the stock

That would be bad for a minority government. Taking the side of your voters, no matter how financially irresponsible it may be—irony of ironies for someone with Flaherty’s position title in the cabinet—is by far the safer route for his political career—but not for the country’s economy. So to pre-emptively cover that angle Mr.

Flaherty stated that the government wouldn’t be intervening by lowering prices for consumers.

Sounds like a plan.

We’ve been paying the higher prices for our goods because our dollar has been consistently below the American line for decades. This is the way things are: A weaker dollar means one of our biggest purchasers is willing to buy our goods and pump money into our tourist and entertainment industry. Our dollar didn’t become strong because of smart government policies; our dollar became strong because the American economy is tanking.

Our prices shouldn’t stay at the current level if the dollar stays strong, but it will take more than one month of currency parity before they come down. But spending our dollars in the USA doesn’t help our own country and economy one iota; we’ll be back down below par in no time. It doesn’t take a genius to figure that out, and at the very least our own finance minister should know the consequences of what he’s implying. Unfortunately, he’s not

concerned about our economy or our jobs; he’s only concerned about getting votes so he can still fly across the border on our dime to purchase trivial things.

At least our dime is worth ten American cents now.



“Our dollar didn’t become strong because of smart government policies; our dollar became strong because the American economy is tanking.”

an ace card. Nobody calls a poker game without an ace or two up his sleeve.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, read it and weep: Flaherty stunned retailers by revealing that he saved a whole \$11.75 on the book by purchasing it in Washington D.C. instead of in Canada. And oh yes, he didn’t stroll across the border to purchase the book, he flew on our dime.

on retail shelves was bought before the dollar reached parity. The retailers are still buying stock from suppliers, and the suppliers haven’t lowered their prices. Why is the attention not on the suppliers? Is it because the suppliers will turn it around and blame duties and taxes imposed by our government on imports for the price difference between the countries?

Charities Aren't Always Angelic

By Laura Kelsey, Opinions Editor

Sometimes they come on after the news on weekends, their highly contrasted eyes large and bright against their dark skin. They seem unaffected by the flies crawling over their faces, and their malnourished bellies seem to protrude from the television screen and bump against your heart—all the while a voice tells you that you can help, you can make a difference in these children's lives.

The voice says that for the price of a daily coffee you can feed a child in Africa. He says that if you give so much money a month, you can sponsor a child. Your money will go towards feeding, clothing, and housing the poor and hungry orphans of AIDS or the disabled children of conflict.

But how the hell can a sponsor be so sure?

Aid organizations that have a religion in their name blatantly shout out to the followers of that faith to send money, but simultaneously dissuade people from other beliefs from wanting to help. How does a sponsor know whether her money is going to feed a child rice or the body of Christ?

Although it is always important to give people hope—especially the young—giving faith before food is a waste of money; but it's easier to force others to their knees when they are starving.

But it is not only religiously associated organizations that deter potential donations—animal aid societies flip-flop on their positions so much that it is hard to know if your money is going to help or hurt creatures you want to save.

Recently, Greenpeace, an international environmental organization, flipped their stance on the killing of kangaroos in Australia. In a report released to the media they stated the consumption of kangaroos could cut down on the greenhouse gases and land clearing directly related to rearing conventional livestock.

This new “eat roos for the climate” attitude is contrary to the 1986 film Greenpeace released called *Goodbye to Joey* where they criticized the slaughter of the Aussie marsupials.

This Greenpeace report

has obviously caused dismay in animal lovers and those that who enjoy small drumsticks. Nowhere is this more apparent than on the website for Sea Shepherd, an organization created out of Greenpeace rebellion. Founder and president of Sea Shepherd, Paul Watson, left Greenpeace after he used physically forceful methods to stop the killing of baby seals.

Since Watson has prior animosity

with Greenpeace, it makes sense that Sea Shepherd would jump at the chance to point out Greenpeace's sudden hypocrisy.

Sea Shepherd portrays themselves as an action-oriented organization that sails around the world fighting evil in the form of unlawful whaling boats and any other illegal offenders; their ships have been known to ram fishing vessels and the crew has been filmed fighting

seal hunters. If you love the sea and would like to make a difference, Sea Shepherd seems to be the “real deal;” donating to or volunteering with them sounds like the way to go.

But even Sea Shepherd causes questions to arise when it comes to assistance. If you want to volunteer on of their “all-vegan” crews, you need to fill out a form—and become a “member” by paying a fee of \$100.

Paying to even be *considered* as a volunteer for a dangerous voyage where you will be giving up time, energy, and possibly your clean criminal record seems a little much.

But as far as hypocritical tactics and iffy donation results go, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have raised more controversy than all the Jesus-prompted help organizations combined. PETA's advertising campaigns have compared livestock operations to the Holocaust, and displayed nude celebrities denouncing fur; the society has released undercover investigations and even video games to promote their cause.

Then in 2005, two PETA employees were charged with animal cruelty after it was discovered they were euthanizing adoptable pets and throwing the carcasses in dumpsters. Co-founder of PETA, Ingrid Newkirk, has made several statements that have caused companies, fellow animal-rights groups, and the public to be highly offended.

So, as just one person, how do you make a difference once you've decided you want to? Who do you trust with your well-intentioned, hard-earned donations?

The organizations mentioned above have done incredible things for their causes, but some of their actions cause potential donors to wonder what they might be contributing to. The Canada Revenue Agency is a good resource when deciding what charity to go with, but there is never a guarantee that your money or time is going to the exact person, animal or cause that you intended.

Charity is an unconditional force—it should not consider whether a person converts his or her faith before getting food, an animal is cute before getting shelter, or a disease is marketable before being researched.

“As far as hypocritical tactics and iffy donation results go, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals have raised more controversy than all the Jesus-prompted help organizations combined.”



In Defense of House Parties

By Garth McLennan



The house party has long been a hallowed tradition for high school and college kids all over North America. Yet now, more than ever, these parties are getting phased out by watchful parents and overzealous police officers.

Many parents refuse to condone drinking in any way, shape, or form,

but the plain fact of the matter is that kids are going to be kids. Teenagers are going to drink, with or without their parents' permission. Now, what do you think is safer: drinking with your friends and peers in a well-lit, safe house, or stumbling through a park with God-knows-who in the pitch black?

Now, I'm the first to admit that parties can get out of hand—believe me,

I know from experience—but if you take the proper precautions, and plan the party right, the risk is greatly reduced. Only let in people you know, or better yet, make the whole thing invite only, put away anything you don't want to get broken, inform your neighbours that you'll be having people over, and set a cap on the number of people. These are four very simple principals, so it's really not that dangerous or difficult.

Now, I understand that police are only doing their jobs, but by breaking up a party and kicking everyone out, not much is getting accomplished. What, do you think that everyone will just decide to go home? Believe me, that is definitely not the case. People just head over to the local park or school and continue the fun there.

Many parents refuse to permit parties on the grounds that they will be liable if anything happens. That is a fair concern, but that get countered if you

take just a few uncomplicated steps. Confiscate keys when people enter, which would prevent drunk driving, keep an eye on things so that people don't do anything stupid, and only allow people you know and trust to enter.

Another worry is the clean-up. Now this one is pretty unavoidable. Parties are messy, and cleaning up the house is a sure thing. Just ask some of the people who came to the party to come over the following day to lend a hand. If they really are your friends, they'll do it without a problem. I know mine did.

Student parties are a lot of fun, a great way to meet people socially, and safe if done properly. Plus, they make a hero out of the host.

Reading this, do parties really seem that bad? If they get out of control, then they can be, but often, if the host does it right, that isn't the case. So relax, let kids have their fun.

“the police are only doing their jobs, but by breaking up a party and kicking everyone out, not much is getting accomplished.”

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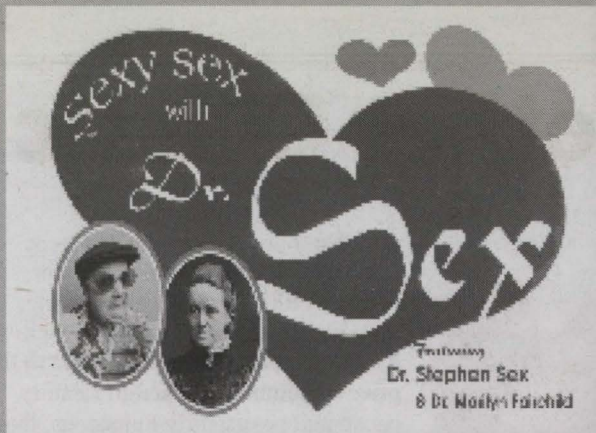
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Manage a Fraud



Dear Dr. Sex,

I'm a young woman, and I have never been involved in a "normal" relationship, (whatever that is). I have always envied couples that can sustain long-term relationships, as I can never make mine last. But lately I may have become involved in something especially unconventional—even for me. A few years ago, I met a hetero-couple that have been together since they were very young; and I have been sleeping with both of them ever since. Now, my brain realizes I am the third wheel in this ménage-a-trio but my heart doesn't, and I have fallen in love with both of them. Is there a future here? Or should I quit before I get too attached? Thanks.

—Versatile And Generous

Dr. Sex: Ahh, this sounds like any man's dream—or his worst nightmare! Men love a gal who likes beard and balls on her chin, but not a bitch that tries to steal his girlfriend.

Dr. Fairchild: VAG, this is an excellent example of what can happen when couples invite another person in their bed—sometimes someone gets hurt.

Dr. Sex: You're playing both teams and getting creamed... in more ways than one.

Dr. Fairchild: Once feelings get involved in a three-way venture it can get really messy. Threesomes are a great way to start love triangles.

Dr. Sex: Or get fucked from the front and behind at the same time... or receive a rim-job and a blow-job all at once... or...

Dr. Fairchild: Yes, Dr. Sex; the possibilities are endless.

Dr. Sex: But not as endless as the number of positions a room full of hermaphrodites can arrange themselves in to.

Dr. Fairchild: Good point. But this week we are not talking about hermaphrodites; we are talking about a woman in love with two people. Some would say it's not possible to love more than one person at a time.

Dr. Sex: I beg to differ. I'm in love with the entire cast of Baywatch.

Dr. Fairchild: Even the Hoff?

Dr. Sex: Hey, fuck Hoff. Anyways, VAG, you need to move on from this couple, unless you plan on moving to Bountiful and joining a polygamous cult.

Dr. Fairchild: VAG, what started out as a fun tryst may end up really tearing out your heart. Although it hurts, you should look at the reality that you might just be a novelty to this couple. Since they have been together since they were young, they may not have experience with other people and find you as a fun substitute for their secret wandering lusts.

Dr. Sex: I suggest adding more women to the mix—make it a ménage-a-thirty!!

Dr. Fairchild: I think VAG has her hands full with just two, Dr. Sex.

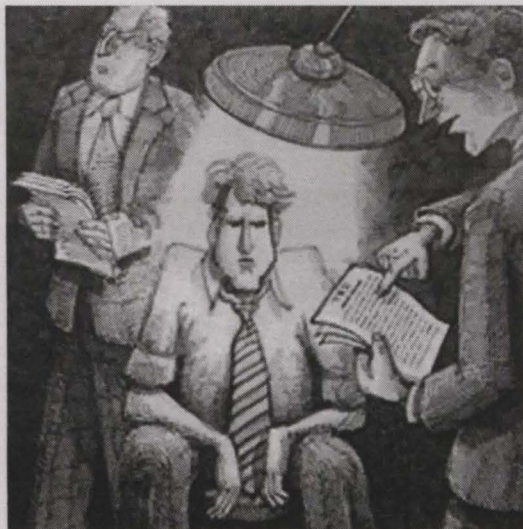
Dr. Sex: Yes... two nuts in one hand and two tits in the other.

Dr. Fairchild: If you have fallen in love with these people, then you may already be attached. But if you feel you can still leave without too much pain, I suggest moving on, as this relationship is bound to hurt everyone involved.

Dr. Sex: But remember to make a video of the action first and post it on sexysexwithdrsex.blogspot.com, our official blog. Thanks for your emailed question, and we look forward to receiving more from our adoring and horny public.

Corporate Security or Bad Movie?

By Meysam Motazedi



I have watched a number of "Film-Noir" style Hollywood flicks over the years. Needless to say, it's always been an utterly thrilling experience; the alluring portrayal of the femme fatale character, the classic black and white cinematography and, last but not least, the incredibly harsh interrogation scene where the classic "good-cop, bad-cop," routine was born. But never could I have imagined that, for 15 minutes, in the afternoon of Tuesday, October 23, I would be playing Humphrey Bogart myself—subjected to a series of harsh criticisms, under the force of a stern interrogation set in a dungeon that is used for storing additional inventory.

I'm referring to the ridiculously absurd means that corporate security officers would employ in order to unveil

what they assume to be the truth behind a certain incident. In this particular case, Bell Canada was the corporation and, I, the poor sap being drilled by their goombahs. What had led to such drastic measures being taken? Well, being a part-time employee of Bell Canada and a full-time student at Douglas College, I was informed by my co-workers that I could take advantage of the tuition reimbursement benefits that the company offers to its employees. The only catch is that the money

would be reimbursed after a year of employment is completed. Also, the tuition reimbursement is only good for business related courses. I met all the criteria. So I decided to go online and apply. The online application was dinky too say the least—you would basically log in to the portal, answer a few insignificant questions and then click apply for tuition reimbursement.

But, what happens next is completely unexpected and unorthodox. Instead of having an administrative staff look at the application and determine whether or not I would be eligible, Bell, instead, decided to send two "Meat-heads," down to where I work to interrogate and scare the living-shit out of me in hope of finding out the truth. I was informed

by my manager that we should go take a walk and go to the downstairs storage room (a shady, claustrophobic little room located in the basement level of the mall). And so I did, not knowing what would be awaiting me. Before I knew it, I was being shadowed by two rather intimidating characters. I was then led into the basement storage room by my manager and told to take a seat. The two men also entered shortly after and, without any proper introduction as to what was taking place, started firing questions at me, "How long have you been with the company? Do you know who we are? Do you know why we're here? No! You have no idea?" My

"In the midst of the whole shenanigan I realized this could very well be a classic film-noir scene."

answer to all their questions was, "No, I haven't got a clue!"

I was put under immense amount of pressure both emotionally and mentally. And, it was in the midst of the whole shenanigan that I realized this could very well be a classic film-noir scene—their body language, the way they conducted the whole affair and the

laughably unimpressive attempt to pull off a good-cop bad-cop routine.

It left me hindered and debilitated. I was both shaken and furious at the same time for having been destroyed and frightened by these bimbos. When I questioned them as to the merits of such, "Stalin-like," behaviour, I was told that, "any behavioural study course would clearly outline the importance of putting the accused under pressure in order to get the truth out of him/her."

According to them, they were protecting the company's valuable assets because what I had done constituted a breach in the code of conducts. I had to wait for a year to pass by before applying for reimbursement. Similar incidents had occurred in different stores where the employee had received the funds, without any verification, and neglected to inform his/her superiors about it. It was based on such circumstantial and inconclusive evidence that they (the Corporate Security Heads) had decided to make a move on me.

These tactics would, inevitably, prove to be counter-productive and ineffective, since they presumed guilt before knowing all the facts and based that guilt on flawed assumptions. Furthermore, utilizing such inhumane and barbaric approaches would only serve to tarnish a company's reputation and result in the loss of their real assets, the employees.

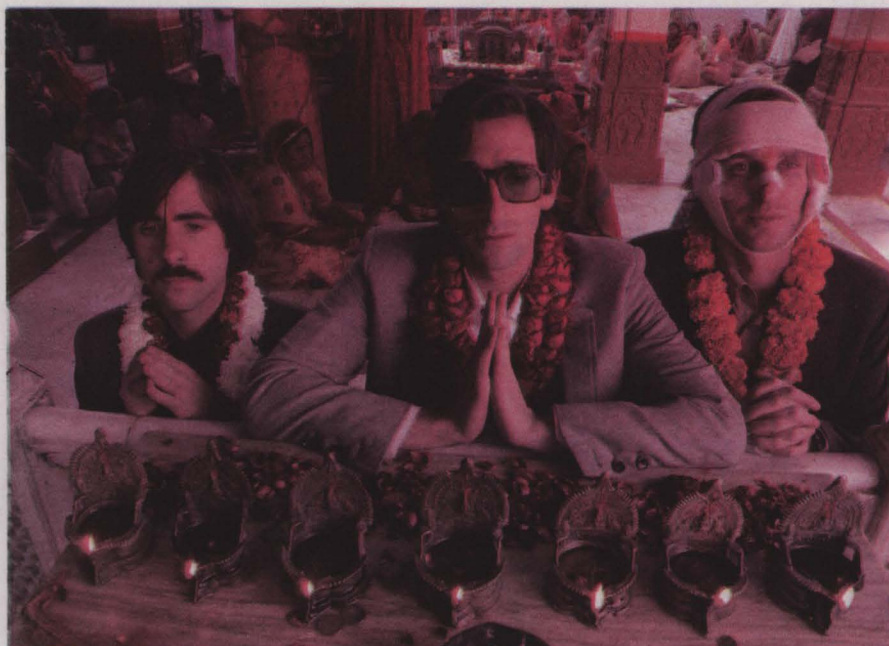
Wes Anderson Delivers Another Classic

Review of *The Darjeeling Limited*

By Duncan DeLorenzi

Trading prescriptions for symbiotic trust, three brothers make their way across India, purposefully integrating themselves within the extraordinarily rich colorfulness of their surroundings. Owen Wilson does a bang-up job (literally) of playing Francis, the older brother of Peter (Adrian Brody) and Jack (Jason Schwartzman) in Wes Anderson's latest saga of family dysfunction.

After a long absence, the three brothers meet on the film's nominally titled train, *The Darjeeling Limited*. Ostensibly they seek to reconnect after their father's death and become closer by sharing a spiritual experience. However, it soon becomes clear that Francis, the eldest brother, has bigger, more elaborate plans. In trying to keep things organized and focused Francis—with the help of his personal assistant, Brendan (Wallace Wolodarsky)—has composed an excessively detailed travel itinerary for the three to follow. Not-so-coincidentally, the train is headed is towards the Himalayas, where the boys' mother has run away from the family to become a nun in a small Catholic



convent.

During their travels, Jack, a troubled writer, is constantly using his girlfriend's password to call and secretly check her voice messages. In the meantime Peter, distressed and anguished and running from his pregnant wife, contemplates his impending fatherhood. As the brothers

trade and withhold secrets from one another and become entangled with locals while breaking the train's rules, the Chief Steward (Waris Ahluwalia) becomes more and more frustrated with their antics, eventually tossing them off the train altogether. Anderson's vivid and imaginative attention to detail with regards to set design and art direction

is on par with his previous work (*Rushmore*, *The Life Aquatic*, and *The Royal Tenenbaums*) and well worth the price of admission. Though steadily paced and persistently humorous, the film's hilarity is juxtaposed with tragedy in such a clever, delicate way that at times I was unsure of just what kind of expression was on my face as I sat in my seat.

The rapid and fleeting appearance of Bill Murray's wonderfully sour mug and Natalie Portman's not-so-sour one only add to the chaos and unusualness of the scenery.

Ultimately, this film—like all of Wes Anderson's movies—is about family and the idiosyncratic nature of the relationships that keep them together. The presence of the colorful and detailed suitcases and trunks, often carried by Indians trailing silently behind the brothers as they run to keep up their commitments, clearly indicates that sometimes it's best just to let go and be free of all that accumulated baggage.

Wes Anderson is a true artist and anyone who is a fan of his will undoubtedly enjoy this film.

Extinction? Here's Hoping...

Review of *Resident Evil: Extinction*

By Jeff Hammersmark

As is usually the case, my girlfriend and I walked into the movie theater to catch the latest gore-fest. It's a lot easier for her to convince me to see one of her horror films than it is for me to convince her to watch the latest documentary or artsy-fartsy drama. So, what was on the menu this time? *Resident Evil: Extinction*.

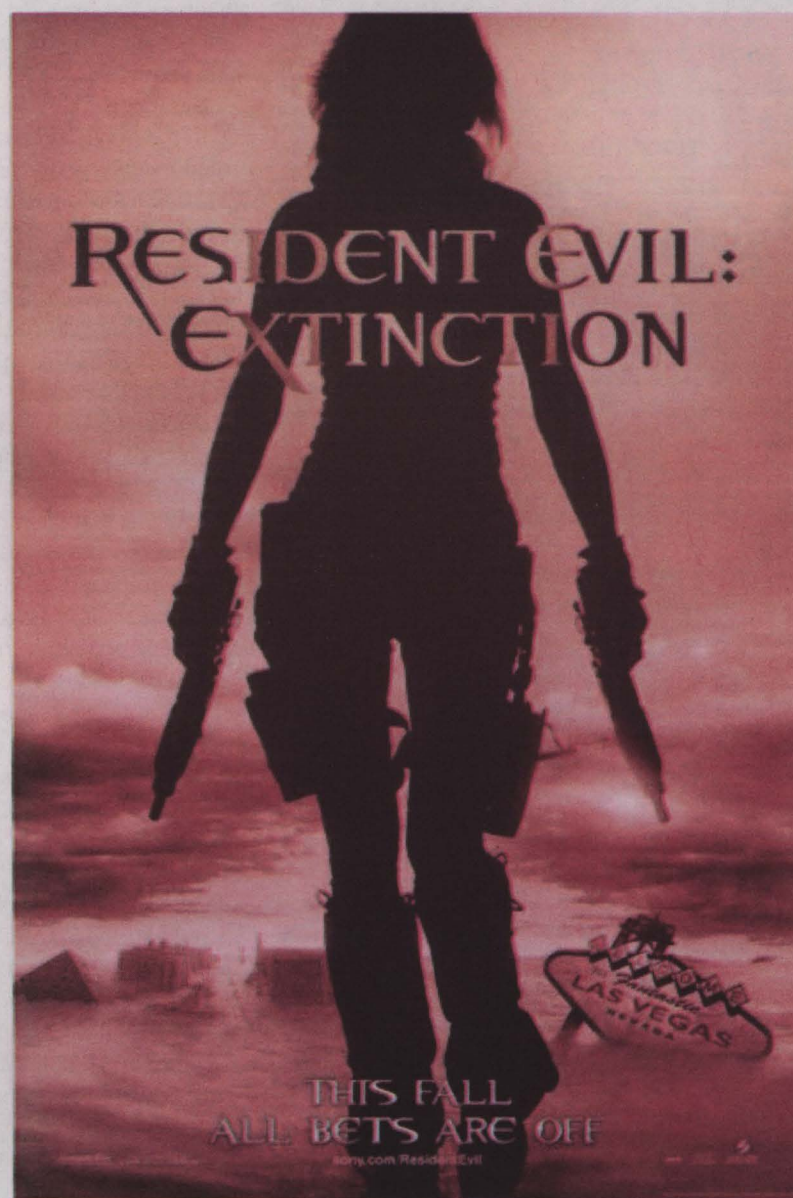
Milla Jovovich once again plays the mysterious Alice, and this time she's hiding in the Nevada desert. The Umbrella Corporation reprises its role as the antagonist. Add thousands of poorly acted undead and you've got your typical *Resident Evil* movie. No surprises here. I actually quite enjoyed the first movie in the series: the soundtrack was solid, and the action sequences were fresh and really pulled you into the movie. That said, *Extinction* is still a complete nightmare, and definitely not in the "On Elm Street" sense.

When I heard the music for the opening sequence, I thought I was at least in for another musical treat. On top of that, the first ten minutes were actually pretty interesting, so by this point of the movie I was feeling pretty optimistic about the next hour and

a half. Well, it was minutes 11 through 91 that left a sour taste in my mouth. The plot was nowhere to be seen, the action scenes were stale, the acting was sub-par at best, except for Jovovich, and the script was so bad I seriously had to think about whether or not I'd trade places with a root canal patient. No joke, I mean that with every fiber of my being. At least the dentist could have numbed my pain.

Extinction is predictable, repetitive, plain stupid at some points, and worst of all, boring throughout. Every time I thought, "here's a chance for this movie to redeem itself," it simply got worse. As if I couldn't give this movie any more of a scathing review, I end by informing you that the last 15 minutes of the movie are the worst, and let's just say that by this point, you'll be jealous of what happens to one of the unfortunate victims of the "last boss" in the movie.

Two out of ten, but only because *Le Immortal Ad Vitam* deserves to be the only movie ever to get a one out of ten. Go rent *Flubber*. Wrestle a skunk. Anything but this.



The Death of a Legend

By Garth McLennan

Marvel Comics has killed off one of the most inspiring figures in entertainment history, Captain America. One of the most time-enduring characters in history, Captain America was killed through the actions of his longtime foe, the Red Skull, in *Captain America Vol.5 #25*. The issue was released in March, 2007.

Captain America was much more than a fictional comic book character. He truly inspired the essence of the American spirit. In an edgier and more controversial world, Captain America was always a perfect example of the way people should be, always caring for their fellow man, doing what is right, and valuing freedom and justice.

Captain America was created by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby in 1941, and he received his own series that same year, first appearing in *Captain America vol.1 #1*, which debuted in March, 1941. On the cover of that first issue, he summed up what he would become famous for: fighting Nazis and punching Adolf Hitler in the face.

He was created by Timely Comics, which was the predecessor to Marvel Comics. Since that time, Captain America has been one of the most popular comic characters in history. It is approximated that over 210 million Captain America comics have been sold throughout the years in over 75 countries. During the Second World War, Captain America had a fan club, the Sentinels of Liberty, and his comic sold over one million issues per month, which outsold Time magazine.

Captain America was created to be an inspiration to war-time Americans and their allies. Steve Rogers, Captain America's secret identity, was a sickly boy transformed into the ultimate force for freedom and good through the super-soldier serum, the chemical formula that gives Cap his peak physical abilities. This echoed the American belief that anyone can go from nothing to everything.

Captain America was famous for his trademark shield, an indestructible disk that he could throw at his enemies with precise accuracy. He and his junior partner Bucky were WW2 heroes, fighting Nazis and Japanese troops all over Europe and Asia. Captain America and Bucky were often featured on advertisements for war-bonds.

As the war came to a close, Captain America had his final, climactic battle. He was thrown from a plane and tossed into the icy waters of the North Atlantic Ocean. He was then in suspended animation, frozen in a block of ice until he was found and revived to join the Avengers. One of the most appealing things about the character was his old-time way of doing things, and his old-

fashioned values.

Captain America continued to be a bastion for right in Marvel Comics through the decades, becoming one of the most central figures in the comic industry. In 2005, former sidekick Bucky Barnes was brought back, renamed as the Winter Soldier.

Captain America's last exploit was opposing a government issued legislation stating that all superheroes must register with the government. This story mirrored the paranoia in the United States today; with the big question being should freedoms and rights be sacrificed for security and safety.

Many heroes, Captain America and Spiderman prominent among them, viewed this as a violation of human rights and oppose the proclamation. This leads to a superhero civil war, with Cap

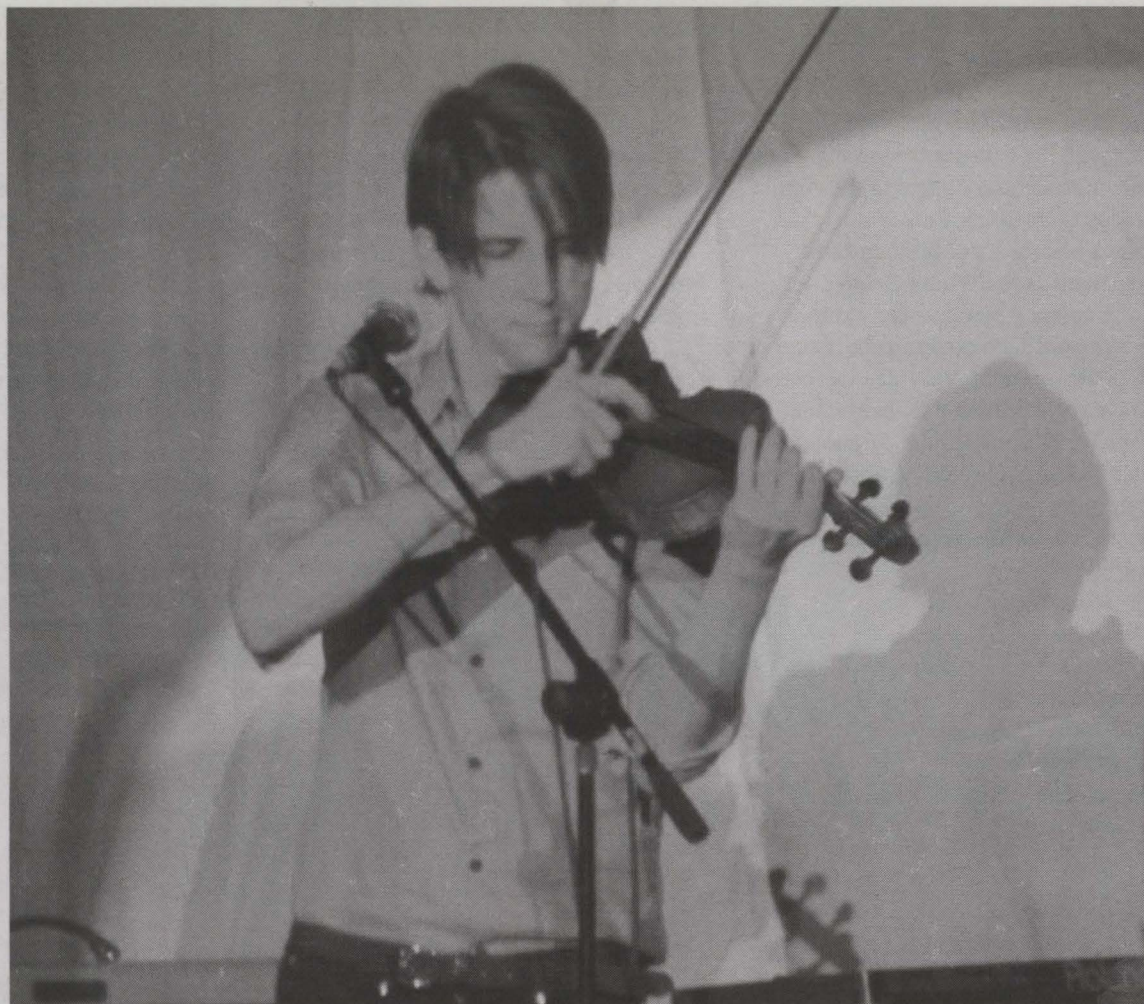
being assassinated by an agent of the Nazi Red Skull at its conclusion. Captain America is laid to rest in the ice where he was found all those years ago. Marvel Comics has announced that a new Captain America will debut, but it won't be the same. A Captain America movie is in the works, to be released in 2009.

The death of Captain America brings about a new time for Marvel Comics. It represents the demise of not only a comic book figure, but also the end

of a small piece of the true American spirit. Despite the fact that he has been killed, the fatality of one of the greatest heroes in the world should serve as more than a mere comic tale. It should serve as an inspiration to all of us, to do what is right, not what is easy. Over the years, Captain America has served as an example of the pinnacle of what humanity should strive to be like, it's long past time that everyone follows that shining example.



“Over the years, Captain America has served as an example of the pinnacle of what humanity should strive to be like.”



Final Fantasy With Great Lake Swimmers and Basia Bulat

Richard's on Richards, October 20, 2007

By Luke Simcoe, A&E Editor

An open letter to the guy who felt the need to tell me to “be quiet” and to “stop moving around” during the Great Lake Swimmers’ set:

I am terribly sorry that I ruined your concert-going experience. I was clearly so obnoxiously drunk that I must have wandered into a night at the opera at the Vogue Theatre and mistook it for an indie-rock concert. I am also sorry that you took my offer of earplugs and attempts to chastise the crowd for cheering in between songs as mockery. I had no idea that you had “waited forever” to catch the band, and if I could take back all those shouts through cupped hands to my lady friend, or the revolting motions of unpacking my camera, I sincerely would. If there’s anything I can do to make up for it, please let me know. I believe my contact information is contained in this humble paper’s masthead.

Seriously, though... Where do you get off? You didn’t buy my ticket, so why do you think it’s appropriate to tell me how to enjoy the show? Furthermore, just how ignorant are you of what happens at these so-called “concerts?” If you wanted a quiet and personal moment with your precious

indie band, you should have stayed at home, put on some headphones, and made sweet love to your iPod underneath the covers. Concerts draw crowds. Crowds make noise. And move around. Shocking, I know.

What really grinds my gears is that the band you were expressing such a reverence for wasn’t even that good. I don’t know what constitutes grounds for idol worship, but I’m pretty sure that predictable chord

progressions, sentimental lyrics, and a complete lack of charisma aren’t it. In fact, I’m pretty sure that the crowd was engaged in idle chatter because the Great Lake Swimmers weren’t holding their attention.

Where were you during Basia Bulat’s set? The Torontonians’ Shakira-

meets-Jewel voice and deceptively intricate arrangements were at least as worthy—if not more—of praise and adoration, yet your persistent nagging at the crowd to be quiet was nowhere to be found.

Perhaps you noticed that the crowd was much quieter during Final Fantasy.

Actually, on second thought, you probably didn’t notice. In fact, aside from the band, the loudest noise I heard was you and your group of friends shushing people and complaining during almost

“Aside from the band, the loudest noise I heard was you and your group of friends shushing people and complaining during almost every song.”

every song. It’s kind of hypocritical if you’re making as much noise—or more—than the people you’re imploring to be quiet. It’s a shame that you failed to see the crowd paying their respect to a much more talented act. Owen Pallett’s quasi-classical violin compositions, skill with loop pedals,

and narrative lyrics are actually worth shutting up for—if shutting up is what you’re into. Not to mention the fact that the visuals—provided via an overhead projector manned by artist Stephanie Comulang—were a captivating example of low-tech beauty. Mr. Pallett had the whole stage presence thing down too. He bantered with the audience, accepted a shot of Jagermeister from an adoring fan, and joked that he thought that Brian (Devon Gummersall) was hotter than “that 30 Seconds to Mars douche-bag” on *My So-Called Life*.

And speaking of douche-bags, it’s pretentious ones like you who stand motionless with their arms crossed at shows that make people think that hipsters and indie fans are a bunch of pretentious douche-bags who stand around motionless with their arms crossed at shows. The idea that music must be put on a pedestal to be enjoyed is an antiquated, bourgeoisie point of view.

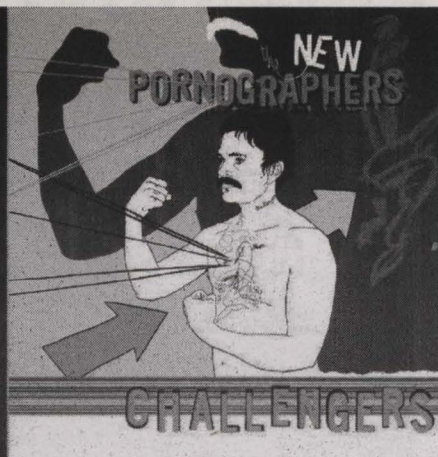
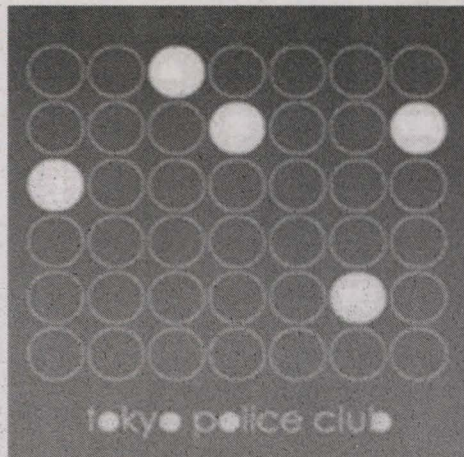
In closing, I’d like to offer some words of advice: be careful whom you choose to shush at a concert; you never know if they’ll turn out to be a writer.

Sincerely,

Luke Simcoe

Stuff I've Been Listening To

Luke Simcoe, OP Columnist



Downloaded:

Tokyo Police Club – *Smith EP* & “Your English is Good” Single
Husker Du – *Zen Arcade*

Listened To:

Love of Diagrams – *Mosaic*
New Pornographers – *Challengers*

Tokyo Police Club – *Smith EP* / “Your English is Good”

I'm actually writing this the morning after Tokyo Police Club's show at the Plaza. How was it, you ask? I wouldn't know. Some doofus forgot to put my name down on the media guest list, and the promoter (some dude in his 40's with an International Noise Conspiracy Tee?) took the opportunity to flex his authoritative muscle. Anyway, TPC's first full-length isn't going to drop until early next year (I keep hearing February), so to tide me over and assuage my grief at missing their gig, I logged myself onto iTunes and for way less than the cost of a sandwich at Chartwells, I snagged their digital-only EP, *Smith*, and their latest single “Your English is Good.”

Despite an average age that just lets them drink in America, Newmarket,

Ontario's finest are possessed of a lyrical and musical acumen beyond their years, and it's exciting to see them push their songwriting into second gear. The tracks are a little less straightforward than on their debut EP, *A Lesson in Crime*, and there are a couple of attempts to break the mold here, most notably on the slower piano ballad “A Lesson in Crime” (which was curiously not on the EP with which it shares a name). Still, the songs that succeed the most are the ones that stick to the band's formula. “Box” and “Your English is Good” are vintage TPC: three minute (or less) mash-ups of catchy keyboards, fuzzy bass, and Dave Monks' whisky and cigarettes meet puberty vocals.

Husker Du – *Zen Arcade*

Husker Du is one of those bands that I've heard more about than I've actually heard. The Minneapolis trio, formed in 1979, consisted of Bob Mould, Grant Hart and Greg Norton. Originally gaining notoriety as a hardcore punk band—Husker Du toured with Black Flag and the Dead Kennedys—the group's trajectory would see them push their sound forward, ultimately

paving the way for the alternative rock breakthrough of the late 80s and early 90s. They became one of the first ‘underground’ bands to sign with a major label—Warner—and their contract, which gave them full creative control over their recordings, became the blueprint for other ‘alternative’ bands that made the jump to the majors.

Zen Arcade was released in 1984 on SST Records, before the group made the jump, and it is widely regarded as their best record. It loosely chronicles the story of a teenage kid who runs away from home, and incorporates a wide variety of elements from piano interludes, to acoustic folk, to jazz, and 60s pop into the broader landscape of hardcore punk.

Love of Diagrams – *Mosaic*

The sophomore record from this Melbourne trio is a big step forward from their mostly-instrumental debut, *The Target Is You*. *Mosaic* is dark, angular, Sonic Youth-inspired—trust me, they LOVE their Sonic Youth down under—dance rock at its best. Sadly, like so many records, it's front-loaded with the better tracks like “Form & Function” and the “Pace & the

Patience.”

The New Pornographers – *Challengers*

I actually gave this record a bit of a hard time when I heard the songs live last time the Pornos rolled through town, but I take it back. I realize now that I was initially reluctant to embrace the record because it's so flawless—it lacks the—little imperfections that made the band's first few records seem like such spontaneous and joyous affairs. I've long been a proponent of Carl Newman, and with all but three songs written by him, *Challengers* reflects Newman's newfound confidence as the de facto leader of the Pornographers. It does seem as if he's settled down a bit—he's recently married after all—and while he's no longer singing ditties about his ‘slow descent into alcoholism,’ tracks like “My Rights Versus Yours,” “All the Things That Go to Make Heaven & Earth,” as well as the title track are the product of a songwriter at the height of his capabilities. My only complaint is that he should have thrown in a final chorus in “My Rights” instead of letting it sputter out.

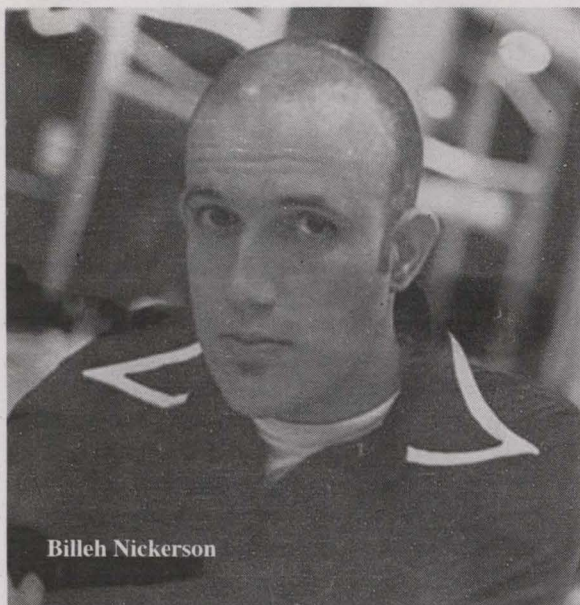


Vancouver Writers Fest Draws

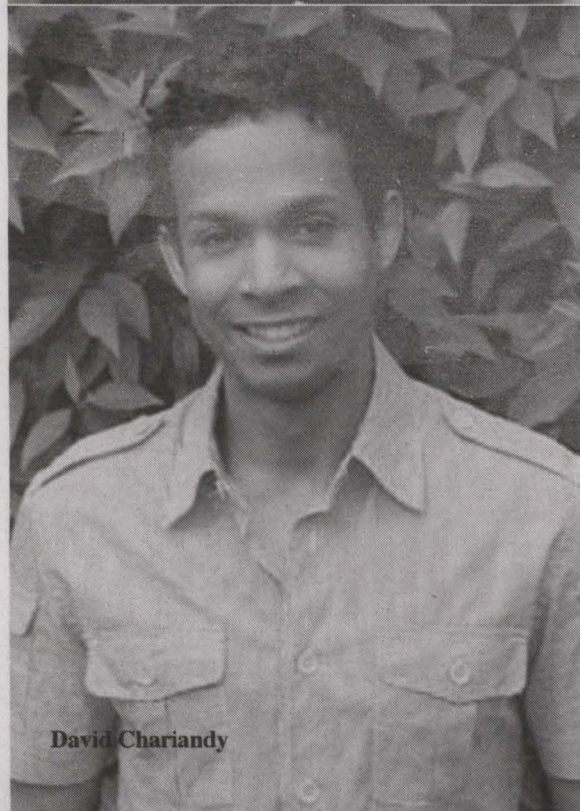
Some of the World's Best

International Writers & Readers Festival, October 16-21

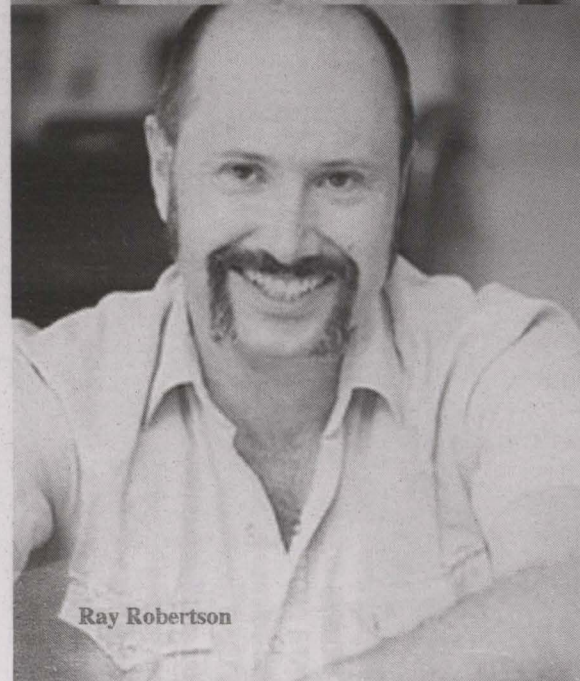
By Regan Sarah Taylor



Billeh Nickerson



David Chariandy



Ray Robertson

There is an unfortunate stereotype about writers long-held by the general public: they are a moody, sullen, solitary, anti-social lot who prefer books to human company and never have any fun. Thank goodness for the people who organize the Vancouver International Writers & Readers Festival. They are doing their utmost to dispel that myth. The festival, which wrapped up its 20th year last Sunday, is remarkable for how much *fun* it is. If the events I managed to attend were any indication, artistic director Hal Wake and company are doing their best to make this five-day stretch of readings and panel discussions on Granville Island as loose and lively as possible. There are no dour, stuffy readings here; no painfully awkward Q&A sessions; no egotistical authors monopolizing the podium. The daytime events are quick and breezy, generally led by seasoned hosts. The evening events see the emcees encouraging everyone to *go have another drink*. It's a surprisingly good time for something so literary. I could only see a handful of this year's 61 events, and these were the best:

GAWK, Billeh Nickerson's event at the festival, is apparently famous for selling out every year. Nickerson is a Vancouver poet who has worn many other hats—including editor of literary magazines *Event* and *PRISM* and editor of the anthology *Seminal: The Anthology Canada's Gay Male Poets*. He's also well known around town for his talents as an inimitable emcee; I've seen at least one book launch where, as host, he outshone the performance of the author with the book to sell. He handpicks the readers at this annual event, and it's clear his taste runs toward the saucy, the risqué, and the young and up-and-coming. Almost all of the writers here were well under forty, which is unusual in this business.

This was by far the best of the events I caught this year, not least because of the scantily-clad male go-go dancers who gyrated on pedestals to the strains of **Arthur Russell** before the show and during intermission. Although at least one of the three dancers looked mortified to be there, the addition of a little naked flesh onto the scene certainly set an appropriate tone for the evening. Nickerson issued a tongue-in-cheek warning in his preamble that audience members who couldn't stomach sex scenes and swearing should go home. In some cases, the writers present chose to read their most scandalous work—as in the case of local author **Jenn Farrell**, who offered “the dirtiest story in [her] book,” a tale of a phone-sex wage-slave rapidly losing interest in her job.

Others were exotic in less obvious ways: Victoria's **Steven Price** read poems about Harry Houdini—although he did begin with a penis joke directed at Nickerson—Calgarian **Andrew Wedderburn** read, from his book *The Milk Chicken Bomb*, a series of weird, childlike musings on things like giant ants, lemonade recipes, and the proper way to acquire a bank loan for the purchase of a submarine. Local slam poet **Brendan McLeod** was manic and hilarious reading from *The Convictions of Leonard McKinley*, which won last year's Three-Day Novel Contest

and is told from the point of view of a hyperactive teenager who is obsessed with God.

Though his book is neither dirty nor funny, the most riveting reader of the night was **David Chariandy**. His Governor General's Award-nominated novel *Soucouyant*, about a man dealing with his immigrant mother's dementia, is well deserving of the praise. Chariandy wasn't even originally on the program—he replaced an absent **Maureen Medved** on the bill—but he was the brightest of a remarkably bright bunch. The only low note was the last reader, Montrealer **Catherine Kidd**, who went on far too long with her grating, irritating spoken-word piece “Human Fish” and, surprisingly for someone “best known as a performance poet,” didn't seem to know how to use a microphone.

Gift of the Gab, Friday morning's sold-out event, was not a reading so much as a showcase for a trio of writers luckily possessed of goofy, charming personalities. Ontarian **Ray Robertson**, Newfoundland's **Michael Winter**, and Irish dynamo **Nuala O'Faolain** sat and answered questions from a jovial **Vicki Gabereau** in front of a very appreciative, largely middle-aged audience.

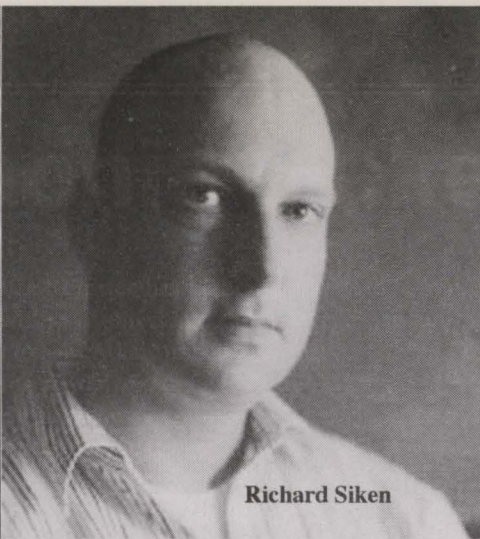
Ostensibly these three authors were gathered together because of their shared ability to tell an amusing story. Winter and O'Faolain were noticeably more adept at this than Robertson (aided in part, perhaps, by their respective accents); they bantered wittily in place of reading excerpts from the books they were there to promote, while Robertson read a fraction too long from his **Jack Kerouac** homage/personal memoir *What Happened Later*. The book seems like an entertaining—if a little too earnest—appreciation of the “King of the Beats,” and the sections focusing on Robertson's own childhood in small-town Ontario were both more original and easier to listen to. While Jack Kerouac makes for interesting enough subject matter, it seems to me there has been far too much written on him already. The parts we heard from *What Happened Later* were decent enough, but Robertson was clearly the most forgettable of the three participants.

Michael Winter told a story about falling into a giant garbage incinerator while doing home renovations in Newfoundland, and promised that the incident would make its way into a future novel. Winter's known for his unabashed refusal to separate fact from fiction. As he put it: “I make stuff up, and then I live it.” I was mildly disappointed that Winter did not in fact read anything from his newest book, *The Architects are Here*, which recently appeared on the long-list for this year's Giller Prize. A second anecdote, in which he recounted his adolescent obsession with CBC radio host **Augusta LaPaix**, more than made up for the lack of excerpt. Winter is among Canada's best young writers and I hope he makes it back to the festival, and back onto the Giller list, someday.

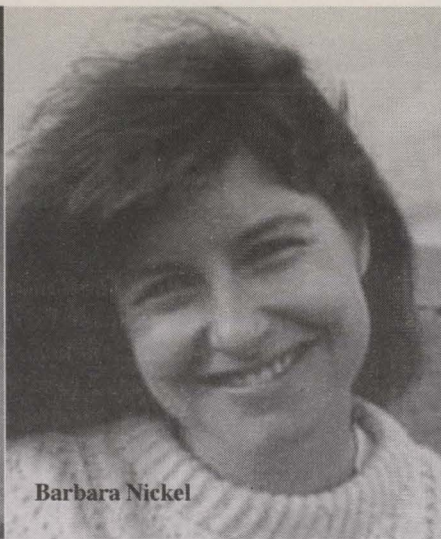
Gabereau, playing host with cheerful spontaneity, wisely saved journalist Nuala O'Faolain for last. I'd never heard of O'Faolain before sitting down in the Granville Island Stage for this event, and I'm unlikely to forget her now. She began with a long rant



Nuala O'Faolain



Richard Siken



Barbara Nickel



Heather McHugh

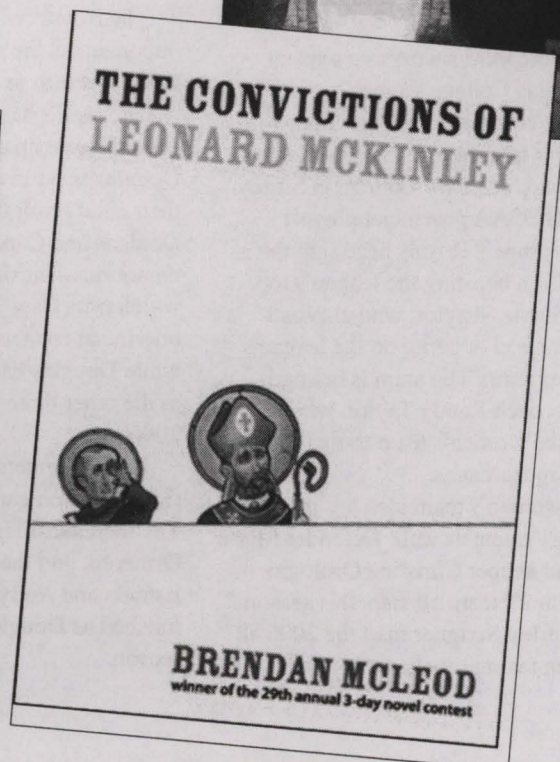
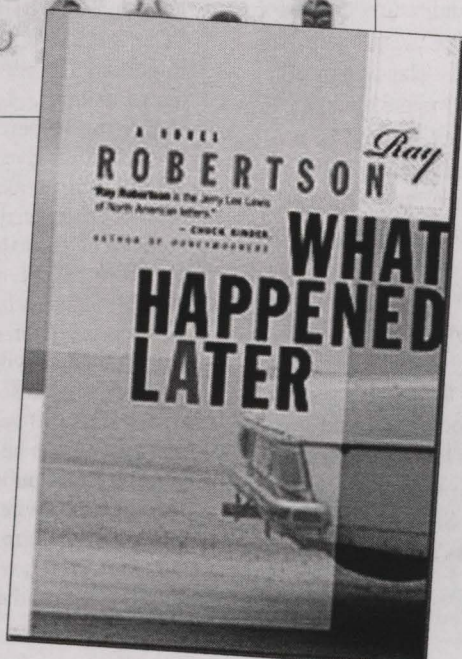
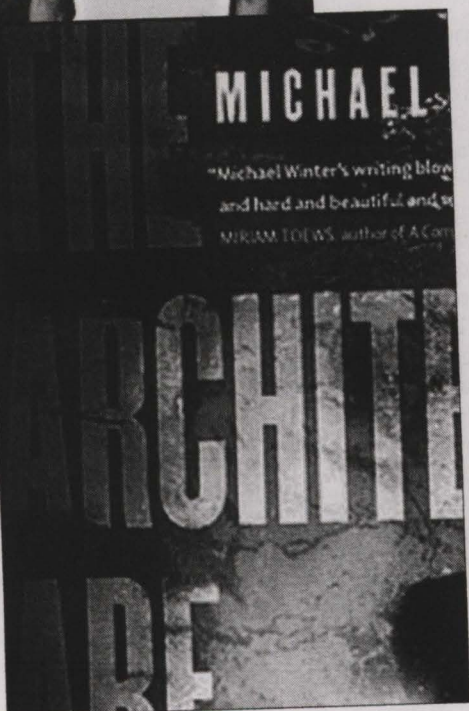
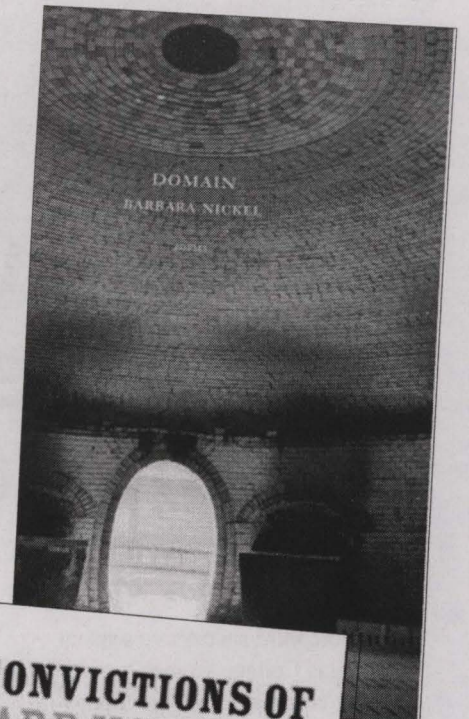
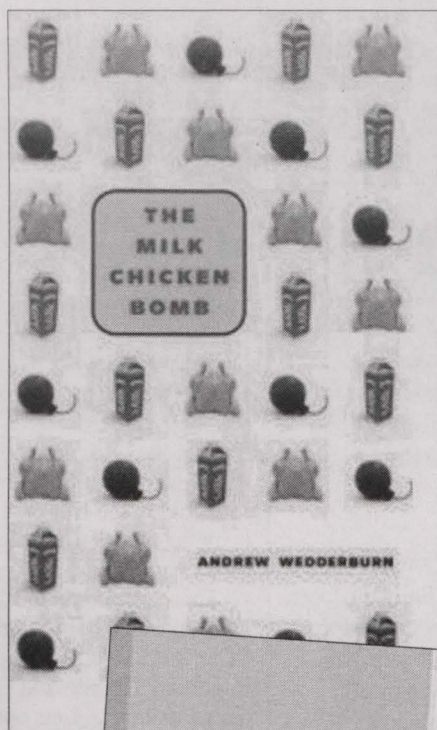
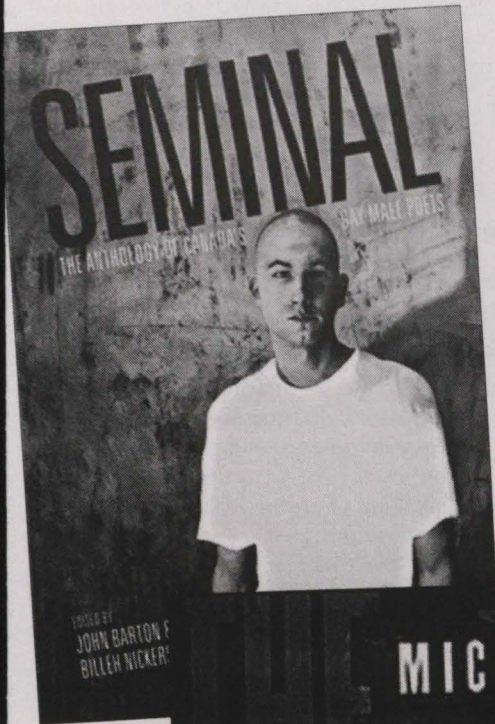
on how poor sales of her books are ruining her life, talked a little about the grim subject of her latest book (a biography of 19th century prostitute and celebrity crook **Chicago May**), criticized the parenting skills and affected nationalist tendencies of her father, and wrapped with a condemnation of the Catholic Church. That might sound like a drag, but O'Faolain managed, in a manner specific to the Irish, to make everything she said *funny*.

The Poetry Bash on Saturday, a perennial favourite of festival goers, was full of giddy audience members, including a lot of authors from other events who weren't busy giving readings themselves. Unfortunately, a noticeable portion of the audience was either too drunk or too ignorant to realize that not all that was on offer was supposed to be funny. Several extended bouts of high-pitched laughter from somewhere in the crowd threatened to derail moments of sincerity and seriousness from a few of the poets on stage. Though it *is* good to have fun at these events, sometimes a little respectful silence is necessary.

One reading was especially marred by ill-timed hilarity in the audience: that of American **Richard Siken**, a Yale Younger Poets Prize winner blessed with an amazing deadpan reading voice and a strange, meandering poetic style. He read a long piece seemingly composed of unrelated one-liners that gradually cohered into a manifesto on the nature of love. Siken's delivery was unlike anything I've ever heard from any other poet. He seemed to combine the disarming observational wit of comedian Steven Wright with the ecstatic mumblings of **Allen Ginsberg**. I nearly choked on my beer when he uttered, "The entire history of human desire takes about 70 minutes to tell. Unfortunately we don't have that kind of time."

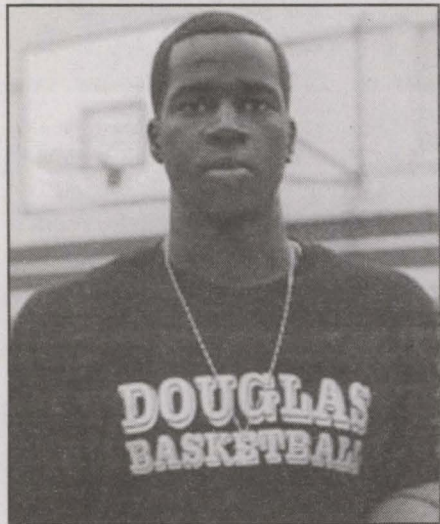
Other highlights of the evening included **Barbara Nickel**, high and "euphoric" on painkillers for a herniated disk, delivering poems from her lovely book *Domain* with grace and energy nonetheless. Then there was Danish poet **Niels Hav**, whose quirky, bawdy snapshots of everyday urban life had the house roaring despite some problems with the sound.

Midway through the program a "surprise guest" made her way to the stage: much lauded American poet and translator **Heather McHugh**. Even with big-name poets like **Dennis Lee** and **Agnes Walsh** in the room, McHugh was astonishing. Her tough, concise, and precise poems silenced all the laughs in the back row. She managed, in just a few minutes, to be both funny and political—often within the same poem. She read "What He Thought," about a bunch of poets visiting Italy, arguing about the definition of poetry over dinner. The argument is settled when one of them recounts the tale of a heretic, burned at the stake centuries earlier in a nearby square for saying crazy things about God. McHugh's final words ("poetry/is what he thought, but did not say") put a hush over everyone. Perhaps it was the subtle reference to the Bush government she made in her intro and the historical correlation to the current political climate; perhaps it was the just the mood finally sobering. I'd like to think it was the poem itself—its sly statement on the power of words, ironically enough, that kept us quiet.



Douglas Basketball Recruits Sudanese Superstar

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor



Douglas College was recently given an incredible gift by the sports gods: Bol Kong. The 6'7 Kong, who plays guard for the Douglas College Royals, is quite possible the top basketball prospect in all of Canada. The only reason that he isn't plying his trade with such schools as Washington, Hawaii, Idaho, or Florida, is because he has been unfairly denied a visa into the United States.

Kong is a citizen of the African nation of Sudan, but has lived in Canada since the age of seven on landed immigrant status. He has applied for a student

visa on three separate occasions so he can play for a high profile college or university in the U.S. Unfortunately, he's been denied all three times. He's playing for Douglas in order to stay sharp until he can obtain his visa. One possible reason is that Sudan is on the U.S. list of top-ten terrorist nations.

However, even in dark times, good things can shine through. Douglas is now privy to watching a fantastic player with a classic jump-shot, a tremendous drive, and a wicked shooting ability. He's been contacted by almost too many schools to count, and the Boston Celtics have expressed interest in him since he graduated from St. Georges in Vancouver two years ago. He's drawn considerable interest from over 200 U.S. prep schools, colleges and universities. He sat out last season, hoping that his unjust visa troubles would get resolved.

In the meantime, he's ripping it up for Douglas, and has drawn rave reviews from coaches and scouts that have seen him dominate games against Canadian and NCAA opponents alike.

No matter how his future turns out, and odds are it will be a very promising one, Douglas students can count themselves lucky that we had the privilege of watching such a superb player.

Douglas Women's Soccer Team Playoff Bound

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

For the third successive season, the Douglas College women's soccer team will compete in the playoffs, with this year's tournament to be hosted at Kwantlen University College in Surrey.

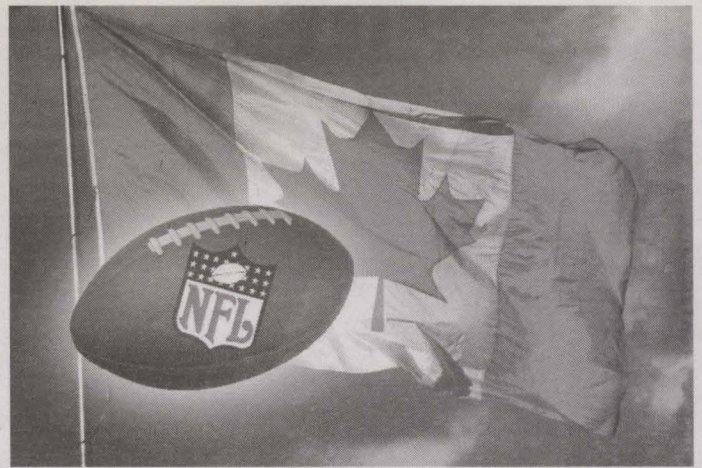
The BCCAA provincial playoff bound women's Royals head into the competition boasting the league's top scorer, Stevie Shaylor, who also had the distinction of being on the league's 1st all-star team. The team is helmed by head coach Randy Taylor, who has guided the women's team to its last three playoff appearances.

The women's team also has plenty of secondary talent as well. Defender Marie Philp and keeper Christina Orologio were both 2nd team all stars this season, while Karley Scrigner made the 2006 all-Canadian team as well.

The Royals will have a tough opponent, as the powerful Langara Falcons return as defending champions.

The men's half of the competition should shape up as a classic as well. Douglas is set to compete against their chief rival, the Capilano Blues. Douglas and Capilano have dominated the tournament since 2002, during which time Capilano has captured two provincial crowns in 2003 and 2007, while Douglas has emerged victorious in the other three years, 2004, 2005, and 2006.

Douglas enters the contest on a high riding a seven game undefeated streak. The men's team is led by coach Joe Ormeord, and their top players are Ivan Estrada and Andy Singh, both players finished as Douglas's leading scorers this season.



NFL, CFL, Can't We All Just Get Along?

By Dane Neumeier

Recent discussions that the NFL has plans of making its way north of the border have yet again got Canadians in a state of disarray. Such blasphemy has resulted in a frantic attempt by the Canadian Football League and its fans to untangle the immense knot from their panties. This country should however, reach for their valium, and look at the facts.

The Buffalo Bills organization has proposed a preseason NFL game to be held in Toronto in 2008, with a potential regular season game to be scheduled during the following season. This should not come as a shock to Canadians, as the NFL has played overseas games in the past. In fact, last Sunday's showdown between the New York Giants and the Miami Dolphins was held at the world famous Wembley Stadium in London England. Unlike the National Hockey League's attempt to sell their game overseas this opening season, the NFL is in no such dire need. As a revenue glutton and marketing juggernaut, the National Football League is by far the most profitable sports entity on Earth.

Then why come to Canada? Sportsnet NFL analyst Adam Schefter says, "The Buffalo Bills recognize how important Toronto and Canada are to their franchise." Lets not forget that a staggering 15 percent of Bills season ticket holders live in Toronto and neighboring areas. The Bills are simply marking their territory; exercising their ability to, "stick their toe in the water" says former CFL commissioner Tom Wright. Rumors have suggested that the NFL may expand to Canada, or that the Bills franchise will relocate to Toronto. The latter holds some weight, in fact Bills owner, 89 year old Ralph Wilson, has stated once he passes, the team will go up for sale publicly. In response, several CFL owners have expressed their interest in a group effort to purchase the team, which would be an obvious attempt to curtail any detrimental effects

on the Canadian Football League in the event that an NFL team found a home in Toronto.

CFL aficionados find the Bills proposal as a rather cruel foreshadow, fearing the end is quickly approaching. This is almost comical, in a most satirical way. That is, the same CFL fanatics who claim they have a fundamentally different sport, adamantly boasting its three down system, the ability to have unprecedented motion in the offensive backfield, a drastically larger playing surface, and only twenty seconds between plays, are the ones causing the biggest fuss. The CFL is a 97-year-old Canadian institution. The fans fail to realize that Toronto is not Saskatchewan or Manitoba where the CFL is the only

"If states such as California and New York can have multiple sports franchises in multiple cities, than why not Ontario?"

source for professional sport, that the only team in Toronto selling out on a regular basis are the Leafs, and that in the American dominated sport of Basketball, the Toronto Raptors won

the Atlantic division last year, and are heavy favorites to win the East this year. Toronto is clearly capable of supporting a plethora of professional sports organizations. If states such as California and New York can have multiple sports franchises in multiple cities, than why not Ontario? Can't the Argonauts and an NFL franchise live in peace? Tom Wright assures us that an NFL team in Canada, or even a few games played here for that matter is, "not doomsday for the CFL...[given that] whatever happens must happen in cooperation". That cooperation, as stated earlier, must come from CFL owners.

In short, the NFL is good for business. CFL fans will continue to go watch games, support their teams, and undoubtedly balance the chip on their shoulder for years to come. An NFL preseason game played in Canada is not a malign concept, rather it presents great promise and opportunity. Perhaps some of the NFL's marketing magic can leave a lasting impression on the Canadian sports market. After all, its just football eh!

Red Sox Win World Series!

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

For the second time in four years, the Boston Red Sox are the world champions of baseball. They completed a dominating four game sweep over the National League champion Colorado Rockies, with a 4-3 win in the final game. Boston's third baseman Mike Lowell was named the MVP.

This was the first year in MLB history that a Japanese pitcher has started— Boston's Daisuke Matsuzaka, who originally signed on to a monster, \$52-million deal in the off-season.

It has been quite a year for the talented Matsuzaka, who became known as one of the top pitchers in baseball this season, captured the World Series, and began to cash in on his mammoth contract. Boston paid an incredible \$51 million just for the negotiating rights to Matsuzaka.

The Red Sox have now firmly entrenched themselves as the best team in baseball. They finished the regular season as the league's top team, led all of baseball for most of the season, and were the first team in Major League baseball to clinch a playoff position. Star closer Jonathan Papelbon threw the final out against Colorado's Seth Smith.

It was a sour ending for the Rockies, who enjoyed a Cinderella run to the finals, winning 14 of their last 15 regular season games to equal the Padres for the National League wild card spot. They then triumphed in a nail-biting regular season playoff game, beating the Padres 9-8 in a wild 13-inning game. Heading into the World Series, Colorado had won 22 of their last 23 games.

They were simply no match for the

powerful Red Sox however, who ripped the Rockies apart in three of the four games and controlled the final game up until the final two innings. Boston bombarded Colorado's stud pitcher, Delta's Jeff Francis, with six runs, winning the first game of the series 13-1. Colorado fared better in Game 2, but still fell by a score of 2-1. Boston triumphed once again in game three, winning 10-5.

Boston swept the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the opening round, and captured the ALCS crown with an amazing comeback series win over the Cleveland Indians, who had dethroned the surging New York Yankees. Cleveland was leading the series three games to one when Boston dug deep and came back to win.

Boston boasted far and away the best pitching in baseball this year. Their starting rotation had perhaps more talent and ability than any other team in history. Superstar Josh Beckett, Jon Lester, Daisuke Matsuzaka, and the legendary Curt Schilling were the starters. They also had highly skilled closers, with Eric Gagne, who was picked up at the trade deadline, Hideki Okajima, and Jonathan Papelbon.

David Ortiz, Boston's DH (designated hitter), had a good year with 35 home runs, which dipped from his previous year's total of 54. 'Big Papi' was also on Boston's 2004 World Series winning roster. In 2006, Ortiz signed a four-year, \$52 million contract extension with Boston, which will pay him \$13.5-million throughout the life of the deal, which expires in 2011.

Boston remarkable performance this year has shattered the Curse of the

Bambino for good. Despite being a consistently good team, Boston went a stunning 86 years without a World Series Championship before ending the curse in 2004. The curse stemmed from Boston trading Babe Ruth to the rival New York Yankees in one of the sport's world's most notorious and one-sided trades. Long suffering Red Sox fans can now be at peace that the legendary curse is now a thing of the past.

Boston manager Terry Francona had his perfect World Series record extended this year, he's now 8-0, as Boston swept the World Series in 2004 as well. He is the only manager in baseball history with such a record.

The mercurial Manny Ramirez surpassed Bernie Williams for Boston's all-time postseason home run record this fall, recording his 23rd on October 13. Ramirez's season could be called average at best, as the controversial star hit just 20 home runs, and had 87 RBI's with a .296 average, despite making an astonishing \$17 million this year, being the highest paid player on the second highest paid team in baseball. Overall, the Red Sox had a staggering \$143 million committed to player payrolls this year. Ramirez, the 2004 World Series MVP, also faced criticism when he informed reporters that losing "wouldn't be the end of the world" after his team went down 3-1 against Cleveland.

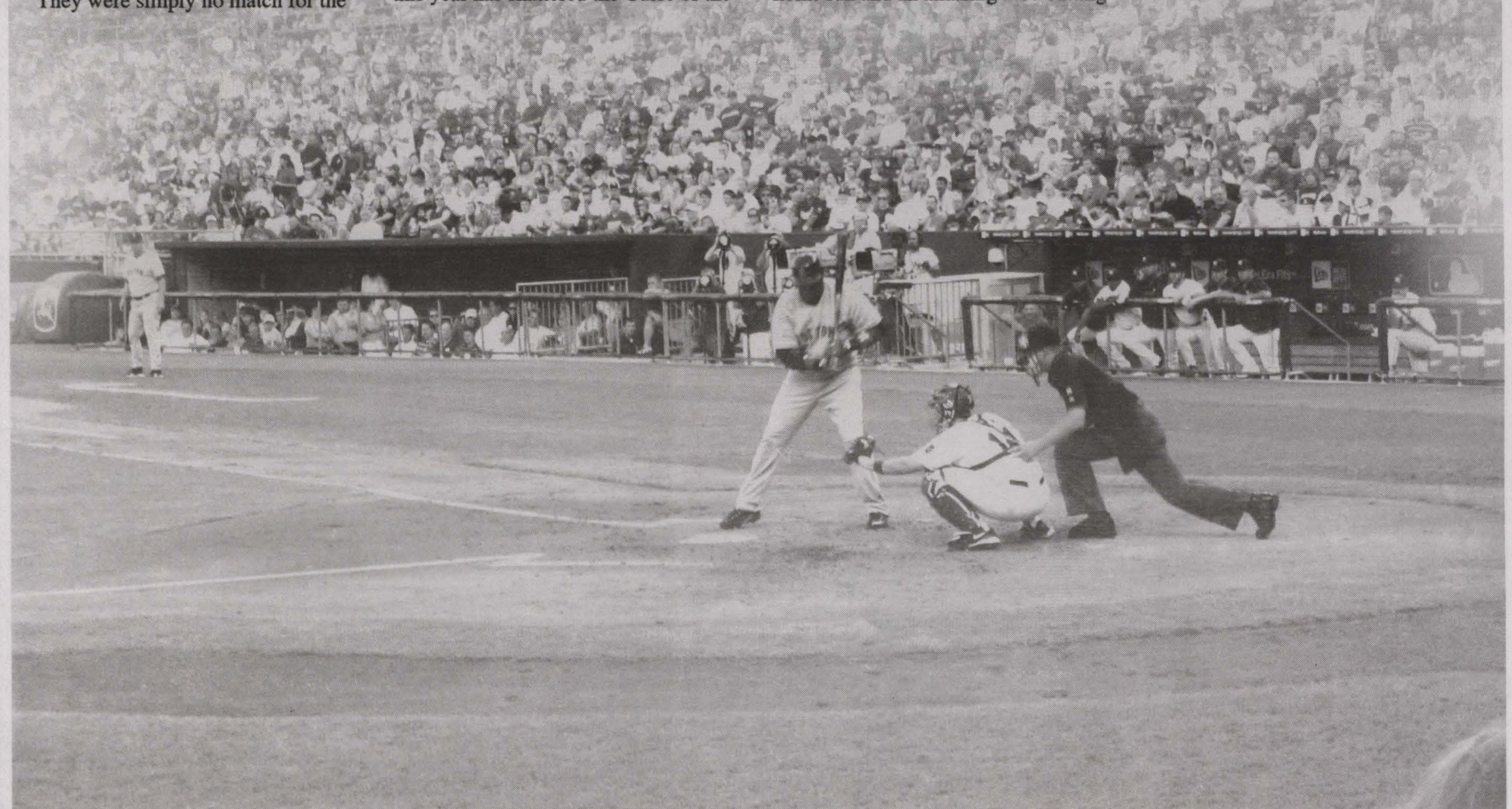
World Series MVP Mike Lowell had a career year this season, leading the team in RBI's with 120, and making the 2007 AL all star team. He was at his best in the World Series, scoring six runs, hitting four RBI's, with one home run and an amazing .400 batting

average. Lowell is an unrestricted free agent after the 2007 season. He made \$9 million this season. This was Lowell's third World Series title, as he was a part of the 2004 squad the won it all, as well as being a cog in the Florida Marlins team that won the World Series in 2003.

One man who might appreciate this World Series the most is future hall of fame member Curt Schilling. The superstar pitcher, who became just the second pitcher in history to start and win a World Series game at the age of 40, will likely leave the game on top. He had a superb playoffs, winning three games with a performance for the ages in game 2 of the World Series. The living legend pitched 5 1/3 innings, holding the Rockies to just four hits. As he left the field in the sixth inning, the Fenway faithful gave him a standing ovation for what could be the final time.

The man who sealed the deal for the Red Sox, Jonathon Papelbon, was an excellent closer for the team, winning the 2007 MLB Delivery Man of the year award. He became famous in these playoffs for Irish dancing to the Dropkick Murphy's song *Shipping up to Boston* after the Red Sox won the American League East title.

The only team that could match the Red Sox for sheer talent and skill this year was the Yankees, and Boston far outstripped them. This monumental victory shattered the remains of the Great Bambino curse, and put the entire baseball world on notice that they are indeed here to stay. If this magical year was any indication, Boston will be a baseball superpower for many years to come.



The End of the Era of George

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

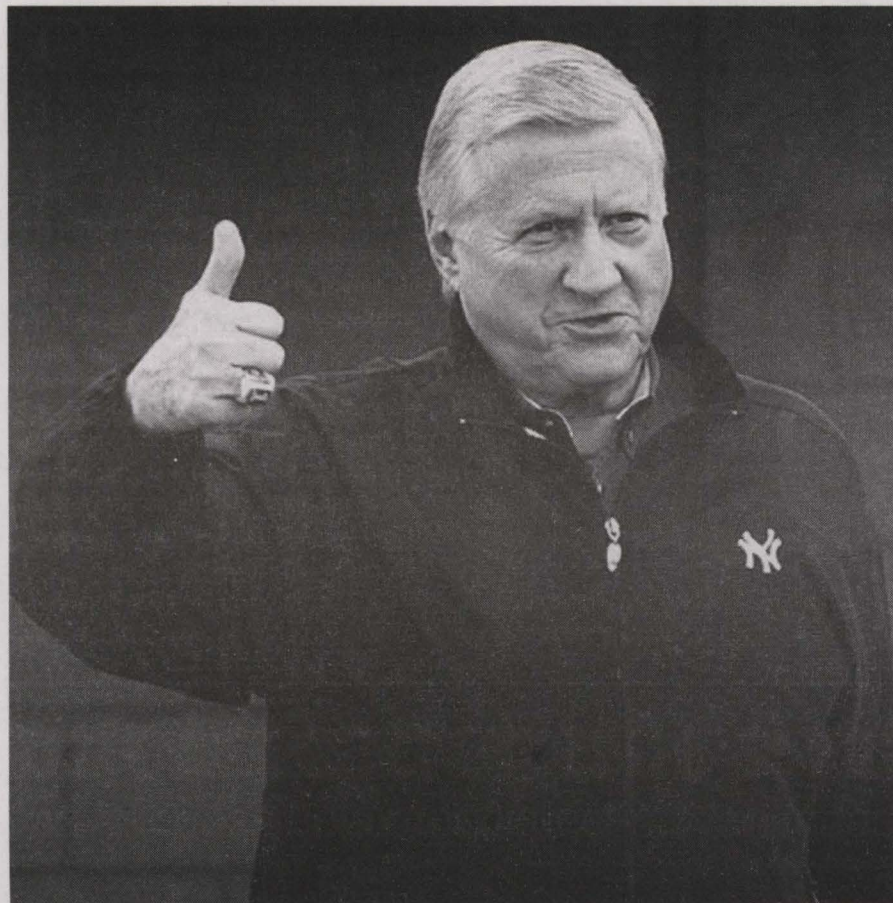
One of the most controversial and turbulent, albeit successful, tenures in Major League Baseball history has come to a close. George Steinbrenner, suffering from steadily declining health, has stepped down and handed over the ownership of his beloved New York Yankees to his two sons, Hank and Hal.

Owner of one of the most prolific teams in sports since 1973, when he purchased the Yankees for \$8.7-million, Steinbrenner has morphed them into a \$1.2-billion business. Now 77, George Steinbrenner has stepped down with the onset of the beginnings of dementia.

While many baseball pundits blame Steinbrenner for the salary explosion in baseball, he has earned respect among baseball executives for his success rate. During his 35 year tenure as the Yankee's principal owner, the man known as "The Boss" has captured six World Series titles, including a dynastic run that included four World Series championships—in the five years from 1996-2000—ten AL crowns, and has made the Yankees into one of the most profitable sports franchises in the spots-entertainment history.

While highly successful, Steinbrenner's ownership term can best be described as tumultuous and often chaotic. In his first 23 years as the Yankees owner, Steinbrenner hired and fired 20 separate managers—including Billy Martin five times from 1975-1988—until Joe Torre was hired and brought stability to the team. George Steinbrenner is truly a man who has been to both ends of the sporting spectrum.

Steinbrenner was considered a wasteful owner, pouring far too much money into his team until the Yankees captured consecutive World Series titles



"The man known as 'The Boss' has captured six World Series titles and has made the Yankees into one of the most profitable sports franchises in the spots-entertainment history."

in 1977-78. He was a recipient of the Flying Wedge Award, given annually by the NCAA to "an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership and service to the NCAA." Since their dynasty began in 1996, New York has made the playoffs every year, including coming short in the World Series finals in 2001 and 2003. He helped transfigure baseball by becoming the first owner

in history to sell TV cable rights. He's been parodied in *Seinfeld*, mentioned in *the Simpsons*, and has hosted *Saturday Night Live*.

Despite his success, controversy, and extended team breakdowns have established Steinbrenner as debatably the most infamous owner in baseball. Because of his unpredictable and volatile style, New York has become

known as 'the Bronx zoo.'

Steinbrenner is famous—or should I say infamous—for his extreme spending sprees on free agents, and then subsequently feuding with them. Including the notorious signing of outfielder Dave Winfield, who became the highest paid player in baseball after Steinbrenner signed him to ten-year, \$23-million deal in 1981. Steinbrenner would later give Winfield the degrading nickname 'Mr. May' for Winfield's lack of playoff production.

Steinbrenner would receive a lifetime ban from baseball in July, 1990 for paying a small-time gambler \$40,000 to dig up dirt on Winfield. Winfield had been in the midst of a lawsuit against Steinbrenner for failure to pay a \$300,000 clause in his contract. The ban was revoked in 1993.

Steinbrenner was also indicted on 14 criminal charges for making illegal contributions to disgraced ex-US President Richard Nixon. He was convicted of two charges and fined, but pardoned in 1989 by former US President Ronald Reagan.

He earned contempt from Yankees fans after his team's prolonged absence from the postseason from 1981-1994, although the Yankees were leading their division during the 1994 season, in which the World Series and playoffs were cancelled due to the baseball labour disruption.

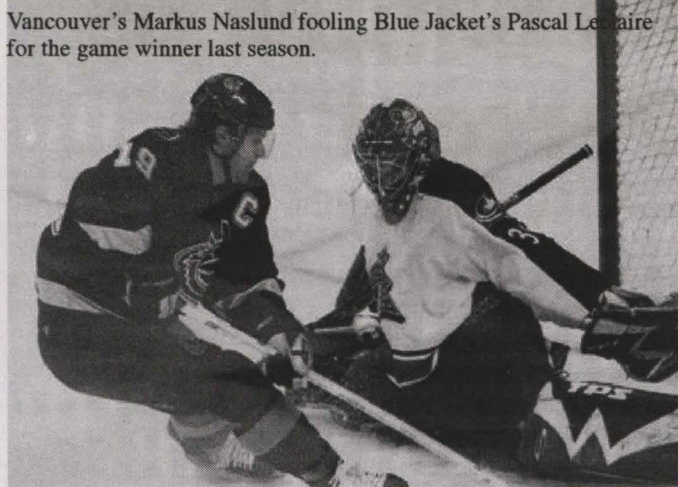
Controversy and triumph, love and hatred, no matter what you think of George Steinbrenner as he descends from his position atop the throne of baseball's biggest team, there can be no arguing or debating that without George Steinbrenner, baseball would never have been the same.



Naslund, the True Captain Vancouver

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

Vancouver's Markus Naslund fooling Blue Jacket's Pascal Leclaire for the game winner last season.



Throughout Vancouver Canucks history, our city hasn't exactly been the Detroit Red Wings in producing and procuring hockey heroes. The ones we have, or have had, quickly jump to mind: Pavel Bure, Trevor Linden, Roberto Luongo, and of course, Markus Naslund. The Sedin twins might be on that list eventually, but they are not there quite yet.

Due to the relative scarcity of superstars, Vancouver has a habit of heaping mountainous expectations on its top calibre players. This can be extremely trying and taxing mentally for some players.

Take the case of Pavel Bure. Unfortunately, Bure's time in Vancouver ended on a sour note. After seven years with the Canucks, Bure was fed up with team management and was more than happy to escape Vancouver's fishbowl atmosphere towards its hockey team.

Now this is no slight on Bure. Pavel Bure was without a doubt one of the most phenomenal and electrifying players ever to put on a pair of skates. However, some players thrive on the intense scrutiny Vancouver places on the Canucks, while others get tired of.

Vancouver is not an easy place to play hockey in. Every detail about the team is rigorously analyzed and scrutinized by almost the whole town. While many cities are like this in multiple sports, not every athlete can withstand the pressure of playing in such a popular market.

One player who has played his entire career with class is current Canucks captain Markus Naslund. Naslund has been a Canuck for 12 years. Drafted by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the first round, 16th overall in 1991, Naslund came to the Canucks during the 1995-96 season, in one of the most lopsided deals in franchise history. He was acquired in exchange for Alek Stojanov, who scored exactly two goals for the Penguins in two years before fading into obscurity in the minors.

Throughout his time with Vancouver, Naslund has amassed 321 goals, 380 assists, and 701 points in Canuck colors. However, his contribution to the team, the city, and the game go beyond

scoring stats.

In a sports world today that includes dog fighting, steroid scandals, numerous felonies, and endless DUIs, Naslund represents what athletes today should strive to be. He buys a luxury box to every Canucks home game, which he donates to various charities,

almost always involving kids. He is active at Canuck Place, and has been to fundraisers for the Make-a-wish-foundation. He is always available to the media before and after games and practices, regardless of how he or the team is playing.

Despite being in a very public position, in a city where he can't walk down the street without being hounded for autographs, Markus Naslund has handled all of his attention with class, respect, and humility, often shifting the attention and accolades off himself and onto his team-mates. He is the embodiment of a captain, and he oozes professionalism at every turn.

He has been captain of the Canucks since 2000-01, been named to the NHL's first all-star team three times, is Vancouver's all-time goal scoring leader, and will most likely pass Trevor Linden this year to become the Canuck's all-time points leader. In 2002-03, Naslund played the full 82-game schedule, finishing 2nd in the league in points and goals, behind only Peter Forsberg and Milan Hejduk, respectively. He scored 48 goals, added 56 assists for 104 points. That same season he also finished second to Forsberg in Hart Trophy voting as the NHL's most valuable player. He did capture the Lester B. Pearson award that year, besting Forsberg for the league top player as voted on by the players.

The next season Naslund finished 4th in NHL scoring, racking up 84 points. Naslund has also proved to be one of the game's most durable players. In his twelve years with Vancouver, Naslund has missed only 32 games out of 984 regulation contests.

Naslund proved his worth to the Canucks in rather unfortunate circumstances when he broke his leg with only ten games to go in the 2000-01 regular season. Vancouver was a mess without him and folded in the playoffs to the powerhouse Colorado Avalanche.

While Naslund's offensive totals have declined recently, his defensive play has improved dramatically, with his plus/minus rating going from minus 19 to plus 3 this year.

The primary reason for Naslund

scoring less lies in Coach Alain Vigneault's coaching strategy. Vigneault favours a much more defensive approach than previous coach Marc Crawford, and he also played Naslund with virtually every other Canuck forward last year, making it tremendously difficult for his captain to establish line-mate chemistry.

Naslund demonstrated what a great team player he is by buying into Vigneault's system enthusiastically. While other players might gripe when forced to change their style of play—see Jairomir Jagr—Naslund has worked exceptionally hard and not once complained about the way he is being asked to play, even if it does result in lower statistics.

To be able to accept that responsibility, knowing full well that he is always in the public spotlight, is truly leading by example. It is similar to Steve Yzerman in Detroit, who was forced to alter his game from offensive wizard to winning the Selke Trophy as the NHL's top two-way forward under Scotty Bowman.

The only area where Naslund has been unsuccessful in is winning championships. While he did win two Swedish junior league titles and a European championship with his junior team, MoDo, in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, he has yet to play past the second round of the NHL playoffs. He took time off to rest an aching body during the Olympic break in 2006, during which Sweden won the gold medal. However, being

a true sportsman, Naslund was happy for his Swedish comrades all the same. Naslund was also absent when Sweden took gold in the 1998 and 2006 World Championship tournaments. Naslund missed out on gold again at two World Junior Championship events, his team winning silver twice.

This was not from lack of production from Naslund though. He set World Junior records for goals, 13, and points by a line, 69, with good friend Peter Forsberg and Nicklas Sunstrom at the 1993 tournament. Naslund was also on the Swedish team that finished second, capturing silver, at the 1993 men's World Championship.

Markus Naslund has proven that he is truly a role model for the entire city, and indisputably a Vancouver Canucks legend. While he is entering the final year of his three year, 18 million dollar deal this season, the 34-year old Swedish superstar has repeated many times that he wishes to be a Canuck for the rest of his career, and is promising improved numbers this year, hoping to restore his wicked wrist shot that terrorizes goaltenders around the league. I for one, have no doubt that these will indeed come to pass. He is gunning for his first Stanley Cup, and judging by his remarkable character and ability, there is no reason to doubt that that vision will come true some day.

Add it all up and you can summarize the captain in one word:

Fantastic.

Season	Team	Lge	Regular Season					Playoffs				
			GP	G	A	Pts	PIM	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
1993-94	Pittsburgh Penguins	NHL	71	4	7	11	27	--	--	--	--	--
1994-95	Pittsburgh Penguins	NHL	14	2	2	4	2	--	--	--	--	--
1995-96	Pittsburgh Penguins	NHL	66	19	33	52	36	--	--	--	--	--
1995-96	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	10	3	0	3	6	6	1	2	3	8
1996-97	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	78	21	20	41	30	--	--	--	--	--
1997-98	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	76	14	20	34	56	--	--	--	--	--
1998-99	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	80	36	30	66	74	--	--	--	--	--
1999-00	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	82	27	38	65	64	--	--	--	--	--
2000-01	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	72	41	34	75	58	--	--	--	--	--
2001-02	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	81	40	50	90	50	6	1	1	2	2
2002-03	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	82	48	56	104	52	14	5	9	14	18
2003-04	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	78	35	49	84	58	7	2	7	9	2
2004-05	Modo Hockey Örnsköldsvik	SEL	13	8	9	17	8	6	0	1	1	10
2005-06	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	81	32	47	79	66	--	--	--	--	--
2006-07	Vancouver Canucks	NHL	82	24	36	60	54	12	4	1	5	16
	NHL Totals		953	346	422	768	633	45	13	20	33	46

Scientists, Mathematicians Baffled as Buffalo Sabres Give 110 Percent

Coach says mathematic impossibility the result "hustle, strong fore-check"

By Iain "Pepper" Reeve

In post-game interviews following their decisive 6-0 victory over the visiting Atlanta Thrashers, Brian Campbell of the Buffalo Sabres told local sports media that the victory was a result of "just about the entire team giving 110 percent." This statement, and the later confirmation coming from fellow teammates and the Sabres coaching staff, ignited fierce debate in the advanced mathematics community, as the maximum effort previously thought to be possible was 100 percent.

Simon J. Nicklesworth, a senior math professor at New York State University notes that by definition a 100 percent effort should be the most one can give. "It's a mathematical rule as fundamental as one plus one equals two." He continued, shuffling uncomfortably in his chair, "if we begin to accept that one can give an effort above 100 percent, we may as well start believing that down is up, black is white, soft is hard."

Undaunted by the apparently dissenting fundamental rules of all science, physics, and math, Lindy Ruff,

coach of the Sabres, said that his boys had "elevated their game" and that they "deserved the W." "The boys really went out there and gave 110 percent," he said, echoing the words of his players. He continued, "we were full of hustle and our forecheck was top notch. We just kept pressing and it forced them

to make mistakes in their defensive zone."

When asked about the mathematically troubling nature of the 110 percent figure, Ruff noted that he had previously seen the team "give it their all," and that on this particular evening the Sabres had given "even

more."

"It seems pretty simple to me," Ruff said, "if you give your best, then give a little more, is that not at least 110 percent?" "At least 110 coach!" retorted centre Tim Connolly, who was named the enigmatic game's first star for his three point performance. Replying, Ruff yelled, "for sure Connolly! Hell, you gave 115 percent!"

Some mathematicians have welcomed the news, saying that it opens amazing new doors for the theoretical study of math. "Coach Ruff has a point when he says that there needs to be some mathematical way of representing what happens when someone gives their all, and then surpasses that mark," said Sandra Clark of UBC's math department. "The sports community has done so much for increasing public interest in math over the years, what with the popular following of sports statistics, the least we can do it study this phenomena and help them understand it," she concluded. "Personally, I'd love to study the Sabres and other teams to see if anyone can give 120 percent."



George W. Bush's Iraq Policies "Winning Hearts and Minds" of Laura Bush

By "Salty" Liam Britten

WASHINGTON, DC—Speaking to an assembled crowd of reporters on the White House Lawn yesterday, President George W. Bush claimed his Iraq policies are winning over the public opinion of his wife, Laura Bush.

"I know a lot of my critics are quick to say, 'we have to cut and run' and 'we need to change course', but to them I say, we need more time," the president said.

"America's men and women are doing their darndest to nip this thing in the bud, and we are making progress. We are fighting them over there, so I can get some poon-tang over here."

The president continued that with the troop surge going as planned, he soon may be permitted sexual relations as early as 2011.

"I will not be held to deadlines imposed by Congress," the President continued. "They all say, 'Pull out in 2008', and to that I say, I will never pull out."

While the President seemed optimistic about the prospects of victory

in Iraq in the near future, others do not share his outlook.

"The president's timetable is not based in reality," retired general Ricardo S. Sanchez said during a CNN broadcast later in the day. "America will be in Iraq until at least 2029, the Iraqi forces are not in a state capable of taking over national defense, and Laura's totally a prude."

The President had little else to say on the matter, aside from repeated crude gestures and hooting.



New Orleans Saints Demoted From "America's Team" to "Moldova's Team"

By "Salty" Liam Britten

NEW YORK, NY—After an all-day meeting with shareholders, owners, players, and staff, National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell has announced that the New Orleans Saints, nicknamed "America's Team" after their success in the 2006 season and destruction of their home city after Hurricane Katrina, have been stripped of their nickname, and demoted to "Moldova's Team" due to poor performance during the 2007 season.

"It was not an easy decision to make," Goodell told assembled reporters. "But let's face it; the people of New Orleans have lost their homes, livelihoods, and some have even lost their lives, and even these destitute people are disappointed in the Saints' performance."

There were high hopes for the Saints this season. After turning around their 3-13 2005 season into last season's 10-6 performance, their 2-4 position after week seven is highly disappointing to many.

"We are confident that our change in national allegiance will be a good move," said Tom Benson, team owner. "Moldova is a small, weak nation, has a history of military defeat, and a low

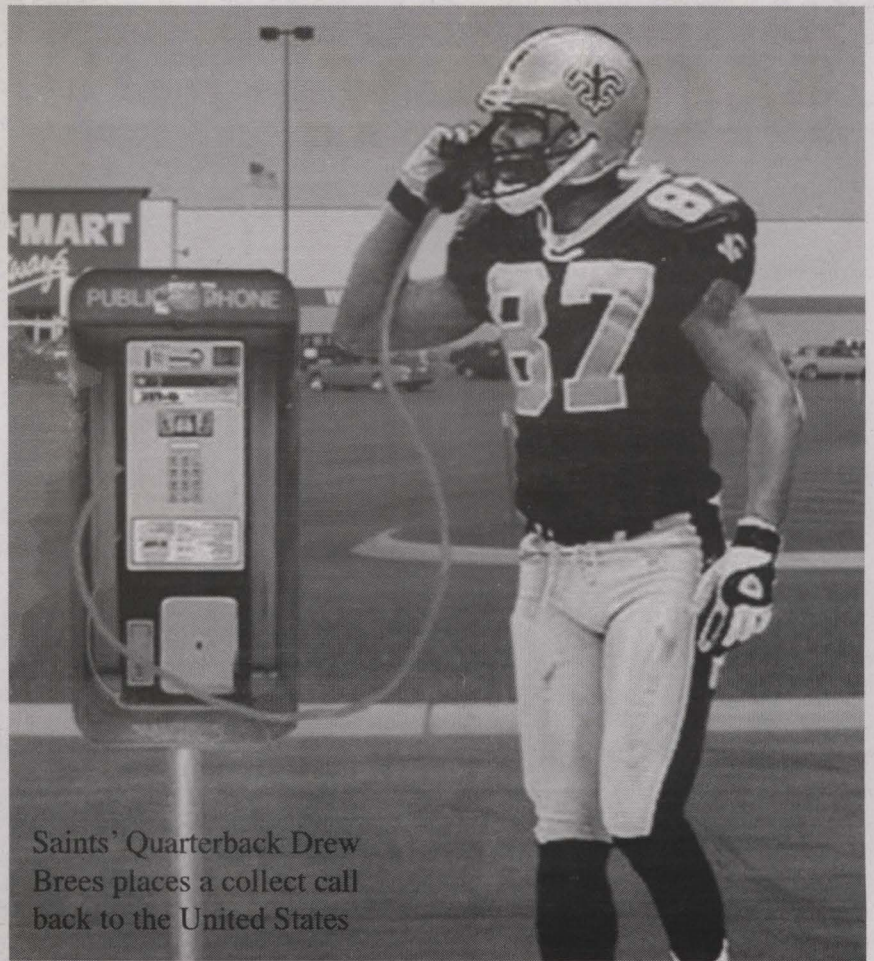
GDP. We feel that this mediocre-to-poor nation's disappointing transition from a command to market economy will be a perfect fit for the Saints' performance in 2007."

The question of who will be the new "America's Team" is currently in the air. Goodell could not make any definite statements about the next title holder, but confirmed "we have been in talks with both the San Diego Chargers and the Pittsburgh Steelers."

"Our first instinct was to go after the New England Patriots. I mean, let's face it, Tom Brady is pretty much the embodiment of America," Goodell said. "Great physique, a great pass rating, firm buttocks, Tom Brady and the Patriots was definitely our first choice. Unfortunately, Norway made a very appealing offer in the off-season, and frankly, America simply cannot compete with their Human Development Index score and high literacy rate."

As for the players of the Saints, they appeared to take the news in stride.

"Could be worse," offered Saints running back Reggie Bush. "St. Louis is 0 and 7 this season. They'll be lucky to be Senegal's Team."



Saints' Quarterback Drew Brees places a collect call back to the United States

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