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# Judgmental or Justified?

## Mercantile security retaliates against teens

Becca Snow

You're walking through the Pedway that links The Aquatic Centre to Harbour Station. Just as you get to the doors that lead into the long white hallway you're stopped by a security guard. He informs you that you are not allowed in there prior to 4 p.m. simply because you are a teenager. Now you are forced to walk all the way around and outside, and if you dare to walk through the hall on the way back you are threatened with being locked in. That's the reality Saint John teens are facing right now. Is this retaliation really necessary?

Upon being denied access to the Pedway, I was furious. My two friends and I were simply passing through to Harbour Station to pick up a pay cheque. It was raining outside and the ground was icy. Having to walk around and down the hill outside of the centre was a waste of time and effort. We decided to walk through the hall on our return trip, simply thinking "What could he [the security guard] do about it?" As we exited the hallway and passed by the guard, he

simply stated that if we tried that again he'd lock us in the hallway. As politely as I could keep my opinion I asked why they were only denying teenagers access. His reply was simple, "take it up with City Hall." That's precisely what I did. But upon calling the office, I was informed that the decision had nothing at all to do with the city; both the Mercantile Centre and Harbour Station are privately owned, and after receiving multiple calls from concerned parents, they were assuming it was either a rogue or poorly informed guard working for the Mercantile Centre.

This is where the investigation began. I went to the head of security at the Mercantile Centre and was told that he could do absolutely nothing for me. He explained, waving his pager at me, that he was a very busy man who had important long-distance calls to make. Not only did I notice that he knew exactly what I was talking about and the slight smirk on his face, but the screen on his pager was empty. He refused to help me but my

persistence paid off; a younger guard came in shortly after and was very helpful and understanding. Preferring to remain anonymous, he said that the only reason the new rule is in place is due to the vandalism, drug use and skateboarding being done by a select group of teenagers. While he is forced to impose this rule, he says he completely disagrees with it and suggested calling the city Facility Manager, Paul Basque. If enough people get their parents to call with regard to the subject, he believes things may change. The guard who has been keeping teenagers also had an opinion on the matter. He also does not like keeping all teens out and has worked as a teacher and various sports instructor, and knows that teenagers, as a whole, are not any worse than adults; however, since there is not yet an individual rule of punishment set in place, the policy remains "all or none."

The problem may be more serious than you think. Before you get angry and think they are overreacting, con-



sider this: a guard with poor English was pinned behind a door by three teenagers when he tried to ask them to stop skateboarding. Such violence really isn't necessary and represents teenagers poorly. The use of marijuana and cigarettes in the hallway also poses a serious problem. Adults who walk through the pedway have asked security who they can sue if they are hit by a skateboarder, which heightens the severity of the issue. We are no longer dealing with just being kicked out, charges could be pressed.

You also have to hear the other side of the story. Oliver Kasdan, a fellow greyhound, has a very strong opinion on the matter. "We aren't doing anything bad. It's good to keep it open so people don't get into more serious kinds of trouble. You can't skate the park in the winter so it's pretty much useless for 6 months of the year. It's not going to stop kids from going in there. We're still going to go except now it's illegal."

see PEDWAY—page 2

## OPA!

Kate Wagg

Over the March Break, a group of aspiring travelers from Saint John High flew to Athens, the big olive, for eight days of cultural enlightenment. Joined by a small group of students from Sackville, the travelers visited such sites as the Parthenon, Poseidon's Temple, and the ancient city of Delphi.

The students were fearlessly led by the two marvelous Kostas. Kostas Rentzos, organizer of the tour, was teeming with personality and made all activities fun. Our other Kostas, so named Kostas 1 for his superior driv-

ing capabilities, kept the group alive through situations no other human would pull through successfully. Until you've seen a full-sized tour bus deftly maneuver through a rural Grecian road, you cannot fully appreciate the incredible skill that Kostas 1 possesses.

The week was topped off with a "Greek Evening," which consisted of a fabulous dinner, Greek music, Greek dancing and a beautiful rendition of "Oh Canada."

All in all, the trip was a great success and will not be soon forgotten.



## The Economy

Amy Shannon

When you turn on the TV or radio or open the newspaper, it's the first thing you see: the Canadian economy is in trouble and it seems to be the only thing anybody is talking about these days. Ok, so everybody is freaking out, but what does all this really mean and how will it impact students specifically?

The truth is maybe it won't but it could actually have more of an impact on you than you might think. Many big companies are being forced to cut jobs so that means that you or one of your friends or even one of your parents could lose their jobs and finding a new job will be much more

difficult.

Also, because of the current economic downturn universities and community colleges are actually expecting enrollment to go up because laid-off workers will want to upgrade in order to re-enter and compete in the workforce.

This means that if you plan to attend post secondary next year there will be more competition and if you're planning to enter the workforce full time it will be much more difficult to find a job.

Good luck SJHS Grad Class Of 2009!

## Meet your editors and staff

Editors		Staff	
Editor-in-chief	Becca Snow	Caitlyn Bourque	Morgan MacDonald
Arts	Brittini Carvell	Keigan Buckley	Greg Pert
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News	Kate Wagg	Michelle Johnston	Gianna Young
Opinion	Cherise Letson	Oliver Kasdan	
Sports	Jessica Barrieau	Adeya Lindsay	

# News

## New psychology course offered at SJHS?

Caitlin Bourque

Word is going around that a new course may be coming to Saint John High — psychology. Interest is flying through the air, as students talk about possibility.

Psychology is the study of how you think or feel, and what motivates you. Sociology, a course already sponsored by the school, teaches a little about psychology, but is more focused on group, rather than individual, behaviours.

Students will be able to explore

the world of psychology and decide whether they would like to continue it at university.

With a psychology course on their resumes, a student's chances of getting a job could be enhanced. Additionally, there might be new teachers, an opportunity to meet and get to know new people — not to mention teaching methods. If all goes well, we will have a greater variety of courses to choose from, and everyone will get what they want.

## Pedway — p. 1

Two sides of the story, one controversial problem: Should teenagers be discriminated against because of the actions of a few? Remember, acting out toward security won't work. It simply reinforces their point. It's not as though they have a personal vendetta toward us; they just follow instructions just like you have to do in school. Would you research logarithms on your own time if your teacher didn't tell you to? Didn't think so. Their decision is simply in

response to a few negative events. Want to do something about it?

Get an adult (because they're taken more seriously, as judgmental as that is, that's life) to call Paul Basque at 658-4002. If enough people voice their opinion, change is more likely.



## Will Omar Khadr face U.S. justice?

Caitlin Bourque

After an elongated seven-year debate, a decision is being resolved on the fate of Omar Khadr, a fellow Guantanamo Bay prisoner. Prisoner Khadr is a Canadian citizen charged with killing U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Christopher D. Speer in 2002, when Khadr was 15 and wearing the al-Qaida ensemble. Seven years have passed; Federal Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff has signed a letter to Prime Minister Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama demanding their governments release Khadr.

A recent poll showed some 66

percent of respondents push the U.S. penalty, while others shown on a CTV online poll found only 4 percent chose Khadr over Trade or Afghanistan as a point for Stephen Harper to discuss with Obama. Harper refuses to pressure the Americans to transfer Khadr to Canada and rejects that Khadr, now 22, be considered a "child soldier." Opposition leaders and their coalition argue that Obama should approve Khadr's status from "child soldier" so that he can be dealt within Canadian law and reintegrated into Canadian society, which would

ultimately mean consequences.

However, keeping in mind that anyone over the age of eight should be held responsible for criminal acts and regarded as a the "child soldier," eight is older than in most countries and some U.S. states. Dennis Edney, Khadr's lead lawyer, stated in Khadr's defense that "Omar Khadr is not a Taliban warrior in need of rehabilitation...he is just a wounded young boy who needs to come home and be cared for." Furthermore, he said, their client is willing to face prosecution in Canada, given that he'd likely never

face conviction even if he could be charged with an offence under the Canadian law.

Subsequently, having the killer of an American military hero set free without punishment north of the border is just the optics Canada needs, with anxiety about Canada's tax security and soft-on-terrorists immigration politics already rampant in America and Obama's Homeland Security. Now it is all in the hands of Michael Ignatieff to change the fate of Omar Khadr.

## What would you like to read about in *The Hound*?



**Brian Henderson:** "I like the ones about the school."



**Nathan Wiggins:** "I don't read but, I'd like something that recently happened in the city that isn't about politics."



No Photo Available

**Adam Dupuis:** "I'd like something to keep me updated on were the world is on skateboarding."



**Emma Scott:** "Definitely the part about entertainment"

## Plays debut performance in the Mini Theatre

Brandon Fraser

A new play was performed at Saint John High during A and D Block on Friday, February 27. The cast consisted of actors: Peter Gilchrist, Dawn Gilchrist, Bob Vienneau and Helene Ovesen. The play was directed by the infamous Bob Doherty. The series of monologues were based on stories Mr. Doherty acquired from the elderly, by email and visits, of their past experiences. These experiences were sometimes sad and emotional, yet some were quite amusing.

However funny or sad, the play was meant to show you how those you consider old and boring were once like you. For such an outstanding performance, you may be amazed that not only was this their first time performing such a play but also they only had a few weeks of rehearsal.

Most of the performers have had years of experience though. Mr. Gilchrist has had 50 years, Mrs. Ovesen 29 years, and Mr. Vienneau, 15

years. As for Mrs. Gilchrist, it was her very first time performing since university. This being their first time performing the play, they were a bit worried about the students' reactions. However; after they were done, they admitted they were impressed by the respect and attentiveness the students gave.

After having performed here, they continued on to Hampton and Rothesay high schools to finish off.

They did not have the highest of

expectations for this play, as the grant was applied for in 2007 and only just acquired last summer. The play is something Mr. Doherty has had on his plate for quite sometime, and he is relieved to finally finish it.

While that may be the case, a group of doctors who works with the elderly has taken an interest in the play and may want them to perform at the April convention.

# Sports

## Hounds volleyball

Erin Hogan

Saint John High school's volleyball team has made their cuts and created a whole new roster for this season. Tryouts have been completed and the lucky and talented have been chosen. They will represent Saint John High School with pride and hard work. Our school teams always put in a good effort, and I'm sure this tradition will continue.

Volley ball is a very hard sport to master. If your form goes wrong in just one way, the ball can be lost from your grasp and can be thrown in the opposite direction you positioned for. Lucky for the Hounds, we have great positioning and a very strong team. The competition will definitely be fierce against Fredericton, although some promise has been shown Sussex Regional High School.

Everyone's very excited for this new season, with good cause and good reason!

## Parkour

Graeme McBriarty

Parkour is a sport that has been very recently invented (at least recently defined and organized). You may have even seen it being practiced. If you've seen the James Bond movie *Casino Royale*, you have been presented with a gleaming example. You just had no idea what it was you were seeing.

Parkour, in the simplest of terms, is using the environment around you to get from one point to another in the most efficient way possible. The easiest example would be either ducking under or vaulting over a rail rather than walking around it. A more complex example would be performing a Tictac (a Parkour stunt defined as a wall run to gain height to a previously unreachable area), followed with a cat leap (hanging off a wall's edge with two feet firmly planted on the wall). This would be topped off finally with a turn vault (a vault that leaves you on the opposite side of an obstacle while turning you 180 degrees in the process).

Though all these techniques have specific names, simply whipping out a few doesn't necessarily mean you are doing Parkour. Parkour isn't about the moves, it's about the flow. Flow is a term used by traceurs (those in practice of the developing sport) to describe the smoothness and efficiency of the movement.

Flow, and Parkour itself, focuses on smooth movement for conservation of momentum. Stopping and starting wastes time and energy, the precise opposite of efficiency. Having good flow in Parkour is akin to being in "The Zone" in other activities.

This concept of flow has been taken by Parkour's co-founders, David Belle and Sebastian Foucan, and transformed into a philosophy for life: if you can overcome any physi-



## Do you know what you're eating?

Becca Snow

Ever eaten somewhere, ordered a salad instead of fries and thought that you made a healthy decision? Think again. Until you actually analyze what you are eating you can't fully understand what you are putting into your body. Should you really have to do research before you go out to eat? Isn't fast food supposed to be, well, fast? Here are a couple of facts and tips to help you make an informed choice.

First of all, it doesn't hurt to at least look at the nutrition information. Most fast-food places have the information on hand. Some brave candidates even have it right on the trays they dare serve their artery-clogging food on. Until you read the information, you may make some very poor decisions. For example, a chicken BLT salad with croutons and honey mustard dressing from Wendy's has 690 calories and 45.5g of fat. That's only 210 calories less than a 1/4 lb burger with cheese and ketchup (and veggies) AND fries; the burger fry combo has 3.5 less grams of fat. Shocked? Most people are completely unaware of the content of the food they ingest. By looking at the nutrition pamphlets before you order you can save yourself the figurative- and possibly literal- heart attack of learning what you're eating.



cal obstacle, you can overcome any obstacle.

Curious about Foucan's work? Take another peek at *Casino Royale*. You can spot Foucan being chased into his embassy and killed by Bond at the movie's opening. As you watch, take note of Foucan's flow and fluidity and Bond's apparent lack of either. This will give you an idea of what Parkour actually is.

Another way to balance your fast food binges is through exercise. If you only exercise simply to balance your fast food habits, you'll never progress physically. But if you exercise a little extra every once and a while in order to treat yourself, that is perfectly acceptable.

Moderation is another tactic that is good to follow. Eating out every once and a while- even once a week if you're active- is only normal. And if you NEVER treat yourself, you're likely to go overboard later. You just have to keep in mind that relying on fast food is not a healthy alternative.

This leads to the most effective way to stay healthy- abstinence. Just like sex, if you don't have fast food you won't feel any of its possibly negative side-effects. Point, case, match.

Fast food restaurants may lead you to believe they have healthy alternatives, but don't go in without knowledge. If you can't control yourself, don't go. And if you find yourself depending on its availability and convenience, think up smarter plans like preparing food the night before, packing snacks to curb cravings and, if you must, choose somewhere with healthier menu options like subway. You won't regret it when you're older.

## Rugby training season

Ashley Buttery

As you've probably already noticed, it's training season here at Saint John High. For sports fanatics, this is the time of year where you get to prove yourself worthy (and work your butt off), in efforts to join a sports team. The sport that seems to peak everyone's interest this time of year is rugby. If you just so happen to try out for the rugby team, you can be sure it's far from a walk in the park.

When tryouts begin, potential team-mates are put through a series of tests and a pretty busy training schedule. Talking to a potential girl's rugby team member, you'll learn that though accomplishing, training isn't all fun and games. Energy is key when it comes to these exhausting and pain-staking training sessions. Team members are highly aware that

## Health tips

Jessica Barrieau

It is important to stay healthy, but many people these days do not eat properly or do not get enough exercise. It is important to have at least 30 minutes of some sort of physical activity, which include cardio or any aerobic training. A good way of doing that is by joining a sport. Sports people like to blow off steam and meet new people. It's often fun and often benefits the person who joined. For students, full-time workers, families, or all of the above, it can be harder to be involved. Try walking, running, riding a bike, roller-blading, or skateboarding. Also, see Canada's food guide for information on how to make wise food choices and to learn what and how much you should be having daily.

## Eating right

Becca Snow

Fast food may be fast, but is its convenience really worth the health risks? Here are a couple of alternatives to fatty fast food.

**Pack a lunch:** No one's going to judge you for bringing a sandwich instead of buying your lunch. It's healthier and more affordable.

**Stop Cravings:** Snack on healthy foods often in order to stop cravings you get when you are out and about.

**Give yourself time:** If you have to wake up twenty minutes earlier in order to eat or prepare something at home then do it; it's worth your time.



their game this year has to "step-up" compared to last. "You're in it to win", mentioned a trainee, so the best is what is brought forward.

It's a tough competition when it comes to training, so as the saying goes, "if you can't take the heat, stay out of the kitchen." A typical training session includes running, sprinting, running stairs, tackling practice, learning how to *ruck*, maul and pass.

Seems like these girls put in a lot of hard work and effort to their training? Those who are in it to win are taking it seriously. Honestly, I am proud to say that I go to a school where the sports are taken so seriously. So the next time you go to a rugby game, cheer us on because these athletes have put more energy and time into making us proud.

# Features

## Langdon's at it again!

Kate Wagg

Tom Hanks returns to the big screen in May 2009 as Robert Langdon once again in *Angels and Demons*. In 2006, he debuted his interpretation on Dan Brown's work in *The Da Vinci Code* and will continue the legacy later this spring. Ron Howard will be directing *Angels and Demons* to keep things consistent with *The Da Vinci Code*.

Both novels were known for being extremely controversial and left many in the Christian community outraged. They pushed religious boundaries to the extreme. The controversy only grew when the film was released. Many felt that it was publicizing "anti-christian beliefs." With the upcoming release of *Angels and Demons*, one can wonder whether we are in for another ride, or if everyone got it out of their system the first time around.

Those who did not get caught up in the religious upheaval during the release of *The Da Vinci Code* were drawn to theatres by the compelling story line. Audiences were quickly divided into two groups; those who loved it, and those who loathed it. It seemed that the defining difference between the two groups lied in who had read the book. Those who had read the book previous to watching the film found it un-enjoyable, and those who went into the movie blind had a far superior movie watching experience. This seems to be the norm with all novels that were made into films because if you go into theatres with expectations that the movie will mimic the book, your expectations are bound to be unfulfilled. If Social Studies has taught us one thing, it is to learn from history, so if you intend to watch *Angels and Demons*, you'll have a far better time at the movies if you stop at your local bookstore AFTER returning home from the theatre.

The movie will star Tom Hanks and Ayelet Zurer. If not well done, the movie at least promises to be a fairly interesting experience, so get out to your closest movie theatre. I mean, what else are you going to do on a Friday night?

## Human trafficking & the 2010 Olympics: A "booming business"

Ashley Buttery

Imagine for a minute that you're in a cold dark place, wearing dirty old clothes that barely cover you, and it's been months since you've seen your family. A man walks in the room and you know it's going to happen all over again. He approaches you, and you know what you have to do. You just pray he doesn't hit you and throw you around the way some of the other men do. The "guard" gives you a cold stare and closes the door behind him as he leaves.

As disturbing as this scenario sounds, it's hardly the worst. Millions of young women and children are forced into the sex trade every year, and the numbers are increasing. The brutal truth is that human trafficking is a very real and scary occurrence that takes place everyday, all over the world.

The phrase "human trafficking" has been linked to many underground operations over Asia and Europe, but it now seems to be exploding over North America, as well, even branching into Canada. This means the problem may be a lot closer to home than we might realize.

It's been apparent to experts all over the world that the 2010 Olympics are going to bring a "booming business" for the human trafficking

organizations. Vancouver is notoriously known as the "hub for Pacific human trafficking," meaning the 2010 games are only going to profit from this outrageous "business."

Benjamin Perrin, an assistant professor at UBC Faculty of Law in British Columbia, says "Traffickers will view the 2010 Olympics as the biggest business opportunity for them in decades. Any time you have an influx of foreign tourists and money, you'll see a huge demand for the sex trade.

"Luckily, we've been able to identify this as a problem, but unless enough resources are given to this, we're not going to be able to stop it. The big concern is that traffickers have a sense of impunity, and they have good reason to be arrogant because Canada has yet to prosecute someone successfully," Perrin commented in an interview.

Even though Canada's first charge against trafficking was laid in Vancouver, not a single person has ever been successfully prosecuted. Because of this, many traffickers are undeterred by the laws. Unfortunately, we give them reason not to worry.

This is the part where you're probably wondering how human trafficking affects you. Truth is, it affects

everyone. If you sit by and don't take action to raise awareness, you are also guilty of helping the people who are trafficking these woman.

Being students in a school such as Saint John High, we never really consider our safety as an issue, but to many children in poverty-stricken areas, where human trafficking is a huge issue, their safety is the first thing on their mind. Imagine a man or woman walking up to you on your way home from school and offering you a promising job in modeling or in the music industry. All you have to do, they say, is go with them and you can make a fortune for you and your family. This idea seems unrealistic for students like us, but it happens everyday. Do you feel that our school has enough protection and security to ensure we are safe in school, or do you feel that security is an issue?

The next time you and your friends are talking about the 2010 games, remember that as well as benefiting Canada, it can potentially destroy the lives of many young people. Don't be afraid to speak up to a group of friends or family about this issue. And remember, the more people are aware, the more this horrible reality can become just a nightmare in our history.

## Stereotyping & cliques: A media monster or just natural instincts?

Ashley Buttery

We've all seen them, the "typical high school" scenes where the groups of people are as diverse as their clothing choices. But where do you find yourself?

Can you honestly say that you have never stereotyped someone at a first glance? I highly doubt it, but if you are one of the few people who looks past someone's appearance, then you are one of the lucky ones.

If you've ever stopped and thought about why we classify and group one another, then you could have come to the same conclusions as many others have: the media. It seems to me that the media has had a large impact on the way most people think, and believe it or not, that has an even bigger impact on our high schools. Would a hockey player go talk to the quiet shy

guy at the back of the room, or would that be considered socially wrong? But the even bigger question is would be, should he care? Do you think we sit back and pick who we surround ourselves with? Or is it somehow a socially acceptable decision?

I personally think that it is both media influenced and natural instincts to stick with what, or in this case who, you know. There is no rule that says you have to befriend the people you choose too, but have you ever found that you don't want to branch outside of your group of friends? Whether it be comments made by peers or that little voice telling you not to do it, it happens. But why? Who says the kid who joins mathletes is any different from the one who prefers basketball instead?

In most high schools, it's considered "social suicide" to join certain clubs or activities, just because they're not deemed "cool." But who decides what's cool and what's not? We leave it up to what the media says is acceptable, and does that seem right to you? It's not unusual to see people holding back on what they want to do because of sheer fear of what people would think about it.

The topic of cliques and stereotypes has been acknowledged for years, but nothing's really changed. It

takes action, not just acknowledgement, to change this. So this could be your chance for change. I dare you to go talk to someone you haven't before. Someone who's not already a friend or a friend's friend. Who knows, you could have a lot more in common than you think. And remember: never judge a book by its cover, because your cover could be under just as much inspection.



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Pat Cormier challenges stereotyping. It

# Features

## Sports vs Music

Jessica Barrieau



People have many different opinions on what's better, sports or music? Well, the research has been done and the conclusion is that both are equally entertaining.

Many students believe that music is their life and soul. Others seem to believe that people should not be able to live life without being active and, therefore, choose sports over music.

On the music side, people are passionate and listen to their tunes anywhere from 5 to 12 hours a day. So, when it's thought about, why not let these people listen to their music in class? What is the big deal with the iPods and MP3 players in class? As long as it's not while the teacher is teaching, it should be fine.

"I think the school should let us listen to music during class. Teachers

are always telling students to be quiet, so what better way to shut them up, just let us listen to music," says grade 11 student Pat Cormier.

Then there are the sports fanatics. Grade 12 student Kate Sewell stated, "Sports are equally as important as school in my eyes because I have more fun and it keeps me in shape. On the other hand education is a key factor in life, whether you wish to be a musician or an athlete." However, as Cormier said, "school is much more important than anything else."

As we see, there are different views on this topic. Some people are strongly for music and others strongly for sports. This being said, many people also enjoy listening to music while participating in sports and school activities.

## PD day: Eviction or induction?

Caitlin Bourque

There has been word after several days of absence of school personal days could be 'dismissed'. A decision is to be issued about the ensuing dilemma. Teachers and government have been torn between the difficult choice of whether students should be granted their personal day or be forced to make up the missed time. The stress of the absence is taking control over lessons and organized planning; every class is behind where they should and need to be.

Throughout this year, Saint John has had a total of six storm cancellations. If any more days of school are cancelled, then there could be a definite chance that no more personal days will be granted. Teachers and

government are trying their best to keep ahead and make sure that all students are alright and accounted for. School boards have to account for all students to be safe and out of harm's way. They are in charge of students' safety and have to keep in mind, when it is appropriate, to send students home.

Even though it may not be obvious, students are affected by the absence. There is more stress, work, and time to make up for. Students may act as though they don't care, but in actuality they do. Teachers plan to create work that covers the topic they teach, but students have to worry about catching up on the work they missed and are receiving.

## Think about your future

Michelle Johnston

Teen pregnancy is a growing concern in our community, as well as in our school. We wonder why, with all of our resources for birth control, so many girls are getting pregnant so young. After speaking with a young girl here at our very own high school, I soon learned a new perspective on why and how so many young girls are giving up their freedom to join the ever-growing parent population.

I spoke with a young woman, who I will call Katie, this past week and she explained to me her experience with becoming pregnant, finding out she was pregnant, and the terror of having to tell her boyfriend and her parents.

Katie spoke openly about these things to me. She said, "young girls my age aren't worried about getting pregnant, we think we are invisible." She continued with words and thoughts of so many other young girls. Girls that are in high school are afraid to ask anyone for condoms, let alone use them. When the occasion of having sex arises, we seem to be too

scared to ask the guy to use a condom. However, shouldn't we think about the future? If we are too shy to protect ourselves from getting pregnant, who is going to do the adult things like change diapers?

Katie proceeded to tell me that is not how she thought at all. She and her boyfriend went to a party the night it happened. They each had a little too much to drink, and then they went back to her house because her parents were out of town. Now she will be feeding another mouth by Christmas. "Who knew?" she said to me during our talk. "We never thought about pregnancy or the possibility of being parents. That wasn't even a topic that came up that night. Now, however, this is something that neither one of us can ignore." As she began to cry, we called the interview to a close.

Katie is like so many young girls, but I ask why take the chance? If you are old enough to have sex, be mature enough to be safe.

## The Bay of Fundy

Oliver Kasdan

Ever since the discovery of the Bay of Fundy 400 years ago by Samuel de Champlain, thousands have discovered its beauty and life. Now many strange discoveries are being made in the bay. Among the discoveries are new species, not native to the waters. It has not been proven why these changes are happening, but there are many theories going around.

Last August, Captain Bob Bosein counted eight or nine killer whales. This sighting is unheard of. In his 35 years of boating in the area, he has not seen or heard of killer whale sightings. "I feel pretty lucky because I don't know anybody who has ever see a killer whale in the Bay of Fundy," he said.


This is just one of the many strange sightings. On August 29, a coast guard reported seeing a great white shark typically found in tropical waters. In July, a marine biology graduate student reported seeing giant white seabirds.

The Bay of Fundy is now attracting more sea life than in past years. There are more whales, bluefin tuna, sharks, seals, and seabirds. Don McAlpine, curator of zoology at the New Brunswick Museum, is quoted in one article as saying, "There certainly are some weird things going on in the bay this year."

It is obvious that the abundance of food for sea life such as krill, herring, and zooplankton is part of these strange sightings, but they may not be the only reason. Today, there are also many more eyes on the water than before, which could be a simple explanation.

In another article, Dr. Tony Diamond, a teacher at UNB, states that he thinks there might be a darker reason for the abundance of food. "One of the effects of overfishing is that it makes things better for organisms that live further down the food chain. What feeds on them then also increases."





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# Arts and Entertainment

## Clyde Wray

Ashley Buttery

Clyde Wray, who spoke to us at an assembly on March 11, comes from a background full of color and life experience, something you can surely gather from his many pieces of work. He conveys his creativity and energy through his countless sonnets (his favourite genre of poetry to write) and many plays. He considers himself a writer, not just a playwright or a poet.

At age 19, he volunteered to serve in Vietnam. The after-effect that Vietnam had on Wray was gripping and was the “inspiration” behind his earlier pieces of work and some of his plays. “If I’m breathing, that’s where my inspiration comes from. I’m inspired by life and never take life for granted,” Wray commented in an interview.

Wray believes that writing is a lot more than just putting your thoughts on paper. For him, it’s a lifestyle on its own.

“To be an author is to be consumed,” mentions Wray. In order to be a writer you have to have lots of endurance and perseverance. To young writers, Wray says that you must “forget how many pieces you’ve written and just continue to move the pen.”

A wise professor of Wray’s once told him that you should never edit your own work. “Sometimes it takes someone else to pick out the flaws that you can’t see in your own work. When you are writing something, you are trying to put down a story in your head, so when you look at the paper you see the story, no matter if it’s there or not. So it takes someone else to point out what’s missing.”

Clyde Wray has gained life experience that most people wouldn’t have gained in three lifetimes. “Life is full of inspiration, and it amazes me everyday.” So when you just can’t find the right words to put down, just sit back and pay attention to life, and “sometimes, you have to let the well fill back up.”



## Graffiti

Gianna Young

For as long as there has been cities, there has been graffiti. Spread down back alleys, doodled on the backs of buses, spray-painted across billboards, graffiti has materialized everywhere from stop signs to pay-phones to the SJHS washrooms. But is graffiti really vandalism and a defacement of private property, or is it art? Is it art to be appreciated and valued as highly as the works we hang in galleries and sell for thousand of dollars?

There definitely is a bias against street artists who don’t play by the established rules and risk arrest or being fined as they go out to produce their work, venturing down dark side streets or dangerous stretches of railway tracks. But despite their humble, sometimes rough, showcases and bad reputation, these people are artists, ones who choose to develop their works on the free galleries of the streets.

Whether graffiti is done spontaneously or the artist is trying to make a social commentary to be heard and remembered, it definitely needs to be reconsidered and not simply labeled as vandalism. If anything, graffiti is more influential and inspiring than traditional art, as it is hung where everyone can see it and is painted out of the desire to make art and express oneself, and not with the hope of getting anything in return. Graffiti is there for everyone to see, not just art

lovers and art collectors, but for beggars, lunatics, prostitutes, and passers-by.

If we limit what we call “art” simply to what we have hanging in galleries, then that is the same as saying art is not for everyone to appreciate. Art has a place in our society, and that place is where it can be seen by all, on the street. Regardless of whether graffiti is right or wrong, it is a lie to say that without it, our streets would be clean.

Every street is stained with the grime from car fumes and polluted with gas and smoke. Every street is littered shamelessly with garbage and hopelessly covered in billboards and their false advertisements that we cannot hope to escape from. We have memorized the catch phrases of global corporations and recognize logos upon sight, so how can we even begin to say that graffiti is the cause of havoc and is invading the order of our streets?

Street art shows that our cities are real, places full of life and energy. Although the artwork can be looked at by the public, it will likely be whitewashed out. Or, imagine this: a young kid with a spray can and a message is fined.

Graffiti will always be a part of our cities, so if you don’t like it, you are probably better off living in a desert because street art is here to stay.



## Britney's circus

Caitlin Bourque

On Friday, March 20, Britney Spears will be making a comeback in Canada. Her concert will be held at the Centre Bell in Montreal. Tickets range in price from \$175 to almost \$1000, depending on the spokesperson and the dealer. Spears has had her chance at fame and failure, but times seem to be looking optimistic and bright for the young star.

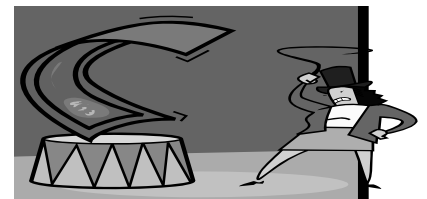
One of the most popular CDs that has recently come out is *Circus*, which has sold 505,000 copies and has had more than one hit. However, her cover song “Circus” is reigning most popular.

I comprehend the lyrics from “Circus” to be saying that there are only two types of people in the world, the girls who entertain and the girls who observe. She states she is the entertaining, showy kind of girl and likes to be first. Like the ring-leader in a circus, she calls the shots. Compared to a firecracker, she makes things hot when she puts on a show. While she is putting on her show, she feels the adrenaline running through her veins, almost as though she is about to face a challenge like the lions do.

And as soon as the spotlight hits her, she’s ready to let loose and show her talent. As a dance performer, the dance floor is her stage and she hopes that everyone feels the same meaning and hopes that everyone is comfortable. She sometimes has the audience members join her onstage. When everyone looks at her, it feels almost like a circus. When she cracks her own whip and expresses herself, everyone flips out.

She wants people to join her, express themselves, and feel comfortable, like she does.

Until it reaches the end and states how she wants people to join her and express themselves as freely as they please, and how her life and style are like a circus, the mood is — hectic.



## You can’t stop the beat

Kate Wagg

It’s true, you can’t stop this beat and it’s on its way to Saint John. *Hairspray* is coming to the Imperial Theatre on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and is expected to be phenomenal. Tickets range from \$80-60 and are well worth the cost. *The New York Post* describes it as a “Big fat gorgeous hit!” Tickets can be bought through the Imperial Theatre website.

*Hairspray* features the junk-in-trunk-bearing Tracy Turnblad as she tries to obtain a spot on the beloved Corny Collins Show. Since this is in

fact a musical, she not only reaches for the stars, but also learns a valuable lesson along the way.

The musical addresses racial issues circulating in the 1960s in a comedic fashion. It breaks social boundaries of that time, but keeps your toes-a-tappin’ the entire time.

*Hairspray* is expected to be a treat, so get out and go see it. It’s a great way to support theatre in your community, and who knows? You might actually learn something from it.

## The Excursion

Franz Kafka (an early 20th century writer, not an SJHS affiliate)

“I don’t know,” I cried in a toneless voice, “I really don’t know. If nobody comes, then nobody comes. I’ve done nobody any harm, nobody ever did me any harm, yet nobody wants to come to my aid. But that’s not it either. Only nobody comes to help me – and why wouldn’t I? – to go on an excursion with a crowd of nobodies. Into the mountains, of course, where else? The way nobodies would crowd together, all their crossed and linked arms, their many feet separated by minute steps! Naturally, they’re all in tailcoats. We’re walking along without a care in the world, the wind is pushing through the gaps between us and our various limbs. Our throats feel free in the mountains! It’s a miracle we haven’t burst into song!”

Find more of Kafka’s works at your favourite library!

# Arts and Entertainment

## A heart of gold

Cherise Letson

Canada's most iconic figure in music will be paying the Port City a visit on April 11! After touring countries all over the globe, Neil Young will be coming back to his native land.

For those of you who have not been exposed to his music (for whatever absurd reason!), allow me to enlighten you.

Young was born on November 12, 1945, in Toronto. In his teens, he broke onto the popular folk music scene, performing at various coffee-houses and in several high school rock groups around Winnipeg. Then, like many young men of his age in the 1960's, Young fled to California in 1966 and quickly joined the new counter culture of young people, and joined the famous pioneer folk-rock group Buffalo Springfield. He left Springfield in 1968 and then joined Crosby Stills Nash, making them Crosby Stills Nash and Young. After recording many hits and their split early in the next decade, Neil embarked full force on a solo career. The rest is history.

Young's music touched so many lives over the decades. His song writing is astonishing and includes everything from romanticism to social commentary. Even if you're not a fan of his style of music, there is guaranteed to be a Neil Young song you could relate to.

Without a doubt, Young contributed greatly to Canada's impact on what was arguably the most exciting time in music history. The most impressive part about his career is that he also had the staying power to keep writing relevant music and recruiting fans with every decade.

He was just a young man from Canada with music being the driving force in his life; now he is a music legend. Go see him. Pay homage.



## March playlist

Kate Wagg

So you are just starting to get back into things after March Break and let's face it, you would much rather be on vacation. Here is a playlist to get you out of that back-to-school funk and hold you over until Easter.

Stuff you probably haven't heard...

1. *Fake Tales of San Francisco* by The Arctic Monkeys
2. *Oh! The Boss is Comin'* by The Arkells

Stuff that makes you feel happy...

3. *Beautiful Day* by U2
4. *Friday I'm in Love* by The Cure

Stuff to get all teen-angsty with...

5. *Want You Bad* by The Offspring
6. *Time is Running Out* by Muse

Stuff to dance to...

7. *Shut Up and Let Me Go* by The Ting Tings
8. *Kids* by MGMT

Stuff that is just funny...

9. *Pea* by Red Hot Chili Peppers
10. *Some Girls are Bigger than Others* by The Smiths

Stuff that's fun to sing along with...

11. *Santa Monica* by Everclear
12. *Combat Baby* by Metric

Stuff that's old but definitely good...

13. *You Really Got Me* by The Kinks
14. *London Calling* by The Clash

So put on your headphones and hold on until April! You've got your music; you're all set!

## Theatre Arts

Kate Wagg

Theatre Arts 120 is a popular course among grade 12 students. Although many opt to take it because they think it is a "bird course," most later realize that acting isn't as easy as it looks. Theatre Arts not only helps you develop theatrical skills (which are entirely necessary for anyone who cares to pursue acting) but it also helps you develop life skills. For one, it gives you the confidence necessary to become a good public speaker. Many have said that after completing the course, presenting projects in their other classes seems far less intimidating. It also teaches you to work within groups effectively and efficiently.

With a new task each day, students are required to complete it quickly and well. Theatre Arts also helps develop leadership skills through self-directing skits on a daily basis and the final plays at the end of the course. Students also develop time management skills and the ability to think on their feet.

Theatre Arts makes you appreciate the arts community. Those who have participated in artistic endeavors are more likely to take part in supporting the art community than those who have not.

All these skills can be used inside and outside theatre, making this a valuable course.



## Book reviews

### Wake

Kate Wagg

*Wake*, by Lisa McMann, is an exceptional book about the extraordinary circumstances of how seventeen-year-old Janie lives. Janie is unusual because she is constantly being sucked into other people's dreams — literally. She is witty and sharp, bringing new light to the way we see people around us. The writing is captivating and will keep you intrigued from the first page to the last. McMann's characters are relatable, funny, and realistic. The characters feel more like friends than fictional people.

The sequel, *Fade*, came out this year on February 10. If *Wake* is any indication, *Fade* should be absolutely fantastic.

### Spanking Shakespeare

Kate Wagg

*Spanking Shakespeare*, by Jake Wizner, is the story of the poor, self-pitying soul, Shakespeare Shapiro. A prodigy of Shakespeare himself? Not quite—try your typical teenager: moody but exceptionally funny. Shakespeare (Shapiro) feels doomed in his own life, a direct result of his parent's poor choice in his naming. He isn't getting into the top universities, he isn't getting the girl, and he isn't getting any happier with his "parental situation." However his suffering comes as a benefit to us. His take on life is hysterical and outrageous, both elements coming together to form a truly memorable book.

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# Opinions

## Where's the sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll?

Cherise Letson

Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix: the late faces of the glory days of Rock 'n' Roll. They changed their generation and made a footprint on not only music but also the world. They lead a generation, they tore down barriers, they had *mystique*, and they set the standard! What the heck happened, people? Where is the sex, drugs, and rock and roll?

I turn on my television, and I see the Jonas Brothers music being called *rock and roll*, Miley Cyrus being called a *rock star*. Bands like Hinder, Linkin Park and Hedley are called "true rock and rollers"? What is wrong with this picture? Today's "rock" musicians have nothing to offer any more. They have no lasting or unique sound, they have nothing different to say, and they have no new message to convey – not to mention the band members remind you of your older brother. All a band has to do to get played is to spit out a song about heartbreak or teen angst, and BAM, you've got a top-selling group.

How did it get this way, you ask? Somewhere between Nirvana and today, the world became completely star struck. We stopped caring about the music and started caring about what so and so was wearing and who so and so was sleeping with, and what so and so had on their toast this morning. Why? Probably to substitute for the fact that the music has nothing to talk about within it. This was more than likely because record companies and other big shots in the music-biz stopped caring about the actual music and geared themselves toward making a quick buck. They manipulate their musicians and recording artist to make music that sells, which today does not usually say something at all meaningful. Do you think anyone cared about who Jim Morrison was sleeping with? No! Instead they focused mainly on his words and what they said, and on how he and The Doors performed them; their *talent*. What went wrong?



## Packing up

Erin Hogan

Moving out. It sounds like an ideal thing to do when you're a teenager. Recently, my two best friends moved out. They now share a two bedroom, one bathroom, upper West basement apartment. It's become the new hang out, people there all the time, eating their food and turning up their heat. Sure it's great to go there and stay for a couple of days, but what about them? Is renting out an apartment really worth it at this stage in life? They pay \$500/month on rent, plus food and utilities. By gaining independence, they now lose out on spur-of-the-moment shopping trips, eating out, and going to the movies with friends. Their lives now revolve around budgeting and making rent.

So why move out? I asked Chelsi Martin, a grade 11 student who just moved out. "It's not because I hate my parents, I don't. It's just because I need my space – I want my independence, to be able to just live my life my way."

There are many different reasons why a teenager may move out, and some are extreme circumstances and reasonable choices. If you have a good home with your parents and you're well taken care of, what pushes you to make such a life-changing decision? Freedom is one of the most obvious choices, but I wouldn't constitute freedom as continuously going to school, going home, going to work, and eating bread as your meal everyday. How can freedom be achieved when you have to balance two jobs and school-work? Sure you have no rules enforced by parents, but life will be more complicated and the stress will keep building up.

Enjoy the easy life and boundaries being given to you as long as you can. The majority won't be able to stay living with their parents forever, and there is so much time to live alone and independently in your life that there is no rush.

## Run for your lives: The Fan-Girls are coming!

Kate Wagg

This past year, North America was hit with an epidemic more contagious than the Spanish influenza. Surely you've heard of *Twilight*, the popular teen vampire series starring "Plain Jane" Bella Swan and "Dreamboat" Edward Cullen. If not, you should promptly remove yourself from the rock you've been living under and immerse yourself in our society. Even if you have not heard of the book itself, you have no doubt noticed the tension that has enveloped groups of crazed fan-girls everywhere. *Twilight* is a romance novel written by Stephenie Meyer in which seemingly uninteresting Bella moves to the small town of Forks, and meets her ideal 100-year-old man, who is cleverly disguised as an adolescent through the age-defying process of immortality. The *Reader's Digest* version is that Bella thinks he hates her, but he really loves her and is trying not to eat her. Finally, he gives up the "disinterested" charade because he has succumbed to her clumsy seductress ways (not to mention, he thinks she smells quite delectable). Eventually, they reach the level of happiness attainable only in the wildest of dreams. Unfortunately, their incredible bliss is interrupted by the "thirsty" James, who tries to kill Bella to suffice his vampiric nourishment needs and to get a rise out of vampy boy-toy Edward. The plan fails because Edward is clearly superior to this Neanderthal, James. They live happily ever after until the next book comes out. The following three books follow a similar pattern, where

Bella and Edward find bliss and are inevitably interrupted by some sort of life threatening mishap, which they prevail successfully by having learned a valuable lesson.

Some young girls are drawn to the interesting characters and witty lines; however most find themselves drawn to the hope that if they read the book enough, their choice character will magically appear at their side bearing some sort of timeless token of affection. Audiences squealed and shrieked as this beloved tale made its way onto the big screen in November 2008, and tall pale boys everywhere tried to avoid being accosted by vampire-hungry fan-girls. The movie was quite a disappointment for many; but those who enjoyed it fought long and hard — largely through a forum of Internet fansites and Facebook groups- to defend their beloved characters. In fact, some discussions became so intense that young girls across the globe couldn't even type, for their newly exposed kitty claws did not allow for such dexterity. Adolescent girls were verbally abusing each other, claiming, "He's mine... witch!" and even threatening to "kill any mortals who dared come between them."

Two opposing groups were created, each supporting the preferred male character. "Team Edward" and "Team Jacob" tee-shirts were being mass marketed and sold to eager fan-girls, excited to express to the world precisely what fictitious character they were willing to lay down their life for. The whole ordeal was insane,

and people feared expressing an opinion for the knowledge that a thirteen-year-old fan-girl could spring forth from the foliage and attack you for saying the wrong thing.

Although the series was initially released in 2005, the fandom still continues today. In fact, Chapters has recently released an "Edward Action Figure" in the image of Rob Pattinson, the actor who played Edward in the movie. The film, now out of theatres, was released on DVD March 21, 2009. If you intend to be present in any store known for selling DVDs (e.g., HMV, Future Shop, Blockbuster), I suggest you start defensive preparation now; the fan-girls will be out. Sign up for self-defence classes, or perhaps invest in some form of body armour, because I guarantee you will need it.

Although the book was enjoyable for me personally, I am floored and appalled by the excessive fandom around it. Yes, having an idol, especially one who is discovered in a book, is not a bad thing by any stretch of the imagination, but you have to be able to step back and determine whether or not things have gone too far. An example of too far would be young girls swearing and threatening to kill each other online because someone expressed an interest in "their man." I would like to respectfully point out that these are *fictitious* characters, as in fake, not real, a figment of one's imagination. Yes, get excited about reading, but please put the claws away.



Fearsome Fan-Girls

# Opinions

## Way to go: You've successfully killed the music scene

Becca Snow

I have so much to say about the state of the Saint John music scene that I could go on for days. Things like annoying hard-core dancers, wanna-be groupies, and overdone, unaware fanatics annoy me to the point of screaming. But don't get me wrong; while there is much debate over whether or not there is hope for the Saint John music scene, there is still a scene, nonetheless. And it's the negative attitude a lot of people seem to have toward it that has killed it. Death by hypocrisy: don't complain if you don't take action.

The scene in Saint John within the past decade has never been "booming;" however, there have been some high notes. You wouldn't know it now, though, due to the lack of interest the public shows. Outside bands don't want to come here and local bands can't seem to book a decent show if their lives depended on it. It's not that Saint John is a bad place or anything; it's just that the crowds aren't sufficient enough to make it worthwhile. People have ei-

ther lost all faith in the scene or the advertising is lacking. My bet is on both.

Not to completely bash the SJ scene, good music is still being produced. For example, local favorites like Autumn Exit – who sport two hounds as members – December Fall Out and Victims of the Purge have aided in reviving the critically ill scene. These bands play limited shows that are lucky to bring 50 fans. This is in no way a reflection of their talent, just how poorly hyped these local bands are. The biggest example of underappreciated local talent is 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue (who played a show here at SJHS on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>).

When mentioned at a past school assembly, few people knew of their existence, and most were looking around thinking "who cares?" That troubles me. I don't care if you're into their genre of music or not. They're local, talented musicians who have great potential to break out into the national music scene with full force. This cannot and will not

happen without a stronger fan base.

People have absolutely no excuse for not attending any local shows. None, hook, line, and sinker. No time, you may say? Shows are played on a variety of different evenings and often don't last more than 2-3 hours. No money? Backstreet Records hosts free shows frequently; and besides, most shows are only \$2-\$10. There is a relatively broad array of genres performed, so you can't use that as an excuse, either. To stop going to shows solves nothing: If you want to see an improvement, you need to get involved.

So, kids, there ya have it. You can sit back and watch Saint John's potentially amazing scene die for good; or you can stop complaining, stop wasting your Friday nights creeping on Facebook or doing things you probably shouldn't and go see what your city has to offer. Make some REAL friends, hear some good music, and support the scene. Who knows, you might even have some fun in the process.

## Hats

Oliver Kasdan



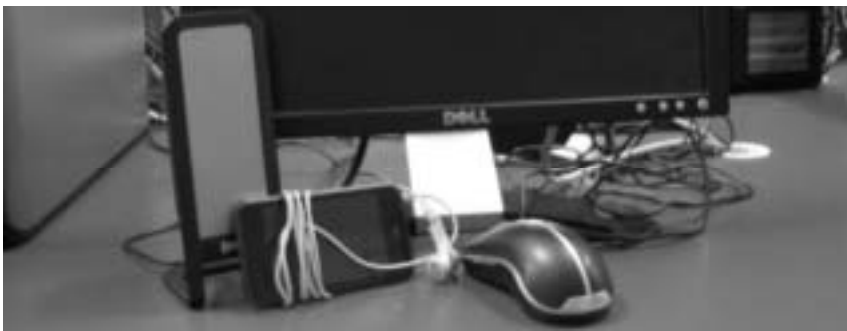
Rules are guides of conduct put in place for a specific reason. In school, students learn to question and reflect. Applying this to the question of whether or not students should be permitted to wear hats in class, many interesting realizations occur. In the past, many rules were based on beliefs and superstition that we now find absurd. Women were not allowed to wear pants, shorts were not permitted to be worn in school, and the hat issue we face today is very similar. "Same book, different cover".

Our schools are public and are not supposed to be influenced or affected by religion. There are many countries that accept and even support hats in public and in learning environments. In Australia, there are schools where hats are mandatory.

For a rule to make sense, it has to have a reason. Hats need to cause a problem in school in order to have a rule applied to them. But what is that problem? The purpose of school is for students to learn. Are hats disruptive to learning? Naturally, no.

Some may argue that it is to teach etiquette and prepare students for the "real world." But the same lesson can be taught through other methods.

Rules can be questioned using simple logic, such as asking that a rule be re-evaluated if it has no reasonable answer. There is no reason why hats should be considered disrespectful. Just because society used to believe that, it does not mean we have to conform to that view any longer. The world is a changing place and things that used to be deemed inappropriate are now socially accepted. There are many more people who are for wearing hats in school than people who believe it is wrong.



## Downloading music

Greg Pert

I feel very strongly about purchasing CDs instead of downloading music. Most people do not buy their music. Why would they, when they can get it for free?

I feel that if I like a band, I owe it to them to buy their album. Not only is it better quality but also you get more songs. When downloading CDs, it's poorer quality. Sometimes, some of the songs are missing.

Even though CDs are expensive, they offer a lot. When buying an album, you get lyrics, pictures, and sometimes bonus DVDs. Also, it's nice to have a collection of CDs to look back on in another five years.

Now that so many people download music, there is a limited selection of CDs at music stores. Most mainstream music stores consist of movies and video games. I have a hard time in the stores finding the CDs I want to buy and usually resort to buying it online.

The Internet has done great things for the music industry though. It makes it easier to market a band and sell merchandise. But it is still a lot more difficult for upcoming bands to make money and get record deals than it was ten years ago.

## Downloading music

Graeme McBriarty

Some will say that downloading music illegally is destroying the music industry and destroying money for hard working artists. However, these artists we're discussing are those who are living in mansions and having their money stolen primarily by students who can't scrape together the money to buy their CD.

Downloading does have reasonable attributes. First, it allows the potential buyer to "preview" the CD to see if it's worth buying in its entirety. This helps prevent the urban tragedy of buying the CD and realizing you only like the one song.

Downloading wastes fewer resources. The plastic, metal, and paper are conserved, extra labour is not wasted, and gas and pollution are lessened by avoiding the need to transport the final product.

Some may not buy the artist's CD, but still enjoy the artist's music. After they download some of the artist's music, they may be more inclined to buy a future CD or purchase tickets to a concert. Quite frankly, it's advertising at its best.

Those who claim illegal downloading is destroying the music industry fail to see the big picture. It does in fact have its attributes.

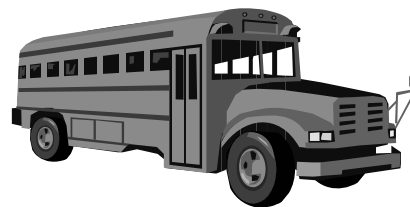
## Transportation

Adeya Lindsay

In the large country of Canada, students during the months of September through June are shipped off to school and back home every single day of the week to fill our craniums with essential knowledge. These trips can take ten minutes or can be close to an hour (like mine).

These long trips can affect the lifestyle of unlucky students who happen to live in rural areas, who are really victims of budget cutting. Small schools with low attendance are being closed, and the remaining students are bused to a school that has more students and is usually further away from where they live. These students have to prepare for school early in the morning to catch their bus and then endure a long ride.

These transportation schedules can seriously affect a student's personal



life. After-school programs can be hard to attend, especially if the only way home is by bus. Late nights are used for homework if the student is arriving home around supper time. And the intended school hours of 8:55 AM to 3:20 PM is grossly extended, causing the students to be weary and exhausted.

Frankly, this type of commute seems cruel, making the experience of school tedious when it should be fun. Hopefully, more money will be spent on building schools instead of tearing them down, so such lengthy journeys will no longer be necessary.

# Games and Fun

I hate the feeling that you get when you realize you left your cell phone on "high" in an inopportune place...



Potential for disaster in your pocket

## Did you know?

Kate Wagg

- Chuck Norris can divide by zero.
- Under Chuck Norris' beard there is not a chin but another fist.
- Chuck Norris does not do push-ups; he simply pushes the world down.
- Chuck Norris does not ski in powder; it is much too soft.
- Most Canadians go to Mac-Donald's for a snack; Chuck Norris goes to the orphanage.

## Horoscopes

Jessica Barrieau

Pisces (Feb. 20- Mar. 20) – Be careful what you wish for. Things aren't always as they seem.

Aries (Mar. 21- Apr. 20) – Sometimes you have to look at the bigger picture to realize what's real and what's fake.

Taurus (Apr. 21- May 20) – Don't take everything for granted. You will soon see what you never had before.

Gemini (May 20- Jun. 21) - Create a positive vibe with those who have interrupted your life. You will see it all turns out better

Cancer (Jun. 22- Jul. 22) – When life gives you grapes, do not make wine. Think of a better use of your time and money.

Leo (Jul. 23- Aug. 22) – Always imagine that you are a leader. You will find this will help you later in life.

Virgo (Aug. 23- Sep. 22) – Keep what is important to you. You will find if you give it up, you will want it back.

Libra (Sep. 23- Oct. 23) – You are facing a difficult time in your life. Relax and hope for the best. Everybody gets justice.

Scorpio (Oct. 24- Nov. 22) – You'll never know unless you try.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23- Dec. 21) – You are very creative. Make use of your talent. Help a friend when he or she needs it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan. 20) – Sometimes, you just need to look at the bigger picture.

Aquarius (Jan. 21- Feb. 19) – You can't be successful unless you give it your all. Take what you're good at and turn it into something amazing. Chances are you'll come out with a smile.

## 10 things that annoy people

Jessica Barrieau

- Guys with long hair (Keigan Buckley)
- When your name's being repeated over and over (Brandon Fraser)
- When you walk around your house with socks on, and there's a puddle of water, and you step in it (Oliver Kasdan)
- High levels of Minesweeper (Greg Pert)
- Ignorant people (Ashley Buttery)
- When people cut their toast horizontally (Gianna Young)
- Talking really loudly about their personal activities (Cherise Letson)
- Non-tasty food (Ms Hutchison)
- When people read along with an oral reader (Becca Snow)
- When people talk about Gingervitis (Brittini Carvell)

## Quick thinking


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# Games and Fun

## Student survey

One-hundred SJHS students answer this question: Do you think that the legal drinking age should be lowered from 19? 72% say yes.

### You say yes

- “Because it’s fun.” (Anonymous)
- “At the age of 18 we vote, get taxes, pretty much anything, but drink. It should all be one age.” (Mike)
- “I’m going to drink anyways, so I don’t care what the law says. I mean, jay-walking is illegal too, but that hasn’t stopped me yet. Rules were meant to be broken.” (Brittni)
- “Because almost every teenager has drunk by the age of 17. If people change the law, it could be more controlled and less teens would be in trouble for something that everyone does.” (Oliver)
- “We do it anyways. Maybe it’ll show kids it’s not that cool.” (Kyle)
- “Because I think if you’re allowed to vote, live alone, and are legally an adult at 18, you should be allowed. Also, you’re allowed to risk your life for your country at war at 18, so you should be able to drink.” (Mathieu)

## Student stats

72% say that lowering the age would solve the under-age drinking problem.

78% of students say they have drunk underage.

### You say no

- “Because kids are dumb. Natural selection + alcohol = death. Doesn’t take a genius to figure that out, even though I am one.” (Brandon)
- “It seems that teenagers are drinking heavily now, and lowering the age (even though there’s underage drinking already) would add to more problems because of experiences. Teenagers don’t know when to stop drinking when they start.” (Kyle)
- “Cause people are going to go out boozin’ anyway, go to bars, parties, and all that good stuff. If you end up in the hospital, it makes for a good story after your hang-over.” (Anonymous)
- “If it were lowered, I think we’d find more drinking-related problems. But that’s just me.” (Alex)
- “I think you should be graduated before you can drink, and it gives you an extra year if people fail.” (Anonymous)
- “Too many responsibilities (driving cars) that are still unfamiliar. Drinking would only increase the risk of accidents. Yes, I know it happens, but at least there are laws that prevent such occurrences.” (Justin)



“Uh, hey, Mr. Holder.”

## Did you know?

- In Florida, it is illegal to sing in a public place while dressed in a swimsuit.
- A company in Taiwan makes dinnerware out of wheat so that you can eat your plate.
- In California, it is illegal to eat oranges in the bathtub.
- An ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain.
- All the clocks in the movie *Pulp Fiction* are stuck on 4:20.

## Fifteen things to do when you’re bored

Have you ever experienced a boredom so hardcore you thought your brain was melting? Well, here are some things that might get you out of that slump:

1. Play Dress Up. Grab some extreme make up and pretend you’re something fabulous.
2. Cook some exotic food, or just throw some junk in a blender. Just remember to clean up your mess.
3. Dance like it’s the eighties, baby. Crank up that Cyndi Lauper and start kicking in every direction.
4. Put a movie in, and put the mute button on. Make up your own lines, it can get interesting.
5. Go out and volunteer. Get that warm fuzzy I-did-something-good feeling and kick those trapped-doing-nothing blues.
6. Go to the playground and climb to the top. I hear being king of castle is an amazing feeling.
7. Organize a good old-fashioned game of tackle football. Nothing beats the unusual seduction of grass, blood, and bruises.
8. Build a fire, honor our ancestors, and maybe even throw in a fire dance. Just remember, gasoline isn’t a good answer to your poor fire-making skills.
9. Go visit a war veteran; they have some intense stories, and you can get tips on how to build your own trench. WWII recreation, anyone?
10. Go raptor hunting. Some say they died, but that just makes the search more interesting.
11. Do your homework. It’s probably piled up beyond belief. I know mine is.
12. Pretend you’re an animal. Some of our resident students even start barking in class to pass the time.
13. Go sit at Tim Horton’s and chat with random people. Don’t pretend that it’s never happened to you.
14. Build a flying machine. Maybe it will work. Just don’t test it off a very high building the first test. Start small.
15. Finally, build a fort out of blankets. In the movies, it seems to take people to new worlds. Maybe you will end up in some place like Narnia.



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