

## Innovation is key at job fair

By JASON ROMANIUK  
Staff Writer

A "driving force in tourism," plus plenty of jobs, plus instant interviews, equals an excellent opportunity for Niagara College students.

Niagara College and the Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) will be joining forces to hold the first annual Exclusive Job Fair at the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Jan. 29.

The fair, which is offered exclusively to Niagara College students, is offering jobs in many different areas within the NPC. These include retail, attractions and heritage, transportation, food services, police services, golf and administrative services, which includes marketing, accounting, payroll, health and safety and purchasing.

While summer jobs will be offered, Lucia Szeplaki, a Niagara College Job Centre consultant, says, "It's not just a summer recruitment program." Besides summer jobs, the event will offer co-ops, internships and full-time positions. Janet Forfar, Job Centre consultant, and Silvana Auld, project co-ordinator, are assisting with the job fair.



Szeplaki says there is a clear purpose for hosting this type of event. "This is a good way to retain Niagara talent in Niagara. It is an effort to change the trend."

This trend, says Szeplaki, is becoming "a major concern" for the job market in the Niagara Region. "There is a huge concern that students are making a large exodus out of the Niagara Region in favor of the Toronto and Hamilton markets."

Szeplaki says having a job fair such as this is a step in the right direction. "If you offer someone a decent job with decent pay, why would they relocate?" she says, adding the NPC is continuing to offer these types of local opportunities.

Szeplaki says the Niagara Region has hidden potential for job seekers. "It's a whole new ballgame living and working in Niagara. It's a better way of life."

Innovation is key at the Exclusive Job Fair. Not only will students have a wide range of employment areas to explore, but also they will have a chance to have an on-the-spot, five-minute preliminary interview after they submit an application. If the first interview goes well, a student could be called back for a second interview.

Szeplaki says the partnership of an "established institution" (Niagara College) and a "driving force in tourism" (NPC) has already produced results. Three Niagara College students - Ailene Peritalo, Chris Rowley and Addie Van Praet - have already begun an internship in the Environmental Management and Assessment program because of this partnership.

Opening ceremonies for the job fair will be at 10 a.m. with a 15- to 20-minute presentation by Niagara College President Dan Patterson and Brian Merritt, NPC chairman.

A shuttle service will pick up students at the Welland campus and Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls at 10:30 a.m. and bring them to the Glendale campus. Return buses are at 12:30 p.m.

Szeplaki says for students at Niagara College looking for employment, the Exclusive Job Fair is "the place to be." She adds the cost for the college is "minor" and that this event is expected to be a regular fixture in years to come.

Besides the Jan. 29 job fair, Brock University in St. Catharines and Niagara College are teaming up for a job fair on Feb. 7. The Maid of the Mist Centre is holding its own job fair on Feb. 13. For further information contact your campus's job centre, Glendale campus in W115, Welland campus in SE101 and Maid of the Mist Centre at Student Services.



The opening of the Student Gathering Centre was celebrated on Jan. 8 with the help of President Dan Patterson (left), Karen Brown, SAC vice-president of student affairs, and Peter Mete, director of Aramark Food Services Ltd.

Photo by Aaron Foster

## New SGC 'historic moment' at Niagara

By ROCHELLE WHITE  
Staff Writer

Open for business ... finally. After months of construction and great anticipation, the brand-new Student Gathering Centre (SGC) celebrated its grand opening at the Welland campus Jan. 8.

Balloons, music and refreshments filled the new facility for the ceremony, as did many students and members of college staff.

Steve Hudson, vice-president corporate services, welcomed everyone in attendance to kick off the festivities. Calling the new cafeteria "a long project for the college," Hudson spoke of the SGC master plan, three years in the making, as well as the eight months of construction, "which included the removal of 70,000 lbs. of concrete."

Located next to the redesigned Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

in the Simcoe building, the 12,000-square-foot SGC is twice the size of the old cafeteria, which was located in the Black Walnut building. With seating for 400, the facility is also accessible for individuals with disabilities.

The total cost for the renovation, which includes the upgrades to the LRC completed in October, was \$1.6 million.

"We've come a long way from Black Walnut," said Karen Brown, Student Administrative Council (SAC) vice-president student affairs. "Students have definitely been awaiting this." Brown, on behalf of SAC, acknowledged "the planning and design involved many students from the college."

Niagara College President Dan Patterson, in his address to staff and students, noted that this event was "a historic moment in the life of the college." Describing the

new SGC as "one of the finest student gathering spaces around," Patterson told the students, "I hope you have great fun in here and it provides the opportunity for you to meet new friends."

Students and staff lined up for pieces of six-foot submarine sandwiches and giant cake.

Ca\$ino Bro\$, Ken Emberson and Jayson Duggan, provided musical entertainment while refreshments were served. A rock band from the Hamilton area, the two musicians play throughout the Niagara Region, and joked Niagara College is "a place where you can have your cake and eat it too."

The winner of the Eat Free for a Month contest was drawn from a ballot box. Student George Treshak received 20 \$10 gift certificates to use toward the purchase of food or beverages from Aramark Services.



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# ◆ News ◆

## 'Much-improved gathering space' pleases Patterson

By **ROCHELLE WHITE**  
Staff Writer

No one is happier that the new Student Gathering Centre (SGC) has opened its doors than Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

"Overdue," said Patterson, in reference to the construction of the brand-new facility at the Welland campus, which opened Jan. 8. "Students are anxious to have better gathering spaces."

Niagara College officials have shown continued enthusiasm for the SGC throughout the construction phase, including Patterson who told *Niagara News*, "We wanted to make

it a pleasing atmosphere."

Decorated in pastel colours, the SGC makes use of natural lighting with its windows, which overlook the courtyard. "I am really pleased with the new look. I think the students are really going to enjoy the ambience and the brightness," said Patterson. "The space was underutilized, dark and dull. We have brought it back to life."

The construction – "a labour of love" – which took eight months to complete, produced what Patterson calls "a top-notch facility." The SGC, "a much-improved student gathering space," replaced a cafeteria in the Black Walnut building, which was half the size.

"Student life is an important component," said Patterson. "The new facility provides good opportunities for socializing and enjoyment of the camaraderie of fellow students."



President Dan Patterson checks out the progress of the new Student Gathering Centre. Above, Patterson inspects the floor construction. At left, Patterson smiles with approval as Steve Hudson, vice-president corporate services, looks on.

Photos by Rochelle White

### *More students click online as distance learning registration continues to grow*

By **MIKE VAN KOOTEN**  
Staff Writer

Distance learning continues to grow at Niagara College.

Since 1996, Niagara College has been offering online education for students who can't reach a campus to attend class in person.

It began in 1996 with about 70 students, a number that has grown to more than 600 a term, or 1,800 students a year.

The students are about "99.9 per cent Canadian," said Rick Fortier, Distance Education and Open Learning Centre co-ordinator.

He said most are from Ontario, while some are from the west coast and others are in the military. Fortier said in the case of military personnel it is "a good way to pick up courses," because they are constantly travelling.

There are about 100 courses offered, which are basically "half credit, half vocational through continuing education," said Fortier.

Interested students can apply just as with any other course at the Continuing Education front desk, but also over the Internet. Applicants are given a personal identification number and can then access the course through [www.niagarac.on.ca/distance](http://www.niagarac.on.ca/distance).

The courses are instructor led, with the posting of messages and the exchange of e-mail. Many of the courses have a final exam that must be written in person, which can be at any Ontario college, local libraries or other appropriate places acceptable to the college.

The costs range from the low hundreds to more than \$400 a class, plus the cost of textbooks.

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# SAC 'an unforgettable experience'

By **KATIE MacKIMMIE**  
Staff Writer

For the past 32 years, Student Administrative Council (SAC) has been an important part of Niagara College.

"It's one of the most satisfying experiences a college student can have," said Brigitte Chiki, director of access and student success at the college.

Over the years, SAC has been responsible for many changes instituted in the college. For example, SAC saw that open access computer labs were opened in 1997 with Internet access available day and night, as well as on weekends.

SAC also supports the college's athletic teams, plans events such as sexual and alcohol awareness weeks, and run the student centres on each campus.

With a budget of about \$720,000 coming from a student activity fee included in tuition costs," SAC is a legal business entity," said Chiki. "It's a great opportunity for students who want a taste of the business world."

However, SAC executives are not given the sole responsibility of handling \$720,000. There is a full-time staff member employed at the SAC offices on each campus.

SAC also contributes to causes such as the charity ball to be held Feb. 16 and organized the Children's Christmas Party, which was a free party for the children of students at the college.

"SAC is a very powerful voice on how student's money is spent," said Chiki. Members of SAC sit on the Fee Protocol and Technology committees, as well as the board of governors. They are also members of Ontario Community Colleges Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA).

"Basically, SAC is a big part of anything major happening at the college," she said.

On top of all this, each of the nine SAC executives (three on each campus) is paid \$100 a week for putting in 10 hours of work. "There is an honorarium associat-

ed with this job." Chiki said most students are interested in being a part of SAC for philosophical reasons, but there is always the worry that students will apply only for the money.

SAC executives can also receive four leadership credits on their transcripts in place of a general education course.

"It's an unforgettable experience. It opens doors, you get to travel, have fun, and get paid for it," she said.

Yet with all of this in mind, there were no SAC elections last year. Every position was acclaimed. "Last year was a fluke," Chiki said, adding that as much effort was made to advertise the elections last year as any other year before. There were posters, banners, advertisements and articles in the *Niagara News*, and even notices sent to teachers to inform students.

Chiki said she thinks there will be an election this year.

"I think raising awareness in the student body is the most important issue. Students can't run for positions they aren't aware of," said Karen Brown, vice-president, student affairs.

"I think maybe a lot of students have the wrong perception about SAC. They might think it's like a high school SAC, just doing little things like organizing dances," said Chiki. She added that it is much more formal, right down to the meeting, which are held in a boardroom.

There are three available positions on each campus, president, vice-president, student events and vice-president, student affairs.

Students who are interested in being a part of SAC can pick up election kits at any of the SAC offices. Eligible candidates must have a nomination sheet filled out with a number of student signatures, they must maintain a 65 per cent average. Elections will be held at the end of March.

"It's so great watching students grow in the position, with wide eyes and great ideas. They face hurdles, but it's great to see their efforts succeed."



BRIGITTE CHIKI

## Mardi Gras Niagara style

By **CHRISTINA COLLI**  
Staff Writer

It's a Mardi Gras.

The first annual Niagara College Charity Ball is set for Saturday, Feb. 16. Students, staff and faculty are invited to join the revelry.

"Every facet of the college we've spoken to has shown genuine enthusiasm about this event," says Christopher Newman, Student Administrative Council (SAC) vice-president of special events.

The planning committee is headed by Dave Rapelje, manager of After Hours at the Welland campus, and includes SAC members, students in the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program, the Welland campus residence's social directors and students wishing to volunteer.

The event is still in the early stages of planning, but Rapelje says it promises to be a memorable event.

"This event is the first of its kind in all my years at the college."

Its Mardi Gras theme, props, performers and musicians will turn the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel's ballroom into an authentic New Orleans party in Niagara Falls.

The purpose of this event is not only to present Niagara College with its first college-wide formal event, but to raise money for a good cause. A silent auction, ticket sales and sponsor donations

will all go towards the Food for Friends fund.

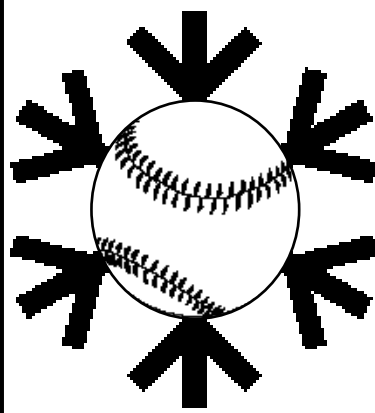
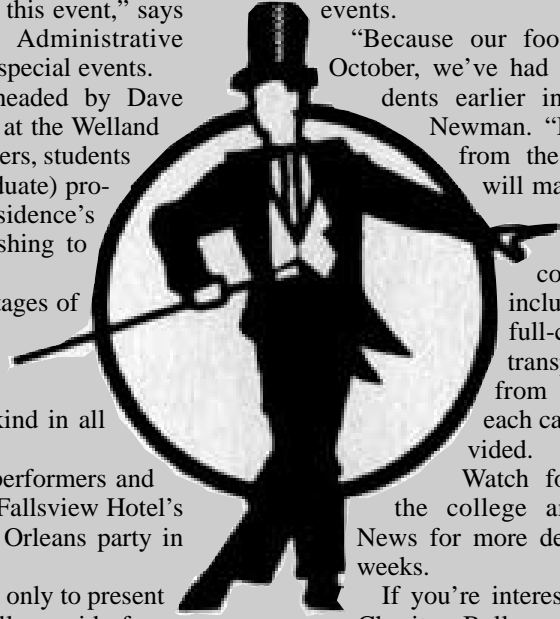
"It's important because it (charity ball) is raising awareness for the food drive," says Kirk Shilling, a student in the Special Event Management (Post-graduate) program. He is doing his co-op placement with SAC and After Hours planning and running special events.

"Because our food drive starts in October, we've had to turn away students earlier in the year," says Newman. "By raising money from the charity ball, we will make sure that never happens again."

The ticket cost is \$40 and will include entrance and a full-course meal. Bus transportation, leaving from and returning to each campus, will be provided.

Watch for posters around the college and read Niagara News for more details in following weeks.

If you're interested in joining the Charity Ball committee, contact Rapelje at After Hours at ext. 7660 or visit any of the SAC offices at all three campuses



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@ the Welland Campus

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- If you can't attend the Job Fair visit *The Job Centre* by March 1st, 2002 and drop off your resume and complete an application form

### **\*BUS SHUTTLE SERVICE SCHEDULE**

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| • Welland Campus to Glendale Campus          | 10:30 pickup |
| • Maid of the Mist Campus to Glendale Campus | 10:30 pickup |
| • Glendale Campus to Welland Campus          | 12:30 pickup |
| • Glendale Campus to Maid of the Mist Campus | 12:30 pickup |

**TIP:**  
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for a great  
"First Impression"



### **The Job Centre Locations**

|                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Glendale<br/>W115</b> | <b>Welland<br/>SE101</b> | <b>Maid of the Mist<br/>Student Services</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|

# Secondary school students train at Niagara

By **ADAM BOGLE**  
Staff Writer

For the first time in Ontario history, a community college is providing secondary school students with automotive apprenticeship training.

In mid-February, about 21 Grade 12 students will be going to Niagara College's Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at the

The students will spend Mondays and Tuesdays getting co-op experience at a field placement in the automotive industry. Then on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays they come to the college.

Greg Wheeler, 40, of Niagara Falls, the co-ordinator of the MOYAP program, says the students get training in topics like

this is the first time a format like this college-high school partnering has been offered. Spear is the manager of apprenticeship here.

"Through research it was identified that not all schools could do the in-school apprenticeship training. We try to help students with their career choices at Grade 10 and 11." He says this lets them make a career choice.

Wheeler says that by doing a program like this, a student can understand the practical applications of subjects like math and science without needing to question their relevance.

Wheeler graduated from Niagara College's Automotive Trade School program in 1984 when that program was new.

Harry Lewis, of Fort Erie, a

professor at the centre, says the program will be useful. "It's going to help plug in the shortage of mechanics."

Spear says he wants to start similar modified youth apprenticeship programs with culinary skills at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls and with precision metals at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



In February, secondary students from both Niagara school boards will attend Niagara College for a new co-op program that allows them to finish the first phase of the Automotive Service Technical apprenticeship program and graduate from high school at the same time. Greg Wheeler, seen here teaching a similar apprenticeship class as the secondary school students will be taking, is the co-ordinator of the new Modified Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Photo by Adam Bogle

Welland campus to start automotive service technician training before they graduate from high school. This is all part of a new pilot program at the college.

The Modified Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (MOYAP) is a secondary school co-op program taught at Niagara College in collaboration with the District School Board of Niagara and Niagara's Catholic School Board.

Students will be able to obtain their final three secondary school credits while at the same time finishing the first of three eight-week phases in the Automotive Service Technician apprenticeship program at the college.

fuel systems, electronics, engine mechanics, steering, brake systems, workshop practices and safety procedures. The program will finish at the end of May.

Students won't have to pay to come to the college. Funding will come from the school boards and the provincial government, says Wheeler.

A similar program has been tried in Hamilton and Toronto area secondary schools. It was called the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

This program was taught just at the high schools, says Wheeler, but it didn't have a lot of success.

Dave Spear, of Fort Erie, says

## Marketing KPI

### *Trouble under the hood*



Shown is a 1972 Mustang sitting in one of the two garages at the Skill Centre for Motive Training at Niagara College's Welland campus. It is one of many cars donated to the college to be fixed by students in the centre's numerous programs.

Photo by Adam Bogle

# Pocket filling, health improving with LTPB

By **JENNIFER PHILLIPS**  
Staff Writer

Students have an opportunity to quit smoking and win \$300 this week at Niagara College.

Leave the Pack Behind (LTPB) kicked off its four contests with displays, brochures and carbon monoxide tests. There was a contest for everyone from regular smokers to occasional smokers and non-smokers. The contests will run for one month.

Representatives from LTPB were at the Welland campus on Jan. 14 and at the

Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Jan. 16. They are at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At registration, most contestants were given a test to check the level of carbon monoxide in their system.

The big prize of \$300 is under the category of Quit for Good. Other contests include Keep the Count and Party Without the Pack, each with a first-place prize of \$75. There is a contest for non-smokers called Don't Start and Win, and a first-place prize of \$50. All contests

have second and third place prize packs.

All contestants need a buddy and a witness to ensure that they keep their part of the deal.

There will be three gift certificate prizes for buddies and witnesses.

Caroline Klus, a student in the Special Event Management (Post-graduate) program and program co-ordinator of LTPB, says four potential winners from each category will be drawn on Feb. 15. At that time they will need to go to the Health Centre for carbon monoxide and nicotine tests.

Chris Haggart, 23, of Sudbury, a second-year student in the General Arts and Sciences program, signed up for the Quit for Good contest. He says he has smoked for eight years but quit once for two years. He says he thinks this program will help him quit once and for all because there is "a chance to win something."

Sebastian Cazimi, 21, of St. Catharines, a second-year student in the Police Foundations program, says he has smoked for three years and is entering the Quit for Good contest because there "is money involved."

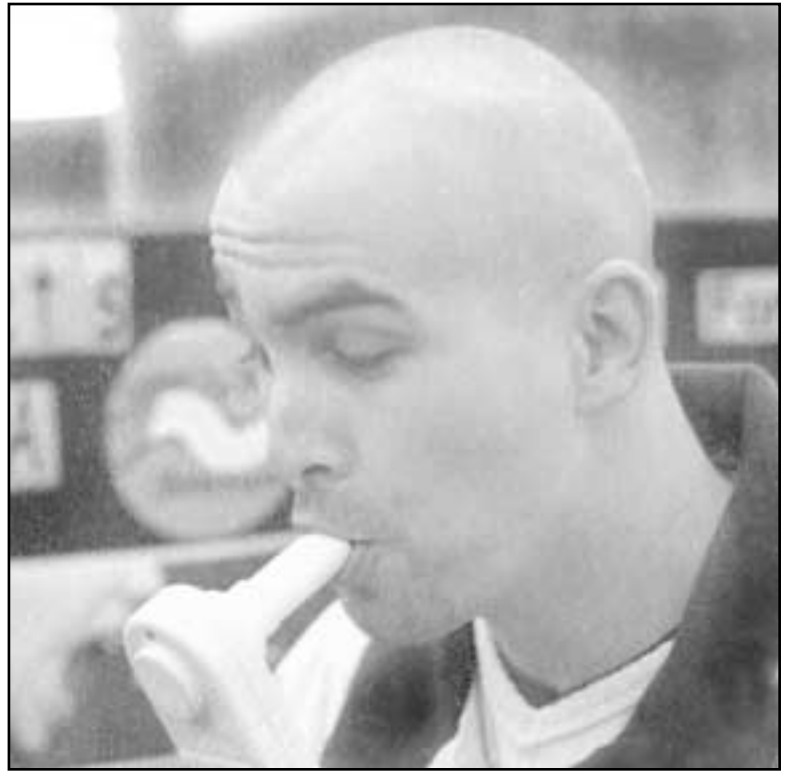


Andrew Hanes, (left), a representative from Leave the Pack Behind, explains how to use a carbon monoxide detector to Chris Haggart, 23, of Sudbury.



Chris Haggart, (right photo) tests his carbon monoxide level.

Photos by Jennifer Phillips



## Padgett program offers scholarship

A \$500 regional scholarship is available for dependents of small business owners in the Niagara Region. The local office of Gerry Lacroix participates in the Padgett Business Services Scholarship program.

The local award is part of an international Padgett program that has awarded over \$550,000 throughout North America since 1990.

"Independent business owners must maintain a quality, profitable operation without access to many of the resources larger corporations have; that makes saving for their children's education difficult," Lacroix noted.

Applicants must be graduating high school seniors

who plan to attend an accredited post-secondary institution. A parent or legal guardian of the student must be an active owner of at least 10 per cent of the stock or capital in a local business that employs fewer than 20 people. The award will be based on applicant college aptitude test scores, high school grade-point averages, extracurricular activities, and educational and career plans. Application deadline is March 1. All regional winners are eligible for a \$4,000 international scholarship.

To obtain an application call Sherry Ann Shortland at 905-374-6622.

Padgett Business Services is a financial reporting and tax consulting service.

**Misery loves company.**  
Two Journalism-Print program students, **Melissa Pilon and Tina Lanzillotta**, are trying to **Leave the Pack Behind** permanently. Join us as we chronicle their weekly adventures, starting Jan. 25.

If you have a piercing or tattoo you want to show off, sign up before Jan. 23, in room S212, Welland Campus, for our upcoming feature sections.

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# Students in dark about depression

By SEAN F. TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

*This is the first in a two-part series dealing with depression.*

Many depressives are first recognized during their college years.

According to the Roper-Starch Survey, conducted in April, one in five college students worries that his/her stress level is higher than it should be. A miniscule six per cent said that they would seek help from college counsellors to confront their problem.

The average age of a first-time sufferer of major depression is 25. Depression is often related to suicide. As a result, suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds, according to Statistics Canada. The per capita suicide rate has increased three times in the last four decades.

Clinical depression is not a passing mood, a sign of personal weakness or a condition that can be willed away. Clinically depressed people can't "pull themselves together" and get better.

Laura, who didn't want her last name used, 20, of Guelph, says she feels depressed "when I am alone, without my friends and family. School helps because it keeps me busy. When I am depressed, I feel lazy and lonely." She continues, "Not one thing ever gets me depressed. I think it's a combination of not having someone close and no friends and family around me."

A mental health professional or trained health care provider can treat depression. With the right treatment, 80 per cent of those who seek help get better. The results of those who get the proper help are positive, and results are often immediate.

Stephanie, who also didn't want her last name used, 20, of Smiths Falls, Ont., is a student in the Office Administration program. "I get depressed when people are upset with me or if I feel like I am unwanted somewhere. It (depression) affects my personality. I get moody and irritable if people try to talk to me. Otherwise, I'm very enclosed and try to keep to myself."

She says, "I feel very alone and sometimes cry for no reason. I just want to sleep and make everything wrong

go away. Depression feels like I'm walking in a crowd of black and white happy people and I can't keep my head



## SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION

- **Sadness, anxiety or "empty" feelings**
- **Decreased energy, fatigue**
- **Loss of interest in pleasurable activities**
- **Sleep disturbances, insomnia, oversleeping**
- **Appetite and weight changes, either loss or gain**
- **Feelings of hopelessness, guilt, worthlessness**
- **Thoughts of death or suicide, or suicide attempts**
- **Difficulty concentrating, making decisions**
- **Irritability or excessive crying**
- **Chronic aches and pains not caused by another physical condition**

Source: the Roper-Starch Survey

up to smile back."

Chris Charles, 20, in the Commerce program at

Carleton University in Ottawa, says he is "depressed at night when there is no one around me to keep me safe. I also get depressed with the frantic course load at school and the constant pressure to succeed." He says, "Depression to me feels like being in an elevator that is bound for nowhere."

Depression is caused by a combination of genetics, physiological and environmental factors. But, depression often occurs for no reason at all.

Depression often runs in families. Stress - depression is often a combination of psychological and environmental stressors.

If stress is a contributing factor to clinical depression, a professional should treat it. If stress is not a contributing factor, writing in a journal, exercising or talking with friends is often therapy enough.

Common stressors in college are greater academic demands, being on your own in a new environment, changes in family relationships, money issues, social changes in your life, exposure to new people and cultures, ideas, temptations, awareness of sexual identity and orientation and the ever-important preparation for life after graduation.

Major depression is manifested by a combination of symptoms that interfere with your ability to work, sleep, eat and enjoy once-pleasurable activities.

A less intense type of depression involves long-term, chronic symptoms that are less severe, but keep you from functioning at your full ability and from feeling well.

In bi-polar illness, otherwise known as manic-depressive illness, cycles of depression alternate with cycles of elation and increased activity.

Bi-polar disorder is a type of depressive illness that involves mood swings that go from periods of depression to periods of being overly up and irritable. Sometimes the mood swings are dramatic or rapid, but often occur gradually over several weeks. The "up" or manic phase can include an increase in energy and activity, insomnia and impulsive or reckless behaviour, which includes sexual promiscuity.

# Annual Polar Bear Dip makes reporter's heart skip a beat

By RYAN SUTHERLAND  
Staff Writer

I jumped in Lake Erie on Jan. 6.

My friend, Shelby Fear, and I approached the Bertie Boating Club in Fort Erie in her huge Lincoln with her two children. I remember thinking, "What the hell am I doing?" I would never have said that out loud; you can't show doubt in an event like this.

I opened the door to her car and stepped out into the snow with only a one-strapped sandal to cover my bare feet. I was cold already as the winter wind blew across my bare legs and the slush from the street splashed with every step I took.

As I approached the sign in front of the boat club that read WINTERFEST and POLAR BEAR DIP, a shiver went up my spine. "I can't believe I'm going through with this," I thought.

We entered the parking lot, mingled with some friends and talked. Exclamations like "You're crazy!" and "So, are ya ready?" spilled from their mouths and all I could do was nod my head in agreement.

My toes were so cold they were numb. My legs were freezing. I was about to jump into water that was two degrees above freezing.

A voice bellowed over a loudspeaker, "Ten minutes to go." My heart skipped a beat. Shelby looked at me, smiled and asked, "Are you ready?"

"Ready as I'll ever be," I replied.

Shelby has been doing this for the past six years and, unfortunately, having missed last year's event, was looking forward to it.

After talking with friends, checking out the other 45 or so participants and watching reporters interviewing different people, I noticed the St. John Ambulance personnel. I also noticed three guys in dry suits bobbing up and down in the water.

The voice again came over the loudspeaker, "Five minutes to go."

Shelby turned to me and said, "All right, time for one more smoke."

"Yep," I replied as I watched most of the people prepare in what seemed to be a ritualistic dance of jumping around and shaking their arms and legs.

After our last smoke the voice bellowed, "All right, peo-

ple, get ready. Ten seconds to go."

I took off my sweater and handed it to my friend Ted who promised to give it back to me as soon as I got out of the water.



Hardy participants await the starter's signal before their icy plunge.

Photo by Ryan Sutherland

The screaming began, as did the five-second countdown. I was at the back of the crowded concrete boat ramp on which we all lined up to run in the water.

The countdown began: "Five, four, three, two, one!" and with a loud holler I ran towards the water. My heart was racing. I didn't know what to expect.

I hit the water and ran in to about my waist. My body was engulfed in heart-stopping cold, and I leaned back and submerged my head in the icy lake water.

What seemed to be five minutes in the water was only seconds and I raced back up the boat ramp.

When I got out, Shelby was already back on the ramp. She asked, "Are you ready to go again?"

"Let's go," I replied, shaking from the cold.

The first part of my second endeavour wasn't as bad. By the time I got to my waist again, my body began stinging. I quickly swept my legs out from under me and immersed my whole self in the arctic-like water. I then lifted my head from the water with a noise written words cannot express and bolted back up the boat ramp.

Again met by Shelby at the top of the ramp, this time I

felt my body was being poked repeatedly by 10,000 needles.

I looked at Shelby and confessed, "I can't go again."

"That's all right," she reassured me. We headed back to the pavilion running past well-wishers as though through a fraternity whip line.

Just in front of the pavilion were two hot tubs on trailers, so I wrapped myself in my towel and headed there.

I dipped my freezing legs into the steaming water to what I thought would be warm relief but what turned out to be sharp pain.

After about a minute of being out of the water I wasn't really cold. I guess my body was in shock. It had lost all feeling.

I knew this wasn't going to last long so I grabbed my sweater and changed out of my wet shorts. I ordered a couple of beers and enjoyed the remainder of the afternoon in front of a fire at the boat club and discussed how crazy we were and if we would ever do it again.

Although an official Polar Bear run consists of three dips, I consider myself Polar Bear enough.



Ryan Sutherland fakes confidence as he prepares to immerse himself in bitter cold water.

Submitted photo

I would recommend this experience to anyone. It is invigorating and sobering (cured my hangover quickly).

It may seem crazy, but I can say I did it and it was a blast.

# ◆ Editorial ◆

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of

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## Johannesburg summit opportunity for mankind

The year 2002 has the potential to be a landmark year in efforts to address the planet's environmental and developmental problems.

This year in Johannesburg, South Africa, from Aug. 26 to Sept. 4, world leaders will convene with all sectors of society to discuss mankind's problems relating to sustainable development.

The term sustainable development was thrown into the consciousnesses of world leaders at the United Nations (UN) conference on environment and development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The goal was to improve the quality of life for all the world's people without increasing the use of our natural resources beyond the earth's carrying capacity.

Commitments were outlined at Rio in Agenda 21, a document signed by all world leaders in a commitment

towards the betterment of mankind and our earth.

Here we are now, 10 years later, and very few goals have been met.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, of Ghana, Africa, gave a candid assessment of the progress made since Rio saying in some respects conditions are worse than they were 10 years ago.

One would question what is going to be done at the Johannesburg Summit to ensure these problems are no longer ignored.

With the world's population topping 6 billion, it seems inexcusable that there are 1.1 billion people who still lack access to safe drinking water and 2.4 billion who lack adequate sanitation.

Over the next two decades, total water usage will increase by 40 per cent while carbon dioxide emissions

are expected to increase 75 per cent.

The summit in Johannesburg must address the 815 million people in the world who are undernourished, and put forward a social movement for change.

The summit in Johannesburg must put people before profits and it must send the message that we will no longer accept extreme poverty and environmental degradation.

We are all living in one world, and no part of our world can afford to ignore the problems of the rest.

The Johannesburg Summit will be our chance to take the lead and demonstrate what we are possible of achieving.

**Karen Renee**

## Enron collapse comes as surprise to investors

Like it or not, we live in a world where capitalism rules.

Big business is in and the far left of the political spectrum is drifting into irrelevance. South of the border, billion-dollar corporations are in control of the economy.

To some, the ability of a company to make as much money as it can, competitively, makes the world go round. To each his or her own thought. The state the world today is not up for debate; it is what it is.

Living in a free market system is not what it's cracked up be. In the U.S., a big business story has stolen headlines from the war against terrorism.

On Dec. 2, a Houston, Tex.-based energy giant and high profile political donor named Enron filed for bankruptcy. This marks the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history. Enron was once the seventh largest company in America. Its fall is attributed to a slowdown in the telecom sector and lowered natural gas prices. In less than a year, the price of an Enron share on the New

York Stock Exchange went from \$82 to 67 cents.

Right now the U.S. Justice department is investigating the Enron collapse to see if the company was involved in criminal activity.

It's alleged that it overstated profits by about \$580 million since 1997. Through creating shell companies, Enron executives were able to hide their financial shortcomings and falsify their records. Simply put, Enron's investors had no clue the company was about to fall.

Added to this, Enron's 20,000 employees were urged to buy stocks through their 401(k) retirement plan and were barred from selling their shares. When the company collapsed, not only did many people lose their jobs, but they lost their entire life savings in the process.

At the same time, Enron executives sold about \$1.1 billion in stocks. Six hundred other employees were given \$100,000 bonuses. Enron Chairman Kenneth Lay sold \$16 million in stocks between January and

September 2001.

Needless to say, Enron employees are angry. About 15 separate lawsuits have been filed from different groups representing employees.

Quite frankly, considering all the evidence, Lay should be thrown in jail; his actions were dishonest and immoral. Those involved in this sordid affair should be stripped of every cent they made manipulating hardworking employees, and the money should be given to the people who lost their life's savings through this economic farce.

The Enron collapse is an extreme case of corporate dishonesty and should serve to remind all of us we don't live in a perfect world, and some of the most evil people in this world are also the most successful.

To those who like this free market we live in, Enron is a black eye.

**Adam Bogle**

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Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.

All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.



# ◆ Opinions ◆

## Privatizing hydro will be detrimental



**Gary  
Edgar**  
Staff  
Writer

### Column

The end is near; the horsemen of the Apocalypse are upon us. OK, so maybe the selling of Hydro One, Ontario's last publicly owned energy provider, isn't that dramatic but it is something to be taken seriously.

In his swan song, Ontario

Premier Mike Harris has decided to forego common sense and sell Hydro One to the highest bidder.

Harris will be adding to an already padded resumé of public sales including environmental inspection, ambulance services and the 407 toll highway.

However, while those were minor sales with less impact on the province, the selling of Hydro One is something that residents of Ontario will be feeling for many years to come.

The immediate implication is simple: increased energy rates to homes.

A study by Orillia Hydro esti-

mates that rates will jump 20 per cent in overall and hourly usage. Harris may also implement a tax to help pay off the \$20-billion debt Hydro One has incurred.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but doesn't this contradict the conservative ideal of more money in the taxpayer's pocket?

How does this affect a student?

First, the increase in rates will mean that a large building using lots of electricity, say a college, will be forced to come up with more money to pay off the increases.

What better place to get this

money than from students in the form of tuition?

Second, as students, you will soon make the transition into homeowners, and by that time hydro rates could potentially be at an all-time high.

Still, this is the tip of the iceberg.

Almost every time a province or state has tried to privatize public works, the plan fails miserably.

Take California, which recently privatized its hydro and suffered through major brownouts and blackouts all spring and summer. The state was forced to purchase energy from Canadians and

at a premium.

Alberta sold its provincial hydro agency last January and has seen rates climb to \$130 an hour and fall to \$33. A utilities manager from the University of Alberta couldn't comment on whether tuition fees had climbed in the last year because the market was "still too volatile."

If no one else has been able to do it, why does Harris think he can?

Perhaps the premier suffers from a God complex and thinks he can do what no one else can. Maybe he just wants to stick it to the people of Ontario one last time.

## Student deals with cerebral palsy every day



**Christene  
Wilde**  
Staff  
Writer

### Column

To most journalists, CP means Canadian Press, but to this journalist it also means cerebral palsy (CP).

Cerebral palsy is a general term used to describe the disabling condition caused by damage to the central nervous system. Cerebral means brain and palsy refers to the lack of control over muscles, because there is damage to the

brain that controls the muscles. It is a non-progressive disability, which means that it can't get any worse than what it is.

People with CP do not die because of cerebral palsy; rather, they die because of complications of CP.

CP is a part of my everyday life because I was diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy when I was born. There is mild and severe cerebral palsy; most people have severe cerebral palsy.

CP is not something with which you are necessarily born, as there are several causes, such as lead poisoning, a serious illness, an accident and child abuse. In addition, there are the causes during

pregnancy and birth such as an illness during pregnancy, premature birth and lack of oxygen during birth. My CP was caused by lack of oxygen and being born prematurely.

Most people are not aware of the fact that I have cerebral palsy. The majority of my classmates are not aware of the fact that I have it.

I am telling people now because I want people to know that you can do anything if you put your mind to it. I also want to help people to understand what CP is.

There are five types of CP: spasticity, athetosis, ataxia, atonia and mixed. Spasticity, the most common type, causes the muscles to stiffen and tighten instead of relax-

ing and tightening as in people without cerebral palsy. Athetosis causes uncontrollable movements, almost worm like, which make children feel floppy. Ataxia is the least common type; it causes unsteady, shaky movements and tremors. Children with this type have poor balance. Atonia causes muscle weakness, which makes it hard to move. Mixed is a combination of any of these types of CP.

There are no miracle drugs or surgeries that will cure CP. Physical and occupational therapy can help with the training of muscles that are affected. Speech and hearing therapy help a child to speak. Braces can aid balance and walking. Education, recreation,

socialization, counselling, job training and related programs can be used as long-term treatments.

Personally, I participated in physical and occupational therapy as a child, but I think the most important point is that I have not been treated differently by my family, friends or even school.

I was never told I could not do anything because of my CP. I may have to work a little harder, but I will never give up or give in because of my CP.

No one should give up. Do not hide who you are. Be proud of your accomplishments and do not give up, because if I can do it, anyone can.

## Death of a loved one provides better perspective of life



**Erik  
O'Brien**  
Staff  
Writer

### Column

Recently I found myself viewing the world through the death of my grandmother.

She was someone I loved. She died in December. She was, throughout my life, a symbol of what was good in life.

As my grandmother's vessel sat there at the funeral home — painted and broken — I glanced around the room. It was full of people I didn't know; it clearly showed the impact such a beautiful person had on the world around her.

Still glancing around the room

and trying to recall memories to accompany the uncommon number of strange faces in the room, I was struck by a vision that I found horrific and yet invigorating.

I stood in awe with a vision of the room through the eyes of the soulless vessel that lay in the overly bedecked box.

While viewing the casket, I saw many things. Not just a nice flower arrangement surrounded by

a bunch of strange faces, but all. The faces no longer looked strange, but now humble in mourning. I saw them as if I knew who they were, yet I knew no names. There was no anger and no anxiety, just relief and the euphoric feeling of complete rest.

The wizened faces of all the old people no longer had the appearance of age. All were the same

age, young and unwrinkled and yet still held the appearance of accomplishment only felt after a lifetime of mornings, afternoons and evenings spent living.

As I began to understand this accomplishment, it all faded. I was again gazing at the body, just a few feet away. I took a few steps back, returning to my position in line, accepting condolences from people I didn't know.

## Letter to the Editor

### Niagara News experience helps future career of graduate

Dear Editor,

As an editor of two newspapers in Innisfail, Alta., I would like to commend the second-year Journalism-Print program students for their outstanding layout of the Dec. 7 edition of *Niagara News*.

I found the layout of the paper to be unique, clean and attractive-looking.

I have seen the earlier editions in the

term, and this issue is the best yet.

Whenever I look at a newspaper, I look at the layout. If the layout is attractive, I know the page editors put in lots of time and effort. One improvement, the biggest improvement, is the photos. The photography in this edition was extremely professional.

On another note, as a graduate of the

Journalism-Print program, I have been working in the field at the *Innisfail Province* and *Innisfail Booster* for six months and enjoying every minute of it. Being the one-person show since July was a bit overwhelming at first, but the routines kick in after about a month or two. I have been able to meet a few interesting people, including the Canadian Alliance candidate

Stephen Harper.

Anyway, congratulations on your Christmas edition. I hope the second batch of *Niagara News* in the second semester is [even] better than the first.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Chornley  
Reporter/Photographer  
Innisfail, Alta.

Journalists, including those in the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College, are taught that their reporting must be balanced, fair and as objective as possible. That rule must also exist for columns written by reporters. In columns, the feelings and opinions of reporters are welcome, but balance, fairness and objectivity must never be disregarded or treated lightly. Our columns, which are clearly identified as such, do not reflect the opinions or feelings of the Niagara College administration or the management of the *Niagara News*. Columns reflect the opinion of only one person: the writer.

# Mixed feelings for Newfoundland resettlement

## 300 communities abandoned; 30,000 people displaced

By JENNIFER PICKETT  
Staff Writer

The shoreline is lined with empty houses, some boarded up and the rest just deserted. This and concrete foundations are the only remains of what Robert Pickett remembers as once being a happy community on a little island.

In the years before Newfoundland became part of Canada, many people lived on island communities off the coast of Newfoundland. Some island

communities were Fair Island, Braggs Island, Silver Fox Island and Round Harbour. These were just a few off the coast of Bonavista Bay.

Pickett lived on Fair Island and his wife, Adelaide Pickett, resided on Round Harbour.

Pickett was 24 when the Newfoundland government brought in one of the most controversial government schemes of the past, the resettlement program. It was a program which forced everyone in out-port communities to move to the main island and to leave behind everything they had ever known.

This program resulted in the abandonment of over 300 communities, displacing about 30,000 people. Some people around Placentia Bay, Fortune Bay and southwest Newfoundland had already

moved to the main island after Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949. The government paid each family who owned a house \$600 to move.

The main reason for the program was to cut costs of such services as roads, health care and education by bringing everyone together in centralized populations.

Pickett said there were "mixed feelings" about the move. Those who moved would have to leave all that was familiar behind and tackle new, untouched land to make a new community, but the benefits were plentiful.

For the first time they would have roads and cars, plumbing and sewers and better communication, such as the telephone. The new communities were also closer to hospitals and gave people a better chance at employment and education.

"It was just a better condition of living," said Pickett. "Some held on to the last moment, until they

were forced to (leave), especially the older ones." He said he remembers his father didn't want to leave his home, but after everybody started to leave, the stores closed and schools closed because they required a minimum of 20 children to stay open. So they left.

Pickett was the middle child of one sister and four brothers. At the time of the move, Malcolm was the oldest in the family at 30 and Seymour, the youngest, was a toddler.

"I was looking forward to leaving. It provided a better chance for education,

Most people today wouldn't be able to imagine the agony of watching their home be towed across water, hoping that it won't tip over, losing everything

bring a chunk of wood from home in the winter. When we moved to Centreville they built two schools, an elementary school for grades kindergarten to

Brian Pickett. His boats have been sold cross Canada and even to Saint Pierre, France. Indian Bay Frozen Foods is run by the Acreman family and has many



Beginning the move



The journey continues



The painting "Hope Floats" depicts the moving of a Newfoundland home.

Submitted photo

they own.

"I lived with my uncle when we first moved to Centreville in 1965," said Pickett. "I didn't build my own house here until I got married."

The only main building that was floated up was the Orange Lodge. The Society of United Fishermen's (SUF) Lodge and St. Barnabas Church were taken apart and rebuilt in Centreville. Some island residents, such as those on Braggs Island, burned their church rather than let it be victimized by vandalism and deterioration. About 400 to 500 people moved to Centreville from the islands.

Pickett, now 64, tells what he remembers about life on Fair Island. "Fishing was the main source of economy, when it was in season. During the winter the men would sometimes work in Bo Waters, a logging company that was on the main island. When the water wasn't frozen they would travel by boat and, in frozen conditions, they would walk the seven miles or travel by horse, a dangerous undertaking given Newfoundland's extreme sudden

weather changes. "Stores on the island were stocked in the winter when the merchants would travel to St. John's by schooner to get supplies from the coastal boats. Goods had to be paid for with money in these stores. There was no trading and only the occasional credit was allowed.

"We had a three-room schoolhouse where children that went to school did Grade 1 to 11. Some children stayed to help their parents or find work.

"A potbelly wood stove heated the school, and children had to

(Grade) 6 and a high school for (Grades) 7 to 11. They also built



The house being towed through water towards Centreville

a commercial centre where all the stores located."

Centreville is now a community with a booming economy. Several businesses line the streets. The Noble's family business, New Wood Manufacturing, supplies wood products throughout Newfoundland.

subdivisions in other areas. The company produces Newfoundland delicacies such as turning berries into jams, jellies and pie fillings, and can-

ning caplin and seal. Other small businesses include a craft store, small convenience stores, insurance broker, fishout pond, tanning salon and restaurants.

Moving to Centreville was a new experience but the island homes were not forgotten. Reunions were held for Fair Island in 1990 and Silver Fox in 1999, bringing young and old together to relive the memories. Church services were held where the church once stood, and signs were posted to note where buildings were once located.

Many people would return in the summer to the houses left behind that became cabins. Others haven't been back since they left.

As he was leaving, Pickett said he remembers thinking about all the sentimental things they were leaving behind. His wife speaks up in the background. "We were leaving all of our childhood memories."



The house arrives at Outport island Submitted photos

Fiberglass Works is a boat-building company owned by



# Welcome Back



New 2002 January start international students in post-secondary and post-graduate program are listening to Erik Madsen, student counsellor, at the orientation held on Jan. 4 at the Welland campus.

Photo by Mito Togawa

## January start international students' enrolment triples

By MITO TOGAWA  
Staff Writer

Niagara College welcomed a remarkable number of international students, 75, to its post-secondary and post-graduate programs in the January 2002 start.

The college is expecting 75 international students from all over the world including China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, India, Sri Lanka, England, Italy, Kuwait, Ghana, Kenya, Jordan, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the United States.

It is a first time for Niagara College to have students from Italy, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and after an interval of several years from Nigeria, joining post-secondary or post-graduate programs.

Sean Coote, manager of inter-

national services and recruitment, said having 75 international students, especially at January start, is "phenomenal." Coote said usually there are 20 to 25 international students in January. The 75 this year is as many as the college gets for September starts or, compared to some years, bigger than that.

"It is just 'Wow,'" Coote exclaimed.

On Jan. 4, orientation for international students in post-secondary and post-graduate programs was held, and 34 attended. International students had an opportunity to know the environment of learning at Niagara College and living in Canada such as lockers, computer accounts, tutoring services, medical insurance, bank accounts, student visa

and work visa.

Some students were already familiar with these issues because they had spent several months in the English as a Second Language program at Niagara College to prepare their English skills before taking academic programs, but some of them had just arrived in Canada from their country for the first time.

"It's a very strong start," said Coote. After he talked to each student, he said the enrolment is a big number for January start and these students are eager and keen, adding that their reasons for learning at this college are excellent. Coote said he thinks having many international students is beneficial because "students can experience the world at Niagara College."

## 400 new students welcomed at Niagara orientation

By CHRISTINA COLLI  
Staff Writer

More than 400 January Start students received their welcome to Niagara College last week.

January Orientation took place Jan. 8 at the Welland campus, Jan. 9 at Maid of the Mist Centre (MMC) in Niagara Falls and Jan. 10 at Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Students were given a pizza lunch, a chance to win \$1,100 worth of electronics, housewares and appliances in prizes, and introduced to their Student Administrative Council executives and representatives.

The Welland and Glendale campuses each had a performance by magician, Steve Ely and the MMC had motivational speaker Andrew Tribiani.

Randy Conlon, co-ordinator of student recruitment, organized the events as well as the September

Orientation.

Conlon says he's been involved with planning Orientation, but this year is the first time he's been chair of the committee.

"I just took over in the fall," he says.

September Orientation takes six months to plan but January takes only a few weeks, says Conlon. After Hours manager Dave Rapelje, Brigitte Chiki, director of student services, and Lou DiMattio, SAC student liaison, were involved with the planning and preparation of the event.

"It's better attended and received than last year. A better turn out," he said.

"January Start is a tough sell."

In September, 2500 students attended orientation while only about 220 attended in January.

Orientation is paid for by the students through a \$25 fee that is included in their tuition.



## Program helps January starts to start right

By JENNIFER PICKETT  
Staff Writer

Success doesn't just happen, it's planned.

With the first-ever January Start Right program, a success plan for Niagara College's January Start students, they are starting out with lots of support.

The Student Services division welcomed the January Start students to Niagara College because this contact "encourages them to get involved," says Brigitte Chiki, director of student services.

This year, Niagara has about 400 January start students in total at all three campuses. This number is made up of first-time post secondary students, people who are restarting the same program, a new program and people who want to refresh their knowledge of a subject for their current career.

The January Start Right program was held for 35 parents and students at the Glendale campus.

The orientation, held at all campuses from Jan. 8 to Jan. 10, was also part of this plan. The students received free food, prizes and entertainment

"It is the best chance for them to meet new people," says Chiki. She adds she wants to remind the January students who didn't attend the orientation to pick up their free student handbook and T-shirt in the Student Administrative Council office on their campus.

There are some important deadlines for Niagara's newest students, Chiki says. Student loans should be applied for as soon as possible, and the deadline for the bursary in the start-up kit is Feb. 15. Students who already have a health plan have until Feb. 7 to opt out and get their \$45 refund. They must have proof of your current health plan coverage to opt out.

Students who take the bus can apply for a bus bursary of up to \$250 by showing their receipt at the financial aid office.

Chiki says that she wants to make sure "students make the most" of the years here at the college. One way to do that is to get involved in intramural sports. Although the varsity teams are already chosen, information is available for next semester.

Other services include the open access computer lab, which provides students with free Internet access from 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. seven days a week.

The student centre has a variety of activities. What and when these activities are scheduled are included in the student handbook.

The support services available to all students are free peer tutoring, private counselling, health clinic information and medical services, aboriginal support, employment services and a food bank.

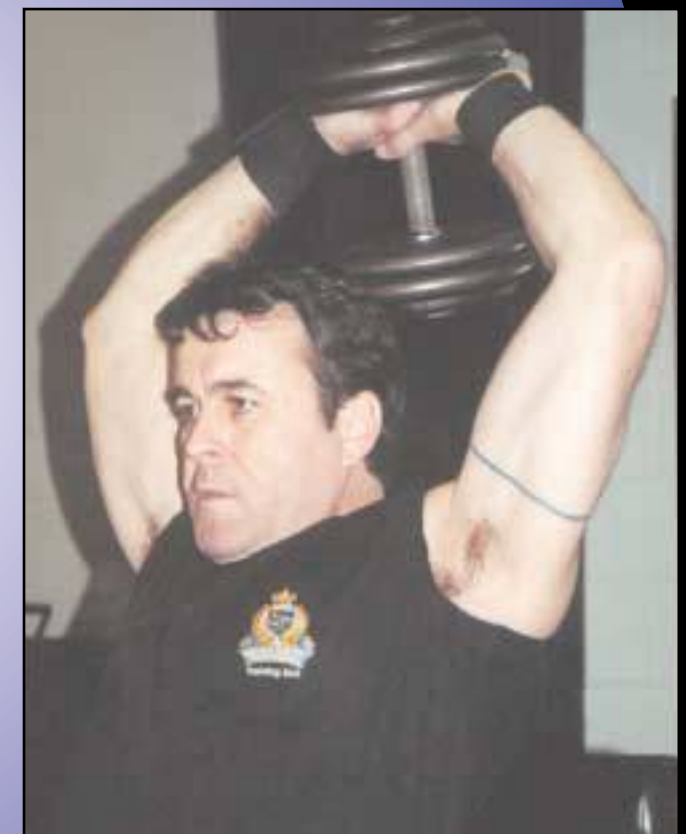
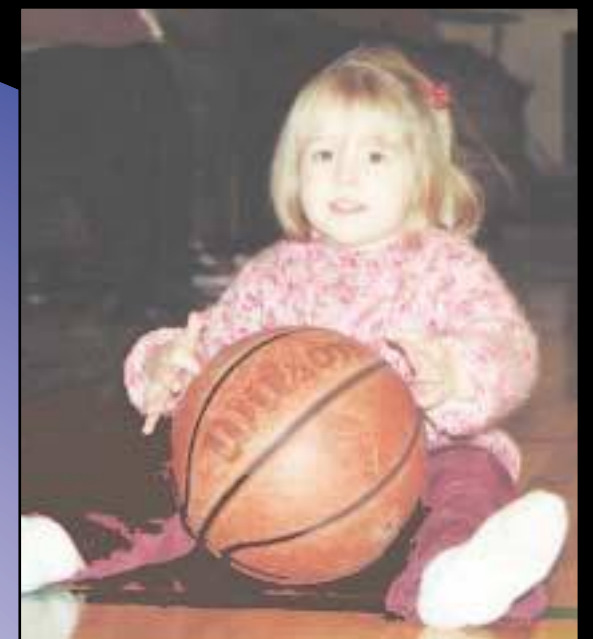
"Students with disabilities are reminded that they must identify themselves to the disability office," said Chiki.

Students looking for a "new experience", Chikie says, should be aware of the international buddies program in which Canadian students are paired with a student from a foreign country to do various activities together.



BRIGITTE CHIKI

# Faces of Niagara College



Photos by Karen Renee  
Layout by Adam Bogle

# Mardi Gras benefits from PR students' skills

By **RICHELLE GRATTON**  
Staff Writer

The first Niagara College charity ball is getting help from students in the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program.

In term two of their program, students take a special events course that requires them to assist in the planning process for a public event.

This will be the first year a charity ball will be held here. Student Colleen Lowe, 24, is on the charity ball committee, and says the ball will be "an event that will, hopefully, become a tradition for the school."

Set for Feb. 16, at the Sheridan

Fallsview hotel in Niagara Falls, Ont., the ball will benefit the college's food drive.

Lowe, chair of the set and decorations committee, has been working with the Prop House in Toronto, renting specified decorations with bold, bright colours to go along with this year's theme of Mardi Gras.

Other students in the program who are involved in the charity ball include, Sigi Due, 25, and Kim Ryan, 27, who are both in charge of advertising the event. Joy Callender, 26, and Kathryn Killingbeck, 21, are handling the details of the food and beverages. In charge of sponsorship is Kate

Modola, 22, and the silent auction is being organized by Robyn Brumby, 23, and Adam Barringer, 22.

"All of us came from universities where charity balls were tradition," said Due. "It's nice to see Niagara College join in on this type of tradition."

Due and Ryan have been busy promoting the charity ball with written media releases being faxed to various newspapers and radio stations.

With the amount of advertising, Due said, he thinks the charity ball "will be successful."

More banners and posters are being made to be posted around

campus.

"We also have constructed mailbox stuffers and Mardi Gras beads to create a buzz about the ball," said Due.

"An event such as this is a fantastic opportunity for Niagara College students to take part

in," said Lowe.

"Not only will they have a wonderful time, they will also be making an important contribution to the Niagara College community by supporting the student food drive."

## Word on the street

As a Niagara College student, what do you think of the new Student Gathering Centre at the Welland campus?



**Mike Peyora**

Computer Engineering program,  
old enough

"Better than it used to be. It took long enough."



**Donovan Misner**

Law and Security  
Administration program, 19

"They did a really good job on it. The chairs are really nice and tables are really smooth."



**Dave Puglia**

Police Foundations program, 20  
"Beats eating in your car."



**Stephanie Hansen**

Journalism-Print program, 20

"I think the cafeteria is nice, at least better than it was, but I think they should have spent the money on more up-to-date technology, and maybe some more books in the library instead and left the cafeteria in the other building."



**Stefanie Deluca**

Dental Assistant program, 18

"It's about time. It's good not to have to eat in the donut. It's good to have hot food. It took so long."

Photos and survey by Rochelle White

## Raising the roof



Rick-Leigh Nadon, Lindsay Shroch and Leah Tallman, students in the Business Administration — Marketing (Co-op) program, sell tuques to raise money for the homeless on Jan. 11 at the Welland campus by the Student Gathering Centre.

Photo by Jordan Cuttler

## SAC creates awareness, students win big bucks

By **KATIE MacKIMMIE**  
Staff Writer

Students had the opportunity to win big bucks at Meet Your SAC (Student Administrative Council) Day at the Welland campus's After Hours on Jan. 9.

"Students are aware of SAC on campus, but maybe not who we are or what we do," said Karen Renee Brown, vice-president of student affairs.

"For SAC, the challenge is to always be raising further awareness, and there certainly is no better way than giving away money and having fun with students."

Meet Your SAC Day's main activity was the game Who Wants to be a Millionaire?, a version of the television show Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

Audience members signed up for the game, and the three students whose names were drawn were chosen to play.

Each student was asked six questions pertaining to SAC and the college, had two lifelines, and was able to win up

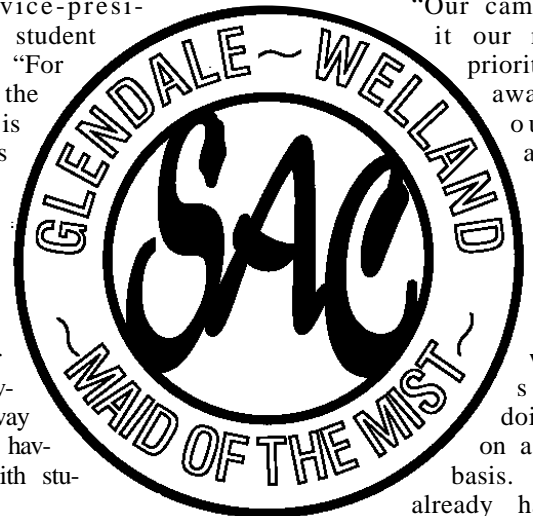
to \$100.

Johnny Feltis, 21, a General Arts and Science program student, was the only contestant to win \$100. Ryan Butler, 20, an Electronic Engineering program student, won \$50, and Avery Halloran, 22, a student in the Correctional Worker program, won \$30.

"Our campus made it our number 1 priority to raise awareness of ourselves and what we do throughout the college community, so we just started doing booths on a bi-weekly basis. Since we already have these

procedures in place, we decided to use this time to help students in our student centre have fun and maybe win some money," said Christopher Newman, vice-president of student events.

"It (Meet Your SAC Day) is something to get people out and let them know who we are and what we do," said SAC President Jeff Dutcher. "I'm sure everyone had a good time."



# ◆ Profiles ◆

## Centre offers students with disabilities equality

By VALERIE PAQUETTE  
Staff Writer

The Centre for Students with Disabilities at Niagara College offers assistance to individuals with documented disabilities to ensure that they are provided equal opportunities to demonstrate their academic competence.

Gilles Prescott is the co-ordinator of the Centre for Students with Disabilities, SE-102, at the Welland campus. "My job is to assist students with disabilities and give them an equal opportunity."

Prescott has a bachelor degree in abnormal psychology and a master's degree in educational psychology from

McGill University in Montreal. He is also a registered psychological associate with the college of psychologists of Ontario.

Prescott has been with the college for about 11 years and says he enjoys his position at the college "very much."

"The work is forever changing, days are always different. (There's) always a new task or new problem to solve. Seeing that you are helping someone is always a great feeling."

Services the department provides are peer tutors, note takers, testing accommodations, instructional and support material, self-help learning strategies and workshops, scribes, readers, support counselling, timetable modification, reduced course load, scholarships, awards and bursaries and textbooks on audio cassette.

Assistive devices it supplies are spellcheckers, tape recorders, computers, enlargers, zoom text, T.D.D. (telephone device for students with hearing impairments), a scanner and voice synthesizer, and a voice recognition and FM system.

"Our services I can't say ensure that the student will be successful because we don't know that, but it's a question of leveling off the playing field," says Prescott. "An example is somebody that might be visually impaired. If you can't read an exam, we need to make sure that it's enlarged or someone can read it to you. That's what we mean by leveling off the playing field."

"Any kind of disabilities, you need to make sure that students have equal and fair chance to do their courses."

An overview of the types of disabilities serviced at Niagara College during the 1999-2000 academic year are hearing impairment (two per cent),

vision impairment (three per cent), medical (15 per cent), mobility (nine per cent), learning disabilities (43 per cent), multiple impairment (nine per cent), and others, such as brain injury or mental health condition (19 per cent).

"Our office is providing a service to people with disabilities, (which is) defined by the Human Rights Code as a condition that impairs one's daily normal functioning. When students receive assistance from our office they need to provide documentation of their disability and then we assist them based on their own particular needs," says Prescott.

"About three or four years ago the name of our office was changed from Special Needs Office to Centre for Students with Disabilities, which describes much more what our mandate is and what it's all about."

"A lot people around the province and people with disabilities were saying that they aren't special, they're just like you and I, but they do have some limitations and that it's not a need. At some point it's a right."

There are about 450 disabled students attending the college each year, about seven to eight per cent of the student population of all three campuses.

Prescott says that "pretty much" the entire college is wheelchair accessible. "The main thing right now is the library and cafeteria being renovated. They made sure that there are wheelchair ramps and electronic door openers. Bathrooms are always accessible to the disabled with electronic door openers and grab bars."

Prescott says that they always check with students to make sure they're satisfied with their service.

"We're always asking for suggestions for improvement and things that we can change or improve on. We're trying to promote our service more and more so that students are aware that we are here, and again, making sure that students receive the proper accommodations."

"We are also working with the faculty too, helping them help students because sometimes teachers see students with a disability and wonder how they can help that student."

Most of the college's students can show that they are quite capable and usually successful in their programs, says Prescott.

"Everybody on the team really

appreciates the students' support. As much as we are supporting them, sometimes we get a lot of the support (and) encouragement from the students."

"I love what I do, and I love helping students. It's a great

feeling to know that you are helping someone."

Any student with a disability admitted to the college is able to contact any of the Centres for Students with Disabilities for assistance.

"We are always promoting the office locally and around the province. We are constant with upgrading around the college and trying to keep up with demand of the student population," says Prescott.



Gilles Prescott is the co-ordinator of the Centre for Students with Disabilities in SE102 at the Welland campus.

Photo by Valerie Paquette

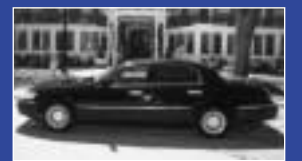
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# Mosher sees top job as a 'good experience'

By RYAN SUTHERLAND  
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Glendale campus Student Administrative Council (SAC) president was more than willing to recently answer a few off-the-wall questions.

Brodie Mosher, 23, is a second-year Business Administration and Marketing program student from St. Catharines. Mosher says he chose to attend Niagara College because of its location. He says he hopes to attend Lakehead University, in Thunder Bay, for his master's of arts or a bachelor degree in business after his graduation from Niagara College.

**Question:** What made you think you had the stuff to become a SAC president?

**Answer:** Originally, I was going to go for a VP [vice-president] position. I was a student rep last year, and Glendale campus SAC office manager Chris Williams talked me into going for president and said I would be good for it.

**Q:** What are your feelings about being acclaimed as SAC president?

**A:** Well, you have to take it two ways. There is one way that people think that everything is OK. Another thing you can also say is the apathy part and no one really cares and they don't understand what goes on and that kind of stuff. It's kind of disappointing. I wanted an election for all the positions.

**Q:** Do you consider yourself a Niagara College sex symbol?

**A:** A sex symbol is in the eye of the beholder. One person could think you're sexy and some people could think you're the ugliest thing on the face of the earth. I might have a few admirers.

**Q:** Do you think the Glendale campus is better than the other campuses?

**A:** I just think it's different. It's newer than the other campuses and there are a couple of bonuses

there. It's fairly out of the way for students. The Welland campus is in a good part of the town and is very large and it's a nice campus too.

**Q:** Is your job as difficult as you thought and is there anything you would change about it?

**A:** The hardest thing is just understanding what you're supposed to do and the procedures. There is some procedural stuff that I'm still trying to figure out. It's getting accustomed to the lifestyle. You have to go to a lot of events, which are pretty good events too. You have to support everything that is Niagara College.

**Q:** Do you get paid enough? How much do you get paid?

**A:** Oh, definitely, yes. We get a \$100 a week. We are supposed to put in at least 10 hours a week. If you don't do your 10 hours, you don't get paid.

**Q:** Do you get any special privileges?

**A:** Not really a lot. A big part of being president is going around and talking to people from different courses. It's good that everyone recognizes you. It's pretty good for networking too. When people think that they need something or have something extra just because they see you all the time, they call you up. You get like get free food and stuff like that.

**Q:** Do you think your experience as president will better prepare you for the future?

**A:** Most definitely, yes. You get to experience a lot of different people and it teaches you how to deal with different situations. It's pretty good, good experience with different cultures.

**Q:** If you could compare the SAC at Glendale with a television sitcom family, which one would it be and why?

**A:** It would probably be a Full House type of thing. It may be pretty corny, but we don't really fight at all. We are all basically just friends. We see each other at

the bars all the time. I don't think there has been one quarrel yet this year.

**Q:** Would you ever run for president of the United States?

**A:** I'm not American, so I'm not eligible for it. If I were, I probably wouldn't want to. A little too much stress.

**Q:** Who is your biggest influence and why?

**A:** Probably my father. It's kind of weird because while you grow up you can actually see the similarities. It gets kind of scary. Sometimes you don't want to admit it, but it's true.

**Q:** Have you ever thought of shaving your head?

**A:** I've done it already. I had it shaved last year for about half the year. It was kind of a mistake I did in the middle of February, and it was really cold and I didn't expect the change of temperature to be that drastic.

**Q:** Do you think pub nights at the Glendale campus would be better if you could smoke in the pub?

**A:** Not being able to smoke in the pub is a little inconvenience. I think the main problem with the Glendale campus pub is that it is out of the way. Most people in residence are under age.

**Q:** Do you find Ryan Young, assistant manager of Alexander Davidson's, attractive?

**A:** He has his beauty points.

**Q:** Do you have as much power at Niagara College as you would like?

**A:** I don't think we have a lot of power. A lot of it is recognition — not recognition as in praise, but the fact that they know who you are. You don't have a lot of extra privileges. You get the key to the SAC office, so you can get in to that whenever you want or close it up.

Power wise, it's that people respect you for who you are.

**Q:** Do you ever get any threat-



Glendale campus Student Administrative Council (SAC) President Brodie Mosher, of St. Catharines, plots his leadership strategy with the Black Knight on the oversized chess board in the Glendale SAC office.

Photo by Ryan Sutherland

ening phone calls late at night?

**A:** None that I know of.

**Q:** Should SAC presidents carry a gun?

**A:** I don't believe in carrying guns.

**Q:** Do you have an attractive intern?

**A:** No interns.

**Q:** Would you like an attractive intern?

**A:** No comment.

**Q:** What are your duties as president?

**A:** I act as a liaison between students and college faculty. A lot of people ask us questions they expect us to know and a lot of the questions we should know. We should know a lot about the school

itself. What a lot of people don't know is that we have a lot to say in what goes on and what's being bought. It's not really that I have power. It's that the students have power and I'm their voice.

**Q:** Do you ever make anyone else do your duties?

**A:** I try not to. I try to do all my responsibilities myself. I want to learn everything firsthand. If I can't, I get someone else to be there only if I can't physically be there. Even if someone else can't do it, we want to start history books of our duties so if someone else has to do it, they can refer back to the history book and it will walk them through the duty or responsibility.

# Alumni; the college's best ambassadors, supporters

By LAURA LENNIE  
Staff Writer

A college is more than the sum of its programs and buildings.

"A great college is identified by its people — past, present and future," says Jamie King, manager of alumni development and student awards at Niagara College.

King, 30, works at the Glendale campus

*'Alumni appreciate the opportunities Niagara College provided them — academically and personally.'*  
— Jamie King

sadors. Niagara College's face in the community is our alumni body — our graduates. We have 35,000 ambassadors in the community, and I want to give them ways to interact with the school they care very much about."

King was part of the Donor Relations Team for the 2001 Canada Summer Games held in London, Ont. "It was an incredible experience working as part of that large campaign team. I had some unforgettable work experiences and met many friends in my field. Now I have a new baby boy and I want to be closer to friends and family."

King says he enjoys working in the educational field since he feels his work has an impact. "The educational sector is under increasing financial pressure, and it makes me feel good to know that my work fulfills an important role in the college's well-being."

Niagara College is a "special place and fulfils an important role in our region," says King. "I grew up in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with two parents who were both teachers. I understand and respect the important role the college plays in providing skilled and passionate graduates for our region."

King says alumni members want to see this role continue to grow stronger.

"They care about Niagara College and want to ensure that it maintains its position as a leading Canadian college. They feel it's important to maintain the excellent standards Niagara College is known for setting for itself, because many alumni feel that

The college keeps in touch with alumni members through the NCompass newsletter.

"The NCompass comes out biannually, although we would like to communicate with our alumni members much more frequently," says King.



community perception of the college directly reflects upon the value of their diploma."

Being an alumni member means giving back to the college and the community.

"Alumni appreciate the opportunities Niagara College provided them — academically and personally. Many received scholarship or bursary assistance and would like to provide the same support to a current Niagara College student."

"Costs are always an issue, and we are currently exploring some interesting e-communication strategies to allow alumni to receive the specific information they would like to have regarding the college, the program and their old classmates."

"Alumni are very important to a college because they are the college's best ambassadors, the college's greatest supporters and the voice of the college in the community."

in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where he is responsible for scholarship co-ordination, scholarship and bursary fund-raising, alumni communications, reunion/homecoming co-ordination and various alumni services.

"Basically, I plan to devote time to exploring all of the ways alumni can be involved with the school that they care about, because they are our best ambas-

# College student follows in family's footsteps

By **KAREN WALKER**  
Staff Writer

Family and experience combined are helping one student to succeed in his dream of being a police officer.

Paul Walker, 21, of Burlington, Ont., is a second-year student in the Law and Security Administration program (LASA).

"I've always wanted to be a police officer."

He says his family has a past background of police work.

"My dad is a constable in Halton, my uncle, a sergeant in Peel and my grandpa, a retired staff superintendent of Hamilton."

Some of the things Walker says he likes in his program are the friends he's made and the physical tests, which include a shuttle run, bench presses and an obstacle course.

"It keeps me fit," he says of the testing.

In the second year of LASA, students have the option of taking the customs and immigration stream or the private security stream.

Walker says he decided on taking the private security stream, in which students learn electronic security, the Criminal Code and investigations.

"It gives you a wide range of knowledge in the security industry."

He says he chose this stream because of his interest in being a professional bodyguard.

Despite his choice, Walker says, "If I wanted to be a police officer, I still can do that."

He says one of the positive aspects of this program is having experienced teachers in the field training.

"They are telling you firsthand."

He explains there are some cons to the program.

"Some things are unrelated to the security field, such as the Campus Watch, where we walk around for four hours in the cold

doing nothing."

He says he feels it's irrelevant to have to take math in the first year of the LASA program.

"It's the only college I know of in Ontario that has a math program that is mandatory for first-year students. It's totally irrelevant to policing and security work."

Walker says he has plans to go into policing after school is done.

"Hopefully, right after I graduate, I will write the ATS (Application Testing Service) test in March."

He says the ATS test is a combination of physical and written aptitude tests.

"Once you pass, you can apply to any force and go through the interviewing process."

Walker says he wants to work for the police force in Barrie, Ont., or the Ontario Provincial Police in Orillia, Ont.

His reason for wanting to work there is "I want to live up north, in the Muskoka region."

Walker says he "hasn't achieved" his goal until he graduates.

"My original goal is to become a police officer, stay a police officer and retire as a police officer, but I would like to open a sport supplement store as a joint partner to work on my days off."

Walker has worked in the sport supplement area for three years.

He says he knew he was always going to college.

"You can't become a police officer without college or experience."

He says he chose to come to Niagara College because it was close to his home in Burlington.

"I wanted to get away from home, but still be close enough to get back in 45 minutes or so."

Besides attending school, Walker works as a supervisor of security (bouncer) at a nightclub.

He says he's working at Zoo nightclub in St. Catharines for two months.

He has been working six months for a security company whose



Paul Walker, 21, of Burlington, Ont., is a second-year student in the Law and Security Administration program. Like his family before him, he has always wanted to become a police officer.

name can't be printed for security reasons.

Some of the jobs, he says, he is responsible for are escorting intoxicated people out of the bar, breaking up fights and calming irate people.

"I deal with everything (including) patron complaints and I run a crew of seven people (bouncers)."

He says it's "very satisfying" to deal with situations that can be resolved and "being able to talk my way out of a potentially physical situations."

There are some nights when that isn't the case, though, he says.

"Sometimes situations get out of hand, where you have to resort to being physical."

Walker says he feels his job will help in his future career.

"Now I know how to deal with intoxicated people. I know radio and codes for every situation, as you do in policing."

One of the people he admires,

and dog, Bear, are "everything" to him.

"Without them I wouldn't be here right now. They pushed me to keep going and stay out of trouble."

He says his father and uncle gave him some good advice about policing.

"Everything you learn from books, throw out and learn from experience," he says they told him.

In his spare time, he says he enjoys working out and playing baseball, racquetball and basketball.

"They are all physical and I love sports."

Looking to the future, Walker says he has no fears about a police career.

"No, because I know I'll be properly trained to handle any proper situation."

He says it'll be exciting, but boring at times.

"A lot of times you're waiting for a call or driving around. Other nights, there is a lot of action."

He says the most satisfying part will be helping others and "protecting innocent people from criminals."

"I am genuinely a good person because I treat people with respect, which is good for this profession."

*Paul Walker is not related to the writer of this story.*

Photo by **Karen Walker**

Walker says, is his father, Jim, who is a "very well-respected police officer."

"He's a great father. He's always been there for me. He's the person I want to be when I get older."

He says his entire family, made up of his father, his mother, Cheryl, his younger brother, Dave,

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## Niagara College gets festive



Staff and their relatives, students and alumni represented Niagara College at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas Parade on Dec. 8. Participants rode in a horse-drawn carriage and walked along handing out candy to children along the parade route.

Photo by **Jennifer Phillips**



# 'Great' interpersonal skills needed when Pharmacy Tech students deal with people

By **ERIK O'BRIEN**  
Staff Writer

Having to communicate with a wide variety of people, Pharmacy Technician students must have "great" interpersonal skills.

"You really need great interpersonal skills," says Bobbi Thomas, Niagara College's Pharmacy Technician program co-ordinator.

The 44-year-old recent Brock University graduate says students "have to communicate verbally and non-verbally."

The Humber College graduate adds that students will be talking "with the public, as well as other health care professionals."

"They (students) will be talking to nurses, physicians and pharmaceutical representatives," says Thomas, adding she enjoys dealing with patients most.

At the age of 16 Thomas moved from Hamilton, where

she had spent her whole life, to St. Catharines where she first gained employment with a drugstore. Thomas adds she was "going into nursing and then started working at a drugstore, and liked that more."

Once 17 Thomas attended a one-year Pharmacy Assistant program, at Humber College.

Also a graduate of Niagara College's General Arts and Sciences program, Thomas says anybody who wants to work in the health care setting and with the general public, would be interested in the program.

That includes "anybody who is interested in pharmacology, the business aspect of it as well as the hospital aspect of it, and the laws of over-the-counter products or someone who is outgoing and interested in providing health care services for those that require them."



Pharmacy Technician program co-ordinator Bobbi Thomas says she enjoys dealing with the public.

Photo by Erik O'Brien

"With the aging population," Thomas continues, "there are a lot more people that require those services."

As in any other market, more demand means more work, and more work means more personnel.

"There is a shortage of pharmacists in the area right now," says Thomas, as there is "in the whole province and across Canada."

As a result, says Thomas, the technician can take on additional duties as designated by the pharmacist, so there is a demand for them.

"So much has changed since the program was started 25 years ago," says the co-ordinator of the program's recently changed format.

Until last year the Pharmacy Technician program had a one-year format. It has since become a two-year program, of which this year's students will be the first to graduate.

The program's enrolment is 24 first-year students and 15 second-

year students. Of the 15 second-year students, 13 are expected to graduate, says Thomas.

"We were finding that the students needed more time to digest the material," explains Thomas. "They needed more time in lab and more time in placement, as well as more theory."

Thomas says the technician has taken on more responsibility in recent years. "Because of technology, the pharmacists do more. They take on more of the role, because they have more information there."

There are more changes coming adds Thomas, assuring the students will be quite prepared.

"There might be more added duties," says Thomas. "We've already pre-positioned ourselves with the new outcomes, so that (the students) will be able to move in the position as they gain experience."

# Spear's goal to double apprenticeship numbers

By **ADAM BOGLE**  
Staff Writer

The head automotive trainer at Niagara College is a successful leader who is humble about his role in bringing motive skills to a high level here.

Dave Spear, 60, of Fort Erie, is the manager of apprenticeship, integrated manufacturing and skills training at Niagara.

He's been working at the college for 23 years (11 full time and 12 part time). Spear



Dave Spear stands next to a painting of the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at the Welland campus.

Photo by Adam Bogle

has been married for 39 years and has three children. He has an auto service technician license, a truck and coach license and an autobody licence. He got his training at the Provincial Institute of Trades in Toronto.

Spear says his entire life has, in some way, dealt with the automotive industry. He says his grandfather sold horses and buggies and one day someone asked him if he'd like to sell cars.

His grandfather became the third oldest registered dealer for General Motors in Canada.

"I've been working around vehicles all my life."

Spear helped fund the building of the

Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at the Welland campus by facilitating funding as well as working with architects and contractors to design the \$2-million building that was opened in 1998.

There were a few ways, Spear says, money was raised. About \$2.5 million was raised from industry donations. The contributing companies are listed on the donor's wall in the front foyer of the skill centre. Spear says industry companies donated equipment, money, services and training for students.

He says the advisory committee for the college's motive skills is active in raising money by sponsoring two fundraisers. First, a grand opening fund-raiser in 1998 netted \$20,000 for the centre. In 2000, a murder-mystery dinner theatre produced \$16,000 in profit for motive skills at the college.

The provincial government's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has given money to the centre.

Spear says the ministry had \$2 million last year to distribute to the 25 Ontario colleges in what's called the Apprenticeship Innovation Fund. Niagara received \$425,000 of the \$2 million, says Spear. "We got almost a quarter of the pie, and this year we'll be doing similar."

Spear attributes the centre's success in funding to its performance. He says they supply the required material, curriculum, exemption tests, learning outcomes and performance indicators. "We produced a quality product."

Spear doesn't take full credit for the success of college's automotive training. "It isn't one person; it's a team." He says the staff at the skills centre works together and does an "excellent" job. He says their "morale is very high."

In the future, Spear says he wants to stay at Niagara and see the success of the skill centre increase.

"It's grown every year, for four years ... it's still got potential and we're still growing." He says one of his goals for Niagara College is to see the apprenticeship numbers double.

Spear says his proudest moment at Niagara was when he was able to convince senior management at the college to invest in building the skill centre. "We worked very hard ... and now it's working out."

## New SGC takes the cake



Peter Mete, pictured above, director of Aramark Food Services Ltd., serves cake at the grand opening of the Student Gathering Centre on Jan. 8. A 300-person cake, a 24-foot sub and live music were all part of the festivities.

Photo by Aaron Foster

# ◆ Entertainment ◆

## Keyser Soze carves out its own sound

By **KATIE MacKIMMIE**  
Staff Writer

The *Hamilton Spectator* called them "jet fuel rock."

They call themselves "a musical fusion of modern, classical, jazz and urban rhythms combined with heavy rock overtones."

They are Keyser Soze, an "elusive" band named after the elusive character from the 1995 film *The Usual Suspects*.

"One of our biggest influences is music that we don't want to sound like," said drummer William Armstrong, 18.

Vocalist Jeremy Miller, 21, elaborated. "When we're practicing a song, we'll say, 'Hey, that sounds too much like X-band,' and we don't want to sound like X-band, so we'll scrap it right away."

Miller is a second-year student

in the Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film program at Niagara College.

The Stoney Creek-based band has been together for two years.

The band's first gig was in 1998 at an Orchard Park Secondary School event called Flushfest, a fundraiser for the school.

The original lineup of Keyser Soze included Miller, Armstrong, and Armstrong's brother, Wes, 21, who plays guitar in the band. They brought in bassist Jeff Nielson, 17, in a matter of a weekend to put together five songs for Flushfest. Thus, a band was formed.

All four members have received musical training at The Conservatory for Musical Studies in Hamilton.

Wes began guitar lessons at the

age of eight, but "quit, to play Nintendo." He did not begin to play again until he was 15, when he learned by playing alongside William, who began drumming at that time.

Nielson has been playing bass since the age of 13.

"Our sound is very unique," Nielson said. "We screw around with loads of effects and we are all very knowledgeable of our instruments and use them to their full potential, not just what we were shown. We explore different worlds of music instead of sticking to one style."

All of the members of Keyser Soze have an outside interest in music.

William plays percussion in the Hamilton Concert Band, and he and Nielson are involved in their

high school band.

Miller said, given the choice, he would rather pursue music than broadcasting. "If I can't succeed in a good band, then at least I can interview good bands (in broadcasting)."

Keyser Soze has played a string of shows in the Toronto and Hamilton areas over the past year, including Lee's Palace, The Horseshoe Tavern, Hamilton's The Casbah and Niagara College's Battle of the Bands.

"Our main purpose is to entertain and indulge ourselves, despite any competition. We just want to get out there and get exposure," said Miller.

Wes said his main goal in music is "just to be good at music and improve at songwriting."

The band recorded a six-song

EP entitled *The 1st 6* in October 2000. The EP was engineered by Finger Eleven guitar tech Chris Marx and was masterminded by producer and well-known jazz musician Dave King.

Miller said Keyser Soze hopes to network with bands in the Welland area to gain further exposure and implement unity. The band performed alongside Welland bands Ampallang and Sons of Eve this past summer.

"I would rather play in front of a crowd where I don't know anybody. It's a better chance to keep a rock persona and form a new kind of relationship with the crowd," said Miller, adding, the band's energy is genuine. "It's not a fake show."

Visit the band's Web site at [www.keysersoze.8m.com](http://www.keysersoze.8m.com).

## Star-studded Crowe film roller coaster ride of sin

By **JORDAN CUTTLER**  
Staff Writer

Cameron Crowe's new film, *Vanilla Sky*, is a genre-busting thrill ride unlike his previous works of Hollywood pablum forced to us.

This film is a remake of the Spanish thriller *Abre los Ojos* (Open Your Eyes), to which Tom Cruise acquired the rights.

Cruise plays David Aames, a womanizing magazine publisher who falls in love with his best friend's girlfriend, played by Penelope Cruz. The tempestuousness of life is revealed soon after to David as he is confronted by a jilted ex-lover (Cameron Diaz), who objects to David's delegation of

their relationship as mere casual sex.

She takes David through a high-speed tour of New York City, capping it off nicely by hurtling her car off a bridge, killing herself and disfiguring David's chiseled looks in the process.

The haunting mood for this film is set in the first 20 minutes when the main character, David Aames, awakens to his glorious life as a magazine publisher blessed with good looks, prosperity and overall happy-go-luckiness. He gets out of bed and hops in his Porsche to make his way to work, only to find the streets absolutely empty. He finds himself running through Times Square searching, presumably, for other

human life only to find the cold facsimiles of humanity brought to him by billboards and other such pervasive advertising, particularly in that section of the city.

This reveals insight into Aames's soul (and perhaps modern society), a man with much but undeniably missing something vital. Shooting of this scene required Times Square to be shut down for three days in order to be filmed without a soul in sight. The scene is set to a Radiohead track that sets the tone nicely, in usual Crowe fashion.

David wakes up from this unsettling environment and it is all construed by the audience as a mere dream, which sets the

theme for a movie and deftly pulls the dividers off between reality and its alternate dimensions.

This movie is frustrating at times, especially for the viewer who likes linear plotlines. This film is comparable to *Fight Club*, *Total Recall* and *Lost Highway* in that it takes liberties with time and space in order to provide us with some insight into the nature of reality as we perceive it.

This film will mess with your mind - guaranteed. It is advised not to try in vain to piece it together in your mind as you're watching the film. Rather, take it as it comes and experience the film, as opposed to trying to figure it out.

## Cobain's destruction focus of Heavier Than Heaven

By **DERYK STEVENS**  
Staff Writer

*Heavier Than Heaven* is an excellent book on the life of one of the generation's biggest icons, Kurt Cobain.

The book, by author Charles R. Cross, gives a different side of Cobain than other books about him or Nirvana. It takes you from his birth until his death in 1994.

For the first time in a book, Cobain's sister, Kim Cobain, opens up and talks about her older

brother and shares her memories as does his aunt, Marie Earl, the one who taught Cobain how to play guitar. Cobain's grandfather also shares some stories and talks about how suicide ran in the Cobain family.

Cross interviews some of the friends Cobain used to hang out with when he was starting a band and trying to get noticed, along with friends who were with Cobain until the last week of his death.

Dylan Carlson was Cobain's

closest friend at the end of his life and was the man who bought the gun that Cobain supposedly used to commit suicide. Also the one who usually did drugs with him, he shares stories about how Cobain was feeling in the last days of his life.

Carlson recalls Cobain talking about divorcing his wife Courtney Love, in one of their last conversations. He says Cobain confided he wanted to quit Nirvana and start a band with Michael Stipe of REM.

The book includes stories from many Seattle area bands and many of the people who worked with the superstar or were around the scene when Nirvana came and blew everyone away.

Past band members also add their recollections. Krist Novoselic, the bassist of Nirvana and Cobain's best friend since high school, talks in detail about how Cobain's heroin addiction started to ruin everything in his life, and how he wouldn't stop

using the drug. Novoselic tells a story about how the members of Guns N' Roses wanted to fight the members of Nirvana, because Cobain refused to open for them and Metallica. He also refused to play at Axel Rose's birthday party.

The book, 366 pages of excitement, was published by Hyperion, and costs \$34.95. Any Nirvana fan, or anyone with an interest in Cobain or music would enjoy this book. It's worth the money.

## McQuaig book important for people worried by corporate empowerment

By **BILL HORWOOD JR.**  
Staff Writer

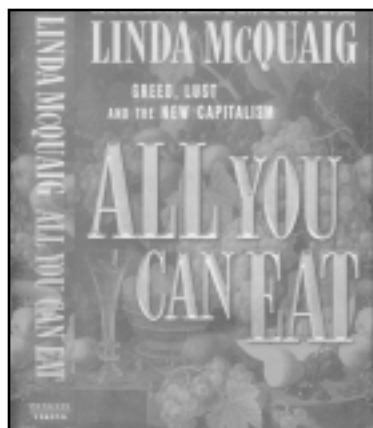
*All You Can Eat* is a feast for your mind.

*All You Can Eat*, by Linda McQuaig published by the Penguin Group, is a very complete book on the origins of the new capitalism. By that, McQuaig is referring to the point at which corporations gained the rights to protect their profit potential at the cost of the environment and without government intervention.

In an early chapter, of *All You Can Eat*, McQuaig highlights the

turning points of the last few decades leading to this flip-flop of power. She helps the reader catch up on decades of trade deals, beginning with the Free Trade Agreement, an initiative naive Canadian business executives helped create while trying for another auto-pact style trade deal.

In the later chapters of the book, McQuaig examines the medieval culture of feudal Britain leading to the introduction of a market-based society and the subsequent resistance by the labourers. McQuaig extensively draws on the works of



Karl Polanyi to help popularize his ideas.

McQuaig brings the reader behind the scenes of the World Bank, in an interview with the former chief economist Joseph Stiglitz. He sheds light on the strange relationship between the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the U.S. treasury department.

McQuaig then explores the romantic notion of a socialist living in Red Vienna between the First World War and Second World War.

The book had its share of laughs too, as in the chapter on the books of Dinesh D'Souza and Thomas Friedman. McQuaig pits

these two authors against each other for the title of the "Most Toidying Obsequious Pundit Alive Today." Chapters like this break up the dryness of the subject matter.

This is by no means a light read, but it is a satisfying one at 268 pages with index. During the reading of this book, I sometimes envisioned McQuaig standing on her soapbox and screaming her lungs out.

McQuaig is an award-winning author and a reporter and columnist for *Maclean's* magazine, *The Globe and Mail* and the *National Post*.

# ◆ Sports ◆

## New, familiar faces poised to defend title

By **ROB LUCIANI**  
Staff Writer

With four wins and two losses, the Niagara College men's volleyball team's regular season record is deceiving at first glance.

With only six matches played and two close losses, the Knights are not about to hit the panic button.

Coming out of an impressive tournament at Sir Sandford Fleming in Peterborough, where the Knights lost in the finals to a team from British Columbia, the Knights are prepared for some important matches ahead.

"The losses (in the regular season) we took were close losses. They were games that build character and you can always learn from a loss," says Kerby Bentley, assistant coach for the men's volleyball team.

The second term is "a whole new ball park" because the first semester allows the team to experiment with different lineups and strategies, says Bentley.

Knight Justin Ross has returned to the lineup and already has made an impact. Last year's Niagara College Male Athlete of the Year

Graeme Gaunt is also close to returning to the lineup after sitting out with an injury. However, leadership skills were not lost while the first-year players have stepped up to make their mark.

The talent of the first-year Knights is evident as brothers Adam and Zac Durst represented the Niagara at the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA) All-Star Game at Etobicoke's Humber College on Jan. 12. The duo, from Goderich, Ont., are "both very deserving," says Bentley.

"The pressure from the new guys has increased," says Bentley.

The major concern facing the Knights is avoiding injuries, says Bentley. The Knights have been using Polymetrics (a variety of popular jump training exercises) and weight training to help with conditioning.

"If we're healthy ... we're OK. Health is our No. 1 issue."

Meanwhile, Niagara proved to the league why they are the defending OCAA Ontario champions after playing Ancaster's Redeemer College on Jan. 10.

Giving a collective team effort



The Niagara Knights men's volleyball team (foreground) took the lead early and never looked back against the Redeemer Royals in Ancaster. The Knights beat the first-place Royals 25-15, 25-22, 25-18.

Photo by Rob Luciani

and playing with heart, the Knights won all three games against the first-place Royals.

The road win by the Knights

should be a positive momentum builder and narrows the gap between them and first place in their division.

Niagara's next home game is against North Bay's Canadore College on Friday, Feb. 8.

| Men's Volleyball Standings |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| West Region Division       |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Team                       | MP | MW | ML | GW | GL | PTS |
| Redeemer Royals            | 9  | 6  | 3  | 20 | 15 | 12  |
| Nipissing Lakers           | 9  | 5  | 4  | 20 | 14 | 10  |
| Niagara Knights            | 6  | 4  | 2  | 16 | 9  | 8   |
| Mohawk Mountaineers        | 7  | 4  | 3  | 15 | 12 | 8   |
| St. Clair Saints           | 7  | 3  | 4  | 13 | 16 | 6   |
| Canadore Panthers          | 8  | 1  | 7  | 5  | 23 | 2   |

Standing Abbreviations: MP (Matches Played); MW (Matches Won); ML (Matches Lost); GW (Games Won); GL (Games Lost); PTS (Points)  
\*Standings as of Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2002  
\*Standings courtesy of www.ocaa.com

| Women's Volleyball Standings |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| West Region Division         |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| Team                         | MP | MW | ML | GW | GL | PTS |
| Mohawk Mountaineers          | 7  | 6  | 1  | 19 | 5  | 12  |
| Nipissing Lakers             | 5  | 4  | 1  | 14 | 4  | 8   |
| Niagara Knights              | 6  | 4  | 2  | 14 | 11 | 8   |
| St. Clair Saints             | 5  | 4  | 2  | 15 | 9  | 8   |
| Redeemer Royals              | 8  | 4  | 5  | 13 | 19 | 8   |
| Lambton Lions                | 5  | 3  | 4  | 12 | 15 | 6   |
| Sault Cougars                | 6  | 1  | 5  | 7  | 16 | 2   |
| Canadore Panthers            | 8  | 1  | 7  | 8  | 23 | 2   |

Standing Abbreviations: MP (Matches Played); MW (Matches Won); ML (Matches Lost); GW (Games Won); GL (Games Lost); PTS (Points)  
\*Standings as of Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2002  
\*Standings courtesy of www.ocaa.com

**Women's Volleyball upcoming games:**  
Tonight - Lambton College at Niagara...6 p.m.  
Fri. Jan. 25 - Niagara at Mohawk College...6 p.m.

**Men's Volleyball upcoming games:**  
Sat. Jan. 18 - Niagara at St. Clair College...7:30 p.m.  
Fri. Jan. 25 - Niagara at Mohawk College...8 p.m.  
Tues. Jan. 29 - Niagara at Mercyhurst College, Erie, Pa., (exhibition)

## It's 'go big or go home' as NFL playoffs step into high gear

**ROB LUCIANI**  
Staff Writer  
Column

Now that you're settled in from a less-than-wildcard weekend in the National Football League, it's time to let the real games begin and give fans a taste of what we waited 17 weeks for.

Last weekend's wildcard games found almost all of the home teams advancing with little or no problem. The exception was the Miami Dolphins - although, one asks, should they have been favoured in the first place?

Looking to this weekend, we

have the makings of classic games, which should set the tone for the rest of the playoffs.

Will anyone score a touchdown between the Eagles and the Bears? Will the Packers take the title as 'The Greatest Show on Turf' from the Rams? Can the Steelers show the Ravens they have the best defence in the American Football Conference? Or will The Brady Bunch tame a Silver and Black attack?

Here's how it breaks down:

### AFC

Baltimore Ravens (11-6) at Pittsburgh Steelers (13-3) - 5.5



If last weekend's massacre in Miami was an indication, the Ravens are ready to relive some old glory days.

The Ravens will have to use

everything in their arsenal to stop running back Jerome Bettis from



running the ball as they did with the Dolphins. For two teams who pride themselves on disciplined defense, the team that scores the first points could win this game. The home field advantage should be the deciding factor in this game, but don't count on the Steelers to

cover the spread so easily.

Oakland Raiders (11-6) at New England Patriots (11-5) - 3

If you still don't think the Pats are for real, ask their regular season opponents who scored 26 touchdowns to their 43. For the Raiders, inconsistency has been a big factor. Expect the Raiders to be under the "go big or go home" spell, which will result in a big time win or big time loss.

### NFC

Philadelphia Eagles (12-5) at Chicago Bears (13-3) - 2.5

This should be one of the best games of the weekend. The Bears can't count on the weather for their advantage as the Eagles played in cold conditions last week. These two teams are ranked one and two in defence; don't expect a lot of

points. Giving the Bears all the credit this season, expect the Eagles' incredible road record to play a big factor as the Eagles should steal a win from the Bears.

Green Bay Packers (13-4) at St. Louis Rams (14-2) - 10

Taking all statistics and previous games into consideration, I don't see any team stopping the Rams from a Super Bowl appearance this season. If anyone will stop the Rams, the Packers may be the only team to do it. Bet the Packers won't go out without a fight in this game.

Quarterback Brett Favre will have to play catch-up all day if the Packers' defense can't stop the Rams' running and throwing game. Expect the Rams to be way too much for the Packers to handle.

# Skateboard delight turns to ankle agony

By **WARD BARRETT**  
Staff Writer

The worm of winter discontent had eaten its way into the middle of my brain when I had an epiphany, only four days into my winter break.

It was to beat back the foul leviathan and wrest the remaining shred of sanity I had left by organizing a series of road trips by which a young skateboarder might find solace in the fact that if the roads aren't dry, you can still skate indoors, at a skatepark. There, winter frustrations can be released on various ramps and obstacles designed to accommodate the maneuvers of the modern street-style skateboarder.

The unlikely protagonists include Brock Campbell, resident heavy-hitter of downtown and Greater Fort Erie, and his associate, Tyler Griffis, another of the Fort Erie skate crew, with a nose for finding skate spots in the Buffalo area. Bringing up the rear, but always sitting shotgun, is Adam Turasz, recent addition to the Quick Lube staff, and cinematographer extraordinaire, always a welcome addition to any road trip.

The roster included me, driving and handling photographic duties. The place, Kingpin Skateboard Park in Lockport, N.Y., a wood skateboard park nestled in a large warehouse on Main Street.

We jumped into my Jeep with every intention of making this one of the best trips ever. With everyone reciting what tricks they'd do when they got there, I believed things would go smoothly. I would get the photos of everything I needed to impress on these guys that it's worth taking photos of your tricks, because the video being shot isn't viewable until it's edited.

Passing through U.S. Customs was an

easy task, if not downright nice, with the sunny monotone expression of the officer playing in my head, reminding me that I could be working on a day like today instead of taking a jaunt across the countryside through blowing, drifting snow with three other like-minded individuals set on athletic recreation.

On through the myriad of lines the Americans call the interstate, where nothing eventful happened, except for the honourable mention given Adam and his entertaining brand of confusing rhetoric.

We arrived equipped with boards, helmets and my camera bag, to start the skate session to end all skate sessions, where new heights would be reached and new limits pushed.

We each paid the \$10 admission fee and proceeded to stretch, warm up and rediscover the feel of the boards we'd yearned to step on since the first freezing temperatures of the season. Everyone looked as though they had never stepped off the board.

Brock was already grinding the 15-foot-plus length launch box, charging faster and faster with each successive try, almost mastering a very long nose slide in the first 10 minutes.

Adam was talking to the owner, as he has only one role: filming. Tyler was proceeding to destroy the place, taking full advantage of every obstacle, gaining more and more speed until he was ready, in his own mind, to get some shots.

I told him I wasn't ready. I was skating too and had to warm up before trying anything crazy, so shooting photos was out of the question, at least for another half hour.

I saw Adam walk into the park after getting his admission fee back because he wasn't skating. He set up at the long grind on



Tyler Griffis kickflips off a loading dock in Fort Erie, two months before dislocating his ankle (inset).

Photos by Ward Barrett

the launch box, lens pointed toward Brock, who dropped in on the quarterpipe to make his nose slide. I and Tyler began to session the long grind and Adam wasn't missing a thing.

Continued on page 22

Join us at the

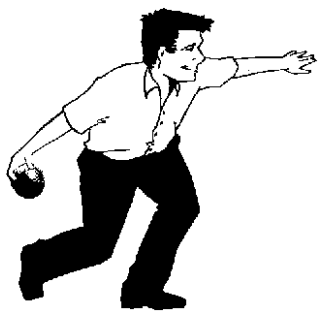


NIAGARA COLLEGE / BIG BROTHERS



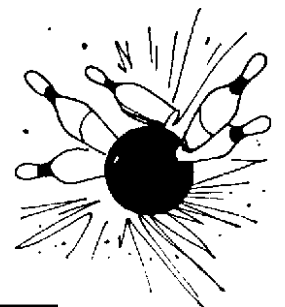
## Bowl for Kids Sake

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2002



Bowl-O-Rama Lanes  
NIAGARA STREET, WELLAND  
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Contact your class rep for further information  
or e-mail: [f954049@niagarac.on.ca](mailto:f954049@niagarac.on.ca)



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# Sabres, Canucks fans face off in Buffalo

By W. COLIN GIBSON  
Staff Writer

At 13:17 of the second period, my heart sank as the Vancouver Canucks fell behind 3-1. The dismay I felt as the Buffalo crowd clapped thunderously and roared, "Let's go, Buffalo," made me sick to my stomach with their "Charge!" I also lost \$10.

As a loyal Vancouver hockey fan, I was out of place. With a ratio of 1,677 Sabres fans to every Canucks fan, 16,777 were in attendance.

Deryk Stevens, a Buffalo fan and fellow Journalism-Print program student, and I went to the HSBC Arena to watch the Sabres play the Canucks, my favourite National Hockey League team, Jan. 8.

At 1:12 left in the third period, Vancouver took a final timeout. I'm on the edge of my seat. Derek said, "Looks like you owe me \$10."

"Not yet," I responded.

I felt sorry for Buffalo. The weather was horrible, with high winds chilling everyone to their bones. Snow was staked up and above some bus stop shelters. It was amazing.

We entered the arena and all I could see was a sea of red, black and white colours. Buffalo has a lot of pride in this team. The crowd's roar at the warm-up skate was torture to the ears; only a few Vancouver jerseys could be seen.

At 50 seconds into the game, right wing Miroslav Satan's goal was disallowed because it went in after the whistle was blown. Relief fanned over me, but the crowd booed and hissed at the call. Buffalo was relentless in the first period and it paid off with 30.2 seconds left. Right winger Vaclav Varada scored for the home team.

Between periods, we escaped for a smoke. To re-enter the building we had to lineup like ducks down a fenced row. I say ducks and not sheep because we were waddling forward.

Within four minutes, Varada scored again and this one counted. It was his third goal in two games. At 11:18 of the second period, Centre Brendan Morrison scored for Vancouver, making it 2-1. I moved my hands up in the air and yelled, "Yeah!"

After that, the Sabres had seven good chances in three minutes. The arena officials played Metallica and then Ricky Martin's *Shake Your Bon Bon*. Sitting in the 200-club section, I saw people to my left and we started talking.

"I'd go for anybody who goes against the Sabres," said Dell Ashton, 33, of St. Catharines, a former student at Niagara College. He said he is a loyal fan of the Toronto

Maple Leafs.

Centre Tim Connolly scored for the Sabres making it 3-1.

Josh Hodan, of Buffalo, said the game "is a good time. I'd prefer to see them (Buffalo) win rather than lose."

Defence Brent Sopel, of the Vancouver Canucks, had a disallowed goal in the second, but he finally scored one with 1:12 left in the third. With the score now 3-2, I was convinced the Canucks would pull through, but I was wrong. As the final second ended, the crowd got pretty loud.



tor was. At the right of the rink, we asked two other people about the elevator.

My best guess is they were catering food. The older man told us that no more elevators were coming. His partner then asked for him to radio an elevator to get him. Yeah, we got on the elevator.

NHL officials and members of the media surrounded us. At the bottom, we were told to go left by the food caterers, so we followed the officials. We were almost there, but we saw a mammoth security guard.

We were trying to get into the locker rooms without proper media credentials. Even our faculty member's business card was of no assistance.



The Vancouver Canucks, in black, are trying to capture some momentum against the Buffalo Sabres. Buffalo's goaltender Martin Biron stopped 27 shots for the 3-2 win.

Photo by W. Colin Gibson

Buffalo won 3-2, winning back-to-back games for the first time in a month.

The three stars of the game were Varada with two goals as the No. 1 star, Centre Chris Gratton, of Buffalo, the second star, and Sopel, of Vancouver, the third star.

After the game we tried to reach the players. We asked a local usher in red and he told us where the basement eleva-

tor was. With proper media credentials, we plan on going back to see the Sabres play the Ottawa Senators next month. We expect to have as much fun as we did on Jan. 8. It was a great time, even though we also got lost in Buffalo.

*In next week's edition of the Niagara News, staff writer and Buffalo Sabres fan Deryk Stevens gives his account of the game.*

## Skateboarder's ankle diagnosed as dislocated

Continued from page 21

Adam moved further to the left to get the whole thing on tape while Brock and I watched from atop a nearby ramp. I turned to get my camera, for a nice bird's-eye shot of the whole thing, only to find my battery was dead.

Tyler dropped in, hurtled toward the box and got into the grind. Ten feet, 15 feet, 20, and 30, a long distance to jump and grind by anyone's standards. The 180 out was the finisher. Tyler rolled away triumphant, bigger in our eyes and his ego.

Something was different though. Instead of the smooth clack and clean rollaway we usually expected from Tyler, the sound of a pop and a motionless corpse falling to the ground was the only auditory emission we were to hear.

We saw something different too, that day: pure helplessness in the eyes of a friend.

Brock had seen the whole thing. As Tyler finished the grind and began the 180-degree rotation to the floor, two young kids on boards rode directly in front of him, stopping his rotation at 90, forcing him to avoid colliding with them. He landed sideways and rolled his ankle, dislocating it and tearing tendons.

He looked toward Brock and me, the helplessness welling in his eyes,

and he said, "I think it's broken, guys," before collapsing into the fetal position on the cement floor.

Needless to say, thousands of dollars in hospital costs forced us back to Canada before Tyler went completely into shock. His ankle was officially diagnosed as being dislocated and summarily popped back into place by the emergency personnel at Douglas Memorial Hospital in Fort Erie.

Niagara News Cupid

Charity Ball • Mardi Gras • Feb. 16

Cressey Type

St. Cath. right to Life

Quicke Del.