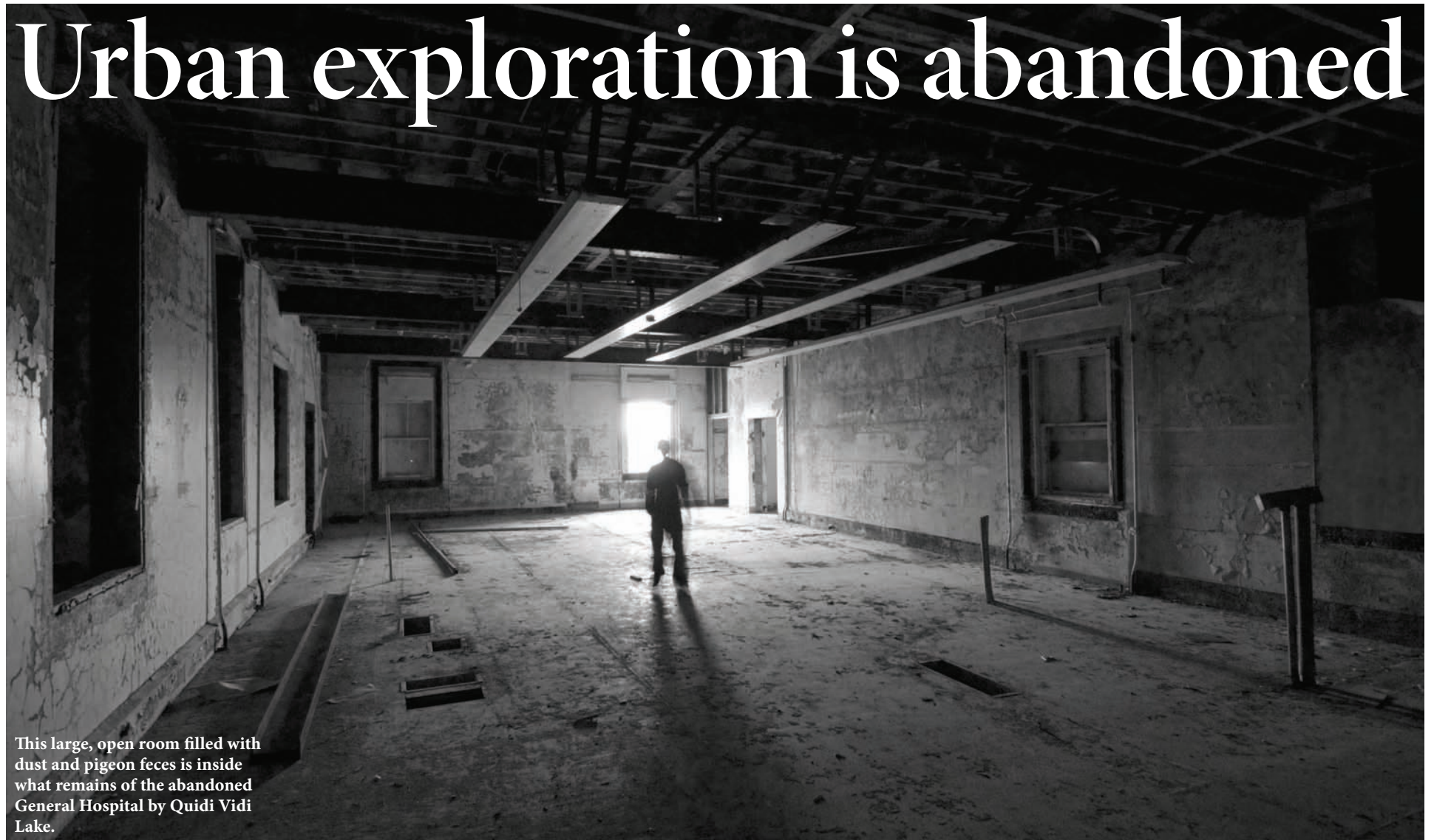




## Urban exploration is abandoned



This large, open room filled with dust and pigeon feces is inside what remains of the abandoned General Hospital by Quidi Vidi Lake.

### The act of probing deserted buildings thriving globally, dying locally

BY SHEENA GOODYEAR

Just through the broken window on the back of the abandoned General Hospital near Quidi Vidi Lake lies a kicked-in door with the word "Hell" spray-painted across it in black.

This is the message that greets local urban explorers— people who investigate abandoned buildings and off-limits areas in the urban sprawl.

Built in 1851 on the site of an old military hospital, the General Hospital used to be the main health care facility for the city. It was erected by the same workers responsible for the Roman Catholic Basilica, the Colonial Building, and the Anglican Cathedral.

The hospital saw its last patients in 1978, and demolition of the building began in 1997.

Many of the old wards have already been torn down. This small section is all that remains.

There is darkness in every direction, though occasionally small beams of light seep through cracks in the dirty brick walls.

A long hallway extends from the

door, with dark, damp, dirty rooms on each side. Most of the rooms have huge holes in the walls.

Flashlights show wires hanging from the ceilings in spider web formations. It has been years since any power surged through them. In some places, the floor is soft with rain and rot. It sinks with every step.

Fluffy pink insulation spills out of cracks and corners. The air is thick with dust and asbestos.

One large room at the end of the hall boasts big open windows where light shines through, and hundreds of ominous looking pigeons swarm in the surrounding trees. Now and then, one of the birds will swoop in and flutter around the ceiling. Pigeon corpses, droppings, and feathers are everywhere.

A rickety staircase full of rusty nails leads to the second floor, which looks a lot like the first floor except filled with a reddish hue from the orange, plastic paper that covers the windows. Another set of stairs to the third floor is boarded off to prevent people from falling.

And there have been people around recently — though they seem to have been partiers, not urban explorers.

One dead rat has been stepped on so many times it looks like a flattened cartoon character. Beer bottle glass and cigarette butts litter the wooden floors.

Also, one room is covered with graffiti, including a poorly drawn eye in a triangle, with the words "This is the fucking cradle of civi-

lization." In the same room, a makeshift Christmas tree is propped up on a metal pole.

A security guard is stationed nearby to keep people from breaking in to drink or hang out.

Real urban exploration is another dying art in Newfoundland and Labrador.

There was a group called the Newfoundland and Labrador Exploration Society. They have a website called "Forgotten Newfoundland" which boasts photographs and panoramic shots of many abandoned locations in the province, including the General Hospital before demolition began.

But nobody responds to the e-mail listed on the site. Friends of urban explorers say that most of them have given up the activity or moved away.

While urban exploration seems to be fading in the province, it thrives globally, with websites and magazines popping up around the world for people who love glimpsing into the past.

Sylvain Margaine is a 30 year-old French urban explorer who currently lives in Belgium. He has been exploring abandoned sites since he was a child.

"I'm exploring as far as I remember, as my father took me to abandoned factories when I was a child," he said.

Since then, he's done everything from Paris catacombs to Belgian asylums.

One key element to a successful

urban exploration adventure is to bring along people you can trust, says Margaine.

"We did some tunnels under a Brussels train station recently at night. Then the lights turned on and workers came in our direction. I was glad to be with my friend because I know he would not panic or run away, so each one of us hid on one side of the tunnel very silently, and we could see each other and communicate by signs," he said. "Try to imagine the same situation with somebody you don't know very well."

Also, try not to get caught — like the time Margaine climbed a building in Brussels called the *Palais des Congres*.

"This was previously not explored, I am sure. Entrance was tricky. But we had been seen while entering. A guy called the cops," he said. "We had some time to take some shots inside, but also from the roofs, and three police cars were waiting for us meanwhile. We managed to escape through another exit. [I am] quite proud of this one — good story to tell when I have grandchildren."

Margaine discovered that the thing he always loved to do was a global phenomenon about 10 years ago while browsing online.

Now he runs his own urban exploration website called *Forbidden Places*, where he posts photographs of the locations he discovers.

And discovery is the most important element for Margaine.

"In urban exploration, you have

exploration," said Margaine. "This is discovery by your own skills of new places. But many explorers do not share my view. Going into abandoned places would be enough for them."

Not for Margaine. If someone has already been there, he says you don't get "the full story."

"It starts by hearing about a place by talking with people, reading in a newspaper, on the Web, or by driving and finding it by chance," he explained. "Then you have to figure out by yourself if it is doable, and how. Then you have to do it."

"When I see reports on local forums about people that go into an abandoned factory to photograph it, I don't want to go there anymore, except if the place is really worth the trip, visually speaking I mean."

It's hard to say what's left to be discovered in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Newfoundland Urban Exploration Society has been to such places as the Argentinia Naval Base, the Cape Spear Military Bunkers, the Belvedere Orphanage, and the Brookfield drive-in theatre.

One thing is for sure — as time goes, most of these places will be torn down forever, just like General Hospital.

To see local photography of abandoned and off-limits areas, check out *Forgotten Newfoundland* at [www.geocities.com/Eureka/Plaza/9186/nues](http://www.geocities.com/Eureka/Plaza/9186/nues). To see Margaine's photography of European sites, check out *Forbidden Places* at [www.forbidden-places.be](http://www.forbidden-places.be).



Go call Jiffy,



Then drop and give me fifty!



## Water tax quarrel hangs MUN out to dry

### MUN denies it owes thousands in unpaid water bills

BY BRAD AYERS

An agreement between Memorial University and the provincial government has gone awry, supposedly leaving the university \$826,000 in debt to the city over unpaid water bills.

The city of St. John's has threatened to get a credit agency involved.

But MUN VP of Administration and Finance Kent Decker says the university is exempt from water tax.

"Back in 1999 the province and the department of municipal affairs in government, reached an agreement with the city of St. John's regarding the flow of money into the city through various boards and agencies the province funds to get money to the city."

MUN, due to the large student population it draws to St. John's, is one of the sources of cash flow.

"What the government did in 1999, it started to give the university money which would then be taken and given to the city for disclosure. We were told after the fact that this agreement had been reached, at the time it was a little over \$200,000 in the budget to be paid back to the city of St. John's, which we've done all along."

As the cost of supplying water went up, the city asked the university, along with the rest of the com-

mercial sector, for more money.

For the fiscal years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007, the money budgeted to MUN was not enough to foot the bill. This is where the supposedly owed money comes from.

Decker says the university advised the city to talk to the provincial government and see if they could change the amount paid through the university.

Meanwhile, the city is pushing MUN to pay the difference not covered by the grant in previous years.

The university now receives \$500,000 annually to pay the water bill.

The situation is leaving the Aquarena at the largest inconvenience, as the city is withholding grants until the bills are paid.

Anne Richardson, Director of The Works, MUN's recreation complex, says the city owes them \$300,000 in grant money, which would normally go to the pool's overall operational funds.

Negotiations to resolve this dispute are ongoing between the city, the university, and the provincial government.

"It's important to realize that we receive most of our money from the government, and from students in the form of tuition. We can't justify taking that amount of money and using it for a purpose that isn't designated," said Decker.

"We can't just take our operating budget, which is there for the provisions of services to students and education, and give it to the city when we're not required to do that. It would be inappropriate."



The Aquarena is suffering from a dispute between Memorial University and the city over allegedly unpaid water bills.

IAN VATCHER

## More students to cash in on student loans

### \$4 million investment opens student loan eligibility

BY SHEENA GOODYEAR

If you couldn't get a student loan because your parents make too much money, try again. New initiatives announced by the provincial government on May 28 will make more students eligible for loans.

Also, about 1,700 students who already have loans will be getting more money.

Starting this year, the provincial government will use a new formula to calculate parental income.

Before, students whose parents made a combined income of \$104,750 could not qualify for a loan. Now, the cut-off is \$140,000.

Also, parents with an income of less than \$65,000 will not have to contribute to their children's education at all. This is up from \$58,780.

These investments will cost the provincial government \$4 million over the next two years.

Minister of Education Joan Burke says this decision comes on the heels of the federal budget, which made similar changes.

"We didn't want to set up a situation where students in Newfoundland and Labrador may have different parameters between the provincial and the federal contributions. And we also wanted to make sure that students in Newfoundland and Labrador



More students will be able to fill their pockets with student loan money, thanks to new government initiatives.

IAN VATCHER

were treated on par with students in other parts of Canada," said Burke.

Also, Burke says these changes go hand-in-hand with the provincial budget's education initiatives –

like maintaining the tuition freeze, lowering interest on student loans by 2.5 per cent, and offering up to \$70 in needs-based grants to students with loans.

The interest cut applies to students already in repayment.

"For people who receive the maximum student loan, they'll save about \$3,500 in interest payments. And you know, if you've got two people that become a couple and they both have maximum student loans, that's \$7,000 that will be back in their pockets."

Student lobby groups have been the biggest push factor in implementing these changes, says Burke.

"I've got to give real credit to the student leaders because they took everything so seriously, they did a very good piece of analytical work, and they basically felt that if we're going to address student debt, that the up front needs-based grants – which were eliminated by the previous administration – were the way the way to go."

Most of all, Burke says lowering student debt is key to the province's future.

"We want to keep our young people here. If these are initiatives that make it more palatable for our young people to stay in Newfoundland and Labrador, then that's where we need to go," she said.

"I can't see how we can go wrong by investing in education. We invest in our young people and they get more skills and more knowledge. Whether they move away up front and come back down the road, or never leave us, that's what we need. We need our brightest and our best and we need to make sure they are well educated and they've got the skills to bring us, as a province, into the future."

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## MUN linked to fibre optic plan

Opposition says Memorial was asked to lead controversial deal

BY KATIE HYSLOP

Memorial University was originally supposed to be a key player in the development of the controversial provincial fibre optic link between Newfoundland and the mainland. But, like every aspect of the fibre optic project, government and opposition cannot agree on what role the university was supposed to play.

Optical fibres are tiny pieces of glass or plastic that transmit data at the speed of light. A fibre optic link to the mainland would create a more stable connection between Newfoundland and the rest of the country.

According to Opposition Minister Kelvin Parsons, Persona Communications CEO Dean MacDonald approached the provincial government in May 2005 to create a second fibre optic link with funding from the federal government. When federal funds did not come through, Parsons believes government looked to MUN and the College of the North Atlantic (CNA) to develop the deal, in order to avoid the Public Tender Act.

The Public Tender Act sets guidelines for government entities when tendering goods and services over \$10,000 and capital projects over \$20,000. It is designed to give companies an equal chance to get government work.

The Act stipulates that entities must hold public openings and offer contracts to the lowest tender.

"Government would float this \$15 million over to MUN and [CNA], have MUN and [CNA] do the proposal and you wouldn't have to go through a request for proposals and the Public Tendering Act," said Parsons.

"But people in MUN and [CNA]... started posing questions and said 'No, no, no, even if you're doing it through MUN and [CNA], you still need to go through a request for proposals, you still need to do public tendering.'"

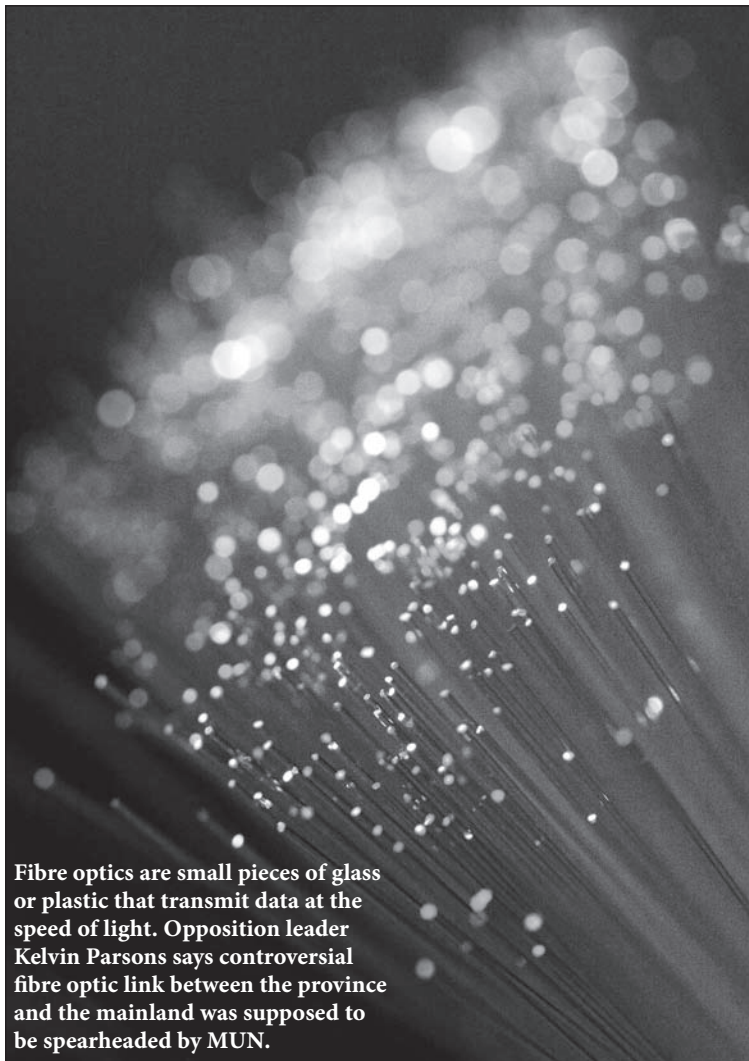
Parson claims the deal was taken off the table by June 2006 and was all but dead when a fire broke out at the Aliant building on Allandale Road on October 20, 2006.

The fire damaged a power cable, cutting off cell phone, landlines, internet access, and 911 emergency for over 100,000 people on the Avalon Peninsula for over five hours.

Five days later, according to Parsons, government announced that they would be putting \$15 million into a fibre optic link that they would share with Persona Communications, Rogers Communications, and Manitoba Telecom Services.

"So all of a sudden this proposal that started to be with government and the fed's contribution shifted to a provincial contribution, shifted to a MUN and [CNA] deal, fell off the table totally, was still being negotiated, but was basically dead from July of '06 on up through October '06. The fire took place and all of a sudden, bang! The government decided within five days of the Aliant fire that all of a sudden this was doable," he said.

"Forty-eight hours after the government approved this and announced it, they turned around and sent a letter back to MUN and [CNA] and said, 'Thank you very much but we're not interested in doing this proposal with you



Fibre optics are small pieces of glass or plastic that transmit data at the speed of light. Opposition leader Kelvin Parsons says controversial fibre optic link between the province and the mainland was supposed to be spearheaded by MUN.

CHRIS NICHOLAS

anymore, anyway."

Not so, according to Innovation, Trade, and Development Minister Trevor Taylor. He says that government was aware that MUN and CNA's research link bandwidth needs were not being met, and that's why they originally approached the post-secondary institutions to develop the project.

Currently, MUN has a high speed link from Bell Aliant bought by CANARIE, an internet development agency and creator of CANet 4, a network that connects universities, research centres, hospitals, schools, colleges, and government research labs nation wide.

"We looked at it from that perspective – was there a way to provide the funding to MUN and [CNA] to invest in this fibre optic deal and thereby get the fibre strands that they required and develop their own network to access the national network?" said Taylor.

"Once we started exploring that and started talking about it a little more in-depth with people here in our own department, and in other agencies of government...we basically concluded that it was better if we went directly into it ourselves because the health institutions and other educational institutions besides [CNA] and MUN and a whole variety of other government departments and agencies could benefit from government having its own network."

Taylor maintains government decided to handle the project itself in September 2006, and that it had nothing to do with the fire at Bell Aliant.

MUN VP of Administration and Finance Kent Decker admits that MUN was initially surprised by government's proposal that MUN and CNA lead the project.

"It wasn't something that we were expecting, and it was something in the vein of 'We've got this project out there, we believe it has an education component and we'd like to explore what's the potential of Memorial being a lead on the project,'" said Decker.

"I think government came to the realization after talking about it last

summer that it really was a broader project than just education. A lot of the regional and economic development activity would benefit from this rather than just Memorial and its research."

Although no longer involved in the deal, MUN President Axel Meisen expressed the university's support for the second link in a letter to Minister Taylor.

Despite not being involved in the funding or development of the project, Decker, Taylor, and Parsons agree that MUN still stands to benefit from a second fibre optic link.

"It will ensure that there is a second link, and it will ensure there's some competition. So I imagine the costs of these research links in the future will be impacted by the fact that there are a few more companies involved. I think the outcome is probably positive for us," said Decker.

Taylor hopes the link will be up and running by December of this year for the private sector, with government and its institutions being able to access the link by early 2008. The delay, according to Taylor, is on account of an upcoming request for proposals from the private sector for a company that would manage this link.

"It's got to be very comprehensive, it's got to incorporate the needs of MUN and [CNA], the needs of our government institutions, and our various offices and the like throughout Newfoundland and Labrador," he said.

The Auditor General is conducting an investigation into the project after requests from the opposition that there be a public inquiry.

Because of relations between Premier Danny Williams and Persona CEO MacDonald, and Rogers VP Ken Marshall, opposition has accused the government of cronyism – the practice of favouring friends.

"These are not just business associates, these are personal friends of his. And this raises the specter of a conflict of interest," said Parsons. "There's a right way to do stuff and a wrong way, and this is not the right way."

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## NL needs more muffin top

I would be excited to see bands like Staind and Finger Eleven play in Bay Roberts on June 18 – that is, if I was an angst-ridden 16 year-old who was angry at her mother. I would even be excited that Nickelback is headlining the show – if I was my mother.

We all put away our nu metal CDs at about the same time we threw out our pleather pants. And while Nickelback may still top the charts, they are pretty much

Canada's biggest musical joke. (I say this with the full authority of an iPod toting, blazer wearing, pretentious college student.)

Yet, it's the same old story. Washed up or irrelevant bands come to Newfoundland, and everyone acts like we should be grateful that these celebrities show enough benevolence to grace us with their presence.

People were beside themselves in 2005 with Pearl Jam and Collective

Soul selflessly allowed us to pay too much money to see them. Now, people treat the Bay Roberts show like it was benefit concert to help stop out-migration.

But this is no charity event. Bands come here because it costs them next to nothing to put off a show, they are guaranteed to sell every ticket, and they get to feel like royalty. Newfoundland is like an imaginary Wonderland where they actually matter.

On Seinfeld, when Elaine's boss opened a store to sell muffin tops, he donated the stumps to the homeless. But even the needy had too much dignity to eat the pastry cast-aways.

Meanwhile, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians gobble up every sugary scrap that gets tossed their way while the rest of North America gets whole, delicious muffins. We deserve better. We need to start holding out for the muffin top, and I don't mean that flabby area that spills out over your low-rise pants.

This summer, don't fork over \$54.50 to see a band whose CD you normally wouldn't consider downloading illegally, let alone buying. Instead, enjoy some of the fantastic and underrated music the local scene has to offer, or wait for the White Stripes muffin basket in July.

Sheena Goodyear

## Dirty words to impress your friends and family

BY JOEY D'AMATO BASHA  
TYRANNOSAURUS SEX

Slang seems to be on such a fast track lately. Staying in touch with all the new, radical internet abbreviations and invective firebombs can be such a daunting task that I bet you've never really stopped to wonder whether or not a Cleveland steamer actually came from Cleveland.

The interesting thing is that really dirty euphemisms have a way of being candid and secretive, yet at the same time they get right to the point. Kind of like Pig Latin, only less annoying and way more fun.

Just so you don't feel too out of the loop, I have taken the opportunity to gloss over a few of my favourites for you. You won't find most of these on urbandictionary.com. I am in considerable debt to my friends, who seem to be representative of the most politically incorrect human beings on earth.

If you manage to use one of these in a sentence today, please make

sure to pat yourself on the back.

### Coffee Filter

Ever hear of a teabag? That's when a male stripper takes out his balls and lays them on an audience member's head, presumably aiming for the bridge of the nose. The coffee filter is simply the feminine form.

### Cry-sturbation

A pretty obvious compound verb. Think Fall Out Boy and terrible emo haircuts. There you go.

### Fur-Suiting:

Having sex in either a partial, or a full, life-size animal costume. Who says it can't be Easter every day of the year?

### Faux-Mo

I think it is about time we all came to terms with the fact that the metrosexual thing was, is, and always will be ridiculous.

### Gusher

A male orgasm that produces a disproportionately large amount of semen. I guess the same could apply to a woman's, but no one believes that story anyway, hot shot.

### IRL

This is an exceedingly annoying abbreviation of "In real life." I know it's bound to be used in harmless situations, but for some reason it always screams creepy net-pedophile to me.

### Slash

Nearly exclusively gay, fan-based erotica on the net. Believe me when I say this is the lowest, most desperate way to get off. In most porn directories, you will simply find two characters' names with a slash between. For example: Riker/Picard. You get the picture. For nerdy fictional lesbianism, see "femslash."



©Leo Bennett/2007  
Cry-sturbation

### Vanelli

I figure I need one term to describe the main female reproductive organ, and this one, inspired by the Italian fast food franchise, passed with flying colors.

### Yiff:

Kind of a blanket-verb to describe any kind of sex between two people assuming the roles of their imaginary, half-human, half-animal characters. Fur-Suiting applies here, too. Supposedly, this is the sound that foxes make when they're screwing.

### Muggle

This came straight out of Hogwarts and it means someone who doesn't possess any magic powers. This, of course, has nothing to do with sex, but if you hear it used in everyday speech, you can bet that the person who used it is a virgin. Please use this information as you see fit.



Mouth Off  
By Brad Ayers and Ian Vatcher

## What do you think of **GRAFFITI**?



**Kathryn Curran**

Fourth-year English honours

If it's tasteful and with permission, that's fine. But if it's not with permission, that's not cool.



**Ian Brenton**

Fourth-year business

I don't think a city is a city without graffiti. Even if it's an eyesore or nuisance to some, it adds character.



**Mike Kavanagh**

Fourth-year philosophy and English

I think it's great. It's especially good downtown. Some of it can be shitty, if it's bad. If it's good, rock on.



**Erik Trollius**

Third-year political science exchange

Graffiti is cool; I don't mind it.



**Laura Gould**

Fourth-year psychology

I'm definitely pro-graffiti when it's in good taste. I don't like bad graffiti, but some of it is really artistic.

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**SAMARPAN MEDITATION WORKSHOP.** Free of cost and open to all. Saturday, June 9, at 4:00 pm. 26 Penney Lane. Call 739-9171 or e-mail nathwanishirish@gmail.com.

## MISC

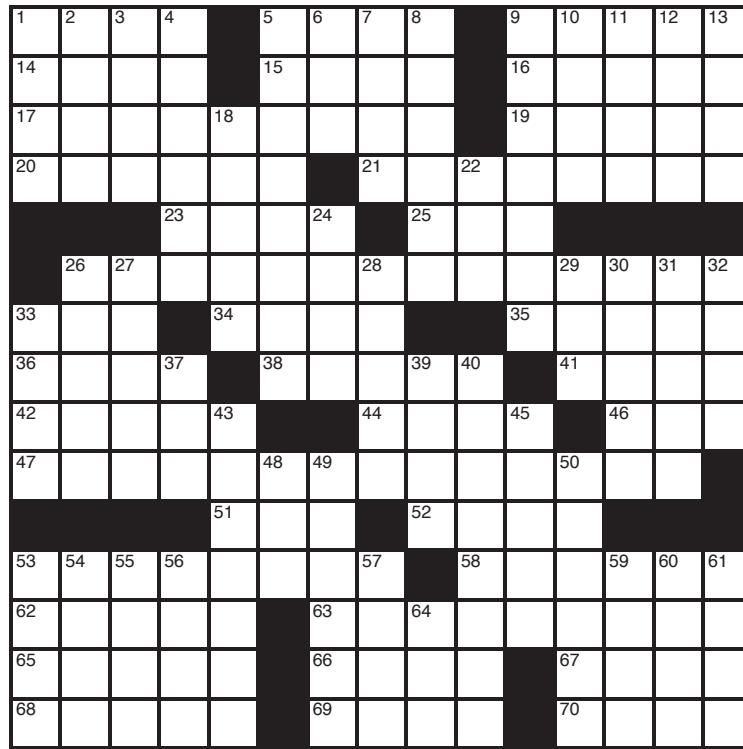
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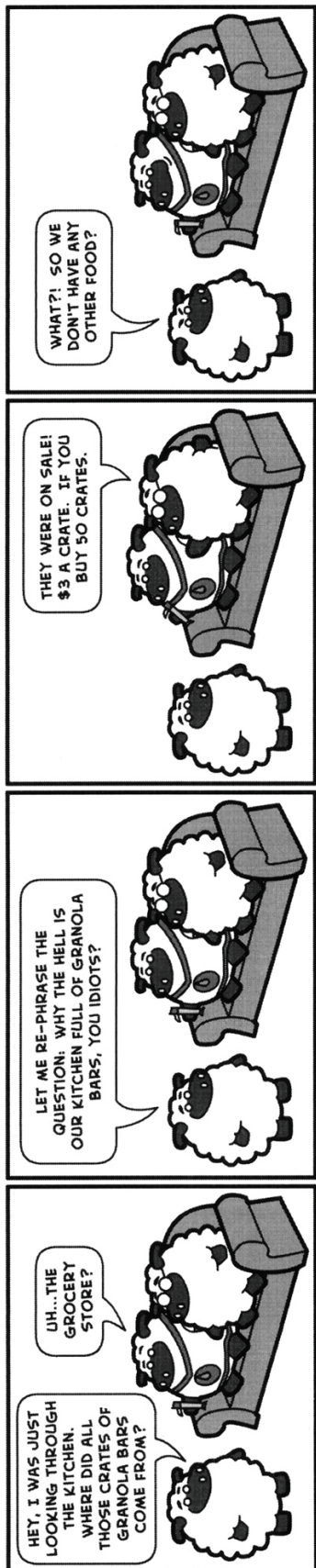
1. Bursts
5. Begged
9. "Yeah right"
14. Blurb biography, upon death
15. Call
16. Form of Helen
17. Places for jotnotes
19. Related to dura matter
20. Describes, and rhymes with Pol Pot
21. Write incoherently
23. Veronica Lodge has one
25. Massive mythical bird
26. First law of \_\_\_\_: Heat is work and work is heat
33. To bind or fasten
34. Starchy foodstuff from palm tree innards
35. Mineral sometimes valued as a gem
36. Do this to get a MUN scholarship
38. Woodland fly-catchers
41. Love of James Joyce's life
42. Always critical on Windows
44. Dame \_\_\_\_, famed crossdresser

46. A small lump
47. Blond lads
51. B&B
52. Small pieces
53. Secret Soviet publishing system
58. Cotton material with sheen
62. Grassy, treeless plain in Latin America
63. Worker for the weekend, and beyond
65. Bottomless gulf or pit
66. Variant of emir
67. \_\_\_\_ clear, popular 90's band
68. Use this for scrapbooking
69. To yearn
70. To rip apart

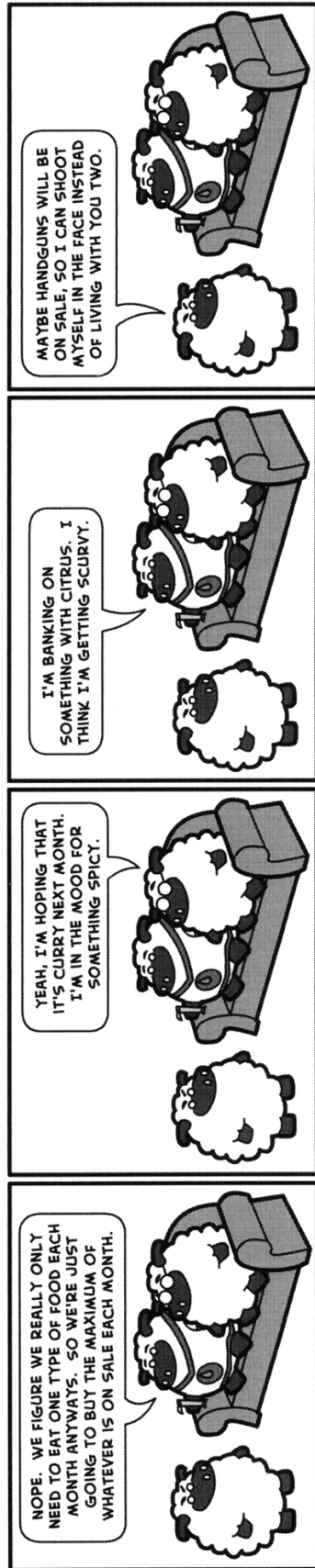
## Down

1. Newfoundland's version of a lake
2. Slender woodwind instrument with a very deep sound
3. If life sucks it's this
4. Russian grasslands
5. Arial photograph made into a map
6. Thai language
7. Unlike deer, they have their own club
8. To detect
9. Bicycle-like public transport with a hooded cab for passengers
10. To draw out and twist yarn before spinning
11. \_\_\_\_ and spices
12. A popular form of sex with the kids these days
13. A streak or stripe on the skin as a result of whipping
18. Unrefined person
22. \_\_\_\_ Jeremy has an inexplicably good sex life
24. Cubicle
26. Downsized crowns
27. \_\_\_\_ Matisse, famous artist
28. Portion of man's property allotted to his wife upon his death
29. One word phrase of frustration stereotypically uttered by females
30. An outcome of events contrary, or contradictory, to

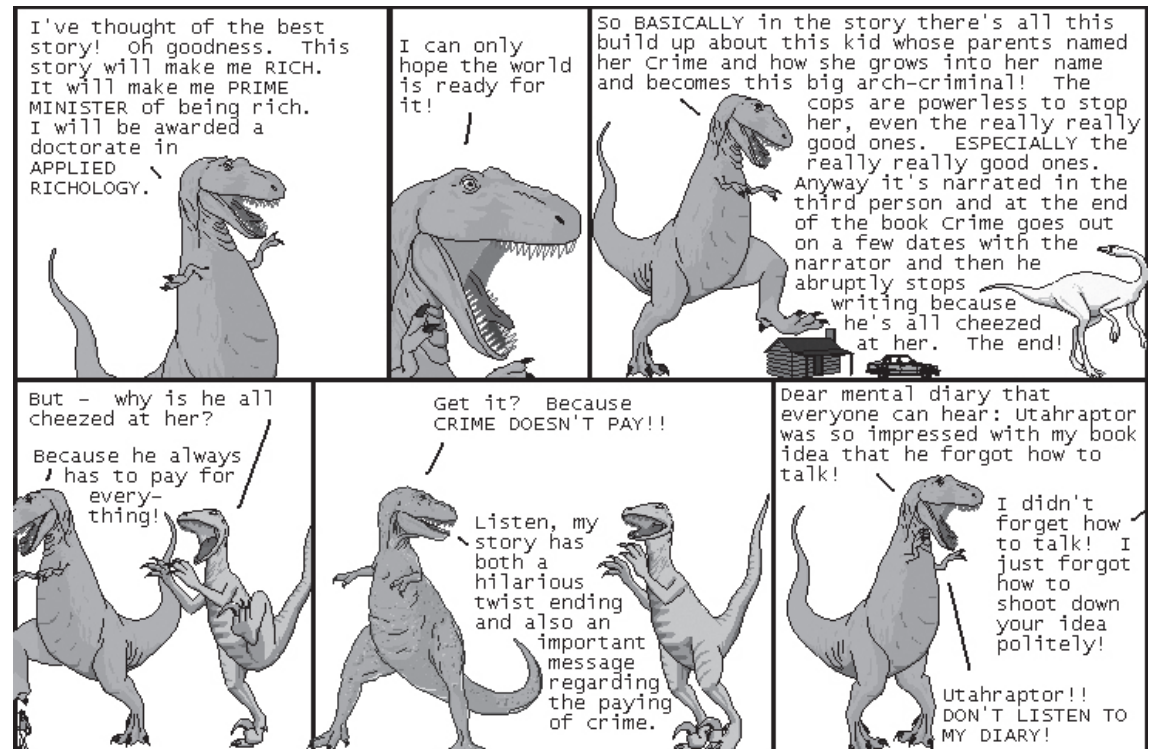
- what was expected
31. The Virus, best Con Air villain, hands down
32. Hunk of meat
33. Not kosher
37. The Onion Router
39. Utopia, in the Bible
40. Last consumer of a product
43. Horizontal plant stem with roots above and below
45. Several Swedish disco sensations
48. "Up, up \_\_\_\_ away!"
49. Sort of
50. Stableman
53. Strike
54. White matter
55. Matt \_\_\_\_, El Torpedo
56. Inertial Navigation System
57. To destroy the true nature of
59. Overhanging edge of a roof, fills with leaves
60. Level
61. Their revenge involves tanned women in bikinis
64. Liquor with that pine fresh scent



Ewe of A  
By Norman Lau (CUP)



Riverheights By Tyler Clarke (CUP)



(C) 2007 Ryan North



# Profs are artists, after hours

After Hours II showcases work by MUN faculty, staff

By Deborah Wheadon

There is more than meets the eye to middle-aged Joanne Costello, the library assistant in the maps section of the Queen Elizabeth II. She is an artist.

If you've wondered what professors, librarians, and other faculty and staff members at MUN do after hours, check out the art that decks the walls in library.

After Hours II is the second annual exhibition of faculty and staff, past and present. It is located in the First Space Gallery on the first floor of the library and will run until Aug. 10.

Costello is the curator for the show, which features some of her own work – mostly acrylic paintings.

Costello came from a long line of artists. At 18, her mother encouraged her to paint a picture. She realized she had talent, so she went to art school at Brock University in Ontario.

Back then, she was unsure of her future.

"Not knowing what direction I was going in, this stopped me from going into a career in art. Now I have more confidence, more focus, which comes with age," she said.

She says she is inspired "by rocks."

She grew up in Carbonear surrounded by rocks and she is fascinated by the earth and rock formations. She says she is the person you see on the beach, looking down at the rocks.

"You are walking on rocks 350 million years old – walking on them every day," she said.

In the maps library where she



Library assistant Joanne Costello's rock paintings hang in the Queen Elizabeth II Library as a part of the After Hours II exhibition.

CHRIS NICHOLAS

works, Costello displays a painting of two pink rocks she found while walking on the beach.

Today, Costello spends her time juggling work, children, and art – which is still a very important part of her life.

After Hours II gives Costello the chance to showcase that part of herself.

This show offered a new opportunity for associate professor of nursing, Sandra MacDonald.

Her husband and daughter encouraged her to contribute to the exhibition. This is the first time she

has displayed her work.

She started tinkering with art as a child. She was also influenced by her father, who paints. Today, her daughter is showing an interest in painting.

Art helps MacDonald work through the emotional and physical exhaustion of caring for very sick patients.

"Painting is a way to relax after a hard day. As a nurse, it is important to be a critical thinker. Critical thinkers need to foster their creative process," said MacDonald.

Last year, After Hours had 24 par-

ticipants and 66 works of art. This year, it will showcase pieces by 14 faculty and staff members, both current and retired, in every medium from oil paint to stained glass.

The titles are as colorful as the art itself, with pieces like "Chicago Dreaming," "Sailors' Delight," "Jelly Bean Town," and "Skull."

There are two pieces featuring cactuses by two different artists. One shows different interpretations through mirrors, which change as the environment does.

There are also traditional Newfoundland scenes and a hooked

rug, called "Mermaid."

Participating artists come from a variety of departments – medicine, geography, psychology, French, Spanish, physics, social work, and mathematics.

Also, expect art from four retired faculty members, who have been honing their skills with their free time.

Costello feels the exhibition is the mark of success and she hopes it will become an annual event.

Art prices range from \$80 to \$600. To make a purchase, contact Dianne Harris at 737 – 7429 or d\_harris@mun.ca.

## Pirates play politics

**Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End**

Starring: Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley

Walt Disney Pictures

168 mins

PG

BY GAVIN CHUBBS

As children, we stock up on romantic misconceptions about things that, to our surprise, are discredited later in life. Koala bears will tear your face off if you try to cuddle them; Christopher Columbus brought genocide and disease to America; and radiation and toxic ooze will not make you better, stronger, and faster.

But if the portrayal of pirates in *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* is contrary to the historical facts, I don't want the facts to be right.

*At World's End* is the third installment in Disney's popular *Pirates of the Caribbean* series, with director Gore Verbinski (*The Grudge*, *The Weather Man*) picking up where he left off with *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*.

Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) has died and gone to the afterlife that is Davy Jones' locker, and the only man with the knowledge to bring him back from the dead is his freshly-resurrected rival, Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey



Geoffrey Rush, Keira Knightley, and Johnny Depp wage a war on those who try to privatize the sea in *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*.

Rush).

With Barbossa at the wheel, and with a little reluctant help from Singapore pirate Captain Sao Feng (Chow Yun-Fat), troubled lovers Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) set sail with

the crew in search of Sparrow.

As the East India Trading Company, headed by Lord Cutler Beckett (Tom Hollander) gains possession of Davy Jones' (Bill Nighy) heart, the other characters' need to find Sparrow becomes more urgent. With the heart in

his possession, Beckett has total control over Jones, his crew, and his infamous supernatural ship, *The Flying Dutchman*. With the ghostly ship heading his armada, Beckett plans to snuff out piracy once and for all.

*At World's End* is packed full of deals

to be settled, secrets to be revealed, and back stabbings to be back stabbed—showing that pirate politics goes far beyond "The Code."

While it may be difficult to keep up with who is conniving who, the movie is still well paced and highly entertaining, leaving very few opportune moments to unload that large soda you may have bought at the concessions.

Naturally, as the third movie in a trilogy that is based on so much content from the first two films, this movie is the least likely of the three to stand on its own as a self-contained work. While there is enough here to entertain someone who may be new to the franchise, they would likely miss some of the finer plot points and jokes.

While I generally have problems with gross abuse of computer-generated imagery (CGI), it seems appropriate in these movies. Not only is the Cthulhu-esque work done on Bill Nighy to create Davy Jones' tentacle beard as impressive as always, but the CGI team also helped add depth to the fantasy world in which the film is staged.

Sure, there's no talk of crew members with scurvy or syphilis, and the pirates may be a little more congenial than history would suggest, but at least they're still dirty seadogs sailing under black sails in search of the next bottle of rum, and that's good enough for me.



# ALBUM REVIEWS



**Dolores O'Riordan**  
*Are You Listening?*  
Sanctuary  
Records Group  
Pop



BY BRAD AYERS

The leading lady of The Cranberries is back with a quirky and eclectic album, which was a pleasant surprise for me. As a Cranberries fan, I was a little afraid she would go the route of sellout solo projects and be either too poppy or too sappy,

but O'Riordan has remained true to her roots and her haunting vocal style.

This album manages to show a mature O'Riordan that isn't old. It isn't as edgy or heavy as much of the music The Cranberries are known for, yet many of their softer songs, like "Linger," would not be out of place on this disc.

It is impressive how her voice adapts from her past work with The Cranberries to this completely different sound.

But this is her solo project, so

any unfair expectations from her Cranberries experience will stop now.

O'Riordan wrote all the songs, and she had a hand in producing them as well. They are well written and passionate. There is some rage, some angst, some yearning, and some happiness – a little of everything. The opening track and lead single "Ordinary Day" is a little more mundane than the rest of the disc. But the album gets better quickly with all the following tunes. It is powered by guitar riffs and in-

fused with piano and some unconventional sounds. Most songs progress into something a little heavier than their beginnings. However, it isn't the stereotypical slow-fast-slow progression often seen. Instead, many of the songs actually seem to ripen from beginning to end.

"Black Widow" is definitely one of the standout tracks. Beginning with some quirky piano, it gets heavier and turns into a powerful rock song. "Loser" is the catchiest song and it surprises me that it isn't the lead single from the album.



**Manic Street Preachers**  
*Send Away the Tigers*  
Sony/BMG  
Rock



BY ADAM RIGGIO

Send Away the Tigers is the Manic Street Preachers' eighth album, and it's one of their best. I say this as a huge Manics fan, but also as someone who can recognize ten high-quality songs sung well.

The best assets the Manics have are probably their singer, James Dean Bradfield, and his guitar. Send Away

the Tigers features a consistent focus on the top quality guitar work, with all the songs benefiting from Bradfield's virtuoso talents.

His solos can make you want to mosh in your bedroom, especially on songs like "Rendition" and the single "Your Love Alone Is Not Enough." And he sings with the same range and force that he has since the band started in 1989.

Despite the group's longevity, the Manics are not really known in North America, so this is the best way I can think of to describe their sound: Start from Guns N' Roses' Appetite for Destruction, then imagine that Axl Rose was a well-read,

intelligent, modest, kind, and decent human being with a multi-octave range and emotional sensitivity. And his song lyrics are terrifyingly depressing most of the time.

One can tell that Send Away the Tigers is a true step forward for the band because they wrote "I'm Just a Patsy," which is a love song that doesn't end in heartbreak, suicide, or psychological torture. Though there are also some references to the Kennedy assassination, that's just part of the Manics' quirky, bookish charm.

"Imperial Bodybags" is an excellent punkish song about soldiers killed

in the war in Iraq. It's the best blatantly political song they've written since the early '90s when they wrote about committing necrophilic acts with Ronald Reagan's corpse. Ah, the good old days.

There are mildly pretentious self-referential nods to the Manics' past throughout the album, but such nostalgic jokes are not so obnoxious that they detract from a newcomer's enjoyment of the music. And they add a sly wink for fan-boys like me.

Overall, Send Away the Tigers is one of the best straight rock albums to come out of Britain this year.



**Municipal Waste**  
*The Art of Partying*  
Earache Records  
Crossover thrash



BY GAVIN CHUBBS

The Art of Partying is the third full length release from Virginia's crossover thrash (a blend of thrash metal and hardcore) revivalists, Municipal Waste.

The album cover, depicting some head-bangers being turned into a brood of flesh eating zombies – apparently the result of a keg of green beer gone hor-

ribly wrong – promises just what the album delivers.

In just under a half hour, the band spits out tracks dedicated to partying, rocking out, juvenile delinquency, and an 80s inspired fixation with hazardous material and mutations.

The album opens with "Pre-Game," a 40 second introduction packed tight with enough speed and furious palm-muting on guitar to please the most seasoned Slayer fan.

Next is the title track, "The Art of Partying," which proves that perhaps the only thing Municipal Waste may take to heart is their ability to party.

However, the next track, "Headbanger Face Rip," illustrates that partying hard often comes with a price.

If you haven't managed to catch the humor in the lyrics barked by vocalist Tony "Guardrail" Foresta thus far, the hilarious track "Beer Pressure" will bring you up to speed.

The majority of the track consists of a dialogue by a crew of metal-heads trying to get a friend to go drinking. When he explains, "Sorry guys, I got an orthodontist appointment at 8:30 in the morning" one of his stoked friends replies, "Don't worry about your ears man!"

Closing by return, the album ends with the track "Born to Party" – a sing along anthem with a simple and infectious refrain that will have you shouting along in no time.

Municipal Waste is not easy listening material – it would be very difficult to study for that big midterm with the abrasive sounds of "A.D.D (Attention Deficit Destroyer)" blaring in the background.

So here's what you have to do: Put on your faded Megadeth T-shirt, put those books away, and go grab a beer. A few beer. A lot of beer. Because Municipal Waste is going to fuck you up.



## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

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## Employment opportunity

New World Family Health & Wellness Centre is now accepting applications for the positions of full time and part time Lifeguard and Swimming Instructor

## Qualifications

- Life Saving Society National Lifeguard Service Certificate
- Standard First Aid Certificate OR AEC (Aquatic emergency certification)
- Canadian Red Cross Water Safety Instructor
- CPR Level C

Applications can be forwarded to Amy Stoodley, Aquatics Director, New World Family Health & Wellness Centre.

## Duties

- Be a positive role model for all staff and patrons
- Perform lifeguard/instructor duties as advised by management
  - Ensure that all policies, procedures and posted pool rules and regulations are followed by patrons of the facility and enforce these rules in a positive manner
  - Responsible for implementing and leading emergency procedures when necessary
  - Ensure all equipment in the pool area is maintained properly and used by all patrons in a safe manner
  - Maintain proper chemical levels in the pool under the direction of a supervisor
  - Communicate with all club members in a respectful, helpful manner
  - Other related duties as required to assist management

## Compensation

Currently Under review

Mail: 644 Topsail Road, St. John's, NL, A1E-2E2  
Phone: 709-368-3422  
Email: astoodley@new-worldfitness.com



# CITY CRACKS DOWN ON GRAFFITI, ARTISTS UNTHREATENED

Similar anti-vandalism measures ineffective in New York City

BY JOEY BASHA, KERRI BREEN AND SHALANDA PHILLIPS

As an initiative of their new graffiti task force, the city of St. John's is offering \$500 rewards for individuals who help police apprehend graffiti artists, and putting \$20,000 towards graffiti removal. Meanwhile, the city's graffiti artists are feeling the chill.

While city officials such as Deputy Mayor Dennis O'Keefe call graffiti "garbage," police are encouraging property owners to put the three Rs of the graffiti task force to good use: record, report, and remove.

But one St. John's graffiti artist is arguing that what the city really needs is more legal walls, or designated areas for graffiti artists to hone their craft. He says that the task force will likely be ineffective

young people about the consequences of committing acts of graffiti.

One New York police brochure called "Combating Graffiti" reads, "Graffiti has erupted into a nationwide epidemic costing billions of dollars a year... [It] has also been related to drug and gang violence, as well as the occult."

However, the *New York Daily News* reported that one year after the task force was implemented, 162 New York City subway cars – over triple the number reported in 2004 – were defaced.

In 2003, local artist Montgomery Hall, with the support of the City of St. John's and utility holding company Fortis, initiated the opening of the city's first legal wall in Sebastian Court.

"For me, the biggest reward was when we were actually out there painting and people from the dockyard came over and thanked us for cleaning the place up, making a change, and giving them something new to look at," said Hall on the Creative City Network of Canada website.

"A lot of people would normally



Art by graffitiist known as Dr. West covers this wall behind Junctions downtown.

ous areas.

In early May, the BBC reported that a 24 year old man in Bristol, England fell through four floors while vandalizing a building abandoned since 1986, and suffered a broken back, serious leg wounds, head and internal injuries.

## Graffiti hurts, says deputy mayor

The bulk of graffiti in St. John's is "a blight on the urban landscape," according to Deputy Mayor Dennis O'Keefe.

O'Keefe wants the city kept clean and beautiful, with the newly minted task force coming down hard on graffiti artists.

"The ultimate goal is the elimination of graffiti from public and private property throughout the city," O'Keefe said.

"It's important that we realize there's a difference between urban art and graffiti. Art is something that can enhance a neighborhood. Graffiti is garbage. ...I fail to see how anyone can describe graffiti as beautiful."

But the problem goes deeper than that, says O'Keefe.

"One of the main fears of the police is that in the process of putting graffiti in hazardous areas somebody is going to take a fall and we're going to have a tragedy," he said.

The city is contributing half of the funds for a \$1.5 million project to overhaul the midstream area of popular graffiti site, Bowering Park.

"On the one hand we have a hand full of individuals who feel they can go through that park early in the morning with a can of spray paint," O'Keefe said. "On the other hand you have people in the city who are paying their taxes to develop a recreational area forever for people of all ages to enjoy, from children to seniors."

## An artist's perspective

But it's not all bad news for graffiti artists. The city has designated legal walls for young bombers or tag-

gers to cut their teeth on – one in Sebastian Court and another hiding somewhere in an overpass on Pitts Memorial Drive.

"These aren't enough," says one graffitiist, who uses the codename Odie.

Odie is one of the leading members of the local graffiti club, AVC.

"What we do takes time and skill. One way or another, it is going to be seen," he said.

Odie and his friends have been working together for close to five years now, and proof of their improvement is in the pictures.

Although the short lifespan of most graffiti is a downside accepted in the culture, the longevity of pieces is even shorter due to the lack of legal space in St. John's.

Odie and his friends, confident in the taskforce failing miserably, will continue with their tags, undaunted.

"Take New York," he said, referring to their police department's similar anti-vandalism initiatives. "Beautiful work is being buffed [graffiti speak for erasure] and it isn't doing any good. A freshly cleaned wall is every painter's wet dream."



Local graffiti group AVC tags this Water Street wall.

at curbing graffiti.

New York City adopted a similar strategy in 2004 – a joint effort of the New York Police Department and the New York Transit Bureau called the citywide vandals task force.

Like in St. John's, the police there are offering \$500 rewards for information leading to the arrest of vandals. Additionally, the task force launched a campaign to educate

not walk through this walkway because it was so dingy and it looked so bad. Now, because of what we have done, [it has] now opened up and a lot more people travel through this back lane."

While the debate as to whether graffiti beautifies or defiles urban space ensues, O'Keefe says the safety of graffiti artists also a concern of task force, as artists can be injured in while attempting to tag danger-



This scary bunny on Water Street, in the Bar None alley, is courtesy of Odie.

PHOTOS BY IAN VATCHER