

Ferry service inadequate

For Cape Bretoners and Newfoundlanders the Marine Atlantic service is a key economic entity. The ports of North Sydney and Port-aux-Basques benefit immensely from this gulf ferry service.

The front cover of the August 12th edition of *The Cape Breton Post* featured a graphic picture along with a good story on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who were called into the Marine Atlantic Terminal at North Sydney to deal with angry truckers protesting the inadequate gulf ferry service. On CBC's Sunday Report, there was news of a similar happening at the Marine Atlantic Terminal in Port-aux-Basques.

In late August, Joe Clark held his caucus PC party meetings in St. John's. In various media

interviews, Mr. Clark was asked to announce planned improvements on the gulf ferry service when his PC party made their platform public to Canadian voters.

During the five day hearings on the state of the gulf ferry service in St. John's, a lot of criticisms were directed at this crown corporation. These hearings generated embarrassment in editorials in such newspapers as *The Telegram* in St. John's; *The Gulf News* in Port-aux-Basques; and as far away as *The Hamilton Spectator*. It was stated that Marine Atlantic is a national disgrace in desperate need of change.

The litany of complaints about the gulf ferry link included the poor food, the reservation service, limited capacity, poor

sleeping accommodations, and very high fares. As well, it was requested that a third ferry be brought into service. The Cabot Strait is serviced by the M.V. Caribou and M.V. Joseph and Clara Smallwood ferry vessels.

There was a push for a Super Sea Cat, a high speed ferry that can cruise at 80 km/hour and would cross the Cabot Strait in 2 hours and 45 minutes - that's half the current sailing time of the 2 conventional crafts. As well, a

Super Sea Cat could handle more passengers and vehicles than a conventional craft could, and at half the price. All who made public presentations stated that the Gulf route between North Sydney and Port-aux-Basques should be treated as an extension of the Trans-Canada Highway, with ticket prices reflecting the cost of driving the distance. A student rate should also be devised to help those attending post-secondary educational institutions.

An ultimate solution is needed to the Marine Atlantic ferry woes on the Cabot Strait between North Sydney and Port-aux-Basques. In a few weeks, Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Liberal Government will be provided with recommendations on how to deal with the situation. As one who uses the gulf ferry service, I feel that such changes should be quickly enacted.

Kevin B. Bowering

Let's talk about I.T.

I recall the day my third grade teacher proudly introduced our class to "The VIC 20" computer. Not realizing it at the time, we had become a part of the "third wave," the "information age," the "computer age," or what have you. It was only a matter of time before every office, school and household would use a computer for communication, shopping, banking, and more.

Despite the fact that I was introduced to computers at such a young age, I, like so many others of my generation, experience some trepidation when it comes to computer technology.

I use e-mail. I know how to search the web, I am competent at Microsoft Office. Is this not the resume of someone who is familiar and comfortable with technology? Certainly it is. Yet why do I feel paralyzed when my computer misbehaves? And why have I never once entertained the idea of pursuing a job in Information Technology (I.T.)?

The mere mention of I.T. immediately brings to mind a Web Designer, a programmer, someone who is good at troubleshooting.

A Computer Science student. Although this is sometimes the case, what an enlightening experience to find out it is often otherwise.

This summer, I was involved in setting up a Career Speakers Series for Dalhousie's Frank G. Lawson Career Information centre, dealing with how I.T. is being used in a variety of job areas. Since the demand for technologically skilled people far exceeds the supply, the purpose of the project was to debunk the idea that I.T. is only for the technologically inclined.

As a part of the Series, my task was to define I.T., find people working in the industry, and interview them. My first inclination was to head in the direction of the Computer Science Department and MITE (the joint Dal/ITI Masters of Information Technology in Education). I expected to find all the people that neatly fit into my preconceived image. Sure enough I found them, but imagine my surprise when I ended up in places never anticipated — places like Costume Studies and Music. Popular opinion views I.T.

as a definite area with set limitations. The truth is, I.T. has no boundaries. I found people working in exciting jobs, doing what they love while manipulating technology to further their careers. Some of these people have formal computer training, yet others had little to none.

Take for example Tanya Shaw-Weeks. Weeks is a Costume Studies graduate who had very little computer experience when she began her business. Today she offers her customers a chance to see themselves in her clothing designs via their home computers. A significant part of her work involves computers in some form and most of her sales are done online.

Or take Erez Segal, who is using the programming and research technology he gained from the Masters of Library Information Studies program to

trace thousands of immigrants who came through Pier 21. These skills have contributed to making this historic site an interactive place for all visitors.

Even Zoe Boutilier, a Dalhousie Biology grad, found I.T. useful when she went to Bolivia. As a Canada World Youth participant, Boutilier was to design a website for a non-profit organization. Though she had never received extensive computer training, she explains there is always the help button.

Now, what did I learn from all of this I.T. exposure and research? Although technology cannot solve all of our problems, it can be a powerful tool used to enhance our careers and our lives. I.T. may be the latest "buzz word" or it may sound ambiguous or intimidating, but it's definitely worth exploring.

Jillian Brown

Sex in society

EDMONTON (CUP) — A single person is capable of genius, but gather several people together, and the most moronic ideas often come to light. Evidence of this is overwhelming if one looks at sex in society.

Certainly, most normal people embrace sex as a wonderful thing, and, as individuals, we are more likely to over-emphasize its importance than the converse.

Why, then, does society at large misconstrue it to such a degree that it scorns something so essential to its survival?

Sex is as close to the meaning of life as we can get — biologically speaking of course.

It has played the most important role in each of our lives.

Whatever you may believe about the origins of the universe, there is no question as to the origin of each person living today — their parents had sex.

This is a touchy subject for many people, but it is a hard, throbbing fact. Sex is necessary for procreation. That, ideally, is why it's so good.

If we didn't have the strong primal urges that are frowned upon by those who claim impeccable moral hygiene, life could not have evolved past the simplest forms.

So why suppress those momentous urges? Now, I am not advocating irresponsible sex. It is stupid to expose yourself to the risk of nasty diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

But why must children grow up with a mixed message?

Sex is a marketing tool, it is entertainment and it really sells. But it is also filthy. So don't do it and keep your pants on.

By treating children like morons, we deny them the very knowledge that could come in useful in sticky situations.

Fifteen-year olds don't need yes/no answers — they don't listen anyway.

What they need is good judgement, which can only come from experience, and discussing the experiences of others.

Why do we teach that sex is bad?

And why are men who like to look at naked women labelled perverts in many situations? This category includes all straight males, with the possible exemption of those with extreme emotional problems.

The naked-lady fetish is not only natural, but it is essential to human life. Without it, we would probably be extinct.

It is a true marvel that the sex drive isn't more celebrated.

Women have it even worse than men do. What is a forgivable "weakness" in men is, in women, the source of all of the derogatory synonyms for slut. And what better way for society to repress unpopular ideas than public ridicule?

With advances in technology, we are able to overcome many of the practical hurdles involved in the enjoyment of sex.

Contraception is wonderful on all accounts. It allows us to submit to the immediacy of our urges, while postponing child rearing until it is more feasible and responsible.

Medical science is working on eradicating microbial barriers to our enjoyment.

Emotional commitments and interpersonal issues are present in sexual relationships, but they complicate all relationships.

That simplifies the issue to sex alone.

Beautiful. Some would argue that the best policy is to repress those wholesome, natural urges.

However, if it requires self-denial to achieve personal strength, then we would all be better off to stop eating today.

That too would lead to the extinction of humanity.

Bryan Norrie

Submit your Photo of the Week!

Drop off photographs to room 312 SUB anytime (drop-off box on the door).

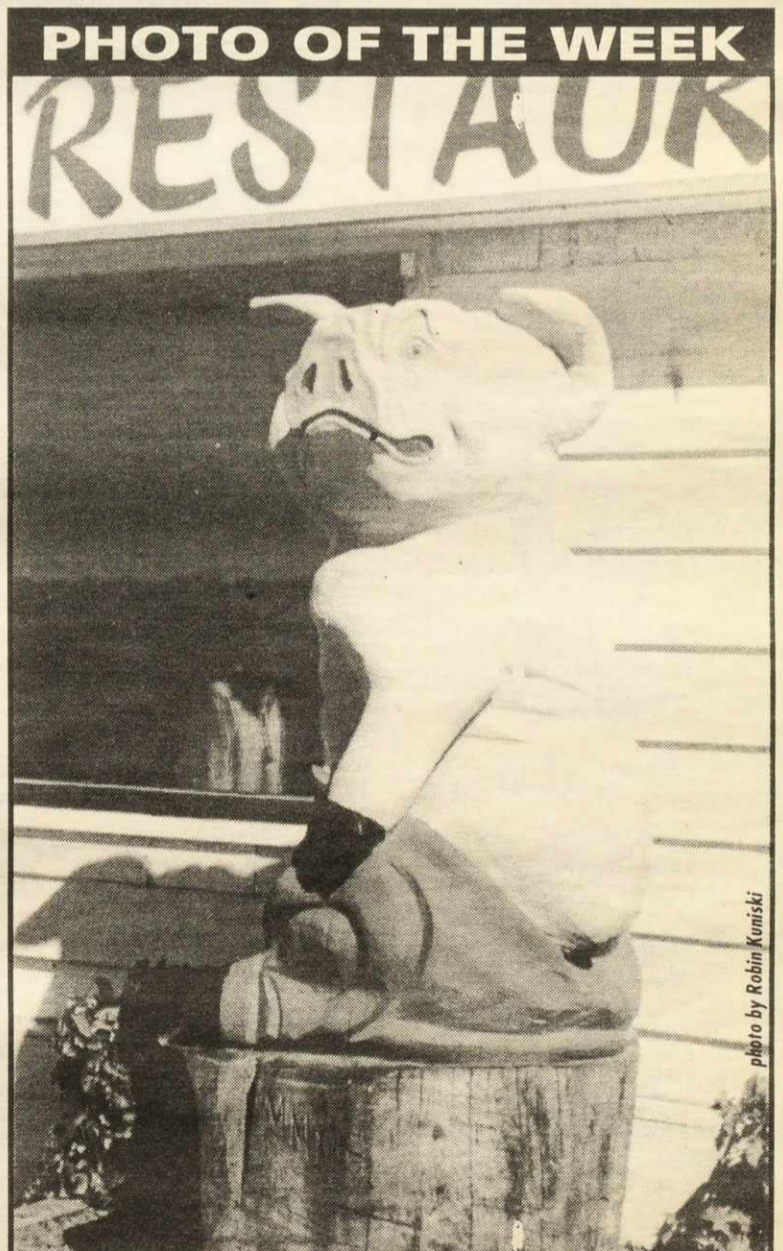


photo by Robin Kumiski

Located just outside of Frederickton at Dick's Roadhouse, this little guy is the last thing you'll want to see before breakfast. Blueberry pancakes were soggy and tasteless, french toast was crunchy. Didn't go in the washrooms.