

# OUT There

Humber Et Cetera's summer travel & leisure magazine 2002



Where in the world  
is Pinto MacBean?

The song and dance  
of Toronto's burlesque

LAKE ONTARIO:

not just a giant filthy mudhole

# •outTHERE•

Humber Et Cetera's summer travel & leisure magazine



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APRIL LABINE  
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**Online Editors** DANIEL RUSSELL  
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DAVE BOYINGTON  
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MELANIE BUTERA  
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CHARMAINE MERCHANT  
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ALICIA REWEGA  
LINDSAY ROBERTSON  
KIM SINCLAIR  
JENNA VAICIUS  
REBECCA VIRGIN  
MIKE ZETTEL  
ALEXIS ZGUD

**Illustrator** REGAN COOPER

**Publisher** CAREY FRENCH

**Creative Advisor** LARA KING

**Advertising** NANCY LARIN

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HUMBER COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDIA STUDIES  
205 HUMBER COLLEGE BLVD.,  
ETOBICOKE, ONTARIO  
M9W 5L9  
PHONE:(416) 675-6622 ex.4111

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Dear reader,

Finally, summer is here. Thank goodness. It seems about time too. After all the work over winter, at school and afterwards, it's really time to take a breather, isn't it? These longer days and the warmer weather seem like a reward for all that we've just been through.

But now, we can take things a bit easy. We can start to reconnect with each other and ourselves and experience some of the earthly delights in this world.

That's where *Out There* comes in. We'll be your personal guide to the summer, from travel and leisure to lifestyles articles to help with day-to-day living.

It's all in here for you. So get off the couch, chart a course, pack your case, and explore the world and yourself. In short, get out there. And pack us along. We're the only summer reading you'll need.

Sincerely,

**Desmond Devoy**  
Editor, *Out There* magazine



COVER PHOTO: Carolyn VanSlightenhorst frolicking in Lake Ontario, Mark Nonkes photo

- 4 • Not just another roadside attraction
- The burger baron

**5 • Letting it all hang out**

- 6 • Keeping Toronto cool
- 7 • Lake Ontario's mess

**8 • Havana good time**

- 9 • Students on a shoestring budget
  - On the loose
  - Three alternative ways to see the world
- 10 • Recovering the past: Searching for ancient Native artifacts under an eastern Ontario riverbed
- 11 • Gone spelunkin'
  - Tree museum: Art in the heart of the forest
- 12 • Game of Risk: How safe is travel?

**13 • Following the nomads**

- Tips for trips
- 14 • Psychictown U.S.A.: Where everybody knows your name
- 15 • Who you gonna call? A real ghost hunter reveals his walk with the supernatural
- 16 • Paradise lost: Story of Nauru

**17 • Ground Zero revisited**

- 18 • Night Hawks: Tales from the graveyard shift

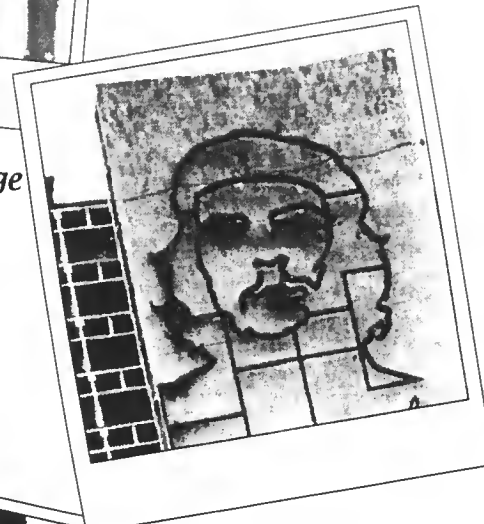
**19 • Our own Moulin Rouge**

- 19 • Papal visit not without controversy
- 20 • Beached brides
  - Strictly ballroom: Salsas, jives and cha-chas all the rage on the dance floor
- 21 • Finding Foster: Literary guru
- 22 • Squeaky clean: Squeegee kids are living with mom and dad in the 'burbs
- 23 • Toronto's top five best and worst patios

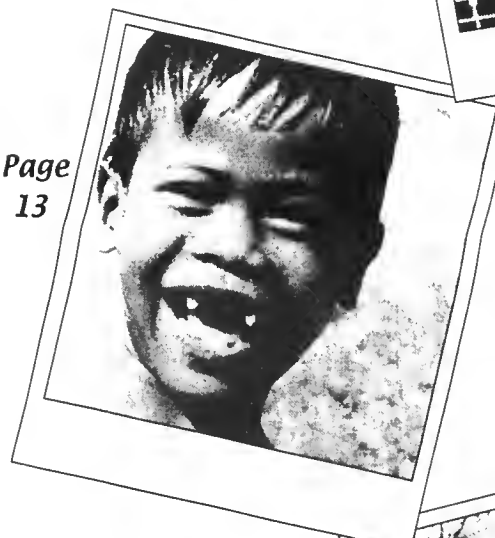
Page 5



Page 8



Page 13



Page 17



Page 19



# Not just another roadside attraction

*Out There sent a pair of its ace reporters on a quest to find some of Canada's more bizarre landmarks*



LIGNITE LOUIE

**T**ANYA HARDING'S NOT THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN the dark when the proverbial 15 minutes of fame are over. Lignite Louie, once the biggest thing in town, is now a has-been.

The 12-foot statue, built to honour the pioneer coal miners of Estevan, Saskatchewan, stands all-but-forgotten in the Estevan National Exhibition Centre.

"Closer to 30 years ago, Lignite Louie was a really big part of Estevan," says Dawn Tedford, Estevan's tourism co-ordinator. "He was the city mascot, and our fair was called Lignite Louie Days, but, in the last 15 years they have kind of retired him and they don't really use him very much anymore."

— Jeff Russell



VULCAN, ALBERTA

**I**F YOU FREQUENTLY GET THE URGE TO DRESS UP as a Klingon, the town of Vulcan, Alberta may be your version of paradise.

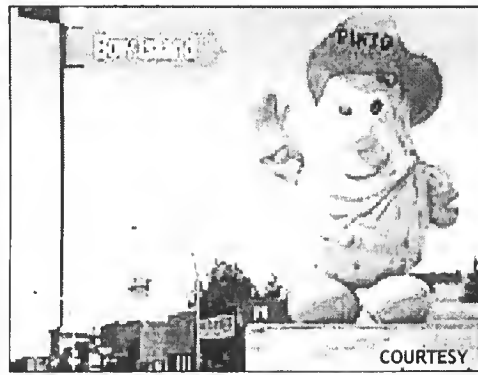
A legion of Star Trek geeks, the Vulcan Association of Science and Trek, have found it logical to use the town, named for Mr. Spock's home planet, to attract other life forms.

"A lot of our visitors are Star Trek fans," says Lori Gregory, Vulcan's tourism assistant.

The town's annual Galaxyfest will feature costume workshops, an astronomer and his telescope and Charles Napier, a guest star on both the original series and latter-day spin-off *Deep Space Nine*.

— Jeff Russell

For more wacky landmarks hit [www.collectiondx.com/linked/largecanadianframe.html](http://www.collectiondx.com/linked/largecanadianframe.html)



PINTO MACBEAN

**B**OW ISLAND, ALBERTA IS THE BEAN CAPITAL OF the West. It's also home to Pinto MacBean, the town's celebrity mascot. The eight-year-old statue, 18-feet high, attracts people from all walks of life.

Clarence Thurston, chairperson of the Bow Island tourism committee, says Pinto has definitely put the town on the map.

"We've had people from here that go down to California and other places, eastern Canada and whatnot on visits," Thurston says. "When they say where they're from, they say 'Oh yes, that's where they have Pinto MacBean by the side of the road'."

— Jeff Russell



PYROGY

**H**UNGRY? THEN GLENDON, ALBERTA MAY BE the place for you.

In Pyrogy Park, just off Pyrogy Drive, the world's largest pyrogy stands at a mighty 25-feet and weighs 6,000 pounds.

So why a pyrogy? The people of Glendon decided they needed something unique to draw tourists. Local businesses submitted several ideas, but it was the giant pyrogy that earned the claim to fame. Two thousand people showed up for the grand unveiling, and the pyrogy was even covered by CNN.

"We have wedding pictures and all kinds of different pictures taken beside it," says Glendon Mayor Johnnie Doonanco.

— Jeff Russell



HUSKY THE MUSKY

**T**HE LAST THING YOU'D EXPECT TO SEE ALONG the Trans Canada Highway is a 40-foot muskie.

Even for a fish tale, 700 pounds is big. Except in Kenora, Ont. where Husky the Musky towers above tourists and townspeople.

The 40-foot wood, fibreglass and steel structure was erected to symbolize Kenora's tourism industry. The late Jules Horvath decided a muskie suited best.

It suits the tourists, as well, inspiring them to think big about the catch before heading out with their tackle.

Carol Davis of Tourism Kenora says Husky is still the eye-catcher he was built to be.

"Fishermen will go by it and say 'Wow! I want to catch something like that,'" she says.

— John Edwards

## The burger baron

By JOHN EDWARDS

**M**IKE MCPARLAND IS A KEY MAN IN ORILLIA. He must be, he's not in uniform. His short-sleeved baker's shirt and knee-length black shorts don't look anything like the standard fast food gear, and instead of a team pre-fab burger visor, he's got a black headband.

The veteran line cook at Weber's restaurant wears his "key man" button front and centre. That's not surprising, he's settled into his nickname easily.

"I guess in the early years I was here all the time and several customers came in and said 'You must be the key man because you're always here,'" he says.

His license plate reads "63 key" and a key ring hangs from his belt. He's become the key man in more ways than one.

McParland has worked the grill at the burger joint just off Highway 11 for the past 39 years. He says divine intervention might have gotten him the job.

"Mr. Weber was going to church and a priest came and told us that he needed some help and there were about four or five of us that came out to work here," McParland says.

"We opened July 11, 1963, in fact I was here a few days before, cleaning up and getting ready to open."

Twenty years later, the burger joint famous

for its food and atmosphere was such a hit, the Ministry of Transportation had to spring for a bridge across Highway 11 so customers wouldn't have to risk their lives.

McParland stays for the atmosphere.

"I like working with the kids," he says. "It's a lot of fun and the kids keep me young."

Weber's serves up to 6,000 customers a day during the busy summer months, and in his tenure, McParland has often worked the kitchen.

"You get 50 to 55 hamburgers on that grill for five hours at a time on a Friday night, it's busy," he says.

His five children have also joined him behind the grill, but only the key man has stuck it out. He says he owes his longevity to his customer service philosophy.

"As soon as that customer walks through the door, you have to treat that person as if they are the only one in the store," he says. "They're number one."

His philosophy works. Customers like John Kennedy come from as far away as Kapuskasing just to see the key man work.

"It's always wild to watch this guy cook burgers," Kennedy says.

*John Edwards is a sports nut and he's been published in The Globe and Mail, Brampton Guardian and Hockey Business News.*





# ting it hang on

By ANCIA REWEGA

IT'S AS INAPPROPRIATE TO BRING luggage to a nudist resort as it is to be naked at a cocktail party. If you're clothed. So if you're going to go back, you'll want to be sure you've booked the right place.

That's where Sherry Stafford's Internationally Travel Agency comes in. Conceived as a companion piece to *Naturally* magazine, a nudist community publication based in Newfoundland, New Jersey, the travel agency is designed to find the perfect nude getaways for naturalists, pleasure seekers, and first-timers alike.

Internationally Travel is not alone. Nude travel agencies in the U.S. include Bare Necessities Tour and Travel Inc. in Austin, Texas. Other agencies are based in Spain, Australia and England.

Stafford is more than just a travel agent. The former English teacher also writes travel pieces for *Naturally*. Now vice president of the travel agency she founded, Stafford spends her days tracking down the perfect places to play.

She also offers advice to the curious.

"We're all so different, yet so similar that the novelty starts to drop after a while," she says.

Kevin Booth agrees. The 19-year-old visited Cuba's Sol Club nudist beach over spring break last year.

"At first it felt awkward," Booth says. "You feel that bashful feeling, but then everyone was doing it and the people on the beach made it feel normal."

It's definitely not a vacation for everyone. And while there are no set-in-stone rules, there are a few things Stafford wants first-timers to know:

• Bring your own towel to sit on

for quick cover-ups and sanitation.

• Respect others. "There is a high degree of respect that goes with the lifestyle and it brings out a kinder, gentler person," she says.

• Some clothing-optional areas are more family-friendly, more focussed on the naturalist philosophies than others. When Jeff Perreault and his family stumbled across a nude beach on an island off Cancun, he definitely didn't enjoy it as much as he wanted to.

"I wouldn't have minded the beach if I was there with a couple of buddies or maybe just my dad," he says. "But because my mom and sister were there, it kind of made things a little weird."

• Start small, it's easier to go naked at the beach than it is at a nude resort, and if you're just trying the experience on for size, you may well want clothes nearby. Don't stay if you're uncomfortable. And don't do anything you don't want to do.

"When you feel ready, go ahead and take the plunge," Stafford says. "You can always put your clothes back on and you can always leave."

• Don't sweat your shape. "Being at a nude beach is like a Grand Equalizer," Stafford says. "No one is perfect. The most perfect body has a flaw, and you may not find it until they open their mouth." After all, naturalists have nothing to hide and no place to hide it.

Most pleasure-seeking nudists head to Hedonism II and III in Jamaica.

Ancia Rewega is a first-year journalism student at Humber College. This summer she plans to soak up the sun at Ontario's many beaches.



# Keeping Toronto cool

## Lake Ontario's deep water is helping T.O. beat the heat

By MIKE ZETTEL

AS THE SWELTERING HEAT FROM THE SUMMER sun beats down on the city of Toronto, citizens fight back the only way they know how – by cranking up electricity-guzzling air conditioners.

This increased use ultimately results in smog, choking Toronto residents with toxic air.

There is however, a clearer solution on the horizon.

Enter deep lake water cooling. Soon, many of the downtown office buildings will be cooled by the efficient and environmentally-friendly method of drawing cool lake water from the depths of Lake Ontario.

A partnership between Toronto-based Enwave District Energy and the City of Toronto is now underway to place intake pipes deep below the surface of the lake, where the water is permanently cool, and to use the energy from the water to cool the buildings in the downtown core.

This news has been well received by environmentalists concerned with the quality of the air in Toronto.

"We think it will have a very positive impact," says Jack Gibbons of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA). "It will displace the energy from the coal-fired plant which will have a positive impact on the environment and public health."

According to the OCAA, the Lakeview coal plant in Mississauga is the number one polluter in the Greater Toronto Area. Power plants in the GTA provide Toronto with 25 per cent of the city's energy, and produce an annual pollution output equal to that of 6.2 million cars.

"Toronto is a summer-peaking city now," says Phillip Jessop, head of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund. "The coal-fired plant [is] running full steam to cool the office buildings."

According to Enwave, when the project is completed in the summer of 2004, it will reduce carbon dioxide emissions – a contributor to global warming – by more than 36,000 tonnes. It will

do this by using 30 million kilowatts less electricity every year.

This is achievable because the water deep in Lake Ontario is permanently at a cool temperature.

"[The pipes] are going to 85 metres, five kilometres out on the lake," says Michelle Murray, a co-ordinator for the project. "It's a much colder source."

According to Murray, three pipes, each 600 millimetres in diameter, will draw in water at 4.7° Celsius, which will then be sent to the Toronto Island water filtration plant. This colder water will replace Toronto's current supply, which comes from the warmer, shallower water located closer to the shore.

This is where the city's end of the partnership kicks in. The treated water is sent through currently existing piping to Enwave's pumping station located underneath John Street near the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

At this station, the water from the lake enters a set of heat exchangers where it meets, but does not mix with, the water used to cool office towers. At this meeting, the coolness of the lake water is transferred to the office tower water, which is called an energy loop.

This point is important because it means that the cooling system will not use any more water than the city would normally use.

The drinking water is then sent throughout Toronto's distribution system at a temperature of 12.5° C.

The water in the energy loop, at a temperature of 5° C, will be cooled further using conventional mechanical chillers, to a temperature of 3.3° C

before being sent to the office towers.

For many buildings, especially those belonging to information technology companies, cooling is not just a summer requirement.

"As offices acquire more IT equipment, the more they require cooling year round," Murray says. "It's important for owners to maintain a constant source of air conditioning."

Murray also says that the water-cooled system will avoid much of the economic impact expected from Ontario's deregulated electricity market.

Using water to cool buildings is not a new concept. The idea for the Toronto project was conceived in the early 1980's but, according to Murray, is really a reincarnation of an idea that has been around since the industrial revolution.

Nadia Ashburner lives in a condominium in Oakville that has used water to chill its buildings since they were built more than 20 years ago.

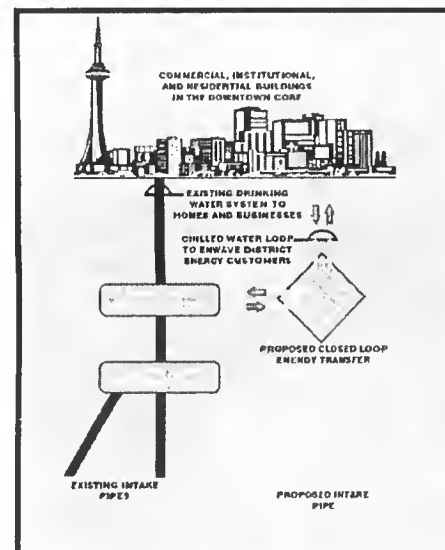
"I notice no difference between this system and regular air conditioners," she says. "Except that there is no noise from an outdoor unit."

In her case, the house is cooled by continuously running tap water that is chilled by a floor unit before being sent to the thermostat. She says that the cost of the water is included in the condo fee.

Houses are not likely to be included in Toronto's plan, Murray says, because the cost of the piping that would have to be laid would be too expensive.

However, she says that there might be plans to include condominiums in the energy loop.

Murray says the nature of district energy systems, which simply means many buildings



hooked up to one cooling or heating system, "is that they grow and accommodate more customers."

There are other places in the world which have large-scale cooling systems using nearby bodies of water.

Halifax's Purdy's Wharf, which consists of two office towers and other smaller buildings located near the harbour, has been using ocean water for cooling since 1984.

At Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, there is a smaller scale version of Toronto's system that was completed in 2000 and uses nearby Lake Cayuga to cool the campus buildings.

"The project has been an absolute success and has exceeded our expectations in energy savings," says Lanny Joyce, an engineer at Cornell.

Joyce says he is enthused by Toronto's project, particularly the new source of drinking water, which would be of "higher and more consistent quality." He says that the Enwave/city partnership is "a synergy of needs."

Lake water cooling will not solve all of Toronto's air and electricity problems. Last summer the Ministry of the Environment issued seven smog advisory warnings, which covered 20 days.

However if that is a sign of what to expect in the future, then anything that might reduce the demand for electricity will certainly be helpful.

*Mike Zettel is a first-year journalism student at Humber College.*

**"The project has been an absolute success."**

**-LANNY JOYCE**

# Lake Ontario's mess

By JENNA VAICIUS

SINGER DAVE MATTHEWS SAID IT BEST – “DON’T drink the water.” And if it’s Lake Ontario in question, don’t play in it, either.

John Coleman, a Toronto health inspector responsible for monitoring Toronto’s beaches, advises caution this summer.

“People have a choice whether to swim or not. It’s up to the individual. You swim at your own risk,” he says.

Beaches are monitored daily for E. coli bacteria, but Coleman says bacteria levels in water can change.

The signs may say the water is safe, but that

doesn’t necessarily make it true. Water pollution is constant, so low bacteria levels don’t necessarily mean it’s safe to swim.

The federal government publishes guidelines to ensure recreational water is microbiologically, physically, and chemically sound. But the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy released a report last December declaring testing of Ontario’s water quality to be a declining practice.

“The Tory government has reduced sampling sites, for lack of funding, by two-thirds,” says Lewis Molot, a professor at York University’s faculty of environmental studies.

Fourteen Toronto beaches are tested daily, Coleman says. 500 millilitres of raw water is drawn and a bacterial count higher than 100 parts per million requires a beach closure until two consecutive days of clean testing are confirmed.

William Robertson, head of microbiology and water quality for the federal department of health, says that’s not enough.

“As low as one infectious particle can cause illness, depending on the individual’s immune system,” he says.

He also cautions that children are the most at-risk because they spend longer in the water and are more likely to swallow lake water.

E. coli isn’t the only problem with the water. Health Canada’s website also warns of other toxic substances, including some carcinogens. Infections in the upper respiratory tract, eyes, ears, nose, or throat are possible, as are skin ailments.

Check the City of Toronto website ([www.city.toronto.on.ca/health](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/health)), or the Beach Water Quality Hotline at (416) 392-7161 before you hit the beach this summer.

*Jenna Vaicius has written for the “Silhouette” newspaper at McMaster University. By the middle of April she was already sunburned.*

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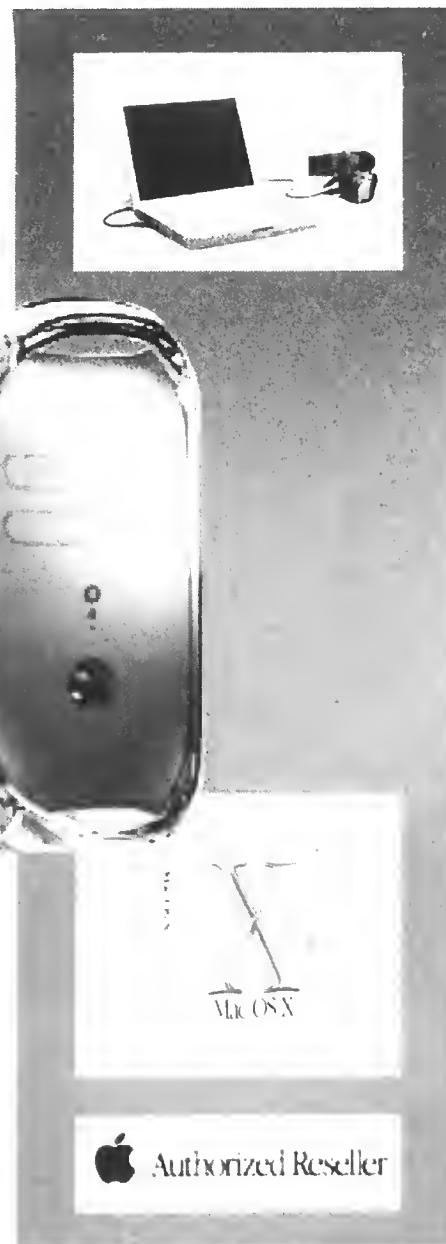
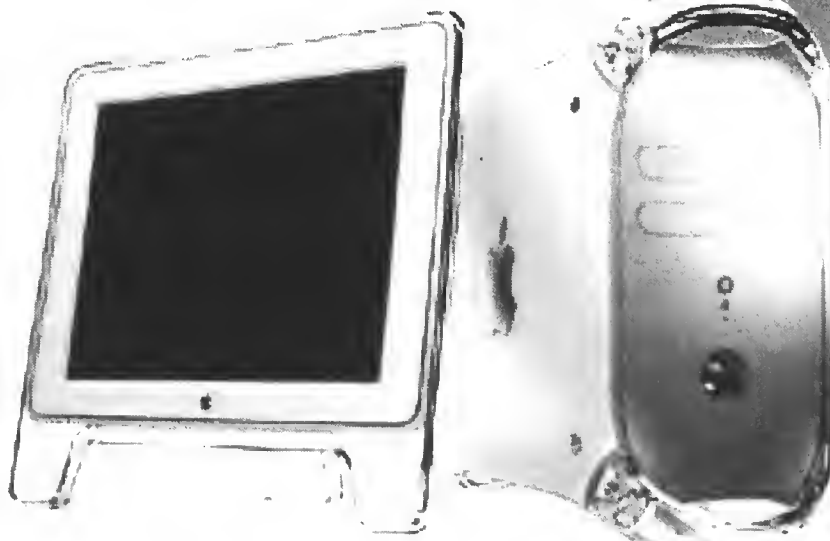
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# Havana

## good time

By JUAN PABLO DE DOVITIIS

*"Ay, no hay que llorar  
que la vida es un carnaval  
y las penas se van cantando."  
("Ay, you don't have to cry,  
because life is like a carnival,  
and all the pains go away singing.")*

*From La vida es un carnaval, Isaac Delgado*

**B**YOND THE WHITE COLONIAL buildings, the 1950s Chevrolets parading through the blue summer Havana nights, and the swaying colours that move to the beat of naked hips, Xangó and Momo are smiling.

Havana is the city of rumba, son, salsa and all of them were developed by Spanish and African cultures, to lessen the pain of slavery, foreign invasion and poverty.

And, at no point is this city more forgetful of its pains than when its people storm the streets in summer in a sea of colour to celebrate in honour of Momo, the god of carnival.

Though Havana's annual carnival, which will take place this July, is a lot more frugal when it comes to flashiness than its more commercialized (and substantially more dangerous) cousins, Rio, it is still one of the most entertaining carnivals in the world.

"The Havana carnival is not what it used to be when it comes to floats and costumes," says Jorge Bergues, who rents rooms in Cuba for tourists. "But people here in Cuba don't care, they even walk from real far if the transportation is bad just to party. To Cubans that's really important."

The smell of the Gulf of Mexico beating against the protecting walls of El Malecon Boulevard gets mixed with the sounds of beating drums. The musicians and the soaked dancers become one with the people that surround the parade from the sides of the street.

For spectators though, the view of the passing parade is a spectacle that can only be seen from behind the barriers that surround El Malecon.

That is, unless you are a foreign tourist.

"It's wicked," says Josue Hernandez, a Canadian tourist at the parade. "Nobody but us gets seats like this. Cubans are not allowed to cross the barriers, but, because we are tourists, the cops let us go wherever. I was even drinking rum by the side of the road, and some of the musicians had a drink with me while they were still playing."

At any time of the year, Cuba is the perfect get away from the oppressive prices of the LCBO and Ontario's "blue laws." Not only can you enjoy the island's finest five- or seven-year-old rums on the streets, but you can also obtain them at any store for as low as \$2 US per bottle. That's only if you do not have any Cuban acquaintances, because, for Cubans, rum is sold at even lower prices.

If you decide to buy your rum or beer in Havana, there are certain rules of etiquette that should be followed.

When drinking with Cubans, the first drink of a bottle is always poured "pa' los santos" (for the saints). Those "saints", however, are really African gods such as Xangó, the god of iron, which were disguised during the days of slavery as Catholic saints so that they could still be worshiped.

But, for those planning to join the celebrations with a drink of Havana Club or Ron Mulata, one other rule applies.

"Cops here don't really care if you drink," says Marcos, a former Cuban baseball star who refused to give his surname. "But just make sure, when you get a drink you put it in a plastic bottle, because they don't like to see people with glass bottles."

If the colourful floats, the VIP "seats" and the street drinking do not attract you to this island's carnival, there is always the more sensual side of Cuba.

If there is one thing Cubans are proud of it is their women. And they boast about it any chance they get.

"Cuban girls are beautiful," says Marcos with a smile, as dancers and musicians with trumpets and drums go by behind him. "If you are trying to hook up with a Cuban girl and she is not paying you any mind, the trick is to tell her that Cuban girls were amazing, but all the ones you spoke to are cold and distant. It works like a charm. They are very proud of their fame for being passionate and they don't like to hear otherwise."

Female tourists do not seem to have many complaints about Cuban men either.

"Cuban men are very relaxed and cool, but they all can dance great," says Angela Fu, a tourist from Toronto. "They are really good-looking and they love Canadian girls."

Yet, to centre your attention only on sensuality and alcohol is also to disregard the true soul of Havana and Cuba as a whole: the Cuban people.

Though poverty is more prevalent in Havana than in other parts of the island, Cuba still has free health care and post-secondary education. And, even the poorest Cuban, once they get to know you, is likely to invite you over to their



JUAN PABLO DE DOVITIIS



JUAN PABLO DE DOVITIIS



JUAN PABLO DE DOVITIIS

house for some "arroz con pollo," along with some of their neighbours, so that they can meet their new "foreign friends."

"Cubans are really open people," says Fu. "If you meet them in the street and they talk to you, they will invite you over. And they are really well-educated people, so you can have some amazing conversations with them because they love to talk and argue."

From the moment you arrive in Cuba, when that first gust of hot tropical air hits you as you get out of the plane, the island is bound to conquer you.

"I knew I was going to like Cuba," says Alexander Rogers, a Bay Street financial worker. "But with the reception I got, the people I

have talked to and the experiences I've had, I would have to say that Cuba loves me."

Once a year, when Momo, the god of carnival, and Xangó, the Afro-Cuban patron saint of the island, get together for a day, even the generally festive Cubans reach new heights of colour, music and soul.

And that is definitely something worth drinking to. Just don't forget to pour the first drink for the saints.

*Uruguay-born Juan Pablo de Dovitiis is a Toronto-based writer who's travelled to Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Cuba, Costa Rica and Argentina. His most feared nightmare is living during prohibition.*



# Students on a shoestring budget

By REBECCA VIRGIN

AFTER PEDALLING OVER 2,000 KILOMETRES across Canada, and spending 25 days on a bike seat, your butt gets really sore.

That doesn't faze students like Aldo Sorrenti, an applicant to Humber College's firefighting program, who are managing to find more economical ways to travel.

Sorrenti's favourite memory is the Columbia Ice Fields, a glacier off the Trans-Canada highway. Beneath a sunny blue sky, he made angels in fresh white snow and trampled a smiley face, 25 metres in diameter and visible a kilometre away. Life, he says, stood still.

"I know a lot of people who will forego fixing their car to save up the money to go travel because it's a life experience," says Tara Browne, travel consultant with TravelCUTS (Canadian Universities Travel Service).

"That's where you're really going to grow as a person."

Browne suggests picking a destination, then getting a map.

"Highlight places that you're going to, come hell or high water, places that you'd be disappointed if you didn't get to see, and the places that are 'oh, there's always next time.' That's really going to help you determine how much time you're really going to need," she says.

From crossing the country to trekking across Europe, Australia, and beyond, millions of students are heading to places once considered impossible to travel at an affordable price.

"My best piece of advice, is to get advice," Sorrenti says. "Most people are friendly and happy to help."

In order to see Canada, Sorrenti chose the most economical way he could find. He flew WestJet to Prince George, B.C., and rode a bike he'd fixed up back to Toronto.

"The trip cost me about \$1,500 including the flight," Sorrenti says. This also included a flight from Calgary to Winnipeg, a bus from Thunder Bay to Sault Ste. Marie, lodging and food.

But it's not just what you see or what it costs, it's also who goes with you that makes a holiday.

"Choose your partner wisely, communicate

and stay on the same page," Sorrenti says. "Be flexible and respect each other's values."

"Know who you're travelling with," says Stephanie O'Neal, a first-year history student at the University of Western Ontario. "There were days when we just needed space or we would tear each other's hair out."

O'Neal spent seven weeks backpacking through Europe with her best friend. Her trip cost about \$3,000 and she saw eight countries. She was able to fly into Manchester and out of Paris for \$650. The Eurail pass cost \$800.

"Don't let minor stresses take away from the trip," O'Neal says. "Remember, you are so lucky to be there, so if you miss your train, don't worry, there will be one tomorrow."

"Travelling is a great way to meet other people, but you tend to only meet other travellers," says Jennifer Tanner, a first-year student at the Canadian College of Natural Medicine who travelled through Australia for nine months. "Go out of your way to talk to (locals), trust me, they'll talk back."

Tanner worked at the Sydney Olympics, then

bought an old van for \$1,500 to drive around the coast with her boyfriend.

"The best way to get around the country and really get into it is to buy a van," Tanner says. "They hold their value. Ours had over 300,000 kilometres on it and we sold it for more than we paid."

Tanner also had an OzExperience bus tour, which specializes in getting off the beaten track so travellers can experience the real Australian culture. Tanner's price tag - \$500.

"One of the best trips was a 4x4 excursion to Fraser Island," Tanner says. "There were tons of dingos, sharks, snakes, and of course, sand." This excursion is an add-on from one of the OzExperience stops. Travellers can hop on and off the bus at will as it travels the country.

"Be open to new experiences," travel agent Browne says. "You've got to be open to new experiences and really be appreciative of other cultures."

*First-year Humber J-school student Rebecca Virgin never plans to bike across Canada.*



## On the loose:

### Three alternative ways to see the world

WANT TO TAKE A FLIGHT OF FANCY? WELL GO UP, UP AND AWAY in your beautiful balloon to see the beauty of southern Ontario.

Balloon Adventures of Dundas, can take you up into the wild blue yonder for an hour-long flight for \$175 per person, all-inclusive, plus tax. Hot air ballooners have a choice of casting off for a sunrise or sunset flight over the Dundas Valley and the Flamborough area. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres are served on all flights and each passenger receives a certificate and pin afterwards to commemorate the flight.

"It's just very exciting," says Santino Coppelino, a balloon pilot with the 11 year-old company. "Every trip is different. It's more of an art than a science. It's the original flying since we're propelled by the wind."

On most flights, passengers can get a glimpse of local wildlife in their natural habitat.

"It depends on the time of year, the time of day," says Coppelino. "[But] this time of year we're seeing a lot of deer." Reservations can be made by calling (905) 627-2992.

- Lindsay Robertson

RICKSHAWS ARE A POPULAR FORM OF TRANSPORTATION THE world over, especially in Asian countries.

But you don't have to go all the way to Thailand to experience the fun of letting someone else pull you along. Paul Meitzler is the owner of the Manhattan Rickshaw Company, and he is obsessed with rickshaws.

"They combine the convenience of walking with the exuberance of cycling," he says.

Meitzler says that people love the ride because it is fun as well as an easy way to slip through traffic and travel in parks. And what if you need your rickshaw driver to carry you and an especially heavy load?

"Although we try not to overload the cabs, I've carried stereos, air conditioners, furniture, cases of beer, families and their luggage and wheelchairs," he says. "We'll take you to the heliports on either side of Manhattan."

Though summer is the ideal time to hop on board a rickshaw, they are now available almost year-round.

"This year, for the first time since I began in New York City in 1995, drivers are making the effort to go out even on super cold days. The season is 11 months long now," Meitzler says.

If you find yourself in New York, and want to see the city from the back of your own rickshaw, reservations can be made by calling (212) 604-4729. Rides usually cost \$1 US per minute for two people, though exact fares can be quoted from your driver.

- Lindsay Robertson

ROGER CLULOW IS A MINE OF ELEPHANT INFORMATION. CLULOW is the operations manager of [www.Go2Africa.com](http://www.Go2Africa.com), the world's largest online Africa travel service. The site hosts 8,000 pages on Africa and arranges safaris and exotic vacations for tourists year-round. And for those looking to hitch a ride on these gentle giants, he warned.

"The very naughty elephants will stop for a drink alongside a watering hole. With seeming innocence, [they will] fill up their trunks with water, and then suddenly fling it backwards and spray their shrieking clients soaking wet!" Clulow says.

Elephant companies in Africa normally provide tours that last a few hours, but it is also possible to book day-long safaris.

"Understand that you're riding a massive animal with enormous strength - therefore treat the animal with respect, do not frighten the elephant or make any sudden loud noises," Clulow advises.

Don't worry if you've never ridden an elephant before. Tour companies always brief clients first and send them with a guide.

"Hold on tight, keep left, pass right, and you should be fine," Clulow jokes.

Shearwater Adventures, ([www.shearwateradventures.com](http://www.shearwateradventures.com)) a popular tourism company based in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, offers visitors the chance to experience elephant rides, whitewater rafting, helicopter rides, bungee jumping, and riverboarding. All of the elephants used for the excursions are orphans rescued from the barren lowlands of Zimbabwe. The company offers morning or afternoon elephant rides, for about \$145, plus tax.

Tourists should be wary when travelling to Zimbabwe however. The country is in the midst of simmering political turmoil, which flares up frequently, and the country was recently expelled from the British Commonwealth for a year.

- Lindsay Robertson

# Recovering the past:

Searching for ancient Native artifacts under an eastern Ontario riverbed

By DANIEL RUSSELL

**H**IS REGULATOR FILLED WITH VOMIT AS HE DESCENDED 50 FEET below the water's surface towards a glowing object.

The violent response was triggered by the overwhelming emotion that hobby diver, and Chief of the Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation, Kris Nahrgang experienced when he realized he had just happened upon a pot that had been untouched by anyone in hundreds of years. Shortly after coming to terms with the significance of the find, Nahrgang's mind raced with questions about the discovery.

"Then the curiosity – where did it come from? How did it get there? Who made it and how long ago and where were they living," Nahrgang recalls.

What he found turned out to be an ancient pot dating back 1200 to 1400 years, to the Middle Woodland time period. That discovery, three years ago in Lovesick Lake on the Trent-Severn Waterway has changed the one-time hobby into a passion for Nahrgang. He now has taken a leading role in mapping First Nation sites and cataloguing native artifacts along the waterway.

The Trent-Severn Waterway is a 386-kilometre long series of natural and man-made bodies of water that link Georgian Bay at Port Severn to Lake Ontario at Trenton on the Bay of Quinte. The waterway was an important trade route for centuries but in the 18th century, dams and locks were built to make it completely navigable by large ships. The construction of dams and locks flooded many areas around the waterway, burying thousands of native sites.

From that first pot, Nahrgang has been consumed by the implications of his initial discovery.

For the past three years he's taken to the water in mid-March, diving in the frigid waters, mapping out native sites and cataloguing artifacts until ice returns to the water in December.

Despite the bone-chilling water temperatures during spring and fall dives, Nahrgang says they're the best times to search the waterway for sites and artifacts. Summer activity makes already poor visibility in the waterway even worse.

Nahrgang is trying to establish a team of trained archaeologists to help map out sites that are lying in the waters of the Trent-Severn.

Parks Canada also has a team of underwater archaeologists that has spent much of the past five years mapping out the Rideau waterway in eastern Ontario and who will be focusing on the Trent-Severn in the coming years.

The Parks Canada archaeologists are searching for both historic and prehistoric sites underwater, but Nahrgang is concerned that they are not properly trained to identify native sites and artifacts.

This is a contentious issue because once Parks Canada completes its survey at a potential development site, developers can go ahead with their project.

"The ethical dilemma is whether or not they should be diving when they don't have the right skills," Nahrgang says.

Currently the Parks Canada effort in the Trent-Severn Waterway is limited to immediate development concerns.

Willis Stevens, who is directing the inventory of underwater resources on the Trent-Severn Waterway explains Parks Canada's current approach.

"Because of various development and immediate concerns we tend to be jumping around a little bit – sort of fighting fires if you like – where developments are on the go or starting to go and there are docks going in and there is shoreline disturbance happening," he says. "We have to document these resources that could potentially be impacted."

Developmental pressures are derived from the growing popularity of cottaging. New cottages often require the dredging of lake bottoms and new docks, which disturb and destroy important cultural artifacts and burial sites.

"You only have to lose one artifact like some of these quite unique native pots and that is a serious concern to First Nations and to us," Stevens says.

Ideally, Stevens would prefer to start at one end of the waterway and work to the other end but that isn't possible because, at the moment, Parks Canada is devoted to mapping out the Rideau system.

Nahrgang also is troubled by the "follow-the-development" approach adopted by Parks Canada.

"Archaeology is not done for research really anymore," Nahrgang said. "It's all done in lieu of development."

Another concern that has surfaced in recent years is the plundering of archaeological treasures that lie in the waters of the Trent-Severn. The unfortunate reality, as both Nahrgang and Stevens note, is that the artifacts, once removed from the protection of the sediment and the water, waste away and eventually disappear unless they are conserved properly. There are other implications when an artifact is moved unnecessarily.

"If you move an artifact, you are taking it out of its context and it is going to lose its importance," Stevens says.

It is illegal for anyone to take anything from the bottom of the waterway and those who do happen to find something, are encouraged to contact either Nahrgang or Stevens so a proper archaeological survey can be carried out.

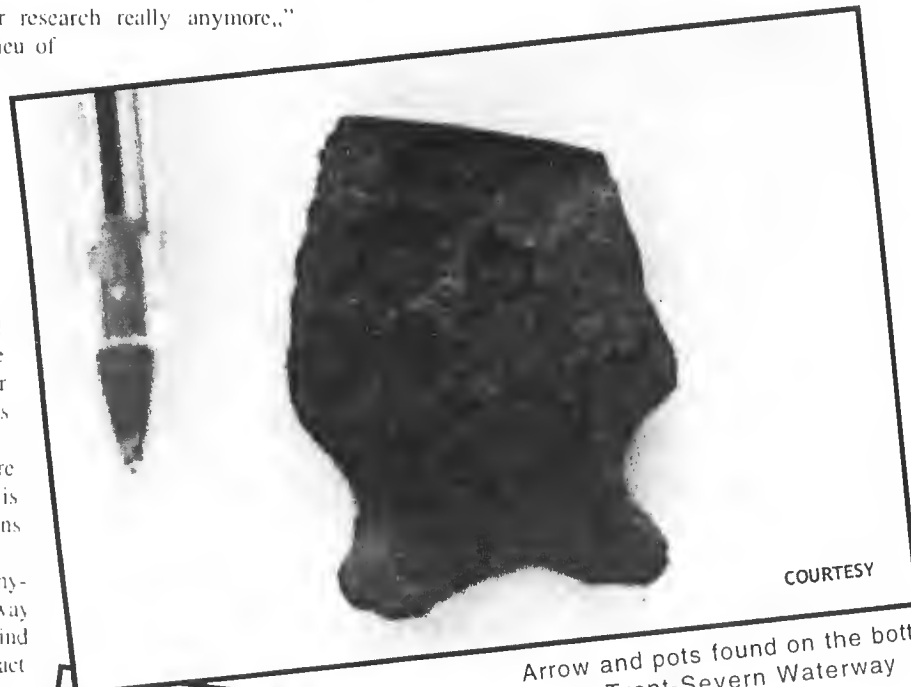
For Nahrgang, the ultimate goal would be to establish a cultural centre that would house the recovered artifacts. The centre would be located at Trent University in Peterborough. Nahrgang is aiming to raise the money to build the centre in five years.

Beyond the cultural centre Nahrgang would be happy to one day promote diving to the sites of the Trent-Severn.

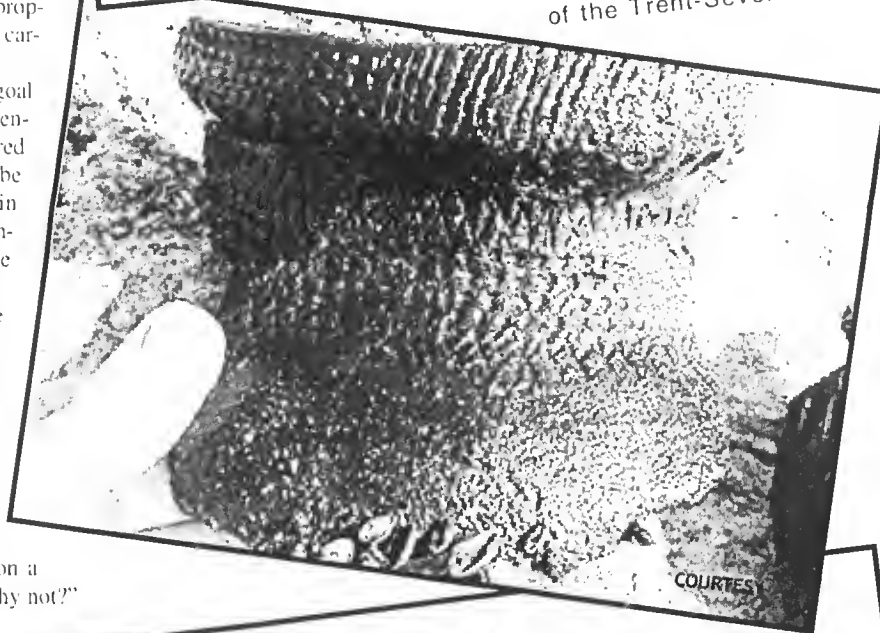
"I would love to see it someday where we have these sites marked out and there are things of interest for other divers to see," he says. "If people want to come and dive on a site, as long as there are rules, why not?"

Kris Nahrgang can be reached at 705-654-4661 or at spiritstone@sympatico.ca. Willis Stevens works for Parks Canada and can be reached at 613-990-7104.

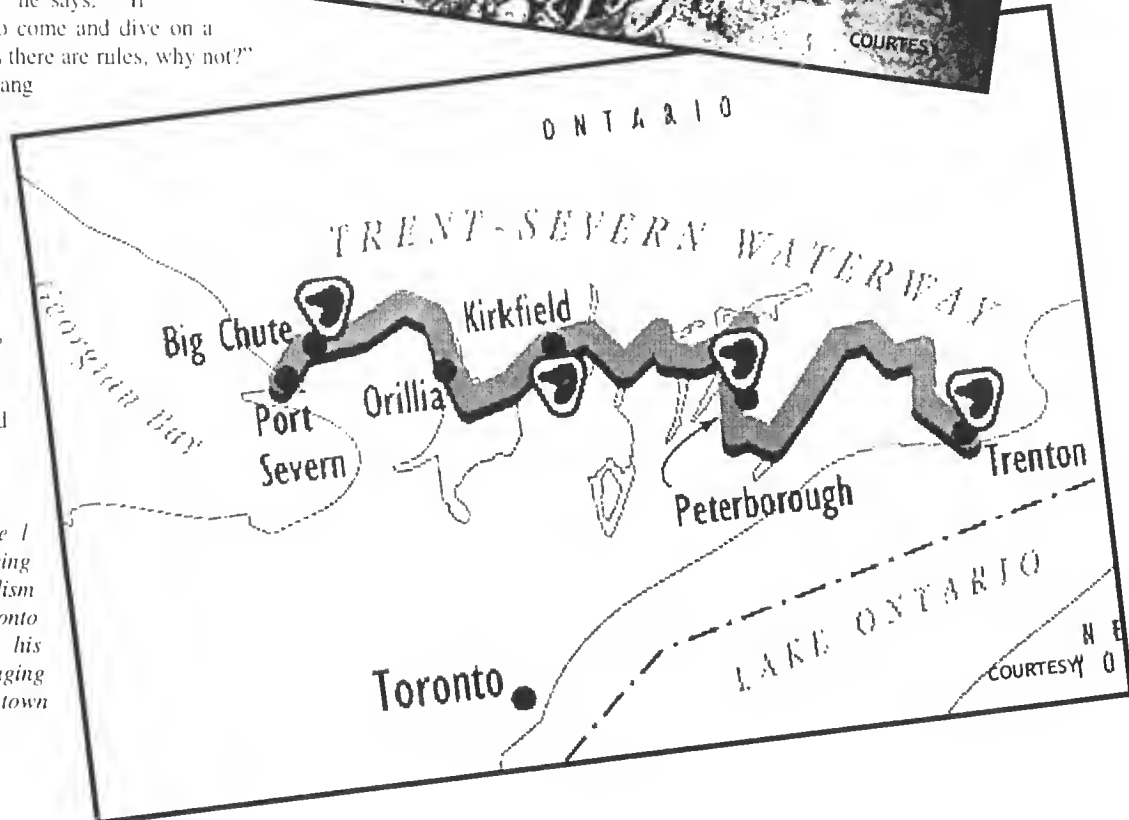
*Daniel Russell is diving into a journalism career in Toronto after leaving his humble upbringing in small-town Alberta.*



Arrow and pots found on the bottom of the Trent-Severn Waterway



COURTESY



COURTESY



MARK NONKES

By MARK NONKES

**K**IRK MACGREGOR IS CAUGHT BETWEEN ROCK and the proverbial hard place.

A wall of limestone blocks his passage. Behind him, eight people abruptly stop and press their bellies to the ground, waiting for word.

They're three metres below the earth's surface, in a caving expedition through Warsaw Cave Conservation Area's (half an hour West of Peterborough) largest underground series of connecting tunnels, and turning around means crawling back out over 100 metres of that same dark tunnel.

"A hundred metres seems a lot longer when

you're flat on your belly squiggling over rocks," says MacGregor, president of the Toronto Caving Group and host of this day-long expedition.

The 100-member Toronto caving group bands together on adventures through underground North America. They offer day trips for beginners, like the group beneath Warsaw that has to turn back, but for serious cavers, there are week-ends below ground with an annual trip to West Virginia.

This group isn't afraid of the dark. They're unfazed by bats. And they definitely aren't claustrophobic.

MacGregor is known for taking risks, he's no stranger to roping down unknown holes and wading through icy water. He's even gone nude caving. But he's not alone.

"All cavers are crazy," says Peter Wetton, a Brit on his first caving adventure in Canada.

Most of Ontario's 400 caves are found in the limestone of the Niagara Escarpment, but the Warsaw caves are made from a dry underground river. The largest Ontario cave is 400 metres long. Almost all are very small and require crawling.

Some of the tunnels in Warsaw are so tiny they require shoulder twists and raised hands to get through. In one cave, an opening is so tight that a heavyset man cannot fit through the opening and is left to sit outside.

The group crawls head-first through six dif-

ferent caves on the grounds over the Sunday afternoon.

The largest cave, known as the Parking Lot Cave, has many twists, turns and drops of about four feet at several spots in the narrow passages.

It's easy enough to get lost. The entrance crawlspaces can easily be overlooked, and in some larger areas where four or five people can comfortably sit together, two or three crawl-space tunnels lead in different directions.

Finding the way back through the series of interlocking tunnels is a challenge.

In her search to exit the cave and find daylight, first-time caver Yuen-Ping Leung loses her sense of direction for a couple moments.

The light on her bike helmet shines on rock walls that all look the same and even though she just crawled through the tunnel, the caves appear confusing.

"It's so unknown," Leung says. "Everything is unknown."

At the end of the day, she's not discouraged. Just tired. She's signed up to explore the West Virginia caves in four weeks; she's looking forward to seeing the different textures and types of rock.

Leung smiles. "I'm so excited."

*Hailing from the countryside of Huron County, Mark Nonkes likes to wear rubber boots and goes to Rita MacNeil concerts for kicks.*

## Tree museum: art in the heart of the forest

By KIM SINCLAIR

**T**REES, MOSS AND CANADIAN SHIELD REPLACE conventional white museum walls near Gravenhurst, Ontario. Two hours north of Toronto year-round sculptural exhibits are scattered throughout a woodland lot, accessible with the help of an on-site map.

It's the Muskoka Tree Museum, 200-acres of isolated forest sheltering 10 permanent pieces and temporary exhibits that come and go with the seasons.

E.J. Lightman and Anne O'Callaghan curate the few guided exhibitions each September, but mostly, visitors and exhibits are left to their own devices.

"It's kind of an experiment in what will happen, and letting nature take its course," Lightman says. "It kind of becomes part of the life cycle of the pieces."

They come for pieces like Badanna Zack's "Mound of Cars", the coming together of seven crushed cars with the soil and plant life that envelope it. Maybe an obvious statement of the problematic by-products of industrialization to an experienced artistic eye, but perhaps perplexing to the inexperienced museum-goer.

"A lot of people would have trouble with seven cars stacked together in a mound, so if they see it, and they like it and it makes them laugh or whatever response they have, that's a really good thing," Lightman says. "We've started to tap into a whole public that aren't museum goers and that's great."

He says there is a bit of "magic" in the exploration of the museum. It can take hours to wade through the long grass, trees and paths to find the scattered exhibits. A visitor can feel a bit like an archeologist discovering Tim Whiten's "Danse", a rock face of sandblasted skeletal figures, clutching instruments, suspended in motion.

It might take 30 minutes of silence to consider Anne O'Callaghan's "Relic of Memory", a gathering of a steel archway, table and formation of rocks from a 100-year-old wall. The work is a study in history and memory, but without a curator's explanation, visitors must derive their own interpretation.

"I like people to come and see something, and come back with their own impressions," O'Callaghan says. "It just makes it a broader, fuller experience having a whole cross section of people going there. They come in and look at the work and sometimes don't quite get it, but then some of the arts community doesn't quite get it either."

The isolation makes it difficult for the museum to attract large flocks of visitors. Obviously, the artists could show their work more prominently, but for many, the experience is unique and unrestricted.

"I enjoy the interaction and an environment for a different creative reflection," O'Callaghan says. "It's a different space to go and think in a different way."

Toronto-based artist J. Lynn Campbell travels to the Tree Museum two or three times a summer to nurture her spiral of trees called "In Sight." The 33" x 36" foot spiral of white cedar trees leads to a centralized boulder where sandblasted footprints face opposite directions.

It is a study in regeneration, illustrated by the clockwise ascent of the spiral and the cyclical life of the tree itself.

The Tree Museum was an out-of-gallery experience for Campbell to explore her own issues with culture and nature.

"Most work in galleries is of a cultural nature, but when I think of culture, I think of something man-made," she says.

"Where in the Tree Museum, there is a stronger emphasis on nature and what it does,



Locate the tree museum find the map on the web site:  
[www.rhen.com/treemuseum](http://www.rhen.com/treemuseum)

and the idea of yes, we can affect nature and the world around us, but it's nice to see nature reclaiming maybe what it has lost, or what has been changed."

Largely funded by grants, the Tree Museum doesn't generate any profit, but it has generated a growing interest and expansion over the next few years is definite. Curator Lightman is confident in the natural draw of the experience to keep

bringing visitors back.

"The idea of just being in a natural environment and having all of this great contemporary art around you is a bit of a dream, isn't it?"

*Muskoka-native Kim Sinclair has traded her green roots to tackle journalism in the concrete jungle. She's been published in Canadian Living and Oxygen magazine.*

# Game of risk

## HOW SAFE IS TRAVEL?

By BRIANNE BINELLI

**S**LEEPING WITH A KNIFE UNDER HER PILLOW WAS second nature to 18-year-old Robyn Elms, who was trying to avoid sexual harassment while volunteering for six months in a Costa Rican rainforest.

Elms was working at Corcovado National Park where females usually room alone, or at the very least with another female. So when the University of Guelph student ended up sharing a room with a man whose presence already made her uneasy, she decided to keep a knife for extra security.

Since the collapse of the World Trade Center last September, travellers have had to open their eyes to the risk of terrorism. But, some travellers are not anxious to change their globetrotting lifestyles.

"I've been to some pretty sketchy areas, before this even happened, so I'm not going to be avoiding them because of fear of the unknown," says Elms.

Nothing draws a clearer picture of that than Elms' experience in Costa Rica. Sexual harassment is common in the Costa Rican rainforest, but Elms quickly learned how to hold her own by respecting the country's culture.

Sexual harassment, was just one of the potential obstacles Elms faced while travelling alone to Spain, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Australia, England, Scotland, Wales, Switzerland and her native South Africa.

Elms' resolve about travelling hasn't changed since the events of Sept. 11.

Now, months after the incident, people like 23-year-old Humbert graduate Melinda Novak are also beginning to travel again.

Novak graduated from Humber's Travel and Tourism program in 1999, and has since travelled to Europe, Scandinavia, Turkey, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. She just ended a two-month stint in South and Central America, as part of a requirement to obtain her bachelor's degree in geography at the University of Calgary.

Novak's hunger for new experiences keeps her travelling in spite of the recent chaos.

"I love to experience new things, new cultures mainly," Novak says. "I love meeting people and just seeing new things. Something is always better than the next."

Elms' passion for travel comes from a slightly different place, a love for humankind.

Both Elms and Novak know what it means to travel to dangerous places where North American standards don't apply.

Novak has been travelling through South and Central America since Sept. 11, but despite some minor security glitches, such as losing her nail clippers at the baggage check, she has not been

worried enough to stay grounded.

"I don't think that my views of travelling have changed so much since Sept. 11 just because I don't spend a lot of time in, or around the United States," Novak says. "I know that shouldn't make such a difference, but there is more room on airplanes," she says. "People who want or need to travel still will."

Novak remembers travelling at United States customs as being one of the only problems she has faced since the collapse of the World Trade Center.

"Customs around the States were crazy, I actually got frisked in Houston, but other than that you just have to make sure that you don't have any sharp objects in your carry-on bag," Novak says.

Elms experienced some of the same problems when travelling through Miami and Chicago.

It was January 3, and Elms noticed that some of the travellers seemed a little "antsy."

Elms had the luck of sitting beside an officer in military intelligence, and talked with him about some of the issues that were paramount in everyone's minds.

"I was talking to him about going over to Afghanistan, and just his work through that was incredible," Elms says. "We talked about how standards in the States had gone up."

The federal government is more cautious and has issued advisories to Canadians travelling even to "safe" environments, such as the United States.

However, Novak and Elms don't plan to stop travelling anytime soon.

"I might avoid the Middle East right now," Elms jokes. "But I honestly think I'm fine. You can't live in fear. I mean you always hear the bad things about countries, before you hear the good things. That goes without saying."

Novak says that Sept. 11 made a lot of travellers understand what many women already know. Safety is paramount.

Elms isn't planning to take any extra safety precautions when she does travel next.

"I think that you just have to have a good head on your shoulders, and if you're aware of your surroundings, and you're uncomfortable in a situation, then get yourself out of it," she says.

Both women continue to work towards their dream of working abroad.

Novak wants to work as a tour guide in South America, and Elms is looking forward to another international co-op in Swaziland, Africa, before she begins working fulltime abroad.

"I don't know what I'll end up doing, I want to work in a rural community, and help agriculture, and help them be able to afford sustainable food for themselves and to build houses," Elms says. "I don't know what I'll be doing, but it's most likely going to be in another country."



COURTESY



COURTESY

Robyn Elms journey to Spain (above), Costa Rica (top right), South Africa (right), Australia (bottom right) and England (below)



COURTESY



COURTESY

Her father, David Elms, worries about his daughter, travelling around the world alone, but has learned he can't tie her down.

"We tried to bring her up with her eyes open to life. Maybe we've left the reins a little bit too loose, but she is a very determined, and stubborn young lady, and I would never consider saying no to her," he explains. "Whether that's bad parenting or good parenting, I'm honestly not sure."

Writer Brianne Binelli has travelled to the Middle East, Europe and Central America. She's been published in Canadian Living and Canadian Wild.



COURTESY

# Tips for trips:

By REBECCA VIRGIN

## BEFORE YOU TRAVEL ABROAD

- Ask around for advice.
- Get an International Student Identification Card from TravelCUTS to save on airfare, accommodations, tours and attractions.
- Photocopy important documents, including airline tickets, passports and traveller's cheques. Leave one set at home with a friend, and keep the other set separate from the documents you've photocopied in your luggage. If any of it is lost, you'll be glad for the backup.
- The cheapest flights to Europe go through the UK, but you'll have to pay more to get to the mainland.
- Airfare is more expensive this year because of security surcharges and fewer competing Canadian airlines. Combat this with flexibility and travel mid-week to avoid weekends.
- Figure out how much time you have and then fit what you can into that frame.

## ON BIKING

- Practice long rides to increase pedalling speed.
- Drink plenty of fluids and take periodic stops at comfortable, regular pit stops.
- Wear only what you'll need. You'll have to carry whatever you bring.
- Sweat is a threat. It can cause dehydration or severe cold, so don't push yourself too hard.
- Buy a bike trailer and load it up carefully. Bring three sets of sleeping, camping, and riding wear.
- It's not a race, unless it's the Tour de France.

## ON HOSTELLING

- Make reservations ahead of time when possible.
- Sit down with your travel partner and map out each other's strengths and weaknesses about travelling before leaving.
- You'll carry what you buy with you constantly, so keep the heavy shopping until the end of your trip.
- Expect to pay about \$20 a night, more in Paris but less in Greece.
- Buy food at grocery stores. Make use of free hostel breakfasts.
- Pack all the bare necessities you think you'll need, then take away half.
- Take shower sandals and a smaller, quick-drying shammy instead of a towel.
- Don't even think about bringing a sleeping bag. Fold a bed sheet instead, and sew it up into a "sleep-sheet".
- A little pillow is good to have, especially if you plan on taking any night trains.
- Take dozens of pictures and bring the film from home, it's cheaper.
- Keep a journal.
- Talk to other back-packers along the way to find the cheapest things to do and places to see.

Sources: Stephanie O'Neal, Tara Browne and Aldo Sorenti



JESSICA GLENNITZ'S PHOTOS FROM HER TRAVELS IN NEPAL (TOP RIGHT), CAMBODIA (TOP LEFT), THAILAND (RIGHT) AND KATHMANDU, NEPAL (ABOVE)

# Following the nomads

By MELANIE BUTERA

FOR SOME, TRAVELLING ISN'T A TEMPORARY escape, it's a way of life.

Andrew Marriot, 25, has traversed 22 American states, 28 European countries and all 10 Canadian provinces. While in university, he decided travelling would be a "noble pursuit."

"It just seemed logical," he says. "It sounds corny but, you live on the planet, I don't see why you wouldn't want to go out and have a look to see what's out there; how people are different and how people are the same."

Travelling, he says, can become an obsession.

Another frequent flyer, Jessica Glennitz agrees.

"I knew that I was going to Europe," she says. "That I was going to travel around there and I got a working holiday-maker visa so that I was able to work in England and make some money. Then I knew that I might do some more travelling and it started with me asking my friends, 'So, have you ever been to Thailand?'"

That, she says, started her journey.

"I didn't want to go home," she admits. "I guess I didn't feel like it was done. Maybe it's because I was just starting my career and I didn't have anything else lined up, but I just wanted to go. You just think, 'There are so many beautiful places, there are so many things to see. I haven't been to Egypt, I haven't been to Australia, I haven't been anywhere in Africa. I haven't been to South America.' The list just gets bigger. 'Russia, what's that like?'"

Not all tourists want to travel off the beaten path. For some, like high school teacher Leanne Baird, travelling is best when she knows what's coming.

"I would never backpack or go get a job [in Europe]. You don't know where you're going or what circumstances will come up. There's tons of uncertainty. I prefer [to stay] at hotels," Baird says.

She has been to resorts in Mexico, Paris and the Seychelles Islands and travelled to Montreal and Newfoundland.

"I like the stability of knowing this is the resort you're going to, this is what happens, this is what the weather's going to be like," she says.

Long-term travellers say living and working in someone else's homeland gives them a better idea of how different people live. It also gives them a greater appreciation for home.

At first, Glennitz says she didn't miss home. "You're always on the go and constantly stimulated by wonderful things. You're waking up everyday and going to galleries or museums or walking around beautiful cities, just having interesting experiences."

But there were times she felt unsafe. After a near-mishap on a bus in Nepal, she had second thoughts about home.

"I really have a new-found appreciation for Canada," she says. "It's a really wonderful country. I just wanted to kiss the floor at the airport. You realize how safety-conscious we are and that is good."

Long-term travellers immerse themselves in

foreign life, but for short-term travellers like Baird, the draw is relaxation.

"It's more of a hassle to do anything like that [live in other countries] because then you have to change yourself, you have to fit in to that type of environment where I'd rather go for fun and relaxation."

Lucilla D'Alesio of Hamilton agrees, but says she also enjoys learning about other cultures. She just doesn't want to rough it.

"When we were in Hawaii, we went to the culture centre. I like learning about other cultures to an extent, but not to fit in with it. I like to be educated but not experience it directly," she says.

Marriot sees his travels as an alternative education. He says entrenching himself in culture forced an appreciation he couldn't get from books alone.

"I think for some people it's a way of life," Marriot says. "Some people have just their home base altogether and they've just become gypsies, so to speak."

And while D'Alesio sees the point, she says her lifestyle makes long-term travel difficult.

"If I was still single, maybe I'd try travelling more but, being married, you're at a different level mentality wise. My home, my lifestyle, that's where my heart is."

Melanie Butera is a Toronto writer. Her scariest travelling experience was being swept into the Gulf of Mexico by an undercurrent. She was rescued by a young Spanish waiter.

# PSYCHIC TOWN

U.S.A.

## Where everybody knows your name

By JANET GIBSON

NINETY YEARS BEFORE WALT DISNEY STAKED OUT SOME LAND in central Florida for Disney World, spiritualist George Colby trekked through the woods 35 miles away, prompted by his spirit guide, until he came upon a place surrounded by hills near a lake and a spring.

Fulfilling a prophecy he received during a seance at the age of 10, Colby formed a community of spiritualists called the Cassadaga Spiritual Camp in Cassadaga, Fla., now one of the oldest active spiritualist centres in the southeastern U.S.

Along with thousands of travellers who drive by moss-draped Cypress trees en route to Cassadaga in search of a "reading" or a "contact" with a lost loved one, have come entrepreneurs who smell fortune.

The original camp, consisting of 27 certified mediums and headquartered in the Andrew J. Davis Bookstore and Information Centre, sits across from the Cassadaga Hotel and down the street from the Universal Centre and Purple Rose Trading Company, all of which are marked on the camp's Web site as "not associated with Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp".

"All the houses to one side of the street are of the old religion and all the people in the hotel area are kind of the new age type," says Tom Clauser, owner of Clauser's Bed and Breakfast. "The (original) ones that have been here have drawn people from all over the world and I think the new age ones saw that and said, 'Well geez we can have a part of that action.'"

"If you walk through town and you look at the (homes) of the old style ones, they have these little signs out. They're very small and modest. Now when you look at the ones who do fortune-telling [the signs] are bigger," Clauser adds.

"The psychics believe when someone dies their soul doesn't go away right away. The difference in the new age ones that just came into town 10 or 15 years ago [is that] they believe in tarot cards and reading your palms, where a true psychic doesn't believe in any of that stuff. The psychics or mediums would be offended if you called them fortune tellers," Clauser adds.



COURTESY Kay Simon, Cassadaga aura photographer

While Clauser uses the words "psychic" and "medium" interchangeably, spiritualists say there is a difference between the two.

"I believe a psychic uses more ways than what are outlined by a medium to assess a communication," says clairvoyant Fran Ellison.

Diana Mott, owner of the Cassadaga Herbs, is practising Clairvoyance who has been a medium since she was a child.

"We believe that the gift of mediumship comes from God and that we use it to help others. We don't say you don't have to do your reading this way or that way," she says. "A lot of people that come here want to see physical. They don't want to just listen to you talk. They want to see something down on their hand or on the table with the cards — they need that to hold on to."

Ellison elaborates on the breadth of camp practices.

"We don't use the psychic sciences, things like tarot or palmistry, but we believe they are valid sciences if they're used by a certified practitioner," Ellison says. "We're a spiritualist camp so we use strictly mediumship."

Of course, a town like Cassadaga would have its share of resident ghost stories.

"What we're doing now on Friday and Saturday night is having spirit tours," Mott says.

There are many strange and wonderful things to see in Cassadaga. The town is often overrun by tourists, which has led to the arrival of many new vendors.

Clauser believes the vendors have caused some controversy among old guard spiritualists.

"However," she says, "since there are other people in the public that maybe don't even agree with the old guard psychics believe that psychics kind of work and that's how they're doing something that's different from the old guard. I guess we'll leave these people alone."

Writer Janet Gibson has been published in the Lindsay Daily Post and North York Mirror.



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# WHO gonna CALL?



By MARTINA LAVOIE

**T**HINK YOUR FRIENDS ARE SCARY? YOU SHOULD meet some of the characters Matthew Didier hangs around with.

Didier, a mild-mannered computer technician by day, but ghost-hunter by night, founded the Ghosts and Hauntings Research Society five years ago.

In addition to handling an endless stream of e-mails, the 34-year-old Toronto native leads 17 active members through haunting investigations and mails out more than 2,000 newsletters.

Of course, he gets more than a few offers to join his team.

But don't look for scary encounters here: the GHRs mandate is telling the story, presenting the facts, legends, and history.

In a recent encounter in his home, *Out There* chatted with Didier about his job and his encounters with ghosts.

**OT: WHAT DOES A TYPICAL INVESTIGATION ENTAIL?**

**DIDIER:** We get an initial report in. We determine who is available, and if there are any specialty needs involved.

If it's mostly visible phenomena, I want my photographers involved.

The first step is actually not to go anywhere near the home, or the place. It's to say "Okay – what's the phenomena being reported? Let's say laughing children – Okay, where's the home?" Go off to the land registry, find out who lived there, then hit the libraries. Do a web search. Do a quick historical check. Do the laughing children have a basis in history that we can find?

The last stage is to go on site with the group. There is an initial walk around – we prefer if we do it by ourselves to see if we can key into something.

Do we hear the laughing children? Did we notice a cold spot? Because that allows us to make our own judgments.

Unfortunately if somebody takes you around and points into a corner and says that's the haun-

ted corner, you're going to concentrate on it far too much. We spend a few hours and try to collect information.

After that we try to put all the pieces of the puzzle together and see if we come up with anything. Sometimes we do. Sometimes we don't.

**OT: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GHOSTBUSTING AND WHAT YOU GUYS DO?**

**DIDIER:** A ghostbuster is usually someone who offers to clear homes or spaces, someone who is offering to come in and get rid of your pesky ghost.

We're only offering to come in, hear what you have to say, take notes, then maybe go through the land registrar's office – then through some library and other stuffy old areas and see if we can find out if the strange man that's wandering around your kitchen actually has some basis in history.

**OT: ARE THE INVESTIGATIONS PRIMARILY TO FUEL THE WEBSITE OR TO HELP PEOPLE?**

**DIDIER:** A little bit of both actually. One of the most common emails we get is congratulating us and saying what a great site it is, or "It's nice to know I'm not crazy, that somebody else is experiencing this."

**OT: HOW MANY CASES ARE CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION?**

**DIDIER:** There are eight ongoing investigations right now.

**OT: IS THAT TYPICAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR?**

**DIDIER:** No. We are very busy for some reason.

I just did a four-year rundown of activity on the site. Our heaviest months are usually September and October, for fairly obvious reasons.

Last year we weren't that busy, and it's understandable. See in September last year people were a little distracted.

That huge influx of people in September and October – they seem to be spreading themselves over the winter this year.

**OT: HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO ON ACTUAL INVESTIGATIONS?**

**DIDIER:** There's the thing: I have eight investigations, but only two onsite coming up in the next two months.

**OT: WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WAS YOUR SCARIEST ENCOUNTER?**

**DIDIER:** Merritt House in St. Catharines – I've never been in a place where so much has happened at the same time. Very, very active location. Especially the first three times we were there.

In the course of two hours it wouldn't be unusual to have seven or eight occurring phenomena that could be attributed to ghosts. We've even gotten audio tapes from there that have conveyed very interesting evidence of sorts.

**OT: ARE YOU A SKEPTIC OR A BELIEVER?**

**DIDIER:** The word skeptic has somehow become synonymous with debunker. I'm not a debunker. I am – in the purist sense of the word – a skeptic. I will completely believe when I see absolute proof.

I would say that I'm an open-minded skeptic – I'm more prone to belief than disbelief, but by the same token, I don't like jumping to any conclusions.

**OT: WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT DO YOU USE?**

**DIDIER:** It depends on the scenario and what the situation is. I guess the coolest gizmo is a parabolic listening device. It is capable of hearing a conversation 150 yards away. [It's] very handy in a house that people are telling us is empty, we can just point it at the front hallway and ascertain that rather rapidly. It's also good for picking up minute sounds.

We have an EMF detector – Electromagnetic Field – this is almost standard stock in trade merchandise for ghost hunters.

**OT: HAVE YOU SCARED ANY GHOSTS AWAY?**

**DIDIER:** We're not there to communicate with anything, or push anything out the door. We don't clear homes. We're there to tell the story.

To contact Matthew Didier or to read one of the more than 300 ghost stories on the Ghosts and Hauntings Research Society's page, visit [www.torontoghosts.org](http://www.torontoghosts.org).

*Martina Lavoie isn't afraid of ghosts but she's never met one. She used to want to swirl baton professionally but chose journalism instead.*

# Paradise lost?

## Why does no one care about this sinking nation?

By DAN BIRCH

CRUISING ALONG HIGHWAY 401 IN A GAS-GUZZLING sport utility vehicle, chances are the last thing on your mind is the plight of tiny Pacific island nations like Nauru.

But the burning of fossil fuels, such as gasoline and other greenhouse gasses is a large contributor to global warming. Some scientists contend that the warming of the Earth's atmosphere has led to diminishing polar ice caps and consequently, rising ocean waters.

For low-lying island nations in the Pacific - Nauru, Tuvalu and Kiribati, to name a few - the prospect of swelling ocean waters is a threat to their very existence.

"It is an extremely serious situation," says John Bennett, director of atmosphere and energy for the Sierra Club of Canada. "There will be a time when people will have to find new places to live."

While Pacific islands haven't yet been swamped by rising tides, cyclones and other tropical storms have grown in number as a result of climate change, Bennett adds.

And now, some of the world's wealthiest nations have started to waver in their support of the Kyoto Protocol - an accord that would lower

greenhouse gas emissions by six per cent from 1990 levels by 2010. The United States has already declined ratification of the accord. Critics of Kyoto say the economic impact of curbing emissions is too great, while others simply doubt the science behind global warming.

While the U.S. has clearly stated its position, Canada has not, says Martin Mittelstadt, an environmental reporter for *The Globe and Mail*.

"I think that Canada's position is much more ambiguous," says Mittelstadt.

Canada has sought environmental credits for its vast tracts of forest, which ultimately absorb greenhouse gases.

After winning this concession, Canada is now seeking further credits for exporting cleaner burning fuels, like natural gas, to the United States.

Canada has still not committed to ratifying Kyoto.

By not ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, the U.S. has demonstrated little concern for the future of Pacific island countries, Bennett says.

"The U.S. does not care what happens to these countries. It has made that quite clear," he says. Without a commitment to reducing greenhouse gasses from the world's biggest producers, some tiny Pacific island nations may have no choice but to relocate their populations, Bennett says.

Tuvalu, for instance, is negotiating an agreement with New Zealand concerning environmental refugees who may be forced by rising waters to flee their homeland.

During the drafting of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, then Nauruan President Kinza Clodumar pleaded with the world's industrial leaders to cut greenhouse gasses.

"The coastal fringe where my people live is but two metres above the sea surface," Clodumar said at the time. "We are trapped, a wasteland to our back, and to our front, a terrifying rising flood of biblical proportions."

Nauru is the smallest republic in the world. It sits roughly halfway between Australia and Hawaii. All of Nauru's 12,000 inhabitants live along a fertile ring of vegetation on the pear-shaped island's edge. Should the Pacific Ocean rise above this ring, Nauruans would be faced with abandoning their 21 square kilometre island in favor of some unsettled Pacific isle.

Nauru has its own homegrown difficulties. It is anything but an island paradise. Much of Nauru is a virtual moonscape of coral spires reaching toward the equatorial sun. The central plateau is a barren wasteland, the result of nearly 100 years of phosphate mining.

Phosphate is the island's principal industry and is processed and sold as fertilizer across the world.

Phosphate has given Nauruans significant wealth, especially in comparison to neighboring Pacific islands, says journalist Robert Keith-Reid, who writes for *Pacific Magazine* from an office in Fiji.

In Kiribati, Nauru's closest neighbor, gross domestic product per capita stands at \$850 US, according to the *CIA World Fact Book*. By comparison, Nauru's per capita GDP is much higher, at \$5,000 US.

The environmental cost of phosphate mining to Nauru can not be easily ignored. Ninety per cent of the phosphate is unsuitable for human life. And now the phosphate is running out, with supplies expected to dwindle to the point of exhaustion within the decade, Keith-Reid says.

Mittelstadt concedes the issue of slowly sinking Pacific islands hasn't gotten much ink in Canadian newspapers, including the *Globe*.

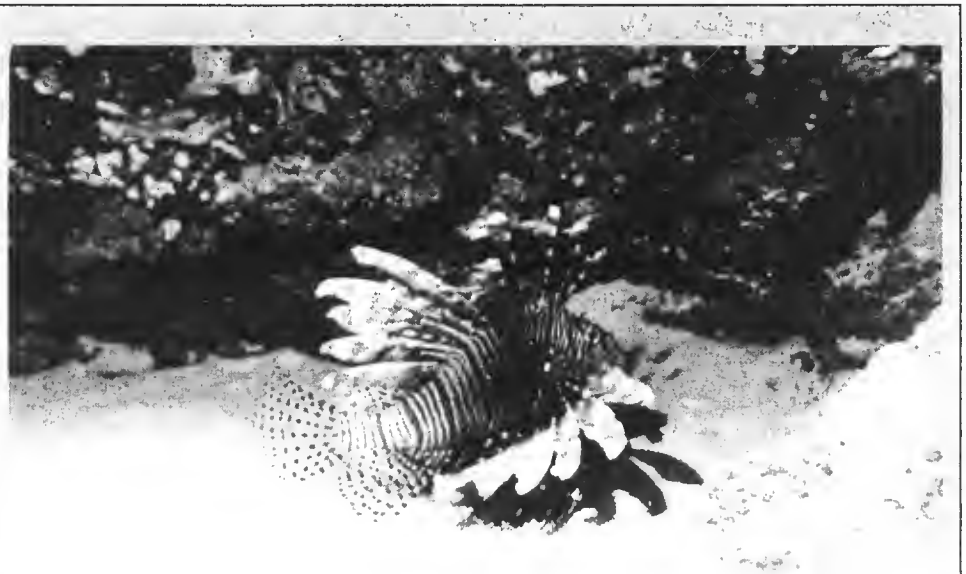
"We've done a small amount of coverage," he says. "I think that there could always be more."

And when it comes to the concerns of industrial nations for small Pacific islands, Mittelstadt says, "I think that countries are more concerned about the impact [of global warming] on themselves."

Dan Birch has been published by Reuters and *The Orillia Packet & Times*. He hopes one day to travel to Nauru.

**"We are trapped, a wasteland to our back, and to our front, a terrifying rising flood of biblical proportions."**

- KINZA CLODUMAR



COURTESY



Reef life just off of Nauru's coast

## Fun in Nauru's setting sun

By DAN BIRCH

TOURISM MAY OFFER A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR Nauruans who desire a sustainable industry in the future. Scuba diving in year-round warm Pacific waters is one thing the island has in its favour.

As well, the ocean surrounding Nauru is rich in sea life, and provides excellent sport fishing opportunities.

Diving off the island's coral reef is challenging, but rewarding according to Fernando Costa, a well-travelled Australian engineer who lived with his family in Nauru for five years during the early 1980s. He completed more than 500 dives while on the island, which sits some 4,000 kilometres northeast of Sydney.

"It's a different dive [off Nauru]," Costa says. "Even the coral reef is different because of the isolation of the island and the fact that you are diving very, very deep."

"A person who goes to dive in Nauru needs to be an experienced diver, because you sort of

have to dive off a cliff," he adds. "If someone wants to enjoy a leisurely dive, go to Fiji."

The cliff that Costa speaks of is a steep coral ledge surrounding Nauru. Once beyond the ledge, a diver can descend as deep as 100 metres, all the while viewing exotic coral, plant life, and even the odd shark.

Nauru is not set up for travellers. There are, for instance, no all-inclusive packages. In order to dive with skilled divers who may act as guides, one would have to contact the local Nauru dive club. There are just a few hotels on the island, while only one — the Menen Hotel — offers comfortable lodging. Rooms at the Menen range between \$80 and \$160 per night.

Getting to Nauru can be tricky, as the island's national airline, Air Nauru, is often unreliable. In the past, Air Nauru's lone airplane has been grounded for safety reasons.

But Reid-Keith adds optimistically, "It's quite an interesting place to go. There is potential there for having people stop off for a few days to go sport fishing and just to see a very curious place."



# Ground Zero revisited



PETER LAFRENIERE

By JULIE BELL

MY USUAL EXCITEMENT IN WAITING TO GET tickets was replaced with a sense of sadness.

A long line of people snaked back and forth through metal barriers ahead and behind me. We awaited the opening of the tiny ticket booth on Pier 16 in New York.

Among the many attractions I had planned to see while spending my reading week in New York was Ground Zero.

I would finally be able to pay my respects after the Sept. 11 tragedy, and take in a piece of history, but there was a part of me that was riddled with guilt. Was Ground Zero becoming more of a tourist attraction than a place of mourning?

As I waited in the line for my free ticket to the viewing platform, I spoke to other students who seemed to be faced with the same dilemma.

Jay Franken, who was also visiting Ground Zero, helped put the feeling into perspective.

"I think it's more of an issue of necessity than making it a trendy tourist attraction. A lot of people want to come to pay their respects, and it's just a better way of keeping all those people managed and keeping the situation under control," he said.

"I'm here to pay my respects. It might not bring closure, but at least maybe it will finally sink home."

I had to agree with him, although I still felt guilty.

After a 45-minute wait at the ticket booth, I took a brisk 10-minute walk from the pier to Broadway and Fulton Street.

Reality began to sink in.

I stopped at an intersection, waiting for the spotlight to change and felt my stomach flip a little as I noticed the long, wooden platform on the other side of the road. It was bisected by a wooden barrier, and rose just enough that I was unable to see what awaited me and the many other visitors at the top.

I crossed, weaving my way through the crowds that were gathered in the area, and came

to something that stopped me dead in my tracks.

A church-yard fence, serving as a memorial area had been created by the many who had already visited. Only small traces of fence peeked through the thousands of flags, photos, paper cranes, signs and letters that quietly demanded respect.

I handed my ticket to a security guard and made my way to the bottom of the ramp.

There was already a disturbingly heavy feeling in the air.

It became obvious that many others had waited here before. The walls on either side of us were plastered in signatures, prayers and well wishes, etched in pen, marker and whatever writing instrument could be dug out of a backpack or purse.

I waited anxiously, trying to keep myself warm, load my camera properly, anything that would temporarily suppress the nagging voice in my head that kept telling me that my visit was wrong.

A security guard signalled our turn to observe the reality of what once was the World Trade Center.

I slowly climbed the platform with the other visitors.

After almost six months of watching endless television reports on the terrorist attacks, hearing personal stories and reading countless articles, I thought I had a grasp of the horror that had swept New York.

It wasn't until I reached the top of the viewing platform and witnessed the empty void that I realized that my being there was not wrong at all.

No matter how upset and disturbed I had felt about Sept. 11, it had never truly felt real. Franken was right. Such a horrible loss needed to



PETER LAFRENIERE

be seen with our own eyes to be truly understood and accepted.

It was a shock that will remain with me.

The space that once contained the largest office building in America now looked like a construction site, full of bulldozers, cranes and equipment.

I closed my eyes for a moment to try to hold back my tears, and noticed the lack of noise in the area.

The typical New York honking and yelling that I had become accustomed to that week had faded into a deafening silence, interrupted only occasionally by the sound of the equipment below.

Looking up, I noticed how the tall buildings that surrounded Ground Zero seemed to loom over it, towering above its scattered remains.

The most noticeable was a large office building beside the site. It was covered in a black veil with a large American flag sewn into the top. Large chunks of its walls were missing.

Workers were spread across the site, still

clearing the remains of steel and the tiny pieces of the World Trade Center that remained. I can only imagine what earlier visitors had witnessed on that same platform over the past few months. The destruction seemed unreal, even after almost six months of clean up.

After a few quick photos and one last look, we were ushered away from the platform and onto the down-ramp in order to make way for another large group of visitors.

Suddenly I understood. Ground Zero wasn't an overhyped, commercialized attraction.

It was a place that gave the world a chance to appreciate and respect the struggles this city and its people had, and are, overcoming.

On my way down the ramp, I pulled a pen out of my bag and acknowledged what I had witnessed the only way I knew how.

"God bless you, New York. Love Julie in Toronto."

*Julie Bell is a Toronto-based writer who visited New York with friends during the spring break*



# Night Hawks:

## Tales from the graveyard shift

By CAROLINE GRECH

**T**HE CLOCK READS 10:15 P.M. WHILE MOST people are relaxing at home, 25-year-old Aimee Bruner is getting ready to go work her shift that starts at 11 p.m. and ends at 9 a.m.

Bruner is a direct care worker for the Muki-Baum Association and every six weeks she has to work five overnight shifts in a row.

Although Bruner loves her job, she hates the night shift.

She is just one of many people who start when everyone is going to sleep.

"I haven't done one in two months because I try to give them away, if I can," Bruner says. "I always try to trade them in for day shifts. They are horrible."

The Association works with children and adults with developmental disabilities. Bruner works with children, taking care of them, playing with them and helping them with their daily routines.

Although Bruner can nap during the night, she says her sleep is often disturbed because the boys she is caring for will wake up throughout the night.

The concept of night shifts was born with the Industrial Revolution, and an increased need to boost worker production. Thomas Edison's invention of the lightbulb in 1879 helped workers stay productive into the night, creating the first graveyard shifts.

Today, night shifts are not uncommon. Police and firefighters are two obvious examples of the many occupations that require shift work to be done in the early morning hours.

Some high-profile disasters have occurred on the overnight shift. The 1986 nuclear disaster at

Chernobyl began at 1:23 a.m. — the result of human error — while the 1979 nuclear event at Three Mile Island, in the United States, occurred between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m..

Recent studies have shown that night work also comes with a personal price.

A 2001 study conducted by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle found a strong link between night-time light exposure and cancer risk.

According to the study, the risk for breast cancer in women can be as much as 60 per cent higher for those exposed to light at night.

The theory behind the study is that night workers produce less of the hormone melatonin, which can lead to higher levels of estrogen. High levels of estrogen are a known cancer risk.

University of Toronto professor Dr. Harvey Moldofsky, medical director of the Centre for Sleep and Chronobiology, says the effects on night shift workers are broad.

"A night shift worker who is tired is more likely to make mistakes or get injured. This impacts their work environment, their performance and thirdly their relationships with their family, because they are living on a different schedule."

According to Dr. Moldofsky there are dangerous consequences from driving a car after working an overnight shift.

"If you have been awake for 17 hours or

more, it is equivalent to a blood alcohol level of 0.95 per cent. If you have been awake for 24 hours it is equivalent to a blood alcohol level of 0.1 per cent. Which means you are completely inebriated and you are not safe to operate anything," he says.

Despite this, most people finishing their late night shift will climb into their cars and drive home.

A 1999 study funded by the American Automobile Association found people who are involved in sleep and fatigue-related crashes were four to five times more likely to work night shift jobs.

Bruner emphatically agrees with the results of this study, citing her own early morning mistakes on her 30-minute drive home from work.

"I have run red lights twice, once on my way home from a night shift, and the other after finishing

an afternoon shift. I realized as I was in the middle of the intersection," Bruner explains.

Bruner also explains that it takes her body a long time to recover from the late shift.

"The day after I work a night shift I feel like I have been hit by a truck. I am totally lethargic, I can't do anything for the rest of the day. It wastes my whole day, because I'm too exhausted to go out with my friends. I can't nap so I will just sit down on the couch, like some monotonous person," she says.

"My family hates when I do the night shift

**"The day after I work a night shift I feel like I have been hit by a truck."**

**-AIMEE BRUNER**

because after I am finished I don't even want to talk to anyone," she explains.

Bruner has worked the shift for more than a year, but her body still has to come to terms with the altered internal clock.

Dr. Moldofsky says it is common for night shift workers to be irritable and depressed due to sleep deprivation.

Another study conducted by the University of Surrey in England has linked heart disease to night-time work.

This particular study looked at 12 healthy night workers aged 24 to 34.

Their hormonal and metabolic responses to meals were measured during daytime on a normal working day, during the night time at the beginning of a period of night shift work and during the daytime on return from night working to daytime working.

The subjects did a normal week of nine to five shifts then switched to a week of midnight to 8 a.m. shifts.

The study discovered that after a meal, night shift workers' blood levels of glucose, insulin and fat were significantly higher than during normal daytime hours.

When fat levels are high, it is easier for fat deposits to form on the inside of arteries, which leads to vascular disease.

Despite the obvious danger posed to those working the night shift, there is no sign of the overnight shift disappearing. An increasing number of stores and businesses are now open 24 hours, making it likely that the need for night shift workers will increase.

*Caroline Grech works midnight to 8 a.m. at The Toronto Star on police, ambulance and fire station scanners keeping an ear open for crime and chaos in the city.*

# Our own MOULIN Rouge

**Comedian Milton Berle may be dead, but burlesque, the-high-on-shock value entertainment that gave life to his comedy career is still alive.**

**The form may be different, but as Mike Dal Maso discovered in a recent downtown subterranean unit, the spirit is unchanged.**

By MICHAEL DAL MASO



Miss Pynky Love Goddess

"At home, I'm dad. All of this, the dress, the make-up comes off, but when I'm up there," he says, motioning with his head to the stage, "I'm working."

He quickly runs off to fix his make-up and I return to watching the glorious blasphemy.

Salt Peter is in a shirt and pants as she chases Candy around the crumpled robe on the stage floor. Candy's dress is beside the robe. She scuttles around the stage in her heels and is baiting the priest to take off the rest.

Work indeed. The Parisian Burlesque seems less like a place of work and more like one of Paul Reuben's (AKA Pee Wee Herman) dreams come to life on LSD, exploding with pink lights and drag queens, sailors and lounge singers.

The performers rush about backstage, trying to dress themselves and get their makeup together with the zeal and aggravation of true performers.

It is clearly not money driving their ambition, but instead their love of the stage.

Again, Prometheus is in front of the audience. Throughout the night, with the leather strap dangling around his arm, he has introduced a string of different performers in his sloshed-out drawl.

The star feature, one Miss Pynky Love Goddess, comes on stage to perform *Ninety-nine Red Balloons*.

She is holding a bundle of red balloons and is pulling her pet dog, Ginger, behind her.

Ginger has a red balloon tied to her collar, but opts to sit frozen in fright at the back of the stage. The audience cheers.

Backstage, the fantasy nurse has lost control and is yelling out to Pynky during the song.

"Oh, oh Pynky, you're fabulous," she shouts. "Absolutely fabulous! You rock Pynky! Fabulous! FAB-U-LOUS!"

Others backstage join Prometheus in an effort to shut her up. They shush her, waving their hands and urgently tell her to be quiet.

Coming off stage, Pynky is ecstatic. She's been elusive for most of the evening, and earlier said that the Parisian Burlesque show is not about her, but everyone involved.

"Pynky Love Goddess is about love, beauty, life, music, dance, joy it is about living," she declares.

With that, she blows a kiss to my tape recorder, to reassure it of its "fabulousness", and bids adieu.

*Michael Dal Maso has been published in Core and Just Music and hopes to one day don a corsette and perform at the Reverb's annual burlesque show.*

## Papal visit not without controversy

By DIANA MARIANI

**T**OPICS SUCH AS CONTRACEPTION, AND BISHOPS' BAN ON CONDOMS MAY NOT be on the top of Pope John Paul II's agenda for World Youth Day, but groups seeking church reform campaign for to free choice.

The week long meeting will attract thousands of young people from all parts of the world. But it will also attract many Roman Catholic activists looking to capitalize on the large audiences, to spread their message of change.

While church groups are already busy organizing volunteers, booking venues and calling upon the public to billet the young people from around the world for the biennial 11-day youth conference, Church reformers are also gearing up for action.

The Washington-based Catholics For A Free Choice oppose the church's ban on condoms. Vice President Jon O'Brien says "[World Youth Day] is wonderful but, the fact is that young Catholics are not progressive and don't know how to disagree with the church."

Previous Youth Days have seen their share of protesters but Christina Parsons, a World Youth Day Communications Officer, says that "at any large event there are going to be people that will demonstrate their views. Everyone has the freedom to express their opinion. We aren't worried because we have yet to encounter any problems."

Campaigns such as Condoms4Life, run by Catholics For A Free Choice, raise awareness of the effect the condom ban can have on society.

The latest campaign, which includes billboards in several North American cities, claims the church's condom ban hurts the poorest of the poor.

"Their big charge is that our Bishops don't care about our youth," says Parsons. "The church believes that the way to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS is to practice abstinence before marriage and fidelity in marriage."

World Youth Day organizers estimate some 580,000 young people, from more than 120 countries, will register for one of the largest peaceful gatherings in the world.

"World Youth Day is a call to the young people of the world to be saints in the new millennium," says Parsons. "This is the age that people need the most support."

She added that "the church has to hold the bar very high so that the youth have a standard to reach. If more things like condoms are available, more promiscuity will go around."

O'Brien disagrees.

"Poll after poll finds that what you'll find is Catholic people have very different views on issues related to the church," he says.

Frank Sorbara, World Youth Day director for the York Region believes that topics of faith and morals will always remain controversial.

"The Church sets a foundation for the young people. It is not a question of being cafeteria Catholics and choosing what to follow," he says.

The events in Toronto will kick off July 23 at Exhibition Place with dancing, music and theatre. Bishops from all over the world will gather on this take part in the celebrations.

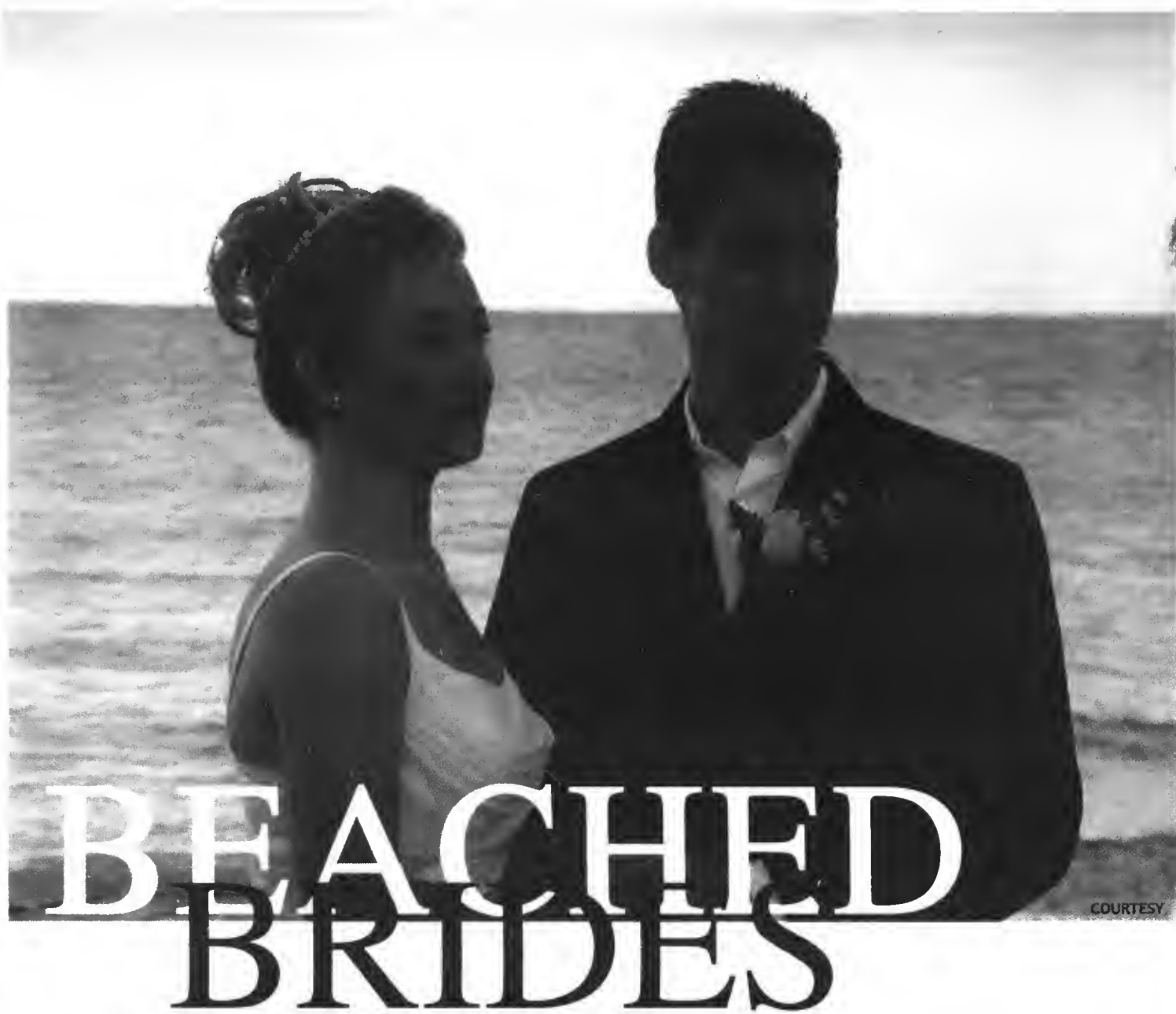
Youth aging 16 to 35, who need not be Catholic to participate, can take part in a service project by volunteering for activities like visiting hospitals, working with the homeless and assisting in food banks.

"It is an experience to promote social justice," says Parsons. The Stations of the Cross will be played out along University Avenue to the Royal Ontario Museum as a welcoming ceremony for the Pope. The gathering will end with a mass given by the Pope at Downsview Park, followed by a camp out under the stars on the park grounds.

"This event is for the youth of the world, not just the youth of the Catholic world. All walks of life are welcome," Parsons says.

*Diana Mariani is a first-year Humber journalism student.*





## Strictly ballroom

Salsas, jives and cha-chas all the rage on the dance floor

By CHARMAINE MERCHANT

**B**ALLROOM DANCING, ONCE ASSOCIATED with 1940's musicals, is making a comeback.

Dancesport is the new ballroom dancing, the sexy Latin salsas and energetic swinging jitterbugs that draws teens and twentysomethings to the dance floor. There's more to the sweeping waltzes and deliberate tangos than just older couples floating around in tuxedos and fancy gowns.

Helena Granger, ballroom dance teacher for 37 years and member of the Canadian Dance Teachers Association, runs classes at the Academy of Ballroom and Latin Dancing on Dundas Street. She says students want to learn cha-chas, salsa, jives, and merengues most.

"Dancing is a great stress reliever," Granger says. "By the end of the class, students say it was so much fun. You forget about what made you angry before you came."

Rita Ridaz agrees. Owner of the Rita Ridaz Dance Academy on Spadina Avenue, Ridaz says learning to dance offers a renewed passion for life. It increases your energy, improves your appearance and you get opportunities to meet people. Dancing in a social setting, whether at a wedding reception, party or family event, boosts your self-esteem and makes it easier to approach strangers.

Granger believes anyone can dance if they are open to learning.

"Fear is the biggest problem," she says. "People fear they won't have the talent. No one is born with the talent to dance."

"Challenge is a learning process. Give yourself the time and it's okay if it takes you a little while. Maybe you need a different approach, but you will learn."

Lesson fees and times vary. Granger charges \$7.50 per hour, three sessions a week. Other teachers can charge anywhere from \$9 to \$15 an hour, and higher for private lessons.

At Rita Ridaz, all age groups are accepted for private and group classes. Strictly Salsa offers classes twice a week for an hour and a half at \$15 a class. Discount rates are available for class packages. Cards of eight classes run for \$120 and cards for 11 classes are \$150. Gift certificates are available.

The Harbourfront Dance Studio offers five private lessons and ten group classes and prices vary. Most studios don't charge any hidden costs, but the student can choose to buy special shoes. Otherwise, they wear what is comfortable.

The Harbourfront Dance Studio is located at 500 Queen's Quay West, Suite 107E, 416-205-9264.

*First-year journalism student Charmaine Merchant has been published in Share magazine. She could be a master of the dance floor if it weren't for her two left feet.*

By JANINE GOOD

**K**ATHRYN AND DAVID DANGERFIELD SPIKED their love with a romantic beach wedding on a resort volleyball court.

"We loved the idea of getting married down South," Kathryn recalls. "We decided on Cozumel, an island resort of Mexico. We met on a volleyball court, so we thought it was the best place to get married."

Beach weddings, it seems, have become trendy as couples seek this alternative to the stress of weddings set in a city.

Laurie Genereaux, a wedding consultant at Just Honeymoons, an agency specializing in weddings abroad, says more couples are choosing this wedding path.

"A beach wedding is much easier to plan," Genereaux says. "There are still details, but they are more casual. Beach weddings are more fun, and not as stressful as a [traditional] wedding in Canada."

The Dangerfields, not fond of huge spectacles, hoped a beach wedding would kill several birds with one stone.

"We have family all over," Dave says. "It's rare to get our families all together, so we felt since they would have to travel anyway, it might as well be a fun and warm place."

Beach weddings require minimal planning, since everything is done at the chosen destination.

"Everything for a beach wedding is a surprise," David says. "You don't know what the beach looks like except from a brochure. You don't know what the food's like. This just adds to the experience."

The resort co-ordinator handles the details.

"The co-ordinator does everything for you when you choose a tropical resort,"

Kathryn says. "She sets up the beach, organizes the food, the music, the flowers, etc. We had very little to worry about."

If couples opt to do the planning themselves, such as choosing their flowers or cake, there are things to keep in mind.

"Flowers like Tuberoses or Alstromerias are good choices," Joe Currah, a Toronto floral designer said. "You can take common flowers and utilize them in a different way. Choose flowers that are drought tolerant. Native tropical flowers are waxy and quite durable."

Bakery chef Glenn Deane, has these cake suggestions.

"Any kind of wedding cake is fine except for flavours with whipped cream. They will melt in the heat," Deane says. "Strawberry marzipan, or a sponge cake with fresh tropical fruit with sugared starfish or shells placed on top, set the mood."

Whether a local wedding or a wedding abroad, there's bound to be a mishap. The Dangerfield nuptials proved the point.

"During dinner, the power went off," Kathryn said. "We had an unexpected candlelight dinner, which was very romantic. The lights came back on during the first dance."

David remembers what was funny from the groom's perspective.

"The wedding parties were getting their hair done by the pool," he says. "Kath's brother tossed the maid of honour into the pool an hour before the wedding! It was funny, but he got the glares later on from Kath. A couple hairdryers later, she was fixed and ready."

Experts say there are numerous positives to beach weddings.

According to Linda Montemarano at Just Honeymoons, the cost for a couple to wed at

a five-star resort in a location such as Cozumel is roughly \$5000 to \$5500 a couple, which includes the ceremony, reception, accommodation and consulting fees.

The Dangerfields relied on their co-ordinator to set up the entertainment. At the reception, they discovered they were getting a Mariachi band.

"The Mariachi band was hilarious," David says. "The band added a nice little touch to the wedding along with a taste of Mexican culture."

When choosing a beach wedding, you are in a public place. Although you are on a private resort, there will still be strangers catching a glimpse of your wedding.

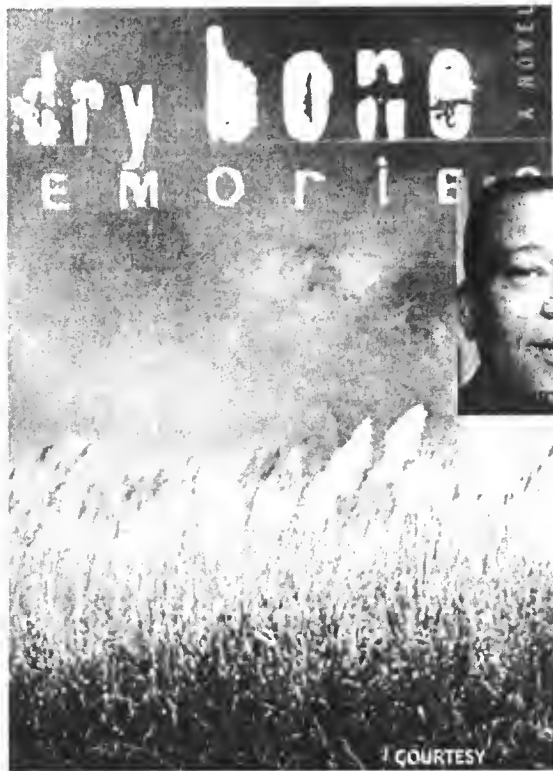
"When choosing your beach, the biggest concern should be logistics," Kathryn says. "Beach weddings are not really private. You are kind of a spectacle. We didn't find it overly problematic, but it might be a concern for other people. Most people stayed a respectful distance away."

For a successful beach wedding, choose a date outside hurricane season, have an open mind, and above all, have fun.

"My advice to anyone is choose a resort with your guests in mind," Kathryn says. "If you expect them to pay their way, don't pick anywhere too expensive. Remember the most important thing is you're there with your husband and legally married. With a beach wedding, you don't have a wedding day, you have a wedding week!"

*Janine Good has lost five bathing suits while water skiing in Georgian Bay. She now wears wet suits and interns at Wedding Essentials.*

# Finding Foster: literary guru



By DAVE BOYINGTON

**E**VIL IS ON CECIL FOSTER'S MIND A LOT THESE days. Last October, he released his latest novel, *Dry Bone Memories*, which explores evil in its many forms. And the release could not have been more timely.

"Some people have said that they thought I

had written it specifically around that time (Sept. 11)," Foster says.

In *Dry Bone Memories*, Foster looks at evil and its issues, such as when humans recognize it, and when to do something about it.

"In a sense that's what happened with Sept. 11," Foster says. "It's an example of when something is small and it grows, and we ought to do something about it. You do not pretend that it doesn't exist."

Foster even has a specific view of what evil is — it's anything that isn't good.

"Good is anything that will allow us to triumph over death. The human quest is ultimately to push back the fountain of death, the fountain of chaos, so that we live in a society that is predictable, and one where we have some certainty. Anything that distracts us from that is evil because it prevents us from achieving what is good for us," he says.

To Foster, distinguishing good from evil is a moral questions.

"They are two sides to the same coin. Once you choose one and say that one is good, one becomes evil," he says.

To Foster, this demands the question "Where do you find happiness?"

"It's really a search for happiness," he says. "That's what I am playing with in the book."

In *Dry Bone Memories*, the narrator, Edmund, a priest, is attempting to piece together his past

and understand how the events of his life in Barbados came to pass.

Edmund lives in the shadow of his older brother Jeffrey, a money and power-hungry islander who returned to Barbados from Canada to make his fortune laundering Colombian drug money.

The majority of the action takes place in Foster's native Barbados.

"I was always a fiction writer. When I was a boy, I liked to write stories," he remembers.

Foster, 47, didn't start out with the intent of becoming an author. He got his start as a journalist in 1973 and moved to Toronto in 1979.

"At the time I was pretty excited," Foster says. "I was a young man, and Canada seemed like a good place as any to go."

During that time, he worked for *The Toronto Star* from 1979-81, and *The Globe and Mail* from 1983-89.

He left the *Globe* for a senior editor's position at *The Financial Post*, where he stayed until 1993.

Foster's first novel, *No Man in the House*, was published in 1991, along with his first non-fiction piece, *Distorted Mirror: Canada's Racist Face*.

"It (*No Man in the House*) had a very good run, it was very successful."

Foster worked in many areas over the next few years, returning to both the *Star* and the *Globe* in 1993 as a columnist.

"I don't want to get into that," he says when asked about his experiences as a journalist. "I don't want to get back into journalism."

Also in 1993, Foster began teaching in the journalism programs at Ryerson University and

Humber College, continuing both until 1996.

"I enjoy teaching. It's one way that allows me to feel useful, in terms of passing along the knowledge that I have acquired so far to another generation," he says.

Foster also kept writing during this time, publishing *Sleep on, Beloved* and his second non-fiction work *Caribbean: The Greatest Celebration* in 1995. Between 1996 and 1998, Foster published three more works, the novel *Slammin' Tar*, and the non-fiction books, *A Place Called Heaven*, *The Meaning of Being Black in Canada*, and *Island Wings: A Memoir*.

Foster says *Dry Bone Memories* continues his desire to teach through writing.

"I think a significant part of teaching is to take people who are critically minded, people who would question their situation and who would want to ask themselves why? I'm hoping that's what I do with a book like *Dry Bone Memories*: raise issues and stimulate discussion, make people probe and maybe come across answers that might not be the answers they expected or that even answer their question," he says.

According to Foster, the question is one of knowledge.

"That's the type of thing that I was dealing with in *Dry Bone Memories*. I talk about what happens when you allow your past to become rusted or thrown away, or your monuments are knocked down."

*Dave Boyington is a first year Humber journalism student and Toronto based writer who likes to curl up with a good book.*

## Ready for a quarter-life crisis?



By JENNIFER CALDWELL

**Y**OU'VE JUST GRADUATED AND CAN'T STOP THINKING to yourself, "What now?"

As graduates leave the security of their post-secondary institutions to seek employment in the real world, they embark on a difficult transition.

Days of knowing how to get from point A to point B to point C are gone. Years of simply

doing the homework, writing the papers and passing the tests are over.

Now, you have to find a job, a life and happiness — and you need to do it soon.

Alexandra Robbins, an American author and freelance writer, knows all about the difficulty transitioning between school and the work force.

"Three weeks after graduation I took the first job offered to me. The perks seduced me. It was good money, good commute and good people, but I hated the actual job. It made me miserable and because what I was doing for a living wasn't meaningful to me my self-esteem crumbled," Robbins explains. "I didn't know that that was normal."

I thought that everybody in their

twenties was happy and I wasn't. I ended up quitting my job."

Robbins didn't get over her crisis until she wrote her first book. The book, *Quarterlife Crisis*, outlines the challenges of living out your twenties.

"Doing all the interviews for the book, I suddenly realized I'm not a freak," she says. "I felt so much better knowing that everybody goes through this."

Robbins and co-author Abby Wilner interviewed more than 100 twenty-somethings to research the crisis young people face.

Now an expert on the stress of graduation, Robbins offers this advice to help soon-to-be grads keep their heads above water.

"Talk to people. Don't be afraid to tell people that you are anxious or doubting yourself and you'll feel better when people reassure you," she says. "Be prepared for culture shock. I view college and undergraduate school as a sort of summer camp. It doesn't segue from high school into the real world. It doesn't work that way."

Robbins attributes the increasing difficulty for youngsters entering the work force to growing employment options, the new Internet age, an overall increase in graduates making competition severe and this generation's tendency to put a lot of pressure on themselves.

"One of the most important things to remember is that it won't go smoothly for anybody," she says. "The twenties are portrayed as this time of carefree, responsibility-free fun. There is that aspect, but you should also expect that there is going to be some anxiety. You are going to have to waffle over some decisions and you're not going to know how your life is going to play out. You're not even going to know how the next year is going to play out. And you just have to accept that."

Admitting you are having issues about your impending freedom is important.

"The worst possible thing that graduates can do is to bottle up all their emotions and fears and anxieties and not tell anybody what you are going through. You might think there is something wrong with you because you are not thrilled to be a twentysomething going out into the real world and go into a clinical depression because of it," she says.

To avoid depression graduates should surround themselves with a support group. Whether that support group consists of friends, families or

professionals is irrelevant.

"You should try and take advantage of every resource out there," Robbins says. "It's good to have a support network in place. It's also good to have things to do besides work that you are passionate about, whether it is volunteering, or sports, or art. You just need something that you can throw yourself into. Something that you can wake up on a Sunday and think 'Oh, good, I have a soccer game today. That makes me happy.' Just something to keep you going."

Career advisor, Helen Filipe, of Humber's Career Centre deals with lots of graduation jitters around this time of year.

"There is this big idea that it is going to be completely different. And it is certainly different, but the truth is that it is still an extension of school. The truth is that employers will still see you as a fresh grad," Filipe says.

Filipe believes the key to a successful transition is holding onto your self-confidence and using your age to your benefit.

"The moment you doubt yourself, the moment you think 'oh my goodness what the heck am I going to do now?' That is when it shows, it is when it projects, and if you don't think you are ready well then no one else will either," she says. "If you ask most of our employers what they are looking for, it is the eagerness and the energy and the willingness to learn that is found in someone young."

Don't pame. Proudly accept that diploma and hang it with pride. Toss the graduation cap high into the sky, reassured that although your twenties won't be as easy as expected, at least you still have your youth.

*After graduation Jennifer Caldwell will be working for the Hamilton Spectator.*

# Squeaky clean

*Squeegee kids are living with mom and dad in the 'burbs*

By NICOLE LARKIN

TORONTO'S STREET YOUTH CALL THEM SUMMERTIME soldiers or weekend warriors. They look a lot like regular squeegee kids, but there's one big difference: these kids aren't homeless.

Many suburban kids are flocking to the city to squeegee during their summer holidays, sending a wave of anger through Toronto's street youth.

Cassandra and Mark live on the streets. They panhandle from behind a large, cardboard boat, wearing hats of old newspaper over matted hair, clenching oars of cardboard tubing. They yell cheerful greetings, hoping to draw in passersby.

"I met a kid on the Salvation Army bus once," says Mark. "They were offering to give him gloves, and he just laughed and said 'I'm not really homeless, I'm just too lazy to go home and get something to eat.'"

Many homeless youth squeegee cars to make enough money to survive, and the influx of suburban youth to the city in the summer takes its toll.

Cassandra has little patience for the suburban interlopers.

"A lot of the squeegee kids you see, especially during the summer, they have homes," she says. "It makes it really hard on us, because we don't have homes. It pisses us off."

The pair has had to be creative to generate more money. Not all the street youth have been able to come up with ways to compensate for the money they lose to the suburban kids. There are fears that many could be turning to more dangerous activities, such as prostitution and drug dealing, in order to bring in the same amount of money.

"If they're not out there squeegeeing, we're concerned about what else they are doing for money," says Rose Cino, media relations manager for Covenant House. "In general, you're seeing a lot fewer (squeegee kids) in the downtown core."

Cino's concern isn't just for the homeless youth, but for the suburban youth posing as squeegee kids as well.

Many of these suburban youths aren't familiar with the unwritten code of Toronto's homeless, and are unaware that most squeegee kids work on corners "owned" by people who have been on the streets for many years.

The people who "own" these territories demand a large cut of what squeegee kids earn. If the squeegee kids refuse, they run the risk of being violently assaulted by other street kids working for the same "owner."

"There are specific territories in Toronto, and a lot of the kids run for older people. There are people who will beat you up for money if they catch you in their territory. It can be kind of rough," says Cino.

A.J., a suburban youth posing as a street kid, found that out last summer.

"A bunch of friends and I heard that the squeegee kids make up to like, 10 bucks an hour, so we decided to get dressed up like them and try it ourselves," he says.

He and his friends came into the city two or three times a week. They would squeegee for several hours, and then take the train home with the money they had made.

"We thought it was the coolest thing, making all this

money for wiping some windows. The last week before school, I wanted some extra cash, so I went into the city by myself. This old guy told me to get off his corner, and I just laughed at him," A.J. says.

"Next thing I knew, three guys that were [squeegeeing] on the other side of the street just ran over and jumped me. They took my cash and my squeegee, and then spit on me and went suburban."

Like most of the suburban kids who don't know the street rules, A.J. didn't know the older man owned the corner. The kids who jumped A.J. squeegeed in the older man's territory.

A.J. suffered minor injuries, including bruised ribs and mild abrasions.

With the province's new "Safe Streets Act" making squeegeeing illegal, and many kids being fined or even arrested, Toronto's street youth has become careful in recent years. Many now carry gym bags with them to hide their squeegees. Intersections in the downtown core, once crowded with squeegee kids, are now much quieter.

The influx of suburban kids posing as homeless youth hasn't stopped, and the street kids now have to work even harder to avoid both the police and the areas saturated with "weekend warriors."

Chris, 18, a three-year street veteran, thinks the police should focus on arresting the youth with homes, rather than the ones living on the street. He believes the government should take some of the money being spent on arresting squeegee kids and apply it to discovering who, in fact, is a legitimate street kid.

"The biggest problem people have with squeegee kids is that a lot of them are rude, aggressive, or whatever. That's not us," he says. "We're nice to people in cars. Why would we be assholes? We really need the cash. (The kids with homes) come down here to get cash so they can grab a bag of weed and go home to smoke it in the comfort of mommy and daddy's house. They make us look bad, and that's why the cops are after us."

"Squeegeeing isn't a career," Cino says. "What really needs to happen is these kids need to be given better options."

*\*Out There attempted on numerous occasions to contact Toronto police for comment.*

*Nicole Larkin is an aspiring gonzo journalist who lives in suburbia. She does not own a squeegee.*



NICOLE LARKIN



NICOLE LARKIN



NICOLE LARKIN

Guess what? These suburbanite squeegee kids have to be home in time for dinner

# Toronto's TOP five patios

By APRIL LABINE

IT'S SUMMER TIME; TIME TO HEAD OUT TO THE backyard, have a couple of drinks and try not to burn down the lawn with your less than polished BBQ expertise, that is, if you lived somewhere else. But you live in Toronto and the chance of you having a backyard is about as likely as me winning a Pulitzer Prize for this piece of writing. So, you compromise and hit the local restaurants and bars for a taste of that patio experience. If you're a novice in the art of patio hunting, here is a modest list to help guide you on your mission.

## •the best•

1) **PAUPER'S PUB** (539 Bloor Street West) is located in the ultra-trendy, extremely expensive Annex area. But this is among the patio adventurer's favourites, particularly for yuppies and yuppie wannabes.

It's a rooftop deal with wood everywhere, lending a sort of cosy resort/cottage feel. The food won't kill you but if you're looking for speed and manners, the service might. I think servers in the Annex are paid according to how rude they are to the customers. But, all this is worth the lovely atmosphere and the fine draught.

"Paupers is one of my favourites," says actor/comedian Kyle Radke. "But if you want real patios, you have to go to Hamilton."

2) **BLACK BULL HOTEL & TAVERN** (298 Queen Street West) is located in the trendy and somewhat expensive downtown core. The food is decent and the suds are good, but the beauty of Black Bull relies entirely on one important thing, location, location, location.

You won't find another patio of this size anywhere else on Queen West. If you're into scoping out the passersby, this is the place to do it. Sure, it used to be more of a biker haven, but this place has come a long way over the years.

"It's a good place to share a pitcher and have a bite to eat on a lazy afternoon," says artist Lissa Rousselet. "That is, if you're lucky enough to get a Saturday or Sunday off, when the streets are full of people."

3) **THE BISHOP & THE BELCHER** (361 Queen West) is located right across from Black Bull, and in addition to the appetizing name, the B&B has a lot to offer.

The patio is a relatively small thing in the back, the sort of place you would take a date or hide from the crowds with your embarrassing friends. The food is excellent and decently priced. The selection of draught is admirable, and they even have guest draughts that give perpetually pickled regulars a chance to experiment.

Probably the biggest draw for this joint is the board games — Trivial Pursuit, Boggle, and the like. Yes, board games can spice up any celebration.

Of course, all this comes with a price much like everything else in life. Unless

you make a reservation, there's pretty much no chance in hell you're getting in. You're not the only person around who wants to drink, eat and play Trivial Pursuit, you know.

4) **THE GREEN ROOM** (296 Brunswick Avenue) is another Annex gem, this patio is all about the cozy atmosphere. It's a good place to take a date for fine, reasonably priced food and a little bit of alcohol to wash it down.

5) **THE BAMBOO** (312 Queen Street West) is tucked away off the busy sidewalk, little Caribbean treasure. This is just a cool and it's a little colourful place to find yourself, with good vibes all around, and your tummy will thank you for the food they serve. The feeling of being in an overlooked hideaway, only adds to its charm. And if you're itching for a patio-crawl, it's very close to some of its top five brothers.

## •the worst•

1) **THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT TAVERN** (460 Queen Street West) is the sort of place you'd find yourself if you were a lost, thirsty amnesiac with no instincts whatsoever.

If you actually make it through the bar to the patio without running back onto the street, squealing like a little girl, you'll find that the patio is the sort of place where you would have hung out in high school. Let's face it, you were so stupid back then, you would drink in dark alleys for lack of a better place.

The draught here is dirt cheap, but that's because it will give you such a terrible case of gut rot in the morning, that you'll be rediscovering God and crying for your mother.

On the menu, we have a choice of the three varieties of potato chips, but if you inhale deeply, you can smell the KFC across the street.

Of course, the patio isn't devoid of appeal. It is large and festively decorated with Christmas lights and beer cans. (This reminds me of high school too). However, it is dark and fenced in, so it's the perfect place to get mugged. Also, when I used the toilet at one point, there was an amorous couple in the stall next to me doing blow and getting it on.

"Well, (the patio is) dark and creepy," says office employee, Cara Dennis. "I guess it's a good place to go if you're looking to sell drugs or do them."

2) **GROSSMAN'S TAVERN** (379 Spadina Avenue) is a little dive at College and Spadina, a place where jazz lovers go to slouch over a pint with dignified melancholy.

The patio is virtually nonexistent and probably best described as a sort of stoop on the side of the building, surrounded by the obligatory fence. The few tables out there wobble and shake on the uneven ground, while you sit with the sun humming holes



into your retinas. If you're an extreme patio enthusiast and want to give this a shot, wear sunglasses and a hat.

Grossman's does serve food, but no one I've spoken to has endeavored to eat it. The name of the place may be what's keeping people from sampling, what, I'm sure, are some culinary masterpieces.

The best thing about Grossman's is the ambitious artwork in the bathroom stalls. If you can't make it to the art gallery, Grossman's toilet graffiti is worth a gander.

3) **THE HORSESHOE TAVERN** (368 Queen Street West) is definitely one of the finest live concert venues in Toronto and certainly, my preferred watering hole, but for the love of God, can you even call that a patio?

This is more accurately described as a porch. Here, you have three plastic tables with a few chairs. It's a patch of sidewalk with a fence around it.

However, it is not without its charms. The employees are incredibly down to earth and hospitable, and if you enjoy the entertainment of passing weirdos, you'll like this. Besides, you can hear the music pretty well out there and you don't even have to pay a cover charge.

Decent draught is very pricey but, if you have no standards at all, you'll be fine. The menu consists of potato chips again, but there are several street meat (hot dog) options a few feet away. Besides, if you really mean business, you can opt for the Guinness, which is essentially a six-course meal.

Also, don't expect to get served at your little plastic table. You'll have to fight your way through the hordes at the bar to get your refreshments.

"It's a good place to stand when it gets

hot inside," says funeral home intern, Tanya Dedman. "But you're better off just forgetting about getting a seat out there in the summer, let alone a whole table."

4) **SNEAKY DEES** (431 College Street) is located in Little Italy at the corner of Bathurst and College. Bathurst is a fairly quick-moving street, so hanging out at Sneaky's patio has the ambience of sitting in the middle of a highway. It's uncomfortable, annoying and distracting. Would you set your chair down at a crosswalk? If so, by all means, have a blast.

However, Sneaky's does have some fine grub, decent suds and very reasonable prices. There's usually a lot of activity going on inside, so chances of you toughing it out on the patio, are pretty unlikely.

5) **GORILLA MONSOON** (next to the Horseshoe Tavern) is a quaint little restaurant with some mean pub fare. The veggie burger alone is worth tolerating the cramped patio. The fine suds help ease the frustration of having to contort your body to get past the other tables on a mission to the toilet.

Bands play in a tiny space just beyond the patio. They are usually Humber College music students playing jazz and lately, they've taken to sending a sort of collection plate around for donations.

If they got rid of the fences, Gorilla Monsoon and The Horseshoe could incorporate their inadequate patio space to create one reasonably-sized patio.

April Labine's grandmother's house (which is next door to Kim Mitchell's house) is abundant with patio lanterns. April one day hopes to have some lanterns of her own.

# HUMBER STUDENTS' FEDERATION

## HSF Mission Statement

To advocate on behalf of the membership of the Humber Students' Federation, to protect the quality of education and student life at Humber College of Applied Arts and Technology, to improve and increase the services provided to students of such College, and to promote student participation and awareness.



## Accomplishments

- ◆ Donation to the construction of athletic centre
- ◆ Incorporation of Student Government
- ◆ Construction & Maintenance of SAACnet Labs
- ◆ Development of Students' Centre
- ◆ Co-funding the Health Centre
- ◆ Donation to CANCOPY for Library



## Services

- ◆ Graduation Photos
- ◆ Health Plan
- ◆ Free Legal advice
- ◆ Distribution of IT Fee
- ◆ ISIC Card
- ◆ Exclusive Card
- ◆ Used books service-Lakeshore
- ◆ Student Art Show
- ◆ Peer tutoring
- ◆ Games room
- ◆ SAAC Net Labs
- ◆ Affiliated with OCCSPA  
(advocate on a government level)  
website: [www.occspa.org](http://www.occspa.org)

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**Email: [info@hsfweb.com](mailto:info@hsfweb.com)**

**WEBSITE: <http://www.hsfweb.com>**