

IF YOU DON'T VOTE YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BITCH!

# THE NUGGET

Thursday, January 19, 2006  
Volume 43, Issue 15

YOUR STUDENT NEWSPAPER

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

## GET OUT TO VOTE

Edmonton Centre candidates hold forum at NAIT for final push for Jan. 23 election. Story Inside.



**POLITICS 101:** Edmonton Centre candidate Anne McLellan makes a point at the jam-packed Tuesday election forum held at NAIT.



# NEWS & FEATURES

## HD seminar held at NAIT



By TARA COPELAND

This weekend, NAIT hosted the High Definition (HD) production seminar.

According to Craig Gebhardt, a student in the Radio and Television program at NAIT, the seminar was a rewarding experience.

"I thought it was a valuable

experience," said Gebhardt.

"This is the direction that the industry is going," said Gebhardt.

"This is the world I'm going to be going into. I feel as though this workshop has given me

a leg up over others in the industry."

Planned analogue shutdown in the US is expected by April of 2009. Canada is expected to

follow suit by 2011. "Basically, broadcasters need to adopt high definition.

**"Once stations adopt high definition, the technology will be made available to people at home."**

"We've got the technology to give viewers a better experience when they watch a program.

Many programs are already shot in high definition. Once stations adopt high definition, the technology will be made available to people at home."

## Go on a field trip without leaving class?



By SHANT CHAKMAKIAN

Go on a Field Trip without leaving class?

I have the privilege to present to you the Tandberg Distance Learning Visual Communications Seminar.

In a nutshell, this solution deals with providing virtual content (presentations) and virtual field trips to classrooms using video conferencing solutions via "IP telephony." This technology allows teachers of classrooms from K-12 to gain access to content (presentations and field trips) available online made by other schools and organizations relating to their subject.

A really cool part of this seminar was that they actually had a bunch of grade four children test drive

the project. These excited and awed students got to watch live as they received their day's lesson about sharks, live from a marine lab in Sarasota, Florida. They got to see lots of cool stuff, from research specimens, to a shark live from an aquarium.

Tandberg provides this service and equipment. According to Vice President of Enterprise Sales John Lubarsky, the company has been a leader in video communications since 1987.

This groundbreaking technology and delivery format will empower classrooms around North America to go on virtual field trips more often and with much less cost than ever before. This technology will also allow students in rural areas to join their classrooms and participate from home whether they are sick or just learning from home.

What if you miss a day of school? No problem! An Archive of the day's class is stored on a server and you gain access to it anytime to catch up. And what makes this program even better is that it is a part of Alberta's Super-Net, which is a project by the

Alberta government to provide high speed bandwidth (intranet and internet) and media rich educational content to schools all across Alberta and to Alberta government organizations.

What does this mean to you? Well, simply put, your children in the next five-10 years will get very media rich content when they go to school, from having countless research tools at their fingertips to exploring endless possibilities of learning to seeing the world without leaving the classroom, it'll all be there. And for us NAIT students? Well, I wouldn't be surprised to see our classrooms making more use of this technology. For example, instrumentation students might be able to see certain industrial applications on a rig without having to drive seven hours to get to a rig to learn the day's lesson.

All in all, the future is bright as we explore endless possibilities to make learning easier, better and even more fun and I am proud to say that NAIT is placing its resources and time into bettering the delivery of our education.

## Mouthing OFF



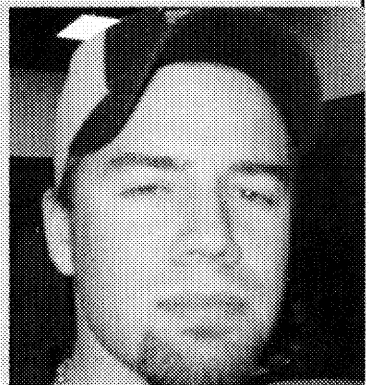
By DAVID MALLET

**The election is Monday. What is the most important issue to you?**



**Sacha Kolotyluk**

To give the West a voice. We've had our voice stifled for the last several elections.



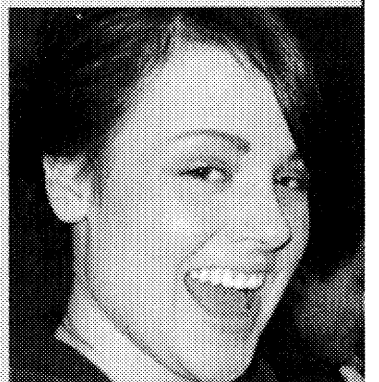
**Trysten Meyers**

The abolishment of gay marriage. It's unnatural for two people of the same sex to get married. God said so!



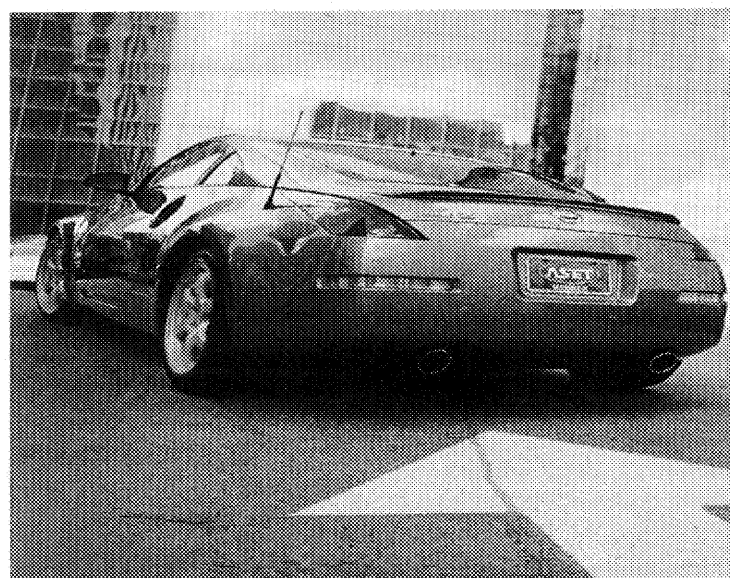
**Craig Gebhardt**

Diversification of the economy. Our biggest trading partner, the U.S., is trillions in debt. What are we going to do when they can't borrow any more money? Who will buy our products?



**Leslie Fendeleit**

To Get Paul Martin and Anne McLellan out of Parliament. They have been completely ineffective in their time in office. They've missed their chance to step up. It's time to let somebody else be useless.



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# OPINION

## Get out to vote, students!

The federal election is coming soon. Why should you care?

You hear the constant argument that youth make – I'm part of a minority. The politicians don't care what I want.

It seems to hold true, only not entirely. Yes, most of the policies that are passed do not seem to reflect the values

of today's youth, but the youth of today are the movers and shakers of tomorrow. Any politician worth their salt recognizes this.

Policies that are formed by government typically reflect the best interests of big business. This makes sense since big business dollars make most of the financial backing for political parties. This is common sense.

The thing is the youth of today are the ones who will be running these businesses tomorrow.

Will we remember what matters to us now? Will we be just focused on making money?

It's tough to say. For most of

us, our parents grew up during the hippy era. They fought for peace and self-sufficiency, only to become CEOs and directors.

It's enough to make you wonder if they thought the protests during the 60s were

just an excuse to grow their armpit hair out and smoke pot.

Or so it seems,

until you look more closely. Some businesses are silently changing the world. They've joined the world they've protested against in order to shape it.

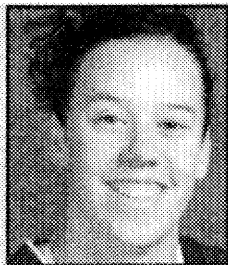
Whether we like it or not, we're bound to be in the same situation 20 years from now and the decision makers of today know it.

How you vote and what you vote for is getting noticed. Politicians are aware of what is important to us and although they may not put our wants into play when forming policies, our ideological perspective does linger at the back of their minds.

**"...the youth of today are the movers and shakers of tomorrow."**



## The Feeling



By BRIE BURROWS

Have you ever wanted something so bad you can taste it? The kind of feeling that you get and can feel it in the pit of your stomach? Wanting it bad enough that you figure at one point in time, you are just going to take it; having the love for something strong enough that one would do "anything" just to fulfill that feeling.

Let me tell you that I have. This feeling is the burning desire, the

drive that keeps me and I am sure a lot of other people persistent on achieving that certain goal. This is why we live, why we breathe and untimely why we wake up in the morning. It is this feeling which drives us to continue.

There are many challenges in one's life that cause this feeling. Some may call it passion, while others call it desire. I refer to it as "the feeling."

There is no particular way to describe it. It's relating to a movie, a song, or even another person. This feeling comes from deep within one's soul and arises for many different reasons. May it be from love, friendship, or just simply the desire to win a certain sport. We all have empty spaces that this feeling leaves and we are just trying to find something that fills it up.

I've learned, from past experi-

ence, that one has to make life happen. There are so many awesome opportunities that can be missed if you don't take advantage of them. So a little piece of advice, don't let those great chances pass you by without a second thought, because thinking, "It will happen when it's supposed to happen," doesn't cut it. Fate only takes you so far; you have to make the rest happen. Don't ignore the feeling and figure that it will go away with time, because it really doesn't. It might fade away for a little while, but it always comes back stronger than it was before.

So don't be shy, stubborn or too ignorant to follow that feeling. Who knows, maybe it is happening to lead you on a journey that will change your life for the best.

## Letters welcome

### We want your views

We want to begin a weekly letters-to-the-editor page here at The Nugget.

Is something bugging you about NAIT or the rest of the world? Do you have some praise to dish out about the school or life in general?

Get those thoughts into print.

Keep them short and to the point. No more than 100 words. Hell, we're a newspaper not an encyclopedia. Give us a break!

Submit your letters with your real name and contact phone number to: [nuggetsubmissions@hotmail.com](mailto:nuggetsubmissions@hotmail.com)

Don't sweat it. We won't publish your phone number, but we do need to list your real name.

It's all good. Getting something off your chest is downright therapeutic. Trust us on that. Write us.



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Room E-128B  
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T5G 2R1

Production Office  
471-7615

Fax: 491-3989

E-mail  
[nuggetsubmissions@hotmail.com](mailto:nuggetsubmissions@hotmail.com)

Editorial Advisor  
**Kerry Dlotte**

Student Editor  
**Tara Copeland**

Sports Editor  
**Trevor Elliott**

Entertainment Editor  
**David Mallett**

Media & Production  
Designer  
**Graeme Reed**

Advertising Manager  
**Linda Campbell**

For Advertising inquiries  
please call 471-8866

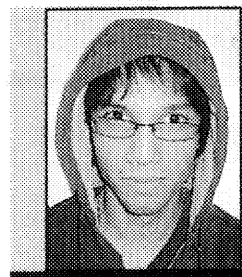
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THE DEADLINE IS  
12:00 p.m. on the last school  
day of the week.

All submissions must be  
accompanied by your name &  
student ID number

The opinions expressed by contributors  
to the Nugget are not necessarily  
shared by NAIT officials, NAITSA or  
elected school representatives.

# Election platforms made easy



By CHARLES NOBLE

A lot of people either have strong opinion or no opinion when it comes to politics. Well, I've got a strong one that I'd like to share with you all. Just a forewarning, I have facts about the parties running all across the country, but I also have my personal opinions.

Well yet again it will be a colourful election full of parties to choose from.

Here's a quick list of all the official parties of Canada you probably don't know about: Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada, Canadian Action Party, Christian Heritage Party, Communist Party of Canada, Green Party of Canada, Libertarian Party of Canada, Marijuana Party, Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada, Progressive Canadian Party.

These are the major Parties of Canada: Parti Québécois, Conservative Party of Canada, Liberal Party of Canada and New Democratic Party.

Unlike most people who talk

about politics, I'm not going to bore you with the details that most people could care less about. Who needs to know about the personal lives of each individual candidate when it's the values of the party as a whole, that will be upheld in Parliament?

For instance, I know many people would like marijuana legalized yet they know that the Marijuana Party has no chance at winning enough seats to do so.

Alternatives are the PQ who we can't vote for since we live outside of Quebec. The PQ wants to decriminalize simple marijuana possession. In contrast the Conservatives, which many in Alberta want to elect, are opposed to decriminalization of marijuana.

The Liberals would have fines instead of jail time for possession and finally the NDP want to decriminalize but also implement a strategy to stop usage.

Universal health care is typically a hot issue around election time. Two parties that have no chance at winning, Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada and Communist Party of Canada value universal health care the most it seems.

On a side note these two parties both represent communism yet have not united, wonder why? Among the major

parties the NDP most want a health care system that takes care of everyone equally and has some prevention methodology involved in their promises, such as banning trans fat from fast food. These fatty acids

have been known to cause many problems - the main one being heart problems.

The Liberals mainly want to study our current system before making any major changes but also favor funding from the government being spent on the public system instead of private.

Conservatives are the most right-wing opinion among the bunch, wanting a system in which those who want to use the publicly funded system can but others who want private care could also seek such help.

All the parties want drugs to be easier to access and to

be cheaper. One unique point about the Conservatives that may sway some people is that they want to ban embryonic research for at least three years.

There are many more interesting topics that could flip student voters from party to party but the most influential is the post secondary promises.

Conservatives will not tax scholarships and bursaries. As well they want to eliminate parental income as a consideration when getting student

loans. Liberals want to increase financial aid for students by \$2.2 billion. Finally the NDP want to reinvest more money in post secondary education but also include about \$1.5 billion to reduce tuitions.

This all sounds really nice but will they actually pull through without increasing other taxes that hurt us anyway? Don't be fooled by promises, especially those that sound too good to be true. They usually are in the

end. Canadian governments have promised us countless times to reduce the GST but never followed through.

I never really describe the Green Party. Although they have been all over the news these days they have yet to win a seat in a federal election since the creation of the party.

The top of their list is environmental reforms, which doesn't appeal to many people. The junk food tax they want to implement is most controversial. For those interested in learning more about the Green Party visit "www.greenparty.ca."

In the end, no one party is perfect thanks to all the bureaucracy that keeps the scandals coming and our money going down the drain with no results.

Just make sure to do your part and go out to vote. Don't let your voice drown due to apathy because now you know enough to at least form an opinion about each major party. For more information a good site to consult is [www.cbc.ca/canadavotes](http://www.cbc.ca/canadavotes)

If anyone took offence to any of my comments, I don't mind reading your opinions, email me at [killeratwork@hotmail.com](mailto:killeratwork@hotmail.com).

## Interested in custom clothing for your technology? The Respiratory Therapy Class of 2007 can help!

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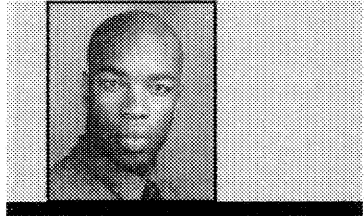
## Jan. 27 & 28 "King Ring Nancy"!

## BOOK YOUR CABARET OR PARTY NOW!



# STUDENT POLITICS

By TARA COPELAND



**DWAYNE WILLIAMS**  
NAITSA President

1.) Why is there an emergency meeting being held for some tech reps?

There are two vacant positions on the senate which is leaving a gap in the representation for the programs in the Schools of Academic Foundations and Bridging along with the School of Business. This meeting is to request the technology representatives from those schools to come together and appoint people to fill those two openings.

2.) I hear you are involved with Nexopia? Can you talk about that?

That is a lie! Hah, fine you got me. Well this is kind of outside the scope of NAITSA, but I guess I can answer...sure, why not! Basically, I'm one of the administrators for Nexopia.com. There's a team of us who update, maintain and basically run the site.

There are actually a lot of NAIT people on the site that I've talked to, so it's a pretty interesting community! People can send me a message if they are on it! Just do a search for "Dexx" (my middle name!).

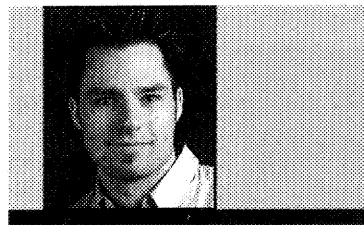
3.) You Vs. Grant Mac's student president in a free throw...who'd win?

I haven't touched a basketball in years, so given a week of practice, I'd be able to show Grant Mac what is up! Now in a one-on-one half-court game, I'd dominate him like The OoK on a pigeon!

4.) What do you think are some

of the most important issues this election?

I'd say a pretty important issue is how we have a bunch of sleazy politicians who have nothing better to do than bash each other and waste more money that could better be spent elsewhere. I'd love to see a government that actually focuses more on results than excuses and blame.



**JON HOFFMAN**  
V.P. Student Affairs

1.) Why was the candidates' forum important for students and the community?

It is critical for students to take an interest in the federal election. I am not talking about joining a party or door knocking, but simply listening to what the parties have to say and making an educated decision. We are all busy, but how hard is it to really find your neighborhood polling station and vote? Also, elections Canada makes it quite simple to vote if you aren't a resident of Edmonton.

2.) If I get a grade from an instructor that I think is unfair, what can I do?

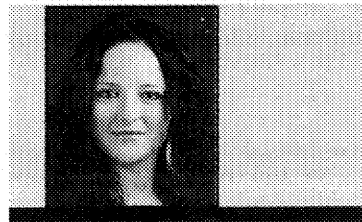
The first step that a lot of people don't think of is actually to speak to your instructor. Often there is a simple misunderstanding and it can be resolved just like that. If it is something more serious that can't be resolved with your instructor, it is a good idea to speak to your program head.

3.) What should I do if I'm not happy with something around campus?

I suppose it depends upon what you are unhappy with, but I would recommend speaking with the person or department that you are disappointed with. If you are still unhappy with the situation then I would gladly help you try and work at finding a solution.

4.) What do you think are some of the most important issues this election?

I think that issues of government accountability are important. Our country's government has been tarnished by scandal after scandal. The party that gains power needs to properly address the issues raised by the Gomery inquiry. Personally, I wish that the parties would discuss topics such as better aid, debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries and an end to child poverty in Canada. I would love to hear the parties' plans for Canada to meet the internationally agreed target to spend 0.7 per cent of its Gross National Income on foreign aid by 2015.



**ELAINE DEVINE**  
V.P. Finance & Administration

1.) For the new students, what do their student fees go towards?

The best way to briefly explain where student fees are spent is to look at the following areas of general operations, salaries, supplies and everything needed to operate from day to day.

Campus Sport and Wellness donation - this is so that students can use the gym, pool and play intramurals without having to pay.

Activities Committee: OoKfest, event staffing, awareness day's,

speakers, event rentals.

The Nugget: printing, paying writers, layout costs.

Student handbook: printing costs, delivery costs, layout costs.

NAITSA also makes donations to NAIT for the HP Centre to run the computer commons and to an endowment fund for scholarships for students. If any students have more questions on where NAITSA spends money, they can set up a meeting with me.

2.) What is tech banking?

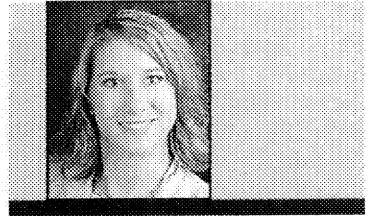
Tech/ Club banking is a way that NAITSA can help clubs by being their bank - you have your own club account set up in our office, we print cheques for clubs, give bank statements and ensure that club fund are properly accounted for.

3.) What changes are going to occur with NAIT's executive council?

We are planning to change the positions by removing one, adding a staff position and creating a new vice president position. This will be explained better once the senate has approved the changes.

4.) What do you think are some of the most important issues this election?

The most important part of the election is making sure that everyone votes. If you don't vote, then when the government screws up, you can't complain. Of course, as any student, I think that education is an important issue - we need more funding and lower tuition for students as well as more funding for the actual institutions so that they can run day-to-day activities and do needed repairs on buildings. I also think that health care is a major issue and one that depending on how Canadians vote on Jan. 23, 2006 may really change.



**CARRIE CREASER**  
V.P. Campus Life

1.) Have you heard of this Name That Tune at The Nest? What is that?

Name that Tune will be so much fun! We will play a snip of a song and teams can guess that tune. Teams are against each other, so it's stiff competition!

It should be a great time! Name That Tune will be happening every Monday night at the Nest. Up for grabs are some Nest dollars.

2.) Has the reading break Las Vegas trip been cancelled?

Yes, the Vegas trip was cancelled. The company we were going with raised the price and we thought it was just too expensive.

3.) Will there be any other events during reading break?

We've decided not to hold any events during reading break, so students can go out and do their own thing.

4.) What do you think are some of the most important issues this election?

In this election, the most important issue to me is student tuition. I think it should be easier for students to get an education and have a more successful life! Think about it - the better the education, the more money we make...and the more we pay in taxes! Better for both parties, students and government...don't you think!?

**ANIME NIGHT**

The NAIT ANIME CLUB will be hosting an evening of ANIME on Thursday, January 26 in the NAITSA Boardroom. The showing starts at 4:30 p.m.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SHOW LISTING PLEASE GO TO  
[HTTP://GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/ANIMENAIT](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/animenait)

## aPhotographic thesis presentation

Who: YOU!

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When: Tuesday Jan 24 '06  
7:00pm-9:00pm

Where: Shaw Theatre  
NAIT main campus

\*refreshments will be provided after the show

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**Deadline: February 3, 2006**

For more information, please visit us in Room O101 or go online to view a tutorial on "How to Apply for Awards".



# Candidates face tough questions

By LISI MONRO

Conservative candidate Laurie Hawn and Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan found themselves in the centre of cross-fire yet again during Tuesday's federal election forum at a packed Shaw theatre. Candidates from Edmonton Centre squared off over the noon hour at NAIT to inform students of their party's election platforms.

Conservative Laurie Hawn, Liberal Anne McLellan, NDP Donna Martyn, independent Chandra Swamy and Marxist Leninist candidate Peggy Morton all attended the forum focused on informing students of their choices on Jan. 23 and encouraging them to vote.

Mediated by The Bear radio station's host Fearless Fred, the forum drew some tough questions for the candidates on student loans, political accountability,

sustainable environment and the party system itself.

The attack started early with

including an emotional question from a student regarding the Civil Marriage Act and accountability of liberal MPs in parliament.



Anne McLellan gives her view at NAITSA forum

questions raised for the most part towards conservative Laurie Hawn on the legalization of marijuana and the reduction of tuition costs versus changed to the student loans program. The attack on McLellan followed, with questions on the Gomery inquiry and other liberal party problems,

mail questions were directed towards Marxist Leninist Peggy Morton and New Democrat Donna Martyn regarding their party's views on proportional representation,

E -

independent candidate Chandra Swamy explained his reasons for non-affiliation with the other major parties quoting "my platform is my audience" and Green Party hopeful David Parker had a chance to explain his party's stance on a clean Canada and environmental sustainability.

Perhaps the most intense moment of the afternoon came after the forum itself had finished, when McLellan was angrily confronted by Sophie Harkat, the wife of a Mohamed Harkat, who is currently being held under security certificate. He currently awaits deportation to Algeria where it is feared that his life will be at risk if he is returned to the country. Mrs. Harkat was accompanied by son of Pierre Trudeau - Sasha Trudeau and his camera crew. The pair is currently finishing a documentary on Mrs. Harkat's plight against the liberal government to have her husband released.



Laurie Hawn makes a point



Shant Chakmakian ponders

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**Instructions are provided on line to assist in creating your NAIT login and printing your T2202A.**

Please note: Tax receipts will not be mailed. Students requesting a printed T2202A form will be charged \$10.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	 THIS MONDAY, VOTE.					

To know when and where to vote, consult your voter information card. It includes all the information you'll need to use your right to vote, and you'll get through the voting process more quickly if you have it with you.

Voting hours for your polling station are indicated on your voter information card and on the Elections Canada Web site at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) by clicking on the Voter Information Service icon.

If you haven't received this card, you are probably not on the voters list. To be able to vote, all you have to do is go to your polling station on election day, January 23, and present an official document that includes your name, address and signature. If you do not have such a document, you will be given the opportunity to swear that you are eligible to vote at the polling station you are in, as long as you are accompanied by a voter registered in the same polling division who can vouch for your identity.

For more information, please contact your local Elections Canada office or visit our Web site at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

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 Elections Canada



# Students pitch their parties

With the Jan. 23 election just days away, Nugget staffers studied the platforms of some of the most-notable parties running in the election. Here are their thoughts:

## Stand up for Canada By Shant Chakmakian

Why vote Conservative? Well, two words: Accountability Act. If you're as mad as I am that you have to vote because the Liberals screwed up our government again due to lack of integrity, corruption and scandal then vote Conservative.

Our country is a strong nation, abundant in natural resources from blue skies, lumber, oil and other natural resources to the great people that inhabit this nation. We have come far as a country and as people but we need to address stronger issues such as: a government we can trust and believe in.

I strongly believe the accountability act will address this. But furthermore from accountability, we need to address weapons laws, such as stopping illegal gun shipments at the border, unlike the Liberal policy of banning legal, registered handguns which makes me furious because last year alone, I lost two friends to shootings, when really, none of our shooting are with registered weapons.

We need to address education, which the Conservatives have from tax deductions on books and tools to working with provinces on tuition issues.

We need to look at child care for all our families and young mothers by granting a \$1,200 monthly allowance on child care and investing money in the child care system, so our families and young mothers can go to work and get a better education.

Our country needs to invest more support in its military, so we have the right equipment to defend ourselves and keep our soldiers safe during peacekeeping missions.

We have to work with our provinces to give them a voice and by restructuring to an elected and effective Canadian Senate, not one that is appointed by government friends.

When I asked Anne McLellan why we should trust her party after a proven record of scandal, corruption and lack of integrity and even went as far as naming specific examples, she went as far as accusing me of having had someone write my speech! So tell me NAIT is this a party you want to represent you? Vote Conservative and stand up for Canada!

## Go Green, go! By OLIVIA KACHMAN

Disillusioned with the scandalous Liberal government? Tired of Stephen Harper's sniggering face and questionable platform? Undecided whether the NDP Party deserves your vote? I have a solution for you: vote Green.

I would like to address the misconceptions surrounding the Green Party and the 2006 federal election campaign for you to consider before casting your ballot.

Misconception #1: Voting for the Green Party is a wasted ballot

Many Canadians are of the opinion that voting for the Green Party is not a feasible option. People may argue that you should only place your checkmark in the box of a political party that has a chance of forming the next government, not an alternative party that has an idealistic platform. Everyone knows, including the Green Party candidates, that the Green Party will never form a majority government in Canada. However, the more seats the Green Party earn in Parliament, the more they would challenge the government in power to consider their perspective and visionary approach to political issues facing all Canadians.

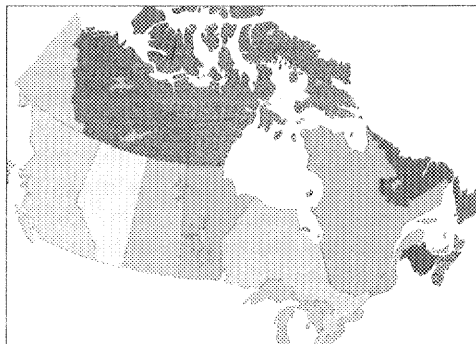
Misconception #2: Only hippies vote for the Green Party

You don't have to be a dreadlocked tree-hugger to vote for the Green Party, but a concerned Canadian who believes that the government should have a long-term vision. The Green Party stands for more than environmental issues. If you scan the Green Party's 216 platform promises on their website (<http://greenparty.ca>) it will become apparent that this could be described as idealistic. If it weren't for people that were visionaries, people who dared to dream about issues in a different light and shared their beliefs publicly, the status quo would never be challenged. Edmonton Centre Green Party delegate and NAIT instructor David Parker is no hippy, but a visionary who sees that society must become more accountable for its actions.

Misconception #3: Not voting this election is a viable option

I know there are many apathetic NAIT students out there that would vote to not vote at all. This form of non-action could be philosophically argued as a form of protest, but the truth is, it represents the laziness that murders the democracy that our forefathers sacrificed their lives for. It is your duty to vote.

That said, if you feel a protest vote is in order, voting for your riding's Green Party delegate is an empowering way of making a bold statement on election day.



## Why I am voting NDP By DAVE MALLET

I have decided to vote for the NDP in this year's election. This will mark the first time I have not voted for a conservative party. Put quite simply, I have become fed up with the right wing. Right wing politics are not entirely without merit. But in Canada, the former Reform Party used to show boldness with some fresh and risky fiscal and constitutional ideas has now morphed into a pale sister to the Republican government of the United States.

With support of the Iraq question, the possibility of consulting the U.S. once again on missile defense and fiscal policy that favours the wealthy, a Harper government means a ferocious release of latent right wing fervor. It's been over twelve years since they have had a chance to put on their own gig. You can be sure several irresponsible policies will be installed that cause an erosion of Canadian economic stability and a lower dollar. Bush will grin smugly knowing our government is now more like his own.

In my estimation, the only current alternative is the vibrant NDP. They are quite left in some respects, but they also look out for people on every economic level. They support legalization of pot and the protection of public health care. They want better care for seniors and funding for education and infrastructure. They also have a strong environmental platform. And best of all, they aren't tainted by scandal. It's time to make them the opposition and maybe a government. It will take time but now is the time to start voting for the NDP.

## Why I'm still voting Liberal By TAJINDER DHARIWAL

I've always been wary about the lizard-like stereotype that lurks in the shadows of the world of politics.

So when I heard about the \$100 million Adscam, I wasn't really surprised. In fact, I was surprised that the Liberals got caught more than anything. My family came to this country about 30 years ago, not to escape the streets of Calcutta or oppression so extreme that it makes hiding in an attic from fascists look like the family from Mary Poppins. They left for a better life and that's what the Liberals gave Canada 10 years ago when they started "stealing" taxpayers' money.

Now, more than we've ever seen in any election, the issue of accountability is on the frontlines. Here's my reply to those political leaders: fuck right off.

The only reason why you reptilian bastards are even making accountability an issue is because of the Liberals got caught siphoning the money all of you hypocritical parties would've spent on each other. Do you think that Preston Manning would've kept Quebec a part of the confederation if he were in power in '95? Would he have allowed the fracturing of our country, our peoples and our economy?

Of course, he would have. But along with basis of what would represent the Adscam, the Liberals gave us a burgeoning economy which we are reaping right now more than ever. The dollar is doing gangbusters compared to the US dollar and the British pound.

So, we have a bunch of bad seeds that misused a measly \$100 million within an economy over nearly a decade. Remember that it was this "corrupt" party that brought us a gross domestic product of over \$1 Trillion. If we would've had someone like Harper in charge ten years ago, we would've said au revoir to the French as well as the last ten years of prosperity.

Now, we have three parties proclaiming how fair they would be by initiating their own rules in order to be shown as "accountable." The only thing that these parties have shown is their collective ability to take advantage of our society's fear of being "ripped off" yet again by another party that claimed to be truthful and honest. But then again, who trusts anyone in politics nowadays? I prefer the devil I know rather than the devil I don't know.

## Embrace your inner Commie By TARA COPELAND

It was my first winter in Edmonton. I was sitting in a cab, trying to find an apartment.

"Wow, I haven't seen one homeless person the whole time I've been here," I said to the cab driver.

"Yeah, we have a solution to the homelessness problem in Alberta," said the cab driver. "It's called winter."

A few weeks later, I was taking a bus down 118th Avenue. It was bitter cold...about -35. I saw three down-and-out looking people walking down the avenue, barefoot and carrying sacks of potatoes.

I'm sure I looked shocked. The lady beside me told me that was nothing - you see that sort of thing here all the time.

In a province as wealthy as Alberta, this is completely unacceptable.

Believe it or not, there's a solution. It's been touched on over the years by many great intellectuals. Gene Roddenberry even touched on it in his claim-to-fame television series Star Trek. The solution: communism.

There are many misconceptions about communism - there's an inherent fear associated with it. We have our neighbours down south to blame mainly for this. In the US during the 1930s and '40s, people with known communist sympathies were institutionalized. For instance, glamour girl actress Francis Farmer was institutionalized and lobotomized because she supported Karl Marx's works and the communist's perspective.

Then, there's the fear that communism will make you poor like they are in Cuba. Say what you will about the poverty in Cuba, but as poor as they are, they have one of the best health-care systems in the world.

Plus, the fact that Cuba has done so well despite the economic sanctions imposed on them by the US says a lot.

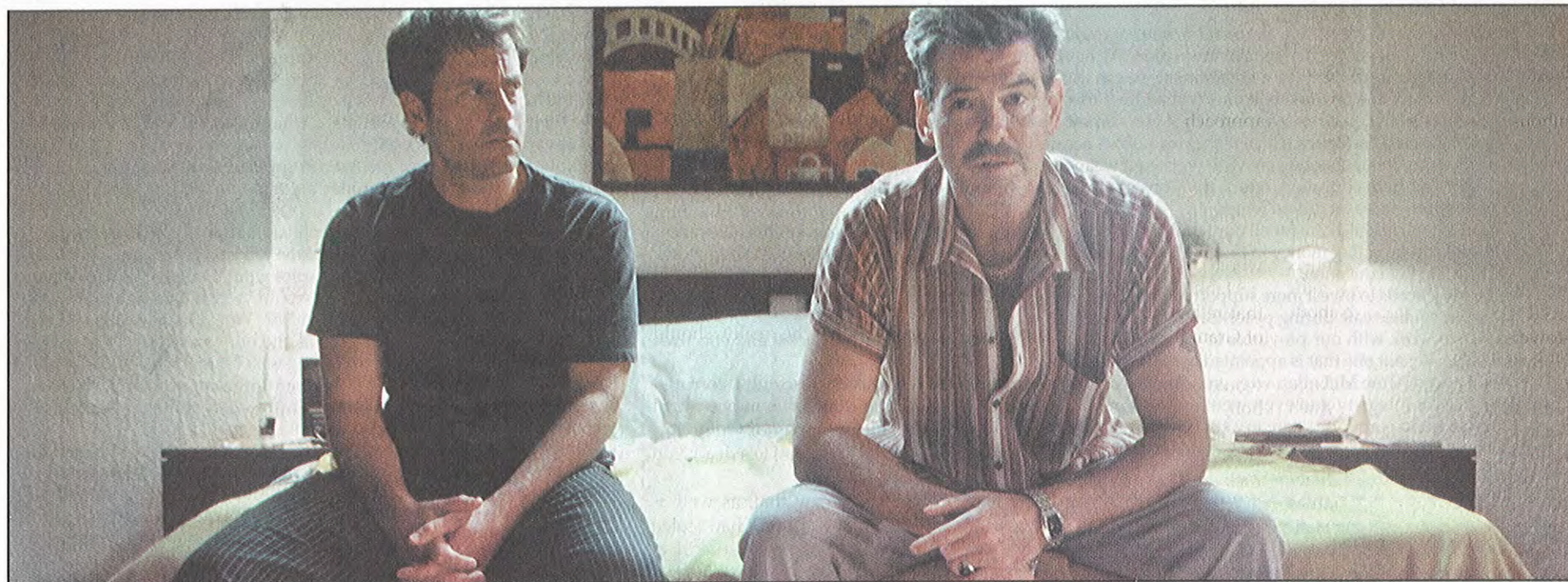
Will the ruling government ever bare any resemblance to platforms presented by the Marxist-Leninists Party? Probably not, but that doesn't mean there isn't anything to learn from their ideological perspective.

Today's government promotes self-indulgence...at the expense of others. If the wealth were distributed, no one would ever have to feel the pain of hunger pangs. No one would walk barefoot in -35 degree weather. True, communism has its pitfalls, but it also promotes some solutions for some of our problems in society.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Brosnan sheds image



Pierce Brosnan successfully sheds his James Bond image with his Golden Globe-nominated portrayal of Julian Noble

By Taz Dhariwal

### The Matador

Pierce Brosnan, Greg Kinnear,  
Hope Davis

Director: Richard Shepard

Pierce Brosnan successfully sheds his James Bond image with his Golden Globe-nominated portrayal of Julian Noble, an aging sociopathic hit man who's also a womanizing alcoholic whose life consists of killing people and the time he spends between hits.

Although, considered to the best in his field, Noble is a very lonely sociopath. He has no home, no

friends and he's so out of touch with reality that he forgets his own birthday. It's on this fateful day in Mexico City that Noble meets a very nebbish and downtrodden businessman played by Greg Kinnear. Kinnear plays Danny Wright, a guy who's just had a tree fall through his house, as well as coping with the loss of his only child a few years earlier.

When the conversation between Wright and Noble comes upon the topic of Wright's dead son, Noble insensitively starts making cock jokes in order to bring some sort of levity to the situation. Noble fails to lighten up the situation

and proves once again why this sociopath should be left alone, but Noble's conscience gets the better of him and apologizes by relating himself to his tentative new friend by revealing his own loss, the death of his wife, which manages to save the friendship that Noble desperately needs to have.

But like clockwork, Noble alienates himself from Wright once again, only to make it up to him by taking him to see a bullfight where Noble informs Wright on what he does for a living. Wright believes that Noble is lying again, so Wright is taken on the ride of his life as Noble shows him the

tricks of the trade and basically shows him, step-by-step, how to kill a perfect stranger without getting caught.

This intrigues Wright as well as scares the living shit out of him. They part ways again, only to have Noble arrive at Wright's house nearly a year later after Noble realizes that he's been on neurosis-infused rollercoaster, which results in a total and complete meltdown. He's lost his touch of assassinating strangers and needs to get it back or face certain death.

Pierce Brosnan took a huge risk in taking this role. Along

with a pay cut, he grew a ratty moustache, as well as a bit of a beer belly. Honestly, this reviewer thinks that this role was the perfect opportunity to shake off that James Bond image that tends to ruin actors like Timothy Dalton and Roger Moore. Also, the script and direction by Richard Shepard are a stroke of genius. Comedic, suspenseful, as well as brilliantly shot, *The Matador* has a *Snatch*-esque quality to it. Hopefully, Shepard's next film won't suffer the lack of quality Guy Ritchie did after his work of genius.

4 out of 5 gunblasts.

## Gay cowboys in Alberta Rockies



By DAVID MALLET

This year's Oscar front runner is Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain*. A sweeping, epic love story set in the northern U.S. (with southern Alberta standing in), BM is gaining attention for its character focus - the two lovebirds are men.

So what of this relative first in Hollywood? The director of *Crouching Tiger* and *The Hulk* directs a gay love story starring likely the two biggest up and coming actors in Tinseltown. Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal play the two starstruck lovers and share torrid sex scenes full of repression and angst.

But, the question is this - is this a good film? Or is it simply a reflection of the desire for gays and lesbians to have themselves depicted realistically on screen?

Last year I reviewed *Crash*, a film that tackled race in a way that Hollywood had avoided - but it was a weak film. With BM, Lee visits the emotional struggle of closeted gay men and meets with success - mostly.

This film is glacial in its pace and features many lingering shots of the Alberta Rockies, with typical plunkety plunk guitar floating over it. Heath Ledger and the entire cast give fully convincing performances lending an air of authenticity to the proceedings. Ledger, in his finest role to date, plays a gruff, rough cowboy who talks with hesitance and a ball of cotton in his mouth. Gyllenhaal is a salacious, mischievous man who captures the hidden desires of Ledger's character.

Sadly, both men crush the spir-

its of two women they meet and marry, seeking out opportunities in their marriages to rendezvous at Brokeback Mountain so they might further consummate their love. Heartbreak and children suffer in their wake and Lee pulls out the stops to show this other side of the story. But, the cowboys do not find themselves able to live their life together and this pain is illustrated as well. A bleak, dark film is the result.

Brimming with sexuality (even *The Princess Diaries'* Anne Hathaway reveals her chest), this film is unrelenting in its sense of loss.

Ultimately, though, BM makes the fatal decision of becoming a message movie. Rather than be a story of doomed love, the writers include plot points that - for me - drained the film of its emotional power and instead makes a murky statement about homophobia - a good subject, but contrived in the context of this film.

Gays and lesbians deserve to live among the rest of us peace-

fully without persecution. This movie is not going to be the one that changes the tide, however. I just wasn't moved. Despite amazing performances and fine cin-

ematography, this film is a hollow valley.



Gay cowboy movie has sparked controversy.



# Mabbott loves Edmonton



By DAVID MALLET

Michael Mabbott has a soft spot for Edmonton. Born and raised here, Mabbott absorbed Edmonton's rich cultural scene before moving to Halifax to attend Dalhousie University.

Aligning himself with the film collective FAVA and immersing himself in the live music scene (particularly Blues on Whyte), he went on to make several short films before meeting many musicians in Nova Scotia that reinforced what he came to love about E-town.

Eventually he found himself writing songs on his guitar. Three chord songs, silly at best, which recalled quirky details about his home territory.

"I missed Alberta I think," Mabbott recalls. "I would buy bottles of Alberta Springs Whisky in Halifax, you know, in those wooden boxes that slide out and drink it."

Mabbott had a fascination with the lives of singers like Kris Kristofferson, Willie Nelson and Gram Parsons. While attending Dalhousie, he met Matt Murphy, perhaps better known to readers as a member of The Flashing Lights and The Superfriends.

Murphy had been hosting a radio show on campus that carried on a long tradition of southern influenced music and Texas-style hosting.

Hosts would talk in southern accents and the music (played live) would be a kitchen sink approach that ended up being energetic and vital.

"My character on the show was an ornery dodge drafter named Orton Hoggett," said Murphy.

Mabbott heard it and loved the whole concept.

Mabbott had an idea for a film that reflected the career trajectory of Gram Parsons - stardom, abuse and a dramatic death. But, here, it would be a Canadian singer. Mabbott

"loved Murphy's music and his stage show, he had the spirit of rock and roll," Murphy added, "Well, Orton Hoggett was over the top and that was what Michael wanted."

Soon, the chips would fall just

right and come together as one of the finest Canadian films in years.

After befriending Murphy and asking him to come on board as the title character, Mabbott had the opportunity to meet with Phil Kaufman, legendary road manager for Gram Parsons and later for his love interest Emmylou Harris.

Producing Charles Manson's album and managing tours for the Stones, he was at Altamont with Dylan and became infamous amongst industry types.

Jumping on board as an actor, he also added layers of color and texture to the screenplay with untold stories about life as a road manager with Parsons himself, informing the tone of the film heavily.

"Phil was at the Edmonton Folk Festival when I was visiting my folks," says Mabbott, "and I decided that he really should be in this thing. So I called three hotels and tracked him down and said, 'I'm doing this movie about a Canadian version of Gram Parsons,' and he said, 'He's dead, you know.'"

Mabbott knew that, as well as the fact that Kaufman had stolen Parsons' body and set it on fire at Joshua Tree National Park in Cali-

fornia, just as the singer had asked him to. "What do you say to the guy that lit this guy's dead body on fire, when he tells you he's dead?" says Mabbott. "I basically sent him a case of beer and we've been friends ever since."

Soon, country heavyweights like Kris Kristofferson and Merle Haggard were on board as well. Now, we have the debut of Michael Mabbott, a great movie named *The Life And Hard Times Of Guy Terrifico*.

Filmed in a style that's a blend of Spinal Tap and Woody Allen's *Zelig*, it's a rollicking chronicle of this fictional rise and fall of a Canadian performer who rose to the top of country and folk music's pantheon of legends.

Peppered with rich characters and cameos from the legends themselves, *Terrifico* is surprisingly engaging and thoroughly entertaining.

Truly hilarious and filled with rich scenes of comic gold, this is a long labour of love for Mabbott (it took seven years to make) and it was worth the effort.

Beautifully filmed and featuring a convincing performance from Matt Murphy, it's the first great film of 2004. See it starting Friday at the Princess.

## You can rediscover Bowie in Portugese



By KEVIN GIBSON

*The Life Aquatic Studio Sessions*  
Seu Jorge  
Hollywood/Universal

The films of Wes Anderson, though laden with a quirky melancholy, are populated with colorful eccentrics as if to leaven the often morose events unfolding on screen.

Music also plays a central role in Anderson's films and in *The Life Aquatic*, he presents us with a colorful ship mate, portrayed by South American pop star Seu Jorge, singing a boat load of Bowie.

Solely conceived as a bit of peripheral fun, fan fervor for more Jorge has resulted in the release of *"The Life Aquatic Studio Sessions featuring Seu Jorge."*

Expanding upon the excerpts heard in the film and its original soundtrack, *"...Sessions"* features Jorge's unadorned, at times bossa nova, interpretations of 13 Bowie classics as well as one fun Jorge original. Most of the tunes are wisely drawn from *Hunky Dory* and *Ziggy Stardust* as these best lend themselves to the troubadour treatment.

Jorge's soothing timbre and delicate guitar work serve to emphasize Bowie's song writing strengths as these stripped down renditions stack up pretty well beside the lush originals. Where the sadness of a song like *Lady Stardust* might have seemed a bit too detached, here Jorge is able to get at the real emotion of the piece.

His sincerity elevates these covers above pure novelty, though there is something undeniably novel in the whole exercise.

A treat for fans of Bowie, Jorge or Wes Anderson, *"The Life Aquatic Studio Sessions"* serves as a reminder of the genius of Bowie as well as a fine introduction to Seu Jorge.



# In a world gone mad...

By KEVIN GIBSON

**Sane Man**  
**Bill Hicks**  
**Rykodisc**

Bill Hicks' brand of humor cut through the lies and absurdities of modern life while offering a sly perspective entirely its own. In only a few short years, he'd firmly established himself as a more socially conscious Lenny Bruce or in Hicks' estimation, as "Chomsky with dick jokes."

Sadly, in 1994, just as his prickly presence was starting to make waves in the mainstream, Bill Hicks lost his battle with Cancer at the age of 32. In the years since his passing, the reputation of Hicks has grown as more folks discover the rich cata-

logue of recordings he's left behind. A dearth of actual footage has left us with only one official DVD release, the aptly titled *"Satirist, Social Critic, Stand-Up."* Now, those hungry for more have reason to rejoice in the release of *"Sane Man."*

Recorded on the cheap as a demo of sorts in 1989, *"Sane Man"* features a hungry Hicks pacing the stage like a man possessed. What the younger Hicks may have been missing in verve is certainly com-



Bill Hicks has sly perspective.

pensated for with plenty of pep. He seems to be fueled by incredulous dismay at the events unfolding around him. The opening rant on anti-intellectualism sets the tone - this ain't no Seinfeld fluff. That's not to say that Hicks couldn't revel in the low brow, dishing out some scatological sugar while dropping some healthy knowledge.

Though politically pointed, the material on *"Sane Man"* dates well. The n a m e s may have changed, but the B.S. remains. It's

easy to forget that the vitriol Hicks reserves for George Bush is actually for Bush Sr. Who knows what comic heights Hicks might have scaled with fodder like Bush Jr.?

One caveat - if you're one of those audiophile types who demand perfect picture and sound, look elsewhere; however, if you can handle sub-standard audio and a grainy image, you'll get a hefty dose of some truth and maybe more importantly, some chuckles.

*"Sane Man"* serves as a fine offering from a comic on the rise and a sad reminder of an important voice we could use today. As Hicks notes, "You ever notice we live in a world where good men are murdered and mediocre hacks thrive?" Amen.



# Mrs. Henderson presents nudity



By CHARLES NOBLE

Judi Dench plays Laura Henderson in this comedy/drama depicting a widow dealing with the recent death of her husband and the reoccurring memories of her brother that died in WWI. It is set in the 1940s just before WWII in England.

The plot is fairly simple. Mrs. Henderson is bored now that her husband has passed on and so she buys a theater. Mrs. Henderson is

a rich upper class aristocrat that doesn't understand the toils of the lower class but does know how to rattle people and makes a game of doing so.

Basically, she buys this theater and hires Vivian Van Damn, played by Bob Hoskins, to run it. Secretly she admires this man but he is married.

He's also an amazing asset to the theater as his ideas are revolutionary, though eventually every other theater does catch on and copy him.

It is Mrs. Henderson who brings together the twist that sets them apart.

Her idea is nude performances, like out of Paris, but in England, this idea of course was utterly insane for the time period but due to her connection in high society, it is allowed.

This movie has nudity, but it's played off as tasteful - like a

museum would have...none of the girls move much like a painting, but with performers singing and dancing in front of them. There is an explanation for Mrs. Henderson's goal for this time of theatrical performances, which if you watch the movie you will find out.

WWII begins and the theater is the last to stay open since it is underground and many soldiers visit every night before embarking out onto the front lines, but the government wants it closed because of the distraction it is causing by congregating too many people in one area during air strikes.

Mrs. Henderson fights for her theater, not only to stay open, but to act as a centerpiece of England during the war.

Overall, this film was mildly entertaining at times. It tries to mix two genres that don't blend well:

comedy and drama. It was funny at times, but if they had less of the same scenes in the theater over and over again it would have been better.

The drama parts were compelling but forgetful - don't go to this movie expecting a great story or great comedy because it is just a mediocre mix of the two.

I wouldn't say go see this in expensive theaters. Perhaps if you're bored one day and want a movie that is unique to watch, go rent this or watch it at the dollar theater.

REVIEW RATING: D

Special thanks to Angela for coming with me to Mrs. Henderson Presents. She offered her own opinion in much fewer words, "It was repetitive yet funny, C."



# Def Jam serves up wak jam's

By Trystan Meyers



Ashanti: Collectables By Ashanti

Approximately one year after the release of *Concrete Rose*, Ashanti releases "Collectables" which is a weak 10 track effort that features 4 new songs and 6 remixes.

It seems coincidental that she happened to release this coaster of a stocking stuffer Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. She

seems to have a knack for money grabbing in Dec., as her 2003 release of Ashanti's Christmas was also a disappointment.

The first single off the record is called, *Still On It* feat. Paul Wall who is on fire compared to the lukewarm Ashanti. Other featured artists are Ja Rule, Method Man, Charlie Baltimore and Black Child.

The best efforts on the album are the remixes of *Rock Wit U* and *Only U* with the rest of the releases falling into the mediocre category. Ashanti does have genuine singing talent and I am awaiting her next full length release. *Collectables* seems more like a B-side of *Concrete Rose* that was slapped together for the Christmas rush.

As one of Def Jam's front running females Ashanti needs to hit the studio and give her fans something real to add to their collection.

# Sly Foxx sneaks atop charts

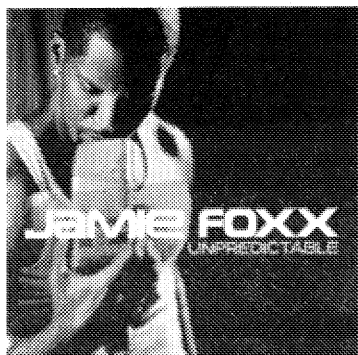
By TRYSTAN MEYERS

Jamie Foxx:  
Unpredictable

Just when you thought Jamie Foxx couldn't get any bigger, he drops a full length album. *Unpredictable* is the follow up album (11 years later) to his 1994 *Peep This* record. Foxx reminds listeners that he is no stranger to the music and entertainment business. He drops slow jams alongside rappers Mary J. Blige, Snoop Dogg, Kanye West, Ludacris and The Game, proving that he has been rapping as long as he has been acting.

With these singles *Unpredictable* and *Extravaganza* already atop the charts, Foxx's profile is also blowing up. If you already like what you hear from the first 2 singles, the rest of the album is similar. The risky, sensual bedroom talk is sure to drive many females in to a Foxx frenzy.

Other future classic tracks from



the Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> release are: *Warm Bed*, *Love Changes* and *DJ Play A Love Song*. Each of these singles will tug at the heart strings of all Foxx Finatics.

This mood setting music is the perfect way to forget your problems, unwind after a long day at work, or relax in the clutches of a lover. So get comfortable, Foxx's music career is here to stay and let's just hope we won't have to wait 11 more years for another release.

# Jordan Knight



Who: Jordan Knight

What: Live concert

When: Saturday, January 21, 2006

Time: Doors at 8 p.m.

Where: The Nest, NAIT main campus (near the pool).

Tickets: \$20

Q & A with Jordan Knight

Q: Musically, who is your inspiration or influence?

A: The Stylistics and Luther Vandross.

Q: What drives you to perform?

A: My love for music and the reaction from the

crowd.

Q: What is the saddest song you've ever heard?

A: *Against All Odds* by Phil Collins (Prior to answering this question, he started singing the song for a minute over the phone to remember the title).

Q: How do you write your songs?

A: Some of it comes from personal experience, even if something like a break-up happened years ago, I think about the memories and how it made me feel. I also get inspiration from other people's lives as well. Also, sometimes when I'm on the keyboard, the mood of the music will sometime dictate the words to go with it.

Q: If you were to give advice to an upstart artist in the music biz,

what would it be?

A: Take your work (music) seriously... don't take yourself too seriously.

Q: Is it hard to go from sold-out, 20,000 seat venues to smaller settings?

A: It's weird, but different. It's actually funner to play in small venues. The experience is more satisfying. You can get a better feel for the crowd and make jokes and stuff.

Q: There's a Federal Election going on in Canada right now. Who would you like to see elected as Prime Minister?

A: To tell you the truth, I don't really know much about what's going on with politics in Canada.

Q: Do you have a girlfriend?

A: Actually, I have a wife.

Q: Do you have any children?

A: I have one child... six years old.

Q: What bugs you about the music industry?

A: Music companies and labels are so corporate now. Some used to be independent, but it's all monopolized and about money.

Q: Do you still keep in touch with your former band members from New Kids on the Block?

A: Definitely. We all left on good terms and we even get along better now than we did when we were together 'cause you're like a family. You spend so much time together.

Q: Are you happy with where you are now?

A: Ya, it's good. I'm learning a lot more about the music business and in-studio music production so that's good. I'm also looking at helping young 'bucks' start up their music career. As long as I keep making people happy, I'll keep singing.

## Students: Thank You for your patience

Some difficulties were encountered during the introduction of the Alberta government's new, online student loan application system this fall – the first system of its kind in Canada. We apologize to students who experienced delays or inconveniences while having student loans processed. Your cooperation, understanding and input during this time was appreciated.

Your continued feedback is welcome as system improvements and new features are added in the months ahead. We invite you to keep working with us as we strive to improve our services. With your help, we'll make it easier for Alberta students to apply for and receive financial assistance.

Honourable Dave Hancock, Q.C.  
Minister of Advanced Education

Dr. Doug Nelson  
Chair, Students Finance Board

Alberta

## TANNING SALE

### 800 Minutes - \$49.95

(Details at the Salon)

## GOLDEN BEACH

Suntanning Salon & Esthetics

(Make-up, waxing-eyebrow, lip, leg, Brazilian)

471-2550 \* 10412 - 118 Ave

(Next to ABC Weddings, Across from the Annex)

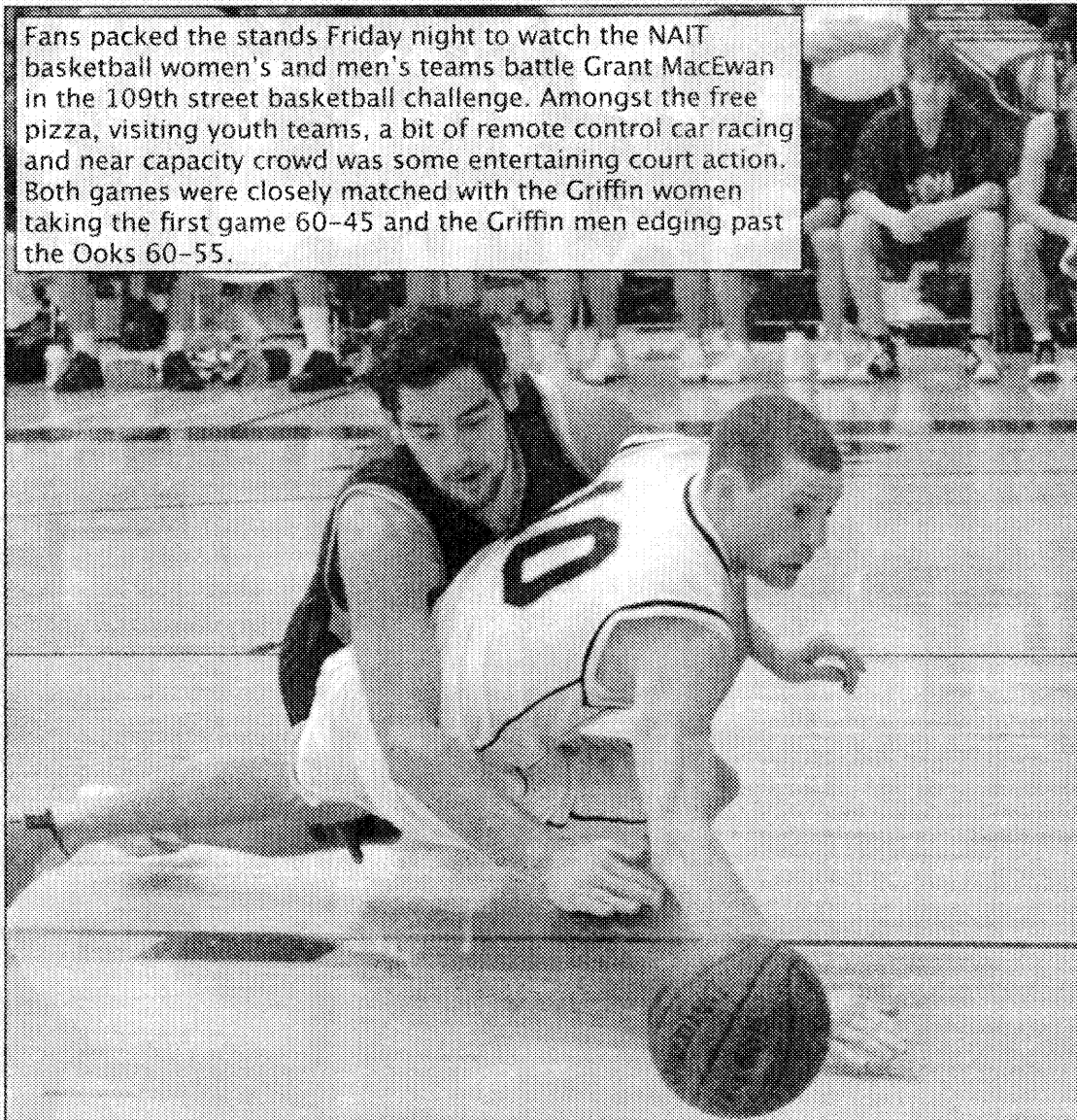
We also sell collectible diecast cars



# SPORTS

## 109th St. Challenge

Fans packed the stands Friday night to watch the NAIT basketball women's and men's teams battle Grant MacEwan in the 109th street basketball challenge. Amongst the free pizza, visiting youth teams, a bit of remote control car racing and near capacity crowd was some entertaining court action. Both games were closely matched with the Griffin women taking the first game 60-45 and the Griffin men edging past the Oaks 60-55.



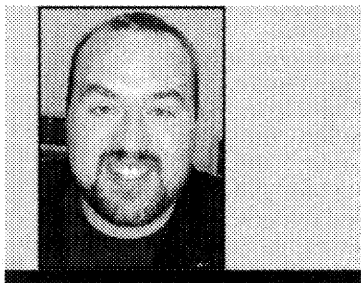
Brent Vriend looks on as Ossie Hinds fights for Ook possession

Photo Lisi Monro



Ook Lisa Francis takes on Griffin's Jasmine Holowaychuk for the rebound

## Golden 'Jules'



By TREVOR ELLIOTT  
Sports Editor

In general, curling coaches never get as much credit as they deserve. But the NAIT athletics department has kept a hidden gem in its midst for more than the past 30 years.

"Jules Owchar has accomplished almost as much as a coach can in his exemplary career," said NAIT Athletics Director Gregg Meropoulos.

The much acclaimed Owchar has coached NAIT curling since 1976 and has received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding coaching ability and dedication. Of those awards include the Edmonton Sports Reporters' Association Award of Merit, the Petro-Canada Coaching Excellence Award, the 3M Alberta

Coach of the Year, ACAC Coach of the Year and the Northern Alberta Curling Association Coach of the Year.

"I've been really lucky," said Owchar. "I always get good curlers at our program - never beginners. So, you take these experienced players and teach them a few things and they become really good. We've averaged a gold medal per year in the ACAC."

"Before I retired from teaching at NAIT, I would bring a group of beginners onto the ice at noon. Then, at three, I would bring out the men's team including Kevin (Martin). Then I'd have a group of intermediates. It was really good to have a spectrum of talented players and watch them progress through the system."

The acclaimed coach was also an accomplished baseball player, winning eight provincial and two national championships.

City, provincial, national, world and Olympic curling titles are all highlights of Owchar's amazing career.

As coach and fifth man with the Kevin Martin rink, Owchar is

one of only 11 Canadians to have curled the Brier, the Worlds and the Olympics. To top that, the dedicated coach is among a small group of four Canadians to compete in two Canadian, two world and two Olympic championships.

The world renowned coach has also had his share of international coaching experience. Owchar and Martin brought a group of Japanese curlers to Canada in 2004. After receiving expert coaching from the Edmonton duo, the team returned to Japan and captured a national title. The team returned to Canada in Nov. 2005 to receive another round of coaching in hopes of making it all the way to the world junior championships.

The well respected curling advocate is also one of six zone conveners in Alberta junior curling and is the convener for ACAC curling. Owchar also keeps himself busy as coach of the NAIT golf team.

The NAIT curling team continues their quest for gold as they compete in the second ACAC bonspiel held Feb. 3-5 at the Jasper Place Curling Rink.

## Intramurals a fun distraction

By JASON JONES

If you're like everyone else and totally overwhelmed by the amount of work you'll have to do this semester, then you're probably looking for something to relieve the stress. There are many things you can do... and please do those in moderation. But another distraction is NAIT intramurals.

Right now, you can play ice hockey, dodgeball, or indoor soccer.

Play hockey every Monday and Tuesday night at the NAIT Arena and dodgeball and soccer on Tuesday nights in the NAIT Gym. Remember, anyone can play... "If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball."

Starting Feb. 7, you can also play basketball. In March you can play volleyball and ball hockey.

Register as a team, as a program or as an individual. It's easy to sign up. Just contact Trevor Turner who organizes it all. His phone number is 491-3010. You can also send an email to trevert@nait.ca or visit him in his office at S-105. Student services also prints out a

winter activity sheet which has all the times on it and there are tons of posters around NAIT with all the information.

After you register, you'll get a schedule. Just show up and have fun. There is always lots of interest. Between 14 and 27 teams register for the sports and Turner wants as many students as possible to come out.

It's free to play and Turner said that the best things about intramurals are "getting away from studies, classes, meeting new people and having a good workout."

It's pretty tough to stay in shape when you're in school because you don't have any time. Intramurals keeps you in shape without taking up too much of your time. Plus, it's a lot more fun than struggling to do that last bench press by your self.

Bottom line, you can't have this kind of fun and activity for a better price. Take advantage of intramurals and organize your friends, program, or yourself to take a break from studying. You know you'll need it.



# ACAC standings

As of Jan. 15

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

North Division										
Team	Games	Wins	Losses	Points	PF	PA	Home	Away	Streak	
Concordia	16	13	3	26	1314	1159	6	2	7	L1
MacEwan	16	13	3	26	1200	1134	6	2	7	W5
Lakeland	14	9	5	18	1125	1013	5	3	4	W2
NAIT	15	8	7	16	1142	1126	3	4	5	L2
Grande Prairie	16	6	10	12	1216	1235	4	4	2	W1
TKUC	14	3	11	6	990	1105	1	5	2	L2
Augustana	15	1	14	2	998	1213	0	8	1	L11
South Division										
Team	Games	Wins	Losses	Points	PF	PA	Home	Away	Streak	
Mount Royal	12	10	2	20	1013	817	7	0	3	W1
SAIT	12	9	3	18	952	811	4	1	5	L1
Red Deer	12	9	3	18	935	747	5	1	4	W2
Lethbridge	12	6	6	12	894	871	4	2	2	W4
Medicine Hat	12	1	11	2	788	950	0	6	1	L6
Briercrest	12	1	11	2	605	991	1	5	0	L7

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

North Division										
Team	Games	Wins	Losses	Points	PF	PA	Home	Away	Streak	
Concordia	16	14	2	28	1070	889	8	0	6	W6
MacEwan	16	13	3	26	1157	920	6	2	7	W7
Augustana	15	9	6	18	986	944	5	3	4	W2
TKUC	14	7	7	14	871	877	4	2	3	L3
Lakeland	14	4	10	8	907	1028	3	5	1	L2
Grande Prairie	16	4	12	8	1018	1163	3	5	1	L6
NAIT	15	2	13	4	877	1064	2	5	0	L2
South Division										
Team	Games	Wins	Losses	Points	PF	PA	Home	Away	Streak	
Mount Royal	12	11	1	22	889	564	6	1	5	W5
Lethbridge	12	11	1	22	855	626	5	1	6	W5
Medicine Hat	12	5	7	10	641	698	2	4	3	L3
Red Deer	12	5	7	10	623	634	2	4	3	W2
SAIT	12	4	8	8	634	728	1	4	3	L3
Briercrest	12	0	12	0	481	873	0	6	0	L12

## MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Provincial Pool										
Team	MP	MW	ML	Points	GW	GL	Home	Away	Streak	
Mount Royal	2	2	0	4	6	3	1	0	1	W2
Red Deer	2	2	0	4	6	0	0	0	2	W2
MacEwan	2	2	0	4	6	2	2	0	0	W2
NAIT	4	2	2	4	9	8	2	1	0	L2
Grande Prairie	2	0	2	0	2	6	0	0	0	L2
Briercrest	4	0	4	0	2	12	0	2	0	L4
North/South Division										
Team	MP	MW	ML	Points	GW	GL	Home	Away	Streak	
TKUC	4	4	0	8	12	1	1	0	3	W4
Keyano	4	4	0	8	12	3	3	0	1	W4
Lakeland	4	3	1	6	10	5	2	0	1	W1
SAIT	4	1	3	2	4	10	1	2	0	L1
Medicine Hat	2	0	2	0	1	6	0	2	0	L2
Portage	2	0	2	0	0	6	0	1	0	L2
Lethbridge	4	0	4	0	4	12	0	0	0	L4

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Provincial Pool										
Team	MP	MW	ML	Points	GW	GL	Home	Away	Streak	
Red Deer	2	2	0	4	6	0	1	0	1	W2
MacEwan	2	2	0	4	6	1	2	0	0	W2
Mount Royal	2	2	0	4	6	2	1	0	1	W2
TKUC	4	2	2	4	8	8	1	1	1	L2
Grande Prairie	2	0	2	0	1	6	0	0	0	L2
SAIT	4	0	4	0	2	12	0	2	0	L4
North/South Division										
Team	MP	MW	ML	Points	GW	GL	Home	Away	Streak	
NAIT	4	4	0	8	12	1	2	0	2	W4
Lethbridge	4	4	0	8	12	1	0	0	4	W4
Portage	4	3	1	6	10	6	1	0	2	L1
Briercrest	4	1	3	2	6	10	1	1	0	W1
Lakeland	2	0	2	0	0	6	0	2	0	L2
Medicine Hat	2	0	2	0	0	6	0	2	0	L2
Keyano	4	0	4	0	2	12	0	3	0	L4

## Ook tracks

### Men's Hockey

Last Week: Lost 7-2 to the MacEwan Griffins Jan. 11 at Bill Hunter Arena. Shut-out the Griffins Jan. 13 at the NAIT Arena.  
Coming Up: Travel to Augustana on Jan. 20. Host Augustana Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

### Women's Hockey

Last Week: Lost 5-4 in overtime on Jan. 14 in Red Deer. Lost 2-0 to Red Deer on Jan. 15.  
Coming Up: Face MacEwan at Grand Trunk Arena Jan. 20 at 8 p.m. Host MacEwan Jan. 22 at 2 p.m.

### Men's Basketball

Last Week: Lost 60-55 and 69-66 to MacEwan on Jan. 13 and 14.  
Coming Up: Host Grande Prairie Jan. 20 at 8:30 p.m. and Jan. 21 at 3 p.m.

### Women's Basketball

Last Week: Lost 60-45 and 69-37 to MacEwan on Jan. 13 and 14.  
Coming Up: Host Grande Prairie Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. and Jan. 21 at 1 p.m.

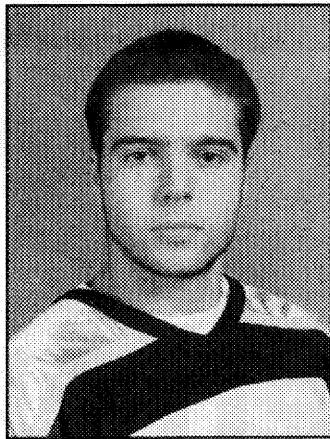
### Men's Volleyball

Last Week: Lost 3-1 and 3-2 to Mount Royal on Jan. 13 and 14.  
Coming Up: Bye week.

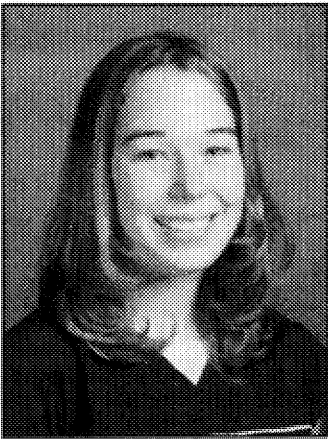
### Women's Volleyball

Last Week: Recorded 3-0 shut-outs against Medicine Hat College on Jan. 13 and 14. Hosted Lakeland College Jan. 18.  
Coming Up: Face Keyano College Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at King's College. Host Keyano Jan. 21 at 6 p.m.

## Ooks of the week



**Ook Of The Week**  
Matt Kirkpatrick:  
Hockey – goaltender  
First year pre-tech  
From Kamloops, BC  
Rebounded from a Jan. 11 loss to MacEwan by completely shutting the Griffins down on Jan. 13. Kirkpatrick made several miraculous saves and stopped more than 40 shots to record a 1-0 shutout. The OOKS have struggled early in the season, but Kirkpatrick aims to lead them back to the play-offs.



**Lady Ook of the week**  
Christine Schultz : Volleyball - middle  
Second year business  
From Fawcett, AB  
Turned in her best two sets of the season. Recording 3 kills, 6 stuff blocks, 7 defensive saves and an astounding 8 service aces, Christine ensured that her Lady Ooks would have little trouble picking up a pair of victories at Medicine Hat College.

## In the swim of things

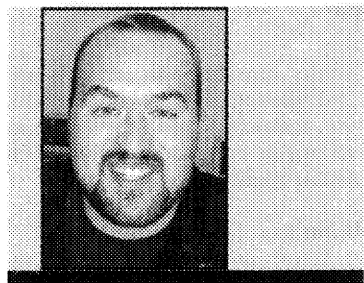
The NAIT Swim Team had their first competition this past week after a semester of training early mornings. With teams from Grant MacEwan, Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie, The Ooks placed first in the men's, second in the women's and second in the combined category only 20 points behind Grant MacEwan (280 vs 300).

Top scorers for the NAIT Squad were Jared Wilson (BUS) 24 points and Nichole Bradfield (PET) 23 points, with Sarah Williams (PFT), Keyton Wilson (Bus), Keith Syryda (CET) and Scott Grey close behind.

The Ooks will travel to Ft. McMurray on Feb. 11 for the next competition and then host the Final championships here at NAIT on Feb. 25.



# Rough ride for Rush



By **TREVOR ELLIOTT**  
Sports Editor

Boom, boom. Out go the lights. That's been the story of the Edmonton Rush through the first two games of their season.

The inexperience of the club, with an average age of 24, has shone brightly at the end of both of their games thus far.

In their inaugural game against San Jose, the Rush twice enjoyed a three goal lead before allowing the Stealth to score four consecutive. The Stealth took a two goal lead late in the fourth quarter, but the Rush battled back to tie the game in regulation. Inexperience, and a bit of bad luck, helped San Jose kill the lights in OT.

The second game of the season was much hyped after Rush owner Bruce Urban promised to open a can of whoop ass on the Calgary Roughnecks. After Jordan Cornfield opened the scoring for the Rush, Calgary scored a five consecutive. Edmonton clawed back from a four goal lead as they score four consecutive themselves.

Roughnecks' Lewis Ratcliff opened a can of whoop ass all by himself, single-handedly scoring an astounding five goals and killed the lights



**Rush in action.**

on the Rush once again.

The Rush have disappointed on the power-play as well. After going three for six against the Stealth, Edmonton stunk out the Saddledome as they managed a meager three of twelve against Calgary. "If we'd have got a break and got a few power-play goals early, then it's a whole different

game," said Rush's top scorer Jamey Bowen, with five on the season.

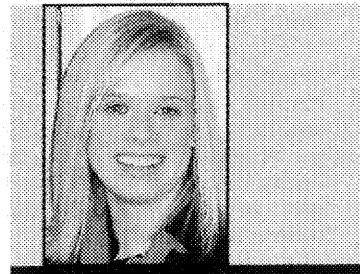
"It's our second close loss and it sucks," said Rush forward and former Roughneck Kevin Howard. "We proved to ourselves that we can play with the best in the league. We are for real, but we need a win. We're not going to be happy with the little comebacks until we actually end up on top."

"The bottom line is we played two and a half good quarters," said Rush head coach Paul Day, admitting

their power-play stunk up the joint. "These guys have to learn that good character is not losing. Character is playing four quarters."

The Rush will have an opportunity to turn the lights out on Calgary and even up the Battle of Alberta as they host the Roughneck Jan. 20.

## SHOT Single of the week



We know it's tough to find that perfect relationship but there are tons of eligible people out there right on campus. Best part is? They're single! Here's our Hot Single of the Week:

By **MORGEN ZOELLER**

*Hey single girls. You're all beautiful to us. We want to put your smiling face in the Nugget. See below for details on how to submit your photo.*

Name: Steve Kean, 22

Program: Automotives

Likes: Mountain biking, building cars, hanging out with friends and Toyota

Dislikes: Cheap people, Ford and Chevy

Turn-ons: Eyes, nails, willingness to try something new, cute laugh, Scorpios

Turn-offs: Bad personal hygiene, snobs

Words: Putting squirrels down your pants is not for gambling purposes.

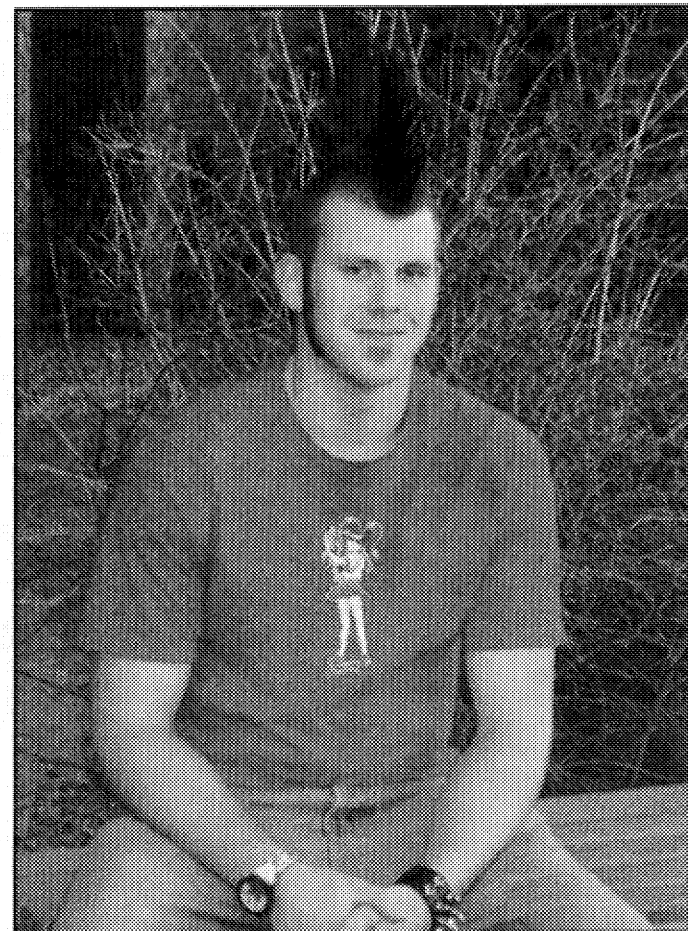
Hero: Chris Farley

Fun includes: Dinner, dancing, drinking, chair racing and possibly sleeping.

Ideal job: Throwing sexy parties, owning my own auto shop in B.C.

Why single: It's the hair; no one wants to date the guy with a Mohawk.

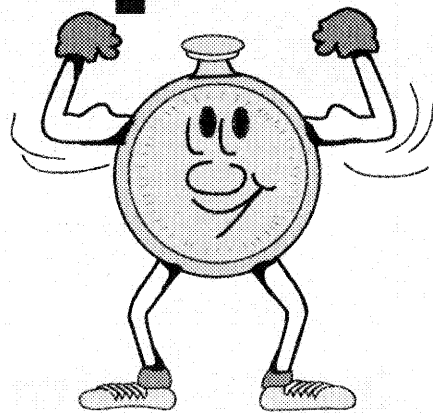
Movie character that you most relate to: The Dude



If you're an eligible single and you want to be featured here, submit your name and e-mail address to [eligiblesingles@hotmail.com](mailto:eligiblesingles@hotmail.com).

READS & NEEDS

# Time to Shape up!



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from **fitness books**  
available at  
your campus store!



# Astral Reflections



By TIM STEPHENS

Jan. 22 – 28, 2006

## Aries March 21-April 19

The four weeks ahead bring you popularity, optimism, social delights, flirtations and brand new plans for the future (which is good, since 2006 will forever alter your life – mostly in beneficial ways that expand your views, learning, higher thought and international “contacts.” Mid-week shows hints.). Since November, higher-ups have looked on you with favor and indulgence. But lately you’ve felt mildly directionless, unproductive. By next week, your direction will return – prepare mentally for a possible big breakthrough, promotion or “new start” in career! (Hints Friday night.)

## Taurus April 20-May 20

An important romance continues – or one could start Friday night! You’ll soon (in February) be able to make the decisions that have eluded you about love – good decisions, that will please you and another. But a new theme enters now for four weeks: career, prestige, your reputation in the community. Relationships of all kinds (including romantic ones) will boost your ambitions and results, so cultivate them above all. A tendency to stay at home, to withdraw or to seek security (job security?) will “fight” your career success. Act accordingly!

## Gemini May 21-June 20

The four weeks ahead emphasize love, a mellow attitude, higher learning, international travel or

contacts, religion, life philosophy, publishing, ideas, society’s traditions and cultural events. Co-workers will help you succeed in these things, but siblings and casual friends won’t. Machinery glitches, static-prone phones, computer snafus and coughing cars can also slow you down. Your finances, investments, sexual intimacy and research efforts have been smooth and lucky for the past month, but you’ve felt directionless, undecided. Friday night brings yet more luck here. In February, you’ll decide, commit and benefit!

## Cancer June 21-July 22

Investments, large debts, investigation, research, dreams, subconscious urges, sexual intimacy, commitment to a lifestyle or person become important over the four weeks ahead. Your creativity, your boldness and sense of play will benefit these areas. “Holding what you have” will impede bold steps. E.g., a focus on keeping your possessions, on day-to-day money, will prevent a venturesome investment. The same applies to sex – here, you must decide what love is. Relationships and opportunities have been lucky but inconclusive for the past month: in February, you’ll decide what and who!

## Leo July 23-Aug. 22

You’ve begun a month of significant relationship developments. Expect opportunities and opposition, conflict and attraction. Romance might sizzle at your work place, might involve your boss – be wise, careful. Three weeks ago I warned you to lighten up toward your mate – to avoid being overly serious. You’ve experienced ten years of indecision and mysteriousness from others (including your mate) so your present skeptical outlook is a natural reaction. This year and 2007 will pit your seriousness against their evasiveness in a climactic struggle. Only love can avoid “complicated results.”

## Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

The month ahead emphasizes work, health, dependents and machinery. Rest midweek, to prepare yourself for future efforts. You’ve been happily distracted for the past month (at least) by a romance, a creative, teaching or speculative project or a pleasure foray – yet you’ve been indecisive, reluctant to commit everything to a new love or other adventure. Well, Friday night could be your lucky “tipping point!” If not, February will end the indecision and delay – by then, you’ll know whether to lighten up or plunge deeper. Your “fond questions” will be answered.

## Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 22

It’s been difficult to make final decisions or commitments in domestic, family, real estate, gardening, house-fixing and similar areas, even though these zones have rewarded you mildly all January. In February, you will make those decisions and they’ll work. But be sure to make a solid start early in February – don’t delay until March! Late Friday night, you’ll see exactly the right thing to do. The four weeks ahead bring love, affection, a sense of adventure, speculation, creativity, joyful children and pleasure forays. Woo someone! Chase money Monday.

## Scorpio Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Your energy, charisma and effectiveness rise nicely Sunday to early Tuesday, so ask favors, make appearances, get things done. Start domestic or social, romantic projects Sunday night after 7 p.m. Two

themes fill the month ahead – your family, nature, your home become more important, but you also feel attracted to people in the outside world. It’s a perfect time, especially Sunday and Friday nights – not days, for a home or garden party with good friends and one new special or romantic friend. Chase money Tuesday/Wednesday. Avoid heart-hunts Thursday to Friday afternoon.

## Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You’ve been indecisive this winter about money, a job, friends or a future goal. You’ll make your decisions, fortunately, in February – perhaps as a result of new information or a short trip you take – so don’t feel you have to rush. Friday night contains some great clues – and great shopping – if you ask, research, or “look around you.” The weeks ahead bring casual friends, paperwork, short trips, calls. Your mind’s alert. Be curious – something hidden will be revealed. An institution or government agency will bring you luck this year.

## Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You face two significant developments now through late February. One, your financial luck rises in earnings and purchases. Friendly coworkers and bosses help you find the upward money path. But you need to watch money agreements, investments and the whole area of “mutual money” this week, especially Sunday and Thursday/Friday. And two, your sexual, creative, venturesome and romantic sides, already strong this

winter, now bring about the events and meetings they’ve been nudging you toward for the last few months. Money or love – seize one of them Friday night!

## Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your energy, charisma and effectiveness rise solidly over the few weeks ahead. Take advantage, impress others, ask for favors, present proposals, start important projects! If they involve law, foreign travel, publishing or higher learning, defer new starts to July – or better yet, wait until December into 2007. Your inner life remains active and sweet – you could soon (Friday night) solve spiritual problems, or yield to a secret attraction. Two things happen in February: the first, you’ll make decisions bearing on that spiritual or tempting hidden attraction. The second – home strife ends.

## Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

The weeks ahead nudge you into retreat. Your energy ebbs, your contemplative side blossoms. But conditions are a bit paradoxical, as you radiate social affection and this draws others to you. Beware of over-committing yourself to clubs, groups, lectures, promised trips, etc. Your body and mind need rest. Dress and eat sensibly. This week is an easy one. You feel wise, mellow Sunday/Monday – far off places, cultural events, foreign films, religion, etc. fascinate you. Be ambitious, reliable mid-week. Your optimism correctly envisions the future Friday night and a flirtation pleases!



## BEAUTY ON A BUDGET

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TKO:



# GRAPEVINES

## Flush the toilets, you animals!

**(Care to give someone the business? Got a crush on a hot guy or girl? Ticked off at something and want to get it off your chest? Send your rants here to: [nuggetgrapevines@hotmail.com](mailto:nuggetgrapevines@hotmail.com))**

To the love of my life in CST:

I don't know where you've been all my life, but since I've set eyes on you, my world has not been the same. Yes it's you - the guy with glasses, always in black.

Every time you glance my way, I'm speechless. You're the perfect height for me because I'm short too. I hope you feel the same way.

-Your Secret Admirer

\*\*\*

I'm looking for the part-time jobs on campus. I will be available after 3:10 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, after 11:10 a.m. every day from the beginning of February, 2006.

I'm experienced with cooking at The Vietnam Express Noodle House in Edmonton City Centre, so I'd prefer working in kitchen as a cook.

Parking available - close to NAIT, five minute walk. Call Sherry at 477-0191.

\*\*\*

A big thanks to all the photography students and buyers involved with December's Print Sale. Over \$500 was raised to help an all

boys orphanage in Guyana, South America. The money will be used for basic school necessities for the boys.

I will be doing further fundraising for the St. John Bosco's Orphanage, throughout the term, as well as accepting "hand-me-downs" of clothes/toys/books. If anyone is interested in helping out, stay tuned.

On behalf of the boys, thanks again guys, the turn out was superior!

- Erin Bayus

\*\*\*

Why is everyone in the \$3 parking lot, parking like a butt-nugget? It seems that the worst offenders are the small cars taking up one and a quarter spaces between the SUVs and trucks that were parked all right.

You people with little cars like me, could we all try to park like people and not animals, so that more cars can fit in that lot, which equals more revenue for NAIT, which equals....what would that get us?

- V. Bad

\*\*\*

I just have to comment on the "Hot single of the week" section of this most recent paper. Matt I thoroughly enjoyed your geeky humour. What a difference!

\*\*\*

To the quiet girl with the cute smile - I see you drink coffee by

yourself sometimes in the main building. If you want some company sometime, keep the chair across from you pushed out.

- Mr. Sweet, Strong and Dark

\*\*\*

In defence of the H.E.T. trade, we're not all creeps! The ones you hear making whistling noises and rude remarks about your beautiful behinds are the dumb, inbred, socially inept hicks that are used to flirting with farm animals.

- Diesel Boy

\*\*\*

To all those business tower haters out there: we own you! We'll be the ones hiring you guys, paying your wages and telling you what to do.

Your whole lives will be dedicated to kissing our asses. In a few years, we will control your lives.

You're the dummies and we are the ventriloquists. Remember when you go through medical experiments, binary number crunching, scratching your balls while fixing cars and cooking your sausages that the business tower has you.

Sincerely,  
-Your Future Bosses

\*\*\*

I would like to know why the male students at NAIT do not know how to flush the toilets and why they don't know how to not piss all over the toilette seats? I had to walk to four different bath-

rooms to find a clean toilet.

I'm wondering if it wouldn't be too much trouble to ask the NAIT students to flush the toilettes and not piss on the seats?

- Concerned Toilet User

\*\*\*

Cozy, bright one bedroom basement suite, just a five minute walk to NAIT. Hardwood floor in bedroom, own kitchen, gas stove, share bathroom with one other. Laundry facilities on site. Cat ok. \$395/month inclusive. Call 432-5737.

\*\*\*

Problem # 7 NAIT words/slogans

I must say that we have those annoying "Respect NAITture" stickers on doors.

Then there's the upcoming election nomiNAIT. A billboard indication illumiNAIT and the list goes on and on. Who in the fuck has the time to come up with these words? Why change the slogan "Bring on the future" to "Get in, go Far?"

\*\*\*

To Kelly Girl:  
In response to your last entry ... Well, if you're really into that then you can smack my bottom any time.

\*\*\*

Next time: Problem #8. NAIT instructors  
Nugget Boy

## Classifieds

For anybody who is interested: The NAIT Christian Association is still meeting for Bible Study and Prayer every Wednesday from 12:15 - 1:10 PM in Room E-129 (Just to the right of the NAIT Students' Association office). Feel free to come in and join us.

**Grace United Church** (625 104 Ave) requires a mature Nursery caregiver Sunday mornings (1 3/4 hours) for children 0-2 1/2 years. A valid First-Aid certificate and police check is required. \$20.00/week. Contact Deborah at 466-0916.

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## The real Messier tribute is in Edmonton

By JASON JONES

Mark Messier Avenue? Mark Messier Boulevard? Mark Messier Drive? Decisions, decisions, decisions.

The Edmonton Oilers have a lot to think about after the Jan. 12 Mark Messier retirement ceremony in Madison Square Garden. Should the ceremony be 77 minutes? Should Ryan Smyth give Messier a fishing rod? Should the hockey game start an hour and a half after advertised?

Good questions all. But what will the Oilers do? If it's anything like the past ceremonies for Al Hamilton, Wayne Gretzky, Jari Kurri, Grant Fuhr, and Paul Coffey, then it will be nothing like the one held in New York. Imagine Messier skating around the ice one final time. Imagine the presence of Wayne Gretzky, no fishing chairs involved, and the ceremony lasting under half an hour. That's how Edmonton does it.

"I couldn't think of a better pre-game ritual for current players than to watch what took place at the Garden Thursday night," said editorial director of NHL.com Phil Coffey. "The league's other 28 teams ought to consider asking for a tape of the events to show their squads."

I have to agree with Coffey. It was great that the current Oilers and Rangers were able to watch the event, but seriously, they

should've taken off their skates and put their feet up. And sending the tape to all the other teams might be a good idea - if the players are suffering from insomnia.

Obviously, it was a wonderful event that gave one of the all-time greats the send off he deserved, yada yada yada. But we all know that when we do it in Edmonton, we'll show up those pretentious New Yorkers and do it right.

Messier loved the event, we know that. But that's not his style. There were too many speeches, too many presents and too much being nice. Messier was about toughness, aggression and attitude. In Edmonton we'll remember him as a hockey player and not try to humanize him into a "nice" guy.

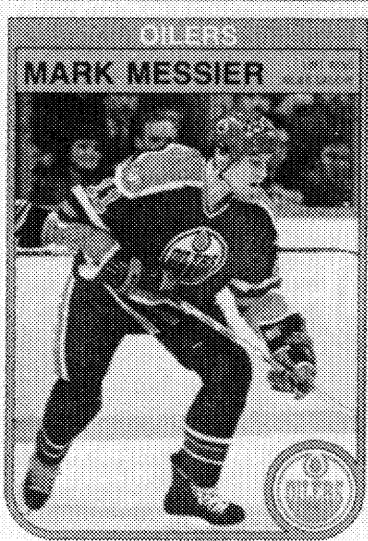
We'll hear stories about Messier's antics at the bar after a bloody two goal game and the number of women in the back of his private

limousine. That's the Messier I remember.

Messier is not a New Yorker, he was born in St. Albert. He only won one cup with the Rangers. He won five with the Oilers, including one that he got all on his own without Gretzky. He was, and always will be an Oiler. The Stanley Cups are the difference and the difference in Edmonton's ceremony will be honouring Messier... the player.

It will take some time before the Oilers decide to show-up the Rangers (because we're nice like that). It might not even be next year if the Oilers decide to finally retire Kevin Lowe's number 4.

Mark Messier's future is in coaching, and we all know that the Oilers like to keep it within the family. When Messier is ready to coach, or at least be the assistant, he will come back to Edmonton. We'll retire his number, rename St. Albert Trail as Mark Messier Trail, and Messier will finish his career where he started.





# THE BACK PAGE

## 'My parents are cokeheads'



### Ask Maria

Dear Maria,

My boyfriend bought me some lovely gifts for Christmas. The problem is that I don't like any of them. My friends say not to tell him. I don't want to be stuck with things I won't use. Am I a bitch for not liking the gifts?

Signed,  
Not Ungrateful.

Dear Not,

No. You are not being a bitch. Why should you pretend to like something when you don't?

If the gifts are clothing, and you

don't like them, and you don't wear them, then he's going to be upset. So come clean with a line like this:

"Baby, thank you for the great Christmas gifts. Some of the things are just not fitting right (or not my color or not my style). Would you mind if I exchange it?"

Most guys would appreciate the truthfulness in that.

Dear Maria,

One weekend when my parents went out of town, they asked my fiancée and I to house sit.

We were looking for a board game and we came upon a little box with cocaine and it's paraphernalia.

It blew my mind to know that my parents do coke! What should I do?

Signed,  
Coke less

Dear Coke less,

Just because you found it in their home doesn't mean it's their's. But if it looks like a duck and it quacks like a duck...

Listen Coke less, cocaine is bad. I have a diploma in law enforcement. I'm totally against drugs. But lots of people use coke recreationally. Have you seen a change in their behaviors or lifestyle?

If not, you might want to keep the info to yourself and let them lead their own life.

If you do want to confront them, when they come home, tell them that you were looking for a game and came upon this: and show them.

At first they will ask you why you were snooping. Then they will be embarrassed and either tell you that it's not their's or sheepishly tell you the truth. Remember, they are adults and can make their own decisions.

Dear Maria,

I have a friend who is a bad singer. The problem is that she thinks that she is really good.

She goes to karaoke bars and sings and then I hear people laughing and making fun of her.

She thinks that they are jealous of her. She is very attractive and

confident but she stinks at singing. As a best friend what should I do?

Signed,  
Tuned

Dear Tuned,

Ask her to record herself and to listen to it. Then ask her to get critiqued.

There are many professional people who will professionally critique you for a fee

This is all assuming that she is serious about having a singing career.

Or, just let her be. If it bothers you that much, stay home.

Dear Maria,

I have a great male friend whose wife just told him that four years ago, she had an affair. They have been married for 15 years with four kids.

When he asked her why, she said that the guy she had an affair with gave her the oral sex that he didn't.

Now my buddy only told me that his wife had an affair. I

found out why from his wife's best friend.

She also told me that oral sex grosses him out.

How can I help him when I'm not supposed to know why she cheated?

Signed,  
Yikes

Dear Yikes,

Ask your buddy if he knows why she cheated. Then if he tells you, tell him that there are a lot of people who don't like performing oral sex and that they should both go see a sex therapist. For the sake of their marriage they should see a marriage counselor as well.

(Maria Manna is a NAIT alumni whose columns have appeared in publications throughout North America. If you have an issue you want to discuss, e-mail her at [etiquette@shaw.ca](mailto:etiquette@shaw.ca). She will answer all letters, published or not).

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