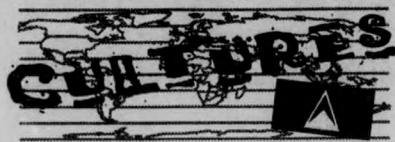


# CAMPUS



DENNIS GERMAN  
The Brunswickan

## St. Lucia: Christina Atkinson

The country in focus this week is St. Lucia and the student is Christina Atkinson. This is Christina's first year in Canada, but she is no stranger to the country. "I've been up here before to visit relatives. My mom is Canadian and my dad is St. Lucian. They both were going to UNB when they met. They fell in love and the rest, as they say is history." It's not a coincidence that Christina is now going to the same university that her parents went to when they were her age, it's a family tradition. Christina's older sister Katherine is also a student here.

There are not that many radical differences between Canada and St. Lucia because they both belong to the British Commonwealth. Both countries have laws that originated in Britain and the form of government that exists between Canada and St. Lucia is basically the same. Both countries share the English language as their mother tongue. However there are some notable differences. For instance the education system, the laws defining legal age, the crime rate and the currency are different than Canada's. The difference in size and the weather are probably the two biggest differences between the two countries, as Christina noticed on her arrival in New Brunswick.

"The fall was nice; it was really pretty. The leaves changing colour were beautiful. We don't have that in St. Lucia. They don't change. They were really, really pretty. I enjoyed seeing that. In addition to the pretty leaves that greeted Christina, there was also the cold weather.

Most of us should recall that it was a pleasantly warm fall. It was pleasantly warm to us of course but to Christina who is used to thirty-five degree weather year round the New Brunswick fall was

freezing and the temperatures only got worse in the winter. "I'm dying, I'm dying because I'm staying inside. Just the other night I was outside and my hands were burning. They hurt so bad I almost started to cry. Snow on the other hand is amazing. When the first snowfall happened I thought oh my God it's snowing. I ran outside, played in it and made some snowballs. I had seen it on TV but I wasn't actually expecting it to be the way it was. I hate ice. I knew it was slippery but I thought you could walk on it with no problem. I was getting into a cab when I slipped and fell right on my butt. I laughed it off but I was totally humiliated."

The island of St. Lucia is very small. "It's twenty-seven miles down and fourteen miles wide. It would take you two hours to drive around the whole island. It relies heavily on tourism now because it's getting harder to compete in the world market when it comes to agriculture," says Christina. "It's such a beautiful place. There are lots of beaches. The water is very blue. Like you see in the movies. But only around the south portion of the island. There are lots of trees so it's a very green place. It's not flat either, it's very hilly.

The education system there is similar but it's different. "What we have is kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and then A-level. At the end of primary school you're about eleven years old and you have to write this exam called the common entrance

examination. This allows you to go to secondary school. You then have five years of secondary school before you write the C.X.C exam [Caribbean Examination Council]. If your marks are good enough you are allowed to go to A-level. If they're not then you're done school. A-level is the same as grade twelve and thirteen. After that you write your A-level exams and if you get a good mark you may go to university," Christina says out of breath. "For extracurricular activities we played volleyball or net ball. The girls didn't play basketball in school. That was for the boys. Net ball is basically the same except you don't dribble the ball at all. You just throw it to each other."

There are three main religions: Catholic, Methodist and Baptist. The Catholic religion is the predominant religion in St. Lucia. Surprisingly enough, voodoo hasn't completely died out. "There are people who practice voodoo but they do it secretly. A lot of the older generation will tell their grandchildren voodoo stories. It's lost a lot of its appeal so of course the children just laugh it off. We actually had someone who worked for us whose son was in trouble with drugs. They spent a lot of money on an Obeah woman who in turn gave them some medicine and told to give it to their son and he would stay off drugs. A lot of older people spend money on Obeah women and practice it themselves."

A typical day during the summer months for a Fredricton teenager might consist of them watching tv till about noon (that's if they were even up by noon), then look for someone to play tennis or go to the beach (a very hard thing to do by the way). If attempts at fun in the sun failed, then they could

probably just go to the Beaverbrook Gallery and take in an exhibit. For Atkinson it would be totally different. "I would go to the beach and water ski or knee board. Or I would go to a pool party. As the day progressed I would make my way over to the Rodney Bay area where there would be a street party. People would be barbecuing chicken and there would be music playing. Around midnight the party would then move to a club called "Indies" where you can dance till you want to go home. Clubs don't close at 2:00 am like they do here. They go till about 6:00am." As for the legal drinking age, "there isn't one," Christina says laughing. "During Christmas we might organize an expedition to head south down the island and watch waterfalls." "Wow, that sound rough."

When asked about the Christmas holiday that just passed she had this to say, "I remember going down south one weekend and there were a bunch of us on a catamaran. Someone had spotted something out at sea so we headed that way. All of a sudden we were surrounded by dolphins. There were hundreds of them. They were all around the boat. With a catamaran there's a net that you can lie on where the water is rushing underneath you. The dolphins were swimming underneath the net, they were jumping up on the sides of the boat. It was so exciting. I had seen dolphins before but not that close. And there were so many, there were hundreds of them jumping up and down. And we would clap for them and when we clapped for them they would jump up more. They started to do spins in the air and other tricks. It was so cool. You could practically reach out and touch them." Well that just blows my four days of Christmas vacation in Bath away.

The following is a note from the Campus Editor-Dennis German. Last week I received a lot of positive feedback in regards to the Cultures story. I hope in the future the Cultures column will continue to provide the perspectives of international students at UNB. Please feel free to E-mail me at [Brus@unb.ca](mailto:Brus@unb.ca) with any comments or suggestions



One fun in the sun girl Christina Atkinson has some fun in the snow

DREW GILBERT PHOTO

## Into the "Void" In which our intrepid explorers delve deep into hitherto uncharted regions of the University's Can Clans

CYNTHIA KIRBY  
The Brunswickan

Armed with a photographer, I set off to record the latest developments in washroom culture. Exhausted from our climb up the stairs, my partner and I encounter our first washroom. It is a predominantly male area, so I am somewhat on edge. My partner is rendered useless in the dim lighting. It seems I must proceed alone.

Nevertheless, I make several important graffiti sightings. I observe that this particular tribe is heavily influenced by religion; references to Jesus are outnumbered only by references to aliens and their probing techniques. I deduce from a scrawled "arts sucks" that there must be a rivalry brewing, from "weasels ripped my flesh" that this people must be tormented by small furry predators.

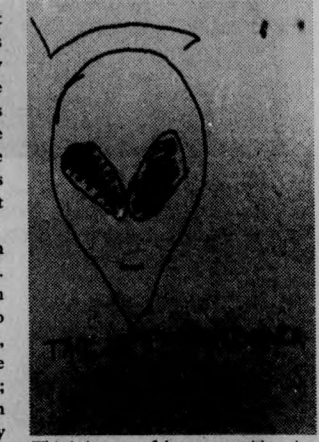
Washroom 2: I venture alone into an area populated only by females. Surprisingly, the only graffiti to be seen are little signs looking for volunteers who want to lose weight. This is, of course, anthropologically interesting, since these are not present in the male-centered areas; although it would suggest that women are of greater girth than men, my observations have not supported this.

The signs are gone the next morning, though, returning the area to its pristine state. I decide to move on.

Washroom 3: This must be a sister tribe. It is just as undisturbed as the last except for one little marking: P.B. '96. I wonder if this was made by another explorer, one less careful than I about contaminating the culture.

Washroom 4: My partner returns! He looks battered and tired, but informs me that he's finally managed to photograph some of the previously elusive graffiti. He relates seeing more evidence of the feud: "Poll-Sci: the science of man. Faculty for aspiring professional liars." The natives seem discontent; complaints of smells and of the physique of women mar the natural

beauty of the site. A poet has scrawled "Do what you feel / Feel what you do / Live life full of / the feelings that define U." I wonder if the people have not yet accepted standardized spelling. Washroom 5: Finally a glimpse into the psyche of the female! I spot two occurrences of the name "Terrence," one preceded by "11" and a heart sign, the other accompanied by an abstract drawing resembling a fern. I assume



This is just one of the many exciting pieces of artwork that is showing during the Can Clan exhibit

DREW GILBERT PHOTO

that the drawing is somehow ritual, and that Terrence is the deity of the tribe.

Washroom 6: Frequent references to something called a "dick." It is also accompanied by an illustration, which doesn't quite resemble the fern. Perhaps this is the male equivalent of a "terrence"? The inscriptions give measurements in inches. I can only conclude that the menfolk are competing, thinking a bigger "dick" will earn them favour with their gods.

My grant has run out, so my research must end. Needless to say I am disappointed. You can learn so much about a culture from its bathrooms.

## IN RESIDENCE

The Maggie Jean Chestnut House is UNB's smallest residence. Home to only forty four students, it is also the University's only off campus house, located at 811 Charlotte Street. The building is made up of three parts, the main house, the stables, and a new addition that connects the two, as well as holding the house kitchen, dining hall, recreation room, and many bedrooms.

The interior of the house itself is beautiful, with ornate woodwork and a basement that is both spooky and spectacular, with its cobblestone floor and cut-rock walls. Some of the bedrooms actually have fireplaces in them (which are covered over for obvious reasons), and one of the most exciting features is the inconsistency of heating. In the old parts of the house, the heating is erratic, alternating from hot to cold with no care for timing. It is much more fun, however, if you live in the new part of the building, where the heating situation is much more

stable and those residents can laugh at the poor people who have to wear shorts and keep their windows open all day.

Traditionally, the house has made itself home to mature students, but this year the atmosphere is different. A younger generation of residents have made their way in, creating a different dynamic in the house. This is not a bad thing, it just involves a change in the way residents



Maggie Jean Chestnut

have to treat the people they live with. Many residents are worried that, for the first time, fines will be implemented in the house, as the noise level is slowly

creeping upwards to a level where it bothers people. It really is not a serious threat that fines will be imposed, but sometimes it takes a severe suggestion to find a moderate one.

The threat of fines is an issue that concerns the residents of the house. This issue and others, including the worry that the house will be sold, that the house has lost character, and the fear that it



ANTHONY DAVIS PHOTO AND STORY

will forever be forgotten by "the hill," have prompted a meeting between the house committee and residents with the Dean of Residence and the Assistant to

the Dean. This meeting will hopefully be a foundation for planning the future years of Maggie Jean Chestnut House, so if you had planned on applying there next year, it is not going to disappear.

One of the great draws to the house is the fact that you don't have to purchase a meal plan. There is a large kitchen, complete with industrial microwaves and walk in refrigerator, and it is up to the people to get their own food and cook for themselves. This causes people to learn how to deal with what is for many a whole new aspect of life, and it is really interesting to find out who is a natural urban peasant and who is not.

The closeness of MJC to downtown Fredericton is also great for house residents. The Boyce Farmer's Market (open every Saturday morning) is only a four minute walk from the house, while some of Fredericton's top pizza places are as close as six minutes away.

Many people didn't even know that Maggie Jean Chestnut House existed, but it is just one more option for those of you who next year plan on living "in residence."

## Infectious body spirit

resulting in one or two weeks of school loss. Recovery usually occurs within two months although it may be more prolonged. Patients are also advised to avoid alcohol to prevent worsening of any liver involvement. In addition, due to the rare but potentially serious complication of splenic rupture, those with mononucleosis are advised to avoid participation in sports for two months.

More serious cases, where patients are unable to swallow or where vomiting is a prominent feature of their illness, may need to be hospitalized for observation, fever and pain control, and intravenous fluids. Prevention of mononucleosis is often not possible but maintenance of a healthy lifestyle with adequate sleep, good nutrition and regular exercise will certainly decrease risk.

Infectious mononucleosis is a viral illness, there is no drug therapy available. Patients are advised to decrease activity, increase rest, and take Tylenol for pain and fever. Generally adolescents with mononucleosis feel quite ill initially often

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Courtesy of Student Health Centre

## General Elections & Referenda

**UNB SU Executive**  
President, Vice-President (University Affairs), Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Vice-President (External), Vice-President (Student Services)

**UNB SU Council - Faculty Reps**  
Arts (4), Business (3), Computer Science (2), Education (3), Engineering (4), Forestry (2), Kinesiology (1), Law (1), Nursing (1), Science (3), Students-at-large (2)

**UNB(F) Academic Senate**  
One year term (3), Two year term (1)

**UNB Board of Governors**  
One year term (2)

**Valedictorians**  
Ceremony A, Ceremony B, Ceremony C

**UNB representatives on Boards of Directors**  
Student Union Beverage Services (1)  
CHSR-FM Broadcasting (4)  
Brunswickan Publishing (1)

**The Football Question**

"Do you wish to see a Varsity Football program supported and maintained at UNB through a \$10 annual student activity fee to be collected starting September 1997 until September 2007?"

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is a maximum expenditure of \$300 for both "Yes" and "No" sides of the Football Referendum. Each side shall provide the Chief Returning Officer with an accounting of all campaign expenses and revenues by Friday, Feb. 21 at 4:30pm

**STUDENT UNION**