

The Surveyor

March 13, 2008

Holland College, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

FREE

Vagina Monologues performance marks International Women's Week

By KATHERINE HUNT

In honour of International Women's week and the 10th anniversary of its first performance, UPEI students and other cast members performed the *Vagina Monologues* March 7 and March 8 at the Carrefour Theatre.

The play had people laughing and gasping at true stories with a humorous twist and facts you may never have known.

The *Vagina Monologues* covers many subjects such as birth, sex, sexuality, sexual abuse and even Tampons.

"It's what the reality is to have a vagina," said cast member Kele Redmond.

The *Vagina Monologues* was created by Eve Ensler, who asked questions about vaginas to over 200 women over 10 years ago.

The answers of the women became the monologues, which depict true stories of what women often ponder to themselves but are too afraid to say.

Director and cast member Trish

Daley decided to direct for her fifth and final time this year because she didn't want people to lose the message.

"What I see as a main message is for every woman to know they're not alone. There are people who can empathize and relate."

This is the sixth year UPEI has performed the show and it was one of the first Maritime campuses to pick up the script.

Money generated by the production goes to SAGE, a P.E.I. non-profit organization whose members are survivors of child sexual abuse.

Proceeds also go towards publishing a book of child abuse stories written by 12 of the SAGE members.

"It's nice to know everything is going to charity. It's going to a notable cause," said cast member Sarah Haines.

Though the monologues come across as funny, they're also educational and serious.

The *Vagina Monologues* speaks



Cast of *Vagina monologues* Back: Sarah Haines, Katherine Huston, Jennifer Carson, Bethany Mayne, Megan Stuckless, Nicole Lewis, Kele Redmond, Nancy Peters, Nicole Lewis, Andrea Avery. Front: Trish Daley. Missing: Rikki Schock.

to both women and men about the kinds of things women and the woman's body goes through, said Redmond.

"It can push buttons and get issues out that are more serious."

When Daley first started directing the production, the idea of saying vagina on stage and having nobody who could stop her was exciting.

Some have issues with the monologues because a lot of what's presented is controversial, like sexual abuse, or subjects people find difficult to talk about, such as the female orgasm.

"There's always controversy. We've had posters pulled down."

The production didn't cover everything in the script this year because they didn't have a large enough cast to do it.

However the experiences the women in the cast had with the play, and the bond they created with each other, had a powerful effect on them.

Cast member Bethany Haines said it changed her life.

"It made me more in touch with my body and empowered as a woman."

He shoots, he scores!

Summerside Capitals goalie Stefan Dumaresque glances over his shoulder as Charlottetown Abbies forward Adam Verrette's shot hits the back of the net. It was the winning goal as the Abbies beat the Capitals 4-1 to clinch the best-of-five series in the opening round of the MJHL playoffs last week at the Charlottetown Civic Centre. MacLeod photo.



Residents question Morell council over plans for sewage rate hike

By TAUNYA MURCHISON

Many Morell residents ignore the signs posted on the post office bulletin board, but one in particular recently grabbed their attention.

Amidst advertisements and wanted ads was an 8x10 sheet stating \$90 would be added to the existing annual sewage tax rates of \$106.

With no written explanation and no warning of the increase, some citizens got together and circulated a petition to be sent to the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC).

Paula Sinnott, the chief administrative officer for the Morell council, sent an e-mail response explaining why there will be an 85 per cent increase on sewer taxes.

In it, Sinnott said councillors felt they had “no choice” but to apply for the recommended increase.

“As a result of loans incurred to provide our sewer upgrade, our

chartered accountants, Grant Thornton, informed us that to maintain a break-even status, the sewer corporation would have to increase sewer dues by \$90.”

The response also states this is the first increase in 17 years and is not to gain profit for the community.

“As well, even if IRAC approves the increase, which works out to 25 cents a day, Morell’s annual sewer dues will still be less than or equal to other Island municipalities of similar size and economic income.”

Morell citizens were almost faced with an increase of sewer taxes in 2002, Sinnott noted.

“A proposal was developed to raise the rates to \$150 ... this would not be accepted due to the fact that the sewer corporation had surplus funds.”

Morell’s sewer debt was caused by loans and funding used for the reconstruction and upgrading of sewer lines around the community.

In order for Morell citizens to



Lynda MacDonald points to the bulletin board where she first read Morell’s sewage rates were increasing. Murchison photo

receive a public hearing on the topic, all letters, petitions and comments had a deadline of Feb. 29, 2008 to the IRAC office.

Heather Walker from IRAC said the commission will decide on March 13 if there will be a public hearing for Morell citizens.

Lynda MacDonald, one of the 145 customers using the communities’ sewer line and a Morell citizen for over 30 years, was quick to sign the petition.

“Disbelief was my initial reaction. Anger was the second.”

MacDonald said the extra \$90 sent her in rage, but so did the lack of information.

“It was not saying why the rates were almost doubling and why we’re not receiving any extra services.”

MacDonald suspects an alternative motive to the sudden increase.

“I think they increased it \$90 because he (Chairperson Bill Rooney) is trying to get the wellness centre that no one wants.”

Leaving the announcement until the last minute was in the best intentions of the council, said MacDonald.

“If we didn’t send the papers in by Friday, he didn’t even have to hold a meeting.”

Chairperson Bill Rooney declined to comment.

Students turn cans into help for groups

By MIKE MACNEIL

Holland College students are being asked to save the tabs off the top of their cans for recycling that will eventually benefit non-profit organizations.

The tabs go to the Shriners, an organization whose members have been collecting pull-tabs since 1989, recycling them and putting the money towards programs that directly benefit children.

The tabs are the only pure aluminum part of the can.

Danielle Murphy, a wildlife conservation technology student, has brought pop tab recycling to Holland College. A box has been set up for students to drop off any

tabs they collect.

“So far there hasn’t been much response among students. We need to let people know,” said Murphy.

Murphy was turned on to the idea though her aunt, who has also been collecting the tabs for the past few years.

“She collects them and sends them off to be made into wheelchairs.”

Murphy’s aunt sends them to Sherry Biggar in Cascapedia-St. Jules, N.B. She has been collecting the tabs for over 10 years.

Biggar started collecting while working with her former employer. She has been doing so ever since, grabbing cans wherever she can and asking people to hang

onto them for recycling.

“I collect them because it’s going to a good cause,” said Biggar.

Biggar said not many people know about how much these tabs can do, and she reminds people to keep the tabs, which has given her the title of “Recycle Lady” around her hometown.

“I just keep bugging and bugging people so they remember.”

The tabs are sold to recycling companies and are in turn made into things like wheelchairs.

Since the tab is the only pure aluminum part of the can, it’s the part that has recycle value, but the can itself can be returned for the deposit.

Contest seeks designs for egghead contest

By MELISSA MCINNIS

Have you ever wanted a reward for your beautiful face? Now is your chance. Holland College library services is looking for eggheads.

An egghead is an avatar, a graphical image resembling a person. You can make an egghead by creating an icon on www.miieditor.com or bring in a decorated egg, balloon or anything that resembles yourself along with a slogan to the library.

All entries will be rewarded with prizes and the person whose egghead resembles them the most will win a special prize. The class with the most participants will win a Murphy restaurant gift card.

The eggheads will be used on the library’s Ask an Egghead Live Help service, a live chat similar to msn.

Students and staff can ask questions to an available “egghead” (librarian) about library services, research or any sort of general information.

The service has been available for the past year, but the library wanted to advertise to make it more popular, said library manager Melissa Josey.

“It’s good for people who can’t actually come to the space and talk to us in person.”

Health community studies secretary Barb Boss is one of the staff who has already submitted her egghead and slogan — The Health and Community Department is always Eggciting.

It’s a way to get people familiar with the program, said Boss.

“It’s an eggcellent idea.”

The contest is open to all staff and students and the deadline is March 27.

On-line video gaming industry hurting youth, study suggests

By ROBYN SEYMOUR

Brandon Dawson is an 18-year-old engineering student at the College of the North Atlantic in Carbonear, N.L. and a recovering addict.

Dawson recently overcame his addiction to World of Warcraft, an on-line video game he played for about six months. He would play for at least three hours a day, sometimes more, he said.

"When I would start playing I would get caught up so much in the game that I forgot about priorities that were more important to me in life than the game."

That included homework, rest and being with friends, he said.

Playing the game for long periods of time also caused him to gain weight due to a change in his eating habits.

"You can't stay active because you're sat down playing. Instead of eating your supper at 5 p.m., you might eat your meal at 10



Brandon Dawson, 18, is a recovering on-line video game addict. Seymour photo

p.m. By that time you're more hungry and you eat more than what you would regularly eat."

Dawson is not alone. A study prepared by the American Medical Association said the results from the November 2005 Active Gamer Study - a survey of 2,000 regular gamers, - suggest males 15 to 18 years old, are the majority of game players.

A national survey conducted by the Entertainment Software Association in 2005 said 35 per cent of gamers were under 18.

With about nine per cent of people playing online multiplayer games, such as World of Warcraft.

AMA researchers have attempted to categorize individuals most likely to become addicted.

They concluded the most likely people are those suffering from emotional loneliness and/or difficulty with real life social interactions.

Kyle Baadsvik said, "Every person in [the game] is another real person. For people who are shy, it's like a whole medium of social interactions."

"That's not to say it's the game's fault," she added.

"It's simply an escape, and some people don't manage it properly."

The 22-year-old Holland College Culinary Arts student has experienced the affects of video game addiction second hand.

He almost lost friendships over on-line gaming.

"I never personally liked the game, but I've known people who lost a hold."

Two of his friends from St. Stephens, N.B. had their computers set up next to one another and would play on-line together anywhere from 10 to 16 hours a day.

"We never fought or anything, but I definitely saw less of them."

One of his friends had a tantrum because his character died in the game.

"Dying in the game resulted in penalties and dying could literally mean hours of work were gone in a moment.

"There would be swearing and screaming and more than one keyboard was thrown."

"It was amusing as hell to see the keys fly off like little missiles," he added.

Baadsvik said his friends did eventually own up to the addiction and "snapped out of it," much like Dawson.

Dawson knew he had to do something about the excessive game playing so when his Warcraft playing card ran out he chose not to buy another.

"The card ran out and I was like, I'm not paying \$35 to ruin my life," he said.

"I told myself I'm going to college in September and if I don't give it up, then I would definitely fail and all my time would go into the game, rather than my studies."

Dawson hopes to graduate from CONA and become a mechanical technologist.

"I'd rather stick to the real world rather than a silly game."

Holland College video game design student shares passion for the growing industry

By TYLER DUNHAM

Christmas rarely shapes the future of eight-year-olds, but when a future Holland College student received a Sega Genesis one fateful morning, video games became a passion.

Receiving the game was a welcomed surprise, said Ted Bjorndal, a student in Holland College's Video Game Art and Design program.

"I really wasn't expecting it. Ever since then, I've been fascinated by video games."

So far he's gone through nine different systems.

"I've been trying to keep up with getting the new systems coming out. If I can't get the newest one coming up, I'll save up for it."

So the new Video Game Art and Design program being offered at the college was a natural choice

for him and he is happy he enrolled.

"I don't enjoy it. I adore it. I adore the program."

But a passion for video games doesn't mean it's easy, Bjorndal said.

"You always have to draw and you always have to improve yourself. It helps to be computer literate. If you ever have artist block, you're screwed."

Jamie MacKay, the program's instructor, said artistic skill is very important in the classroom and in the video game industry.

"It's very helpful. We're trying to emphasize artistic ability to help people get into the field," MacKay said.

"The concept of using drawing as a language is pretty useful."

The video game industry, one of the fastest growing segments of the entertainment industry, has a global market of \$30 billion and

"You always have to draw, and you always have to improve yourself. It helps to be computer literate. If you ever have artist block, you're screwed."

- Ted Bjorndal

companies in P.E.I. are paying \$1.3 million in salaries each year.

The industry is becoming increasingly competitive, MacKay said.

"Video game production is one of those careers that a lot of people are interested in. It's one of the high demand careers that peo-

ple see and say 'I'd love to get into that, it looks like fun.'"

But it's not all fun and games, MacKay said.

"To be the artist, the stereotypical view is not going to work well in the studio," he said. "There will be times when it's not going to be as fun as others.

"It's not what some might picture as sitting down and playing a game. It's a lot of hard work. (But) it's fun with dedication."

With video games comes controversy, specifically the increase in violence in games.

It is up to individuals to sort it out for themselves, Bjorndal said.

"I'm neither for nor against it," he said. "It's the person who plays the game that judges if there's too much or too little violence."

But from someone who has witnessed the birth of video games, they are becoming less innocent than the Pong game he first played, MacKay said.

"It's becoming too out of hand." However Bjorndal is excited by the progress of video games.

"I like it. I'm impressed," Bjorndal said. "I'm utterly amazed by its advances. I can't wait for what's next."

Creosote buildup caused blaze on Kensington Road, says fire chief

By SHAWNA MACAUSLAND

Thanks to the fast response of the fire department, an early morning fire at 28 Kensington Rd. on March 5 was put out before any damage was done to the house.

The fire started in the chimney.

A build up of creosote, an oil used as a wood preservative and often found in wood fires, was plugging the chimney and caught fire, said deputy fire chief Moe Sherry.

"It was just a flue fire, no damage."

Sherry said this kind of thing hasn't been happening lately.

"I'm surprised it's not happening more, with the amount of people burning wood as opposed to oil," he said.

The price of oil is high right now, so people are moving back to the old-fashioned methods of home heating such as wood stoves and fireplaces.

"The number of chimney fires has eased off in the last few years. Everybody seems to be doing a good job cleaning their chimneys," Sherry said.

Not all flue fires have such a happy ending.

Creosote is very flammable and can ignite easily and spread very quickly.

"It's lucky it didn't spread through the house."



A fire truck parks outside 28 Kensington Rd. helped to put out a flue fire. Thompson photo.

Allison Watts, an expert on chimneys, is in the cleaning and repair business. He said there are many ways to prevent flue fires.

"Use dry, seasoned wood and have your chimney cleaned and inspected at least once a year," he said.

It is a good idea to let fires burn hot at least once per day to burn off any creosote that builds up overnight, when fires burn low,

Watts said.

"Most people don't want to get up through the night to stock the fire, but it's a good idea to make the fire burn hot for 15-20 minutes in the morning to prevent the chimney from getting plugged with buildup."

Self-cleaning logs and routine checks with a mirror are a good practice.

But everyone should still have

their chimney cleaned and inspected every year.

"Even if the chimney seems clear, it could still be dirty. The chimney needs to be inspected for cracks and build up."

The homeowner was able to get back to his day shortly after the fire started.

"There is no damage. None," he said.

Island trade students leaving the province to chase opportunities in western Canada

By MIKE MACNEIL

Geordie Gallant moved to Calgary with no specific trade in mind, but in no time he was on his way to being a successful plumber.

"I never thought I'd be where I am today. Alberta has brought me nothing but opportunity."

Gallant began working for a plumbing company with no experience and within months he had been offered an apprenticeship where his schooling will be paid for and he was guaranteed a high-paying job.

"It's nice to know I'll come out of all this with a job and be certi-

fied. If I were still in P.E.I. I doubt things would fall in place for me so easily."

He's not alone.

Every day, Islanders are forced to make their way west to find a way to earn their living.

Considering the number of trade programs offered on the Island, there seems to be little demand for people to actually fill the positions and stay here to practise what they've learned.

Before school starts, Gallant has his own truck and makes regular service calls each day, doing the same work a fully certified plumber would do.

Gallant said this is the best

way to prepare for his upcoming schooling.

"Hands-on experience is the best way to learn this trade. I've made mistakes and learned from them, learned things that should really prepare me for my upcoming course."

Jason Monaghan felt hands-on experience was something he lacked after taking the plumbing course on P.E.I.

After attending his course for nine months, Monaghan struggled to find a job on the Island and when he finally did, he was laid off after three or four months.

"It was disappointing to have nowhere to turn after spending

time and money in school."

Monaghan blames his trouble on the lack of demand for the trade on the Island.

"I wish I knew the problems I would encounter trying to find a job before I committed to the program."

Monaghan has since given up on the idea and is working in the retail business in Charlottetown.

He said if he could do it again he would research the field more and be sure he had job options on the Island.

"My experience taught me lessons, but it was frustrating more than anything."

Navy reserve opens doors: student says

By MIKE MACNEIL

The Naval reserve teaches discipline, teamwork and opens many doors for those who choose it, says a member of the group.

Jocelyn Saunders has been involved with the navy for more than five years. "I have a great job and they're very flexible when it comes to my school."

Saunders works as a clerk at the naval headquarters on Water Street while attending classes at UPEI. When signing up, most students are attracted to the funding offered towards school (up to \$2,000) but the navy isn't all benefits and special treatment. In order to even start you are required to attend basic training, or what is better known as "boot camp," which has the ability to intimidate right off the bat.

Offering incentive towards schooling and providing many benefits, including dental and medical, the navy brings an attractive option to students who may be struggling with tuition, or finding a career.

People are misinformed if they are most worried about the physical side of things said Saunders.

"Even though the physical parts can be tough, it is more of a mental challenge than anything."

Basic training is designed to teach how to work as a team and support your peers, boasting the idea that you are only as strong as your weakest man. Everyone must keep an exhausting schedule and maintain a perfect living environment, which in turn teaches discipline. After 11 weeks you will officially be in the reserve, with many different options and career opportunities.

Jessica MacDonald has also been involved with the navy for upwards of five years. She recently returned from a trip to British Columbia where she attended training exercises. "I've got to travel all over Canada, it's a great way to see our country."

MacDonald not only enjoys the travel, but appreciates the social aspect of being in the navy.

"Some of my best friends I've met through the military, people I never would have met if I didn't take advantage of this opportunity."

Winter brings more than chill, counselor

By ROSS MAIR

Jane walks along an icy path from class to class on the campus of UPEI.

The 19-year-old started classes early January, as opposed to the traditional September startup, and she has been swamped with work since.

She also faces the pressure of helping raise her sister's children, keeping the house in order, and helping her father by doing the bookings for his business.

All of this would seem like a lot of work for a young woman just starting out on her life, but Jane faces another challenge.

The first-year science student suffers from a mood disorder known as bipolar disorder, one that affects her on a daily basis.

It causes her to go through wild mood-swings and bouts of depression, in her own words "high and lows."

"I'd get these highs and that's what causes me to not be able to sleep. I get really restless and agitated. The lows is depression, like I would get really depressed and tired and just would want to be

left alone."

There is no clear cause for the disorder, but studies suggest genetics, neurobiology and social issues are factors.

Jane has been dealing with what life dealt her for years now, but she wasn't officially diagnosed until late last year.

"After years of studying me, I think it was a year ago, last December, he (her family doctor) diagnosed me as actually bipolar. They have to study your mood behaviors over a period of time and since my dad is (bipolar) I followed the same sort of pattern as him and was diagnosed."

A tumultuous youth may have triggered the rapid onset of this condition, she said.

"My sister was heavily into drugs and had stolen the car and my dad's Visa.

That's when things went downhill at home. It just seemed to be one thing after another."

"Suddenly my sister was pregnant, then they found out that she had maxed out dad's Visa, then one day some friends and I were playing, Dad asked me to get him a pop, and half hour later mom



Holland College student counselor Tom Corcoran welcomes everyone into his office to talk it out. Mair Photo.

came home and Dad was passed out on the couch."

"Turned out he tried to commit suicide."

That's a lot for any teenager.

But there are people who are here to help. People like Tom Corcoran.

He is the student counselor at Holland College in Charlottetown and he sits down with students regularly to find ways to help them overcome difficult situations.

The main thing is telling them not to let depression rule their life, he said.

"I tell them not to be afraid of it."

People will think they're crazy, and obsess about it, which will make the experience much worse he said.

This is a bad time of year for a lot of people, he said.

The cold is one factor, but others include exams and the holidays.

"The holidays are tough for a lot of people," he said.

The best thing anyone who thinks they might be suffering some form of depression is to seek out help, Corcoran said.

"It's a treatable illness, often times people don't know they're depressed," said Corcoran.

As for Jane, she's doing fine. "It's not worth suffering through, just find the help.

Single mothers heading back to school

By ROBIN SEYMOUR

Tracy Coombs, a 25-year-old single mother of a young daughter from Upper Island Cove, N.L., has decided to return to school full time.

Coombs chose an 18-month course in early childhood education at Kenyon College.

Her decision was mainly influenced by her daughter. She said she wanted a career which would enable her to raise her child and not have to spend a lot of money on babysitters.

"After I had Shianne I thought I wanted a job to do so I wouldn't have to spend a lot of time away from her."

Every year more adults like Coombs are returning to school full time. Those most likely to do so are aged 25 to 29, those who already have a post-secondary education and young women who are single parents.

From October 1976 to October 1996, the number of adults



Jennifer Brazil, 27, poses with her 21-month-old daughter Jasmine Pretty at her home in Shearstown, N.L. Seymour photo.

attending school full time more than tripled, from 107,000 to 344,000, says a Statscan report.

It stated the increase vastly outpaced the rate of growth in the adult population itself. As a result,

the percentage of adults attending school full time more than doubled from 1.0 per cent to 2.1 per cent.

Female single parents under age 30 deciding to go back to school counts for 10.4 per cent.

More than the young adults as a whole (6.7 per cent), and over four times the rate of young mothers with husbands present.

This is likely because of their high unemployment rate (27.1 per cent), said StatsCan.

Like Coombs, Jennifer Brazil has also decided to return to school next September. Brazil is a 27-year-old single mother from Bay Roberts, N.L.

She decided to return to school for her 21-month-old daughter.

"I wanted to give my little girl the life she deserved and have a good job so she could be proud of her mom."

Brazil said she's not used to having time for herself and returning back to school will be a big change.

"I don't have a social life anymore, I can't go out whenever I like.

"There's endless nights and endless days. You're running on someone else's schedule instead of your own."

Coombs said returning to school was a big change and a hard one at that.

She said it is hard to concentrate on homework when she comes home because she usually has to wait for her child to go to bed and by then she is too tired.

Coombs said her daughter doesn't like it when she has to do homework instead of spending time with her and will get in her arms.

"Little children don't understand when you have to do homework."

Coombs said she understands how people can become discouraged but not to give up.

She eventually plans to open her own daycare

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Opinions expressed in *The Surveyor* do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration.

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Stop legislating need for perfection

BY ELLEN KLEIN



During one period of ancient Greek history, newborns with any kind of physical disfigurement or abnormality were thrown off a cliff in an attempt to make a strong race, or so we were taught by our Grade 10 history teacher.

I have never lost that image.

Since that time, I've learned of primitive cultures that bury sick babies and even use them in ritual sacrifices.

The list of anthropological child abuse is seemingly endless.

Today, we can say with some degree of certainty this doesn't happen in First World countries, where human rights, evolution and downright decency reign supreme.

But do they?

What comes to mind immediately is the tragic death of Robert Latimer's daughter by his own hand, admittedly in the face of her overwhelming suffering, in October 1993.

Recently he was granted parole. I cried real tears when I read that.

Tears of sympathy and tears of empathy.

Sympathy because nobody but Latimer, his daughter and their family members can truly know the pain, both physical and emotional, they have known.

Empathy, because I too have a severely handicapped child.

My nine-year-old daughter was born with Down Syndrome. She had open-heart surgery when she was 10 weeks old.

She has sensory integration dysfunction, takes thyroid medication and has most of the developmental problems children with Down Syndrome can exhibit.

And I will be honest with you.

When she was born, I rejected her emotionally, even prayed she might die...I thought it might be merciful to her because she was so sick.

There were so many things going against her other than just her limited intellectual future.

I was told by hospital social workers this was a textbook response and not to feel guilty about it. In fact, her father and I were counseled to expect grief symptoms for up to five years after her birth.

And we did grieve in our own way.

Add health problems that required a stressful daily care routine and we were often left thinking the unthinkable...we would have had to admit our thoughts towards her and others in our community at times were not always charitable.

Isolation became our swan song for many of her early years.

I drew the conclusion suffering is a very personal, subjective, not easily measured commodity.

So what was the lesson to be gleaned?

Our daughter has proved to be a miracle for our family. We grew up. And we eventually learned to reach out and offer hope to others in our community struggling with similar issues.

Our son, who is older, has had to learn tolerance.

The end product – still in progress – is tunnel vision opened up and we are prospering in terms of personal growth in ways we could never have imagined.

To think we could have lost all of that if we had been living in ancient Greece...or maybe, eventually, in modern day North America.

The judicial system doesn't work

By ROSS MAIR

The law changes from place to place and I don't.

Recently, I have been having real problems with the law.

Not so much with being reprimanded by it, or fighting it at the judicial level, but more of trying to understand how it works.

And how it can let terrible people walk out of a court, after committing an atrocity of a crime, with little or no jail time.

Enter a West Prince man who recently appeared in Summerside court.

In November 2006, it is reported, the man, 25, his girlfriend, 17, and two other minors, 15 and 16 were involved in a serious car accident resulting in the death of the two youngest minors.

Both the man and his girlfriend denied being behind the wheel at the time of the accident, and said they were unable to say who was. Both walked away from the crash uninjured and free.



As was reported, when police arrived at the scene, the man was outside of his car stumbling around, his girlfriend was sitting in the front passenger seat and the two minors were dead in the back seats.

The first police officer on the scene said the man smelled of alcohol, had slurred speech, seemed dazed and had bloodshot

eyes.

The same thing was reported by the second officer on the scene, yet neither administered a breathalyzer.

In court, the testimony of the man's girlfriend was useless. She used terms like, "I'm pretty sure" and "I don't recall."

Because of statements like this, neither of them could be placed

behind the wheel beyond a reasonable doubt. Both walked.

I know it would be wrong to blame both of them, but it had to have been just as wrong to acquit both of them.

No polygraph, the testimony of a witness who placed the accused man behind the wheel an hour prior to the crash was thrown out, and the fact that he was sitting in the front passenger seat didn't account for anything.

It would be important to mention that both were in a relationship before and after the accident.

Which is pretty messed up when you think about it.

A 25-year-old dating a teenager while apparently supplying liquor for and driving around tow more teens.

I'm sure in a lot of other places of the world this case would have been solved, but for some reason, on P.E.I., four get into a car, two survive, and not one charge.

Only on Prince Edward Island.

'Every day it's different,' says P.E.I. Museum registrar

By ELLEN KLEIN

Jason MacNeil unlocks a glass and metal door and punches in a password on a security keypad, just inside the entryway of a large orange building.

The registrar of the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation moves his sunglasses from the bridge of his nose to the top of his head. He swings into a dark room on his right. He flips a switch and a light comes on.

But it is still dim. There are no windows.

This room houses two desks plus several shelving units and tables, all cluttered.

MacNeil turns on a computer at a large desk that holds a photo of an attractive, young blonde. His coffee rests on the desk as he leaves to check his collection to see how it fared the night.

He checks water levels on dehumidifiers and empties them.

A hygromograph, an instrument used to monitor temperature and humidity levels, is checked.

For this collection, ideal humidity levels are about 50 per cent and temperatures should not go above 24 C, MacNeil said during a recent visit.

Everything seems fine.

A buzzer sounds and MacNeil lets a man in. He is tech support. They discuss how he will repair two computers.

"We're looking into getting a new database," MacNeil said.

He pauses, leaning against his desk.

The self-named "god of collections" sports a shaved head, a neatly trimmed, dark-brown beard and otherwise tidy appearance, which belie his almost irreverent demeanor and sharp wit.

Melanie, his assistant, interrupts.

"What is Matt doing?"

MacNeil laughs.

"I don't know. Oh, he's moving stuff."

Matt is a volunteer from UPEI. He's paying his dues, MacNeil said, eyes twinkling.

He raised his voice.

"You can clean the basket if you want to."

There is a chuckle from the oth-



Inset and main photo - Jason MacNeil, P.E.I. Museum's registrar, examines a donated body basket for damage and pest infestation. Klein photos

"If your mind goes numb and your eyes start to bleed from cataloguing, you can always do something else."

- Jason MacNeil, P.E.I. Museum registrar

er room. The basket is a recent donation. It's a long, narrow wicker basket with a lid and several leather straps.

It was used to transport the remains of the dead to burial sites and coffins after they were waked. It must be carefully

cleaned because it is fragile.

An older woman who has come for a tour of the facility is ushered in.

She wants to volunteer.

"What sort of things are you interested in?" he asks.

He's trying to determine the

best fit for her.

"We have a large donation that we got last year."

It's more of a statement than a question. He is standing, leaning against his desk with arms crossed.

Matt comes in and asks him for a tape measure.

"Five bucks," MacNeil said and tosses it to him.

He shows the woman around the building, beginning with the inner office, moving rapidly into a rug and old book room. An archaeological donation is next. It is wrapped in tissue paper under glass in another room.

"There is a huge accessioning

task at hand here."

He looks at her briefly, sideways.

When donations come in, one of the first tasks is to document it. What it is, catalogue it, how it was used originally, age and the source of the donation.

This is called accessioning.

It is the bane of many an under-funded, under-staffed museum and it feeds the nightmares of archival registrars all over the globe.

The information then needs to be dumped into a database.

"Everything is organized the same way it is catalogued," MacNeil said, waving his hands.

"I just don't know where I am going to put it."

As MacNeil reaches each area, he suggests tasks needing work.

"This place needs to be organized."

He tells her the artifactory is 7,500 square feet and could be double that.

"As it stands, we can't accept large donations because we don't have the space."

He is looking directly in the woman's eyes and holds his chin in his left hand.

"We're very limited here," he says.

He wants to set the record straight.

"A lot of things we have to do here are fairly mundane."

She leaves and MacNeil tells Melanie and Matt about an upcoming job.

Thursday they will box and transport 500 oil lamps from a man's basement.

"Every day, it's different," MacNeil said.

Tasks are predictable, until an emergency happens. Then everything gets dropped. And variety keeps it interesting.

"If your mind goes numb and your eyes start to bleed from cataloguing, you can always do something else."

He's grinning from ear to ear. It's past 4 p.m. and he's almost finished his final coffee of the day.

The old bus depot turned artifactory gets locked up for another night of preservation.

Maritime schools face recruiting challenges as time goes on, says enrolment director

By RYAN ROSS

Increasing interest in the trades has helped keep enrolment numbers up at Holland College, says a representative for the school.

Donna Sutton, the school's director of student services, said there has been a push for trades programs from industry and that has helped build interest.

"That's a relatively new phenomenon for us."

Sutton said there is an aging workforce with no young people coming behind to fill the gaps once people retire. The school has benefited from industry involvement in advertising the need for tradespeople, she said.

"It's almost like they were advertising for Holland College." Sutton said The college has also seen an increase in students with a post-secondary background. The number now stands at 35 per cent, she said.

"Twenty years ago that was virtually unheard of."

But Shawna Garrett, Acadia University's executive director of

enrolment services, said the school has seen a drop in enrolment in recent years, for many different reasons. A lot of high school students go straight to college, the birth rate in the Maritimes is on the decline and there is an exodus out west, she said. "So they can be immediately employed."

Garrett said the government in Nova Scotia, where the school is located, doesn't fund universities to the same extent as other provinces.

"Nova Scotia universities still have the highest tuitions in the country."

A change to the school's Acadia Advantage program has seen a drop in tuition from \$8,062 a year to \$6,652, she said.

Under the old program students were required to lease a laptop from the university.

Garrett said students prefer a choice and will now own the lap-

top outright.

"Ideally that will make Acadia more attractive."

The school has been active in recruiting internationally to try and boost enrolment and has seen an increase in international students over the past few years, she said.

"Let's bring our Islanders home."

- Donna Sutton

But Garrett said international students also enrich the classroom and aren't just enrolment numbers

"To us it's much more than that."

With enrolment numbers down at many Maritime universities, she said there is a need to develop Maritime cooperation.

"I think we're going to have to work together."

Sutton said Holland College is sending recruiters west to recruit and will host information sessions there. "Let's bring our Islanders home."



Holland College graphic design student Emily McGill works on a layout for a class assignment. Ross photo.

Canadian university enrolment increasing: study

By CHRISTINA SUKIE

Anthony Gomez stood in the backyard with a few of his friends and told them he was moving to Canada to continue his education.

"Why on Earth would you move there?" one friend asked.

"That's part of Antarctica, isn't it?" another added.

Gomez was unmoved. He was prepared for skepticism.

"The States just doesn't have what I need," he told his friends.

Deciding to attend Canadian universities has become increasingly common among international students and young Canadian adults.

This growth has pushed enrolment in Canadian universities to a record high during the academic year 2005-2006, according to a Statistics Canada study.

The estimated number of students registered for classes, jumped three per cent from 2004-2005 when enrolment surpassed

the one million mark for the first time.

In previous years, young Canadian adults (aged 18-24) have been the majority for growth rates, which has been the case for 2005-2006 when the numbers rose 2.8 per cent. This group accounted for 61 per cent and represented 64 per cent of total enrolment.

International students enrolled in programs at Canadian universities rose six per cent. These students represented 7.7 per cent of the total registrations.

Gomez said he learned many new things in English 101 at UPEI that were supposed to be old news.

"There are things I learned in English 101 at UPEI that I never seen before in my last years of high school. Basic structures I wasn't taught were things of the past to many students in my class."

Margaret Wood, head of international student and exchange

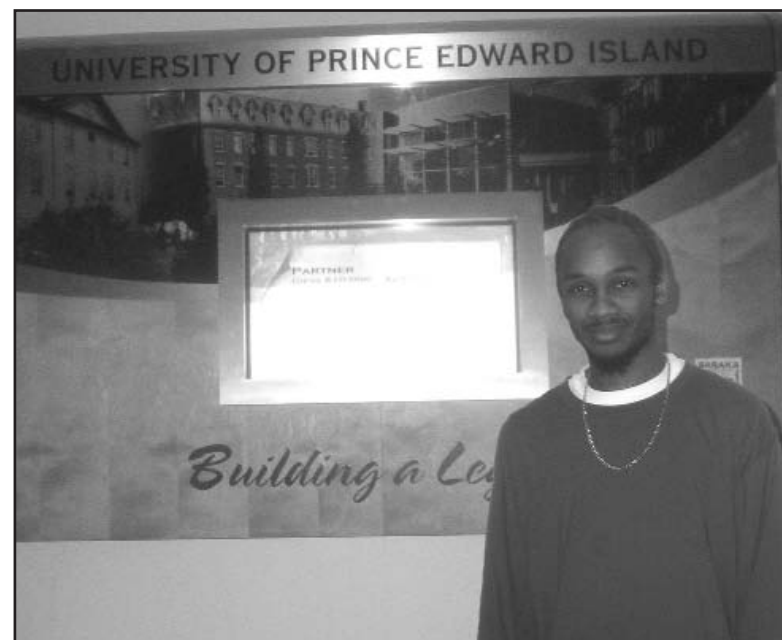
services department at Dalhousie University, said more international students are enrolling in Canadian universities for many reason, such as the Canadian environment and its standards.

"In this day and age, the turmoil in the U.S., Canada has a good reputation for being a safe country to live in. The programs are appealing and the international academic standard Canada offers."

Gomez said UPEI was very accommodating and helpful when he was applying for acceptance.

"I had all the help I needed in getting what I needed and finding out what was required to be accepted. After looking at the site (UPEI International students page), everything for me to know was organized properly and contacting people was easy."

Wood said the international student department at Dalhousie works hand in hand with international students to make the transition an easy one and in that make



Anthony Gomez, a first-year international student at UPEI, stands in UPEI's Student Centre. Sukie photo

success a possibility.

"We are making sure resources are available to enable success,

we can't ensure this, but definitely enable it."

Schools coming to terms with cellphones

By **ASHLEY DUNBAR**

Who doesn't enjoy texting a friend during a boring lecture or surfing the net during a class you just can't stay awake in. Well cellphone rules are beginning to be enforced more now than ever, but the rules seem to be changing from high school to college.

Doug Kelly, a math and physics instructor at Holland College, said he usually follows the student handbooks rule on cell phones. It states cellphones are to

be shut off before entering a scheduled class or lecture.

"By far the majority of students use common sense and courtesy when it comes to their use. If a phone does ring, students are usually quick to turn it off; or it has been set to vibrate."

Phones not allowed

Kelly understands some student have a life outside of college that sometimes cannot be put on hold. "Occasionally, a student will

accept a call from their children who may be calling, or from their place of work."

In general Kelly said he believes students have a sense of what is acceptable and what is not.

"For me, it has not been a problem."

Anna Stephenson, a senior at Carleton North High School in Bristol, N.B. said cellphones are prohibited everywhere in her school.

The Carleton North student

handbook stats all cellphones are prohibited from use in any changing areas, locker areas or classrooms.

Cellphones must be used only during the morning break, noon or after school and must be restricted to use in the cafeteria or lobby area.

Not effective

Stephenson said she feels these rules aren't effective.

"Fifty per cent of the kids don't

follow them and they still use their cellphones."

The first form of punishment if you get caught with a cellphone is your parent/guardian has to come pick it up from the school.

The next is the office keeps the phone for a week, then your parent/guardian has to come pick it up. The third is in school suspension.

Stephenson said cellphones are a distraction and more rules need to be put into place .

Situation with toilet paper annoying problem: student

By **ROSS MAIR**

Adam Hornyik is a man who appreciates the finer things in life.

He travels to teach in Korea. He enjoys sport, plays for the college's soccer team, and like the rest of us, every now and then he has to take a load off.

But he can't understand why he only gets one square of toilet paper every time he pulls at the dispenser.

"Seriously, it's been an ongoing issue for the last two years now," he said.

This is not an issue he would feel comfortable bringing up with custodians, or even his teachers for that matter.

"It's been an issue for two years now"

- Adam Hornyik

In some of the college's washrooms the toilet-paper dispensers are notoriously stingy, especially in the single washrooms on the second floor's newer wing.

"I just want the same care at school that I get at home," Hornyik said.

Ron Mackinnon, the head custodian, said he hasn't been hearing complaints about the dispensers .

"No one said anything to me."

He had nothing to do with the installation of the dispensers, saying it was the architect who designed that part of the schools doing.



Adam Hornyik demonstrates the lack of paper issued by the dispensers in the private bathrooms. Mair Photo

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Speculation, not economy, drives gas up: economist

Samara Meade asks:
What are your thoughts on UPEI making the new world issues course mandatory instead of the English 101 course?



Rebecca Chowen
“Without it you’ll do poorly.”



Emily MacAdam
“Although I don’t like English, it is important for your other courses to be able to write essays and stuff.”



Mike Good
“Some students don’t know what an adverb is. English should definitely stay mandatory.”



Jeremy Oakes
“It should stay mandatory.”

By **ELLEN KLEIN**

Speculation is now one of the biggest reasons for rising oil prices, says a UPEI economics professor.

In the past 12 years, the marketing of oil and oil products has changed from being influenced primarily by supply-and-demand to speculation on supply-and-demand, said Robin Neill.

All the evidence seems to point to the world having ample stores of fossil fuels, Neill added.

“In terms of supply and demand, the supply has kept up.”

Rising world oil prices have caused big increases over the past year in the cost of gasoline and heating oil across North America.

A recent jump in the price of gasoline to over \$1.13 per litre in some parts of P.E.I. has some consumers wondering where inflation will take them next.

It is a tough issue, said Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy.

“The environmentalists say let the price go up and have people use less gas.

That’s not realistic for someone who has to heat their home in the middle of the winter.”

“[But] we can all take a 20 per cent reduction in what we use,” Murphy added.

A Liberal government would increase the Child Tax Benefit and Guaranteed Income Supplement as a means of aiding low-income families, Murphy said.

“The bottom line here would be to have more supports for low income people.”

Neill said the weakening American dollar and a change in oil refining processes are also responsible for rising oil prices.

“We are already feeling the pinch of environmental cleanliness.”

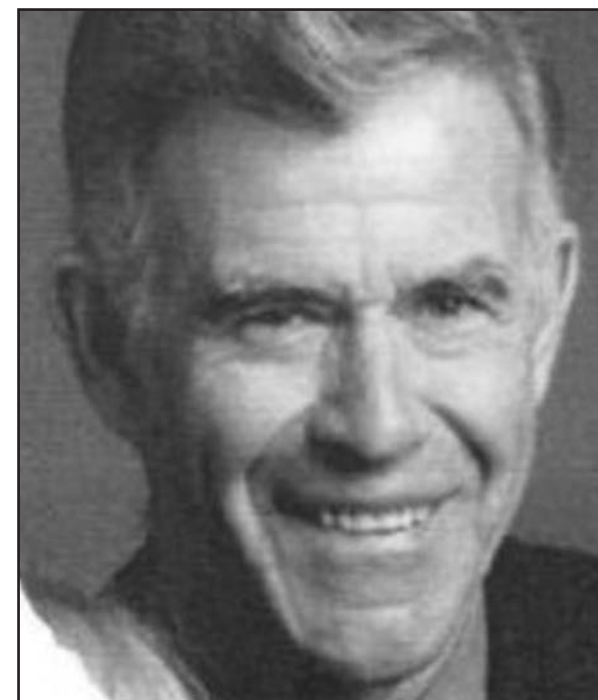
Neill hesitated to predict oil prices for the next year.

“We live in great uncertainty. It’s not just oil. It’s gold and wheat.”

Murphy said he is not totally convinced government wasn’t going to subsidize oil prices.

And lowering the minimum delivery price is just a symptom, Murphy said.

“You haven’t solved the problem.



Economics professor Robin Neill. Courtesy UPEI

UPEI administrators disagree about new UPEI course

By **SAMARA MEADE**

The new World Issues course is just an extra incentive to write and will offer useful skills, says the UPEI Dean of Education.

But the chair of the English department does not agree.

The UPEI senate decided Feb. 1 to replace the mandatory English 101 course with a new World Issues 151 course.

The dean of education, Graham Pike, said the World Issues course is not replacing the English 101 course. There is a lot of writing and it will have issues that affect student’s lives.

“I think the new World Issues course is a course that will engage students and

will inspire them to do some creative writing.”

Faculty will teach the course, but there will also be students acting as mentors.

The chair of the English department, Brenton MacLaine, prefers the academic writing course to World Issues.

“I feel the new course is not going to have the rhetoric composition that is needed for a first-year writing course.”

MacLaine said the new course wants to address problems of engagement, retention and global literacy, but it doesn’t have enough writing.

The English 101 course will be offered in 2008 for the hundreds of students who need it for their undergraduate degrees.

It is still being discussed whether or not the course will be available in 2009.



Brenton MacLaine is the chair of the English department at UPEI. Courtesy UPEI

Not your normal Monday to Friday

Long hours, longer weeks part of life on the North Sea

By ROSS MAIR

The North Sea is not where you want to spend your Friday night, but Martyn Foubister couldn't be happier.

Out on the unforgiving stretch of water between Britain, northern Europe and Scandinavia, Foubister works on an offshore oilrig as an electric technician for British Petroleum.

His duty is to make sure all the electrical systems stay operational and to occasionally repair gas turbines and a number of other pumps around the rig.

It's not an easy life, but one he loves.

"I have a great life. I work two weeks away from home, then I have three weeks at home, so I have a lot of time to do the things I like."



Martyn Foubister, 23, works the pumps on an offshore oilrig in the North Sea. Foubister Photo

However, right in the middle of doing his own thing, he can be interrupted and called back offshore at anytime.

"It's part of the life."

For Martyn, a native of Scotland, his options did not include heading to Alberta and signing up for a camp job.

He was accepted into an apprenticeship with British Petroleum where he was then transferred offshore.

"Because of this system I can have extra time off and I have extra money."

At 23, Foubister is the youngest employee at the rig, something he says is a non-issue.

"Everyone is kind of like minded, so everyone gets on with each other."

The offshore oil industry has been booming for some time now,

and people other than Foubister have been cashing in.

Denis Mair of Summerside is president of C-MAR Services Canada Ltd. and is in charge of employing people in the offshore oil industry.

20-year veteran

A 20-year veteran of the field, Mair said because of the oil boom, business has been at all-time high.

The rapid modernization of India and China also has a lot to do with it he said.

His job involves going over a list of clientele, seeing which ones are already working and which ones are on leave, then selects a certified individual to fit the job required.

"I wish there were more."

No clear solution for farmers after public forum

By RYAN ROSS

Hog farmer Gordon Lank stood in the crowded hallway at the Kensington Legion as he waited for the CBC public forum on the beef and pork industries.

People lined the walls, three deep in places, as about 400 people crammed into the main hall to voice their concerns about the state of P.E.I.'s farmers.

The crowd spilled out into the hallway where Lank discussed the turnout with the farmers around him.

"If nobody came, it wouldn't be a good indication."

Lank is a life-long farmer who raised both beef and pork.

"Lucky aren't I."

He still has pigs going through the hog plant but he expects them to be gone around the middle of the summer.

"We're going out of the hogs."

In the main hall, CBC anchor Bruce Rainnie moderated the discussion as farmers and other stakeholders in the industry pressed through the crowd.

They made their way to one of the microphones set up for questions directed to a panel that



Provincial Treasurer Wes Sheridan, left, talks to an audience member after the public forum on the state of P.E.I.'s pork and beef industries held Feb. 19 at the Kensington Legion. About 400 people attended the meeting held by the CBC to address issues faced by Island farmers. Ross Photo

included Provincial Treasurer Wes Sheridan and Agriculture Minister Neil LeClair.

Sheridan listened to farmers' concerns about meat imports from other countries and government

aid to countries like Argentina where they are having problems with hoof and mouth disease.

"It's despicable," Sheridan said.

The discussion moved from one topic to the next as farmers

blamed retailers, free trade, subsidies in other countries and a lack of government funding for some of the problems facing the industry.

Lank pushed his way through

the crowd to voice his concerns about the lack of exports since the industry was crippled by the mad cow scare almost five years ago.

"We're not competitive any more."

While the panel agreed exports are a problem, they also addressed concerns about the ability to buy local products in the big retail chains owned by companies like Sobeys or Loblaws.

For Sheridan, it's a consumer's choice and they need to tell the stores they don't want outside products.

"Bring in what we want to buy."

The issue of buying local was raised by Malpeque MP Wayne Easter when he referred to recent stories in the news about massive recalls in Japan and the United States.

"Where do Canadians want their food to come from?"

When the meeting was over Lank moved through the thinning crowd, shaking hands with some of the farmers sticking around to speak with Sheridan.

Lank didn't expect the meeting to have much of an effect.

"You never know what affects anything."

Hard work and compromise needed for successful marriage: counsellor

By AL MACLEOD

Most marriages end because one or both people in the relationship walk away from adversity and confrontation, says a co-founder of a marriage ministry in Charlottetown on the Sunday after Valentine's Day.

Jack Ferguson and his wife Shirley co-founded the Centre for Restoring Hope, a ministry focused on repairing and improving marriages, based in Cornwall.

The Fergusons coordinated a weekend event held at Calvary Temple Pentecostal Church in Charlottetown, starting Feb 15.

The weekend included information sessions, personal testimony from the Fergusons and activities directed at couples looking to improve and understand the requirements of a healthy relationship.

It takes mutual respect, submission and agreement to deal with issues to have a successful marriage, Jack said.

"It takes hard work."

When things become difficult and there are a lot of arguments, marriages tend to break down and end in today's culture because people look for a quick answer, Jack said.

"One person bails on the relationship."



Centre for Restoring Hope Inc. founders Shirley and Jack Ferguson. MacLeod Photo

Younger people are especially vulnerable to broken marriages because there is often miscommu-

nication and lack of understanding what is needed for it to work. They are living in the moment,

he said.

"The honeymoon wears off." Shirley agreed. She said it is

important to look at trials in the relationship as an opportunity to grow.

"If you try to run from tough times, there is no growth."

Today's culture is focused on sexual freedom and influences. It is important to fend off the assaults on the family unit, Shirley said.

"If our families fail, our culture fails."

Social programs won't help

Social programs do not help with repairing marriages.

They mostly focus on the children affected, which is important, but there is a need to help the people in the failed relationship as well, said Shirley.

"Even the government is anti-family."

Jack said from a biblical point of view, the family is what is pure and good about society and it is always under attack from Satan.

He and his wife both came from broken relationships and difficult pasts and were on the road to another failed relationship in the beginning of their marriage without God, Jack said.

"We were kind of like two fleas with no dog, just sucking the life out of each other."

A quest to find "Mr. Right".....hopefully

By CHRISTINA SUKIE

I stood in the hallway next to the cafeteria with sweaty palms, waiting to be called onto the stage.

I emerged to a cafeteria filled with smiling students obviously amused by the display. As I sat in my chair, I peeked through the wall to see if I could catch a glimpse of my hopeful bachelors.

No success.

The dating game, a concept derived from a 1965 ABC television show, took place in the cafeteria of the Charlottetown Centre Feb. 14.

There were two rounds, which gave a male and a female student

the chance to find Mr. or Mrs. Right.

I was given a list of questions to ask the lucky candidates who would get to spend time with me.

Many of the questions however, were far from what I would ask on my own.

Most of them were clichéd. Many of them were given clichéd answers in return.

"What would you describe as the perfect first date?" I asked all three of the bachelors.

All of the answers resulted in dining in some type form whether, it be bachelor No.1 with the cheap choice of Wendys or McDonalds or bachelors No. 2 and No. 3 with dinner and a

"This mystery man said the perfect date consisted of a basketball game and take out. For me the simplest idea goes a long way."

movie.

It was a little too corny for my taste, but the casual first date, bachelor No. 2 described caught my attention.

This mystery man said the perfect date consisted of a basketball game and take out. For me the simplest idea goes a long way. The questions carried on with typical answers from each bachelor but as it went on, I began to figure out who I was going to pick.

However, something hit me out of this robotic routine of asking a question and then listening. Bachelor No. 3 expressed something to me that really caught my attention, and not in a good way.

"She's got to like feet," he said.

I was floored and turned off all at the same time. I then imagined myself drawing a huge X over the No. 3 in my head as I slowly but surely began to ask bachelor No.

1 the next question on the list.

At the end of the game, it came down to picking bachelor No. 1, a.k.a Mr. Too Nice, bachelor No. 2, a.k.a Mr. Chill or bachelor No. 3, a.k.a Mr. Foot Fetish.

The crowd cheered me to pick Mr. Foot Fetish with the loudest applause.

Not being a foot lover, I just couldn't do it. They all seemed nice. I didn't want to hurt anybody's feelings but I had to go with Mr. Chill. His personality suited mine and even if in the end, there were no sparks at least we could be really good friends.

And if you're wondering who the lucky guy was, it was Jordan Bruyere.

Student leaves Bahamas to attend College

BY SAMARA MEADE

Christina Sukie, an 18-year-old student from Nassau, Bahamas, decided to move to Charlottetown, P.E.I. to go to school at Holland College where she studies Journalism.

Canada offers better education than the United States and there are higher standards here.

Her English teachers suggested the move would be a smart one if she wanted to get a better education, said Sukie.

The Island is strange and a very big change from what she is used to. Everything from the change dispensers at the Wendy's restaurant to the red brick buildings is different from her hometown in Bahamas, she added.

"It's a whole new place."

The manager of international business development for the North America sector, Lornie Hughes, does the recruiting for Holland College from areas around North America, focusing mainly on places like Bermuda, Bahamas, and Barbados. He is the one who helped recruit Sukie.

Hughes came into contact with Sukie during a career fair in Bahamas. While searching for schools Sukie came across a Hol-



Christina Sukie, first year Journalism student at Holland College, takes in the extreme change of weather from her hometown, Nassau in the Bahamas. Meade photo

land College representative and told him about her sister, Asha, who was in her fourth year at UPEI.

A month later, at a meeting at UPEI, the representative told Hughes about Sukie. Hughes

immediately found Asha and had a lunch meeting about Sukie coming to P.E.I. The sisters got talking and Sukie's ticket to the island was as good as bought.

Sukie is the first person Hughes recruited from North America.

She is very important to the college, Hughes said.

"She's been very successful, and we use her in many promotional items."

It can be hard getting people to leave the warm climate of the Caribbean to the cold Canadian weather, so Holland College is taking more of a strategic approach into recruiting. They recruit into hospitality programs because a lot of North America is driven by tourism, he said.

Sukie admitted she does find it hard to adjust to the weather. She went from being in a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit to 35-40 degrees Fahrenheit.

"It is hard to adjust to the weather here, I was crying it was so cold."

Sukie quickly learned that in P.E.I. one must wrap up in layers in order to keep warm and fight the breeze.

"I was getting weird looks about my snow boots, but I just kept on walking and said, 'I don't care what they think, my feet are warm!'"

The weather is not the only difference Sukie found between the Islands.

The parties on P.E.I. don't compare to the huge dance parties

with tons of entertainment like DJ booths, parades and cowbells in Nassau.

"I miss going out to the clubs," said Sukie.

"At home there is food, a bar and you don't have to supply your own drinks. Here you have to bring all your own beer, I have never heard of that before."

The long move into a new room and empty apartment was hard for Sukie at first, but it was made easier when warm faces and big smiles welcomed her. She said the people on P.E.I. are very nice and accommodating.

It also helps Sukie that her sister is on P.E.I. Although it is hard sometimes because of the sibling rivalry, in the end, she wouldn't know what to do without her cooking skills and family chats.

Sukie's goals are to finish the Journalism program at Holland College and then go to U.P.E.I. for the two-plus-two program, where she will get her degree in print journalism.

No matter what she does within the next few years, Sukie's said her future includes P.E.I.

"I like the red brick buildings, and how you can see the little grannies walking down the street. It's cute."

Troubled past challenges future of aboriginal languages

By KATHERINE HUNT

Growing up trying to hide her aboriginal roots and language to avoid discrimination hasn't prompted Louise Lachache to give up hope.

Lachache is the former national director of languages with the Assembly of First Nations. She teaches at Algonquin College in Ontario.

Fewer people speak aboriginal languages than ever, said Lachache.

"It's declining because of past government policies."

An estimated 29 per cent of Aboriginal peoples can speak an aboriginal language well enough to carry on a conversation, according to the 2001 and 2006 censuses.

One reason for the decline dates back to the 1960s when the government removed aboriginal chil-

dren from their homes, said Lachache.

"It was a deliberate attempt to get rid of the language."

Called '60s scoop,' it refers to the adoption of First Nations children in Canada between 1960 and the mid-1980s

Governments removes children from their homes, placing them in foster care and allowed them to be adopted by English families.

It was called the 60s scoop because in most cases children were scooped from their homes and communities without the consent of the family.

They went to English schools and were forbidden to use their aboriginal language. If they spoke it, they would be punished.

"The idea was, if you can get rid of the language and culture, there will be no more indigenous people. They'll just sort of blend in," said Lachache.



Members of the Native Council of P.E.I. drumming and singing at their drum meeting. Hunt photo.

Over 11,000 aboriginal children were adopted between 1960 and

1990, according to statistics from the Indian affairs department.

Children from that era are in a psychological lock because of the past, Lachache said.

"People alive today remember needles being stuck in their tongues because of speaking their language."

Many aboriginal people pushed their language aside to protect the children.

When Lachache was a five-year-old girl she had a meeting with her parents and grandparents about it.

She grew up speaking Mohawk, but because she was going to school the next year they decided to stop speaking it. That way when she got to school, she would not be punished, said Lachache.

"They didn't want me to suffer." Violence became part of the learning experience, said John Joe

Sark, who was awarded an aboriginal achievement award and fought to have stereotypes removed from schools and institutions in P.E.I.

"We have to have a more intense program in all schools so people have a better understanding of the language," he said.

Languages are dying from lack of use. They're also difficult to translate properly.

There's a different worldview in aboriginal languages, said Sark.

"You look at a tree as a noun. We look at a tree as a verb. The tree is always active."

Things have gotten better regarding discrimination in Canada, but people still struggle to hang onto their culture, said Lachache.

"We're not finished with changes, we're still improving."

Sports involvement falling: Statistics Canada

By AL MACLEOD

Like a lot of young kids, Chris MacDonald enjoyed playing sports like baseball and hockey.

As MacDonald got older, his priorities shifted from playing sports to things like schoolwork and money management.

"I played baseball right up to Grade 11," he recalled.

MacDonald is part of a trend in Canada.

Participation in sports by Canadians 15 years and older has gone from about 45 per cent in the early 1990s to about 28 per cent in 2005, according to a Statistic Canada's report filed Feb. 7, based on data from the General Social Survey.

This is a decrease of almost half the number of people playing sports in a 13-year span.

The report focuses on the years 1992, 1998 and 2005 with a steady decline reported in each.

Canada's aging population is shown to be the major factor in the decline. As Canadians get older, their participation in sports decreases.

In 1992, people aged 35 and

over represented 60 per cent of the adult population and about 36 per cent participated in sports. By 2005, two-thirds were in this age group and their participation rate dropped to 22 per cent.

Other factors reported were time pressures, family responsibilities, child rearing, careers and general lack of interest because of other leisure time activities like watching television and using the Internet.

Fewer taking part

Program coordinator for Sport and Leisure Management at Holland College Wyatt Inman said the percentage of Canadians over 15 playing sports is likely even smaller in 2008.

"Twenty-eight per cent might be high (for 2008)."

MacDonald said the main reason he stopped playing sports was the cost. He also wanted to spend time with his child.

"People are so busy with their families they don't have time (to play sports)."

Weight has also become an issue and it is safer to work out at a slow

pace as opposed to straining yourself in fast-paced sports, MacDonald said.

"You don't want to have a heart attack."

Inman said it is generational as the new generations are involved with video games and other non-active activities at a young age.

"People 25 and under grew up not moving. When you are younger and not active, you aren't going to pick it up later."

Tax deductions to help with the high cost of sports would likely encourage more activity with older people, Inman said.

"There needs to be a recognition of Canada's government to encourage sport."

Culturally, it is up to parents to make sure their children are active when they are younger to keep those habits as they grow, Inman said.

"Play with your kids."

MacDonald's six-year-old son Caleb is enrolled in his second year of Timbit Minor Hockey and lives an active lifestyle - something he hopes will continue through his son's older years.



Chris MacDonald, 31, has not played organized sport since grade 11. MacLeod Photo.

Special Olympics player rejoices despite loss

By KATHERINE HUNT

Coming in fifth in the Special Olympics floor hockey games didn't make the athlete in P.E.I. Stars jersey number 68 hang his head.

Brian McNab, 36, participated in the 2008 Special Olympics floor hockey games in Quebec City from Feb. 26 to March 1.

Although McNab and his team didn't win a medal, he's pleased with the experience.

"We played hard and had a lot of fun."

The P.E.I. Stars got up at 5:30 each morning in Quebec City to be ready for 8 a.m. practices.

They played three to four games a day and made it to third place overall.

There was a three-way tie in the bronze medal match between the P.E.I. Stars, the KV Kats of N.B. and the Blue Devils of Manitoba. After turning to overall points scored for all games, P.E.I. came in fifth place, Manitoba fourth and N.B. placed for bronze.

"It was intense. I wish we would have won," said McNab.

When the P.E.I. Stars played their games, there was a section of supporting Islanders in the crowd. It was coined 'the peanut section' by McNab's coaches and had many proud Island family members.

Clear in the section was McNab's cheering family, with his father waving a 4 x 8 P.E.I. flag on a fishing pole.

"When we scored some goals they all lit up," said McNab.

McNab began playing floor hockey after watching the championship Special Olympics game at the Charlottetown Civic Centre in 2004.

He always kind of wanted to play, but it took the encouragement of a close friend shortly after that game to push him to sign up.

When McNab was young he had breathing problems, said his mother, Betty McNab.

"Playing sports on a team was never something he was confident

about."

Now, McNab has scored and assisted goals in the Special Olympics.

It was first time a McNab family member has ever been involved in a national event.

Family and friends have supported him and are proud of what he's accomplished.

Before he left for Quebec City, his co-workers in the Charlottetown Mall threw him a party with pizza, balloons and encouraging signs.

While in Quebec, his parents made sure they attended every one of his games.

"I thought Mom was gonna cry, she was so happy," said McNab.

His mother was impressed with the coaches and the organization, motivation and care they gave to the teammates.

McNab plans to continue playing floor hockey, especially to prepare for his next chance in the Special Olympics.

"I'm looking forward to the next one."



Brian McNab at his going away celebration. Hunt photo

Correction

Library open extra hours on Mondays and Tuesdays

An error in the Surveyor led the readers to believe the Charlottetown centre library was opened for two hours every day.

In fact, the library is open two extra hours on Monday and Tuesday and only for a trial period in February and March.

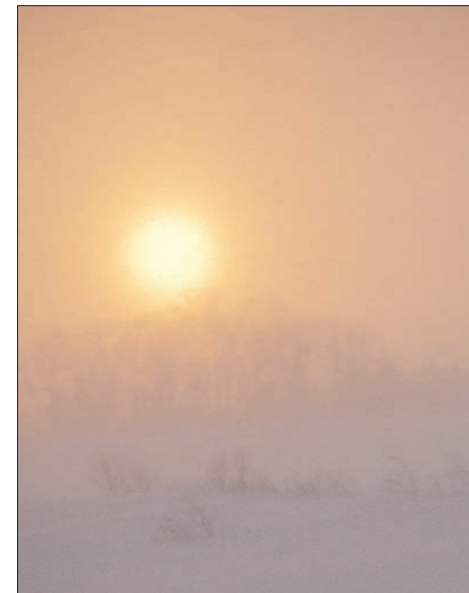
The library hours for the trial period in March are:

Monday	8:30-9:00
Tuesday	8:30-9:00
Wednesday	8:30-9:00
Thursday	8:30-7:00
Friday	8:30-5:00
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	1-4

Full page ad National defence



Brookvale Provincial Ski Park, P.E.I. Mair photo



Field behind Charlottetown airport
Klein photo



Englishtown, Nova Scotia
Klein photo

Maritimes, *glimpses of winter...*



Left - Ingonish Harbour,
Nova Scotia Klein photo



Right - Kelly's Cross,
P.E.I. Mairphoto