

The **BLOE** & **White**

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Valentine's Scramble



Jennifer Jewell

So, Valentine's Day is just around the corner; do you have everything all together? It's important to plan ahead in order to make that night the most romantic and memorable night ever. There are many factors to consider when planning this date. How long have you been a couple? How much money do you have? What does he/she like?

When it comes to planning this special day, DON'T PANIC!!! This article should give all couples an idea for what to do on Valentine's Day. This should be helpful for all, ranging from those who are on a budget to those who are extravagant, and also for those who have been dating for years to the pair on their first date. I will cover some ideas for the three most important steps in a perfect Valentine's Day.

The Dinner

Most people will want to have dinner on Valentine's Day. However, doing this on a budget is a problem as some good, romantic dinners can price as high as \$300. Yikes!! Don't worry; there are plenty of low budget ideas. My favorite plan is to go on a picnic. Pack a cold lunch or supper and purchase a bottle of wine at your local liquor store. Worried that it might be too cold? Be a little adventurous and have the picnic in your living room or even the bedroom. Break away from routine.

Another idea is to cook dinner together. This is lots of fun and will bring you closer together. You can also make your favorite foods. If you want to surprise your partner, or if you are a person who can burn boiling water, then maybe you can shell out a couple of clams and hire one of your single friends to act as chef and waiter for you and your sweetheart (don't forget to tip generously!).

Is your heart set on going out for dinner, no matter the price? Then start phoning around to restaurants. Most restaurants will have a Valentine special, but you must book ahead. There are many romantic restaurants that will serve great food under \$200. Two really great locations are La Boheme (6427 112 Ave NW - (780) 474-5693) where a five course meal, not including wine, is \$50 per person, or the Creperie (10220 103 St NW - (780) 420-6656) where dinner for two, including tip and wine, can be as low as \$100.

The Activity

What to do after dinner? Most people would see a movie, but that is routine. Besides, are there even any good movies playing in the theater? Spice this activity up by renting a favorite movie that you both like, and curling up on the couch (but then, who will really watch the movie).

If you don't want to do the movie thing, or if this is your first date, there are many other activities. The river valley is beautiful at any time of the year, and in this weather, you will probably be the only people down there. Or you can go bowling, skating, or swimming.

If you are willing to shell out some cash for romantic activities, the city of Edmonton has many events going on. When was the last time you went to the Muttart Conservatories (9626 96A St)? Every year on Valentine's Day, the Muttart has their Sweetheart Stroll. At \$60 per couple, this event allows couples to walk through the pyramids while sipping on bubbly and listening to romantic music. This goes from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and at the end of the night, the ladies are given a special gift. Tickets are limited so book ahead at 496-2925. Another event is the

Celtic Valentine at Fort Edmonton Park (7000-143 St). This includes wine and music on the Celtic harp. Tickets are \$25 per person at 496-2925.

The Gift

If this is your first date, there really is no need for a gift, especially if you have paid for dinner and an activity. However, if you must give a gift, let it be simple yet caring, like flowers or a homemade card. If you have been a couple for awhile, gifts can emphasize your love for each other. Bracelets, necklaces, or even a promise ring are great gifts among couples planning to remain together. My favorite idea was the exchange of 'coupons' for massages, dates, dinners, and anything else that you might want to do together. Although some people are bent on exchanging gifts on Valentine's Day, don't get too upset if you can't do it. Valentine's Day is about being together, catching up where you have been too busy, and reminding each other why you are perfect for each other.

I hope that you find the perfect ideas in making this a great Valentine's Day. Remember, your partner will probably drop a few hints on what they want to do, so pay special attention to any conversations about that special day.



Battle Of The Generations: Teens vs. Middle-Aged

The Impossible Years: Concordia Drama's Edgy Comedy

Bonnie Ross

The Drama department is doing a play next semester called *The Impossible Years*. It's a comedy in two acts by Bob Fischer and Arthur Marx. The comedy will run from March 16-20 in the Concordia auditorium. On March 16 there will be a noon matinee and a pay-what-you-can evening performance. The shows on March 17-19 are at 8:00 and on March 20 at 2:00, for standard admission.



The comedy is directed by Gil Allen and has a good-sized cast, including a number of people who have not worked with Gil before. Some of these actors are new to Concordia, which Gil says is really exciting. Concordia has a very strong acting community which is growing all the time, and it's nice to see some new actors coming in.

Gil hasn't directed a comedy here before, so was really happy to be assigned a comedy. He wanted something that would also relate to Concordia students. Gil chose *The Impossible Years* because it's very TV-sitcom-like.

He thinks it will relate to students because it's very similar to what he sees on TV. A lot of students are young, moving away from home, so there is some conflict as they spread their wings. They should get a kick out of this play. Elizabeth Batty, the stage manager, says that this play "will appeal to parents and students alike, as it deals with trials and tribulations we all face. Taking these common situations to the extreme adds humour, making it a light-hearted play that is fun to work on and will be very fun to watch!" It's got a goofy look, plays on the foibles of our modern culture, and deals with the battle between the generations.

Gil has moved the play into 2005 instead of playing in the 60's, so that it's current, modern, and Concordia students will be able to relate to it. The play has a secular, psychiatric base, and since it's a comedy everything ends satisfactorily.

The main character is Dr. Brad Kingsley, a psychiatrist and best-selling author who writes books about how to raise teenagers. He's a Dr. Phil type of guy, with celebrity status; everyone knows him and he has a really strong position in the community. He has two teenage daughters. The oldest, Linda, is finding her independence, and begins to appear to be rebellious, refusing to abide by the family's rules. Her parents are worried about her appearance and believe she's become promiscuous and is running wild. The doctor's psychology techniques aren't working and a bevy of bizarre characters try to woo and court Linda Kingsley. In the wings is her younger sister, Abby, waiting for her turn to become a lead rebellious teenager.

Plays like this, in the TV-sitcom style, are often the type of plays chosen for dinner theatres, so this is bread-and-butter work for actors. The Drama department tries to vary the theatrical experience at Concordia; they've done musicals, Shakespeare, American classical drama, Greek tragedy, etc. Gil says "we're jumping all over the map,"

so the students and actors get quite a wide variety.

Gil Allan has brought in some outsiders to flesh out the cast, because there are a lot of male roles. John Rusich, a local professional actor, plays Dr. Kingsley. Scott Mair, a Concordia alumnus, is back to play a wacky support character. This gives the students a chance to work with professionals as peers, and raises the acting standard.

There's also an interesting dynamic to the cast. Margaret Batty is a grade 10 student at the Concordia High School and is playing Abby. Her older sister, Elizabeth Batty, a third-year Concordia science student, is the stage manager (the person who organizes the stage, rehearsals, and actors). Their father, Eric Batty, is playing the role of Mr. Brecher. Scott Lyons is back, playing the assistant to Dr. Kingsley, along with Alex Dimitroff, who plays Linda's primary love interest. Alexandra Lazarowich, the star in Concordia's movie *Green Eyes* (Theatrical Premiere in March) who has been a professional model and a film actor, is also in the play. Elizabeth Batty says that "working with this talented cast is great. We have an interesting mix of professionals, experienced students, and beginners who haven't done anything like this before."

The admission fee for the play goes right back into the Drama department. They have to pay for rents and royalties, build the set, buy props and costumes, replace makeup and burnt out light bulbs - the overhead for a production is huge. The focus is not on making money; it's a learning experience, but whatever money comes in helps. The money allows the Drama department to do more, better.

Gil is hoping for a huge crowd; the bigger the audience, the better the comedy! The theatre seats 238 people and Gil wants to pack it. So mark this comedy on your calendar, and help pack the theatre!

Peanut Butter and Crackers

The Concern

It's a bit of a sick reality, but come time for our graduation banquet you may be extremely disappointed with the menu selection, that is, if there is a banquet at all. The estimated cost for the graduation banquet is approximately \$20,000. Bring in the generous CSA funding of \$8,000 and that leaves \$12,000 left to fundraising. This here is the cause for concern.

On Friday, January 28th, what we thought was going to be the biggest fundraiser for grad this year turned out to be a joke. The six members on the graduation committee (Leanne Hoiland, Greg van Middelkoop, Sandi Schollenberg, Elizabeth Batty, Conrad Lutz, and Heidi Gerdung) all promoted this event very hard. The results were disappointing. We estimated a turnout of about 300 people, we got 45.

The Event

The fundraiser was a trip to the Standard Nightclub. For \$10 each person received no line or cover, 2 free drinks, a limo ride and the option to take part in the bachelor auction. To me, this sounded like a pretty sweet deal. Where did we go wrong? When promoting this event, we heard the phrase "Standard sucks" fly quite regularly. My question is, would it suck if it was packed with 300 of your friends? The event did not have to be a booze fest either. Anyone could have attended and had an enjoyable time.

The Apology

Instead of ripping into the student body about how they are not supporting our school, I have some questions. Did the event actually not draw interest or were people just too busy with other things? Did we do a poor job advertising? Did you think the

nature of the event was not appropriate for a graduation fundraiser? Please feel free to give me some feedback, positive or negative on these questions. Regardless of the reasons, the event failed. I would like to apologize to the graduating class for not putting together an event that could help raise money for our graduation.

The Result

Do not worry about our grad. We will not be eating peanut butter and crackers at the banquet, and we will find the money necessary to provide a fantastic event for our students. I encourage all of you to take part in our silent auction starting in early March. The main purpose of this article is to gain feedback from the student body, especially those graduating. If anyone has any suggestions on what I or the graduation committee can do differently, please inform us. After all, it is your grad!



*Greg van Middelkoop
VP External*

Room For Improvement

My friend and I have come across a few areas in Concordia we find could be improved. These concerns, if acted upon, would be beneficial to everyone...

#1: Air Conditioning in Tegler:

TURN IT OFF! It's winter outside and we are already freezing so turn some of my \$6000 a year from tuition into some heating because seriously the temperature in Tegler is ridiculous!

#2: Tables in Tegler:

KEEP THEM THERE! These tables are used by us on a regular basis, so when we show up on some Tuesday,

for example, and the tables are missing we tend to get frustrated which results in letters like this and also makes it harder to study.

So keep the tables in Tegler!

#3: Couches in Tegler:

WHERE ARE THEY? Last semester there were always couches in Tegler. These were very beneficial to us students because they were used for a quick nap during a long day. So please bring back our couches.

Thanks for listening to our complaints. Hopefully somebody will read this and act on it. And SOON!

*Stan Dingcold
and F. Reezing*

Pathetic Pathetic

Eric Sylvan

These complex lives we live,
Too many loves for us to give.
Love has a light to warm the heart,
But loving light a growth does start;
And dim light falls on darkened halls,
Casting long shadows as it falls.
What complex lives we live.

Love blooms too long in lonely rooms,
Aft' love's embrace leaves darkened doom.
Why will it not die; let me sleep?
But, no! It grows in darkness deep.
Without the warmth of direct light,
Growth gets twisted, with darkened blight,
As shadows hold the room.

In darkness some choose to remain.
As dawn arrives, some rooms the same,
With closed windows, locked doors,
Hearts shut to warmth keep frozen cores.
But love does come to knock for all,
And one must choose to embrace walls,
Or see the light again.
These complex lives we leave.

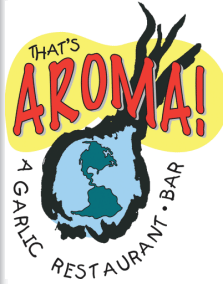
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I had a poutine from the cafeteria. I threw up shortly after - something to think about.

Restaurant Review

For this article I wanted to take a look at some of Edmonton's restaurants: what they offer and what they are like. Please feel free to write in your agreements or disagreements, or write your own review. Obviously the restaurants included below don't even touch the surface of places within this city.

That's Aroma: 11010-101 St.



Located on the edge of northeast downtown, this little restaurant has a lot to offer. It has chosen garlic as the theme to their madness. I mean, one can call it madness when one

of their dessert options is garlic ice cream. Food consists of a lot of pastas and meat dishes that are presented eloquently and taste fabulous. Prices (about \$20 per person without alcohol) match the quality, atmosphere and friendly staff. This is a great way to dress up an evening without breaking the checkbook.

Don Cherry's: 13310-137 Ave.



For the sports fan: they died and went to heaven. The place is decorated with a Don Cherry, hockey, Canadian beer motif. The place

is plastered (or so it seems) with televisions of every size. And most booths come equipped with your very own TV set. For the non-sports fan: surprisingly a great place to meet and hang out. There is a non-smoking section and it can make for an exciting family dining experience. You don't have to love hockey to get a table. The prices are equivalent to any lounge, and the food is just as appetizing.

Brit's Fish and Chips: 6940-77 St. and 12556-132 Ave.

I never thought I had eaten at a restaurant that I didn't like until I thought of my experience at Brits Fish and Chips. Don't take this review verbatim; I mean, the place was packed and some list it as Edmonton's best English style fish and chips. At first the atmosphere and the prices seemed promising. But you wait (for example I waited an hour - no joke) for quality that made some at my table sick to the stomach (literally). They are more concerned about increasing their restaurant turnover that larger orders seemed to be avoided for as long as possible. If you go...good luck!

Julio's Barrio: 10450-82 Ave., Bourbon Street West Edmonton Mall, and 17021-100 St.

The atmosphere is great! The alcohol selection is great! And then I looked at the menu and I had no idea what to order... I was the type of person who only orders something if I know exactly what I am getting; I do not know Mexican food. So if you are like me, get some courage and pick out something on the menu. You are looking at about \$13 - 20 per plate and you won't be disappointed. There is really something for everyone.



For my next issue (inspired by the recent Superbowl), I would like to include recipes with beer and/or wine ingredients. If you wish to part with your recipes of secret ingredients, *Blue & White* readers would greatly appreciate it.

I thought of you today

Alyson Bosch

I thought of you today,
And it made me smile.
I thought of you today,
And it made me laugh.
I thought of you today,

And it made me happy.
I thought of you today,
And it made me pray.
I thought of you today,
And I just wanted you to know!

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Small Talk With Drywall Part 2

Two guys were mounting drywall in a bunch of storage units for a summer job. While they worked, they talked and listened to music.

"Well, Sam, we won't wonder about what's to come once we're finished."

"Huh? ... What??"

It was noon. The guys were sitting on their stepladders with paper bags in their laps.

"You said that the mind and soul need a goal, a purpose to drive for. An ethic to motivate them, and a way to become content with their lives."

Sam was holding a roast beef sandwich to his mouth. He dropped his hands into his lap. "Wha..?"

"Just now," said Will. "You said that people should study philosophy and things like that."

"Oh, yeah. Sure. Why don't you speak English, eh?"

Will smiled. "So, you said that people should think about their lives; and you think that the way a person knows that their life is good or not is by thinking about the end result."

"Yes..." said Sam.

"But how can anyone predict how their life is going to happen? There are way too many possibilities and random things happening to be able to predict how our life is going to turn out."

"..." said Sam. The roast beef sandwich was in his lap.

"In the end, a lot of people will figure out that they wasted a lot of time planning and thinking about the future, when they can't really do anything about it. They lived for the future, and missed out on the now. And the now is all we've got."

Sam's hands were still in his lap. "You're making my head hurt," he said. "Don't you think that people should think about tomorrow? I mean, if you have no goals, you wander around in circles, like a lemming, and end up doing nothing."

"I think that people should live for the moment," said Will. He held up his own roast beef sandwich, and then pointed to Sam's.

"Why are you eating that sandwich, Sam?"

"Because I'm hungry, and if I don't eat it, I'll be tired all afternoon."

"I'm eating mine because I enjoy roast beef," said Will. He took a bite.

Sam looked at his sandwich, then back up at Will. "I think you're missing something. You wouldn't have made that sandwich this morning if you didn't think that you were going to enjoy it for lunch. You had no way of knowing we'd end up where we are. But you still planned to eat that sandwich today. You were thinking about the future."

Will was holding his roast beef sandwich to his mouth. He lowered his hands into his lap. "Maybe..." he said.

Sam Coleridge



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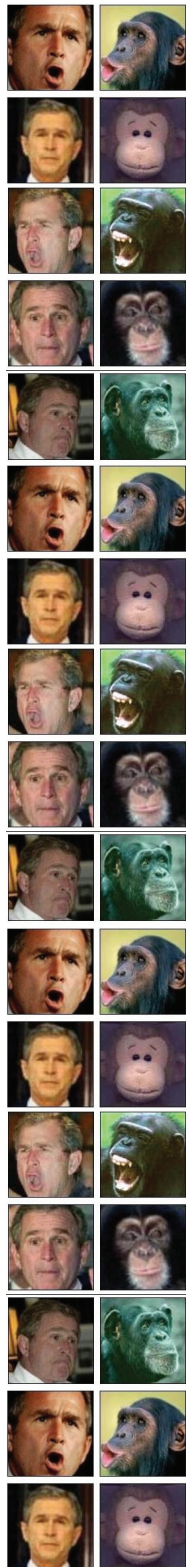
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or drop a disk in the box
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We want to hear from you!

The Dummy Isn't So Dumb After All

Raymond Cheung



To win the presidential election, the contender must win the presidential debates. Because the debates are always scheduled so close to the election date, voters show up at polling stations with the results of the verbal engagement freshly tattooed in their minds. Typically, it's the first time party leaders confront each other face-to-face in an unscripted war of words. A skilled debater will sustain continual attacks while mounting offensive strikes to discredit his/her opponent in a bid for viewer approval. The adept talker will seem more credible than his/her challengers. Ultimately, he/she will connect emotionally with the audience.

On November 2, 2004, George W. Bush accomplished what his father failed to do; he won his second term in office. It was an astonishing victory, considering that the Republican won despite being blamed for a weakening economy, higher unemployment, and misleading the public. These issues have polarized and divided America into two hostile factions: rabid donkeys and stampeding elephants.

Before the election, the media touted the race as being too close for any prediction. In the end, the results were clear. Bush, a man a certain Canadian MP calls a "moron", won the election because he was able to market himself successfully by reiterating his opponents' lack of resolve, employing scare tactics, and effectively portraying himself as a man of passion. About a month before the voters scrambled to the ballot boxes, these skills were publicly displayed in a live televised debate at the University of Miami.

It's no secret; intelligence isn't Bush's strength, but one doesn't need to be a genius to figure out John Kerry's main flaw. As Bush put it, "The only thing consistent about my opponent's position is that he's been inconsistent." When Kerry attacked, Bush countered continually by highlighting Kerry's indecisiveness. Not having a firm stance seriously undermines a person's credibility. To be a leader, one needs to be trusted. People will not vote for a candidate who changes positions on issues as frequently as Kerry has. To see the many other issues that Kerry has flip-flopped on, visit <http://visualintensity.com/john-kerry/flip-flops>.

In contrast, Bush decided to invade Iraq to find weapons of mass destruction, which he didn't. He made a bad choice. However, making a wrong decision is better than making no decision. Citizens can classify Bush as conservative, rigid, and firm in his stance, whereas Kerry is unclassifiable. Near the start of the debate, Bush stated, "I understand everybody in this country doesn't agree with the tough decisions I've made. But people know where I stand." Voters want to know every position, whether right or wrong, that a candidate takes and do not like to be left in the dark. And so, when the incumbent keeps emphasizing

the fact his challenger is a flip-flop, people lose faith in Kerry. That is why Bush was mercilessly unrelenting in accusing Kerry of lacking resolution. Equally effective, the incumbent scares his people into siding with him.

Fear is an excellent tool for manipulation. The first settlers who landed at Plymouth Rock feared religious persecution in their homeland and escaped to America. From that point onwards, fear expressed itself at the Salem Witchcraft Trials, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Great War, Pearl Harbor, the Cold War, and 911. The United States is a country built on fear. Consequently, scare tactics are effective and easy to employ. In frightening situations, biological instincts compel individuals to seek immediate comfort and gratification. It is this desperation and urgency that impairs an individual's judgment. People tend to readily submit themselves to anybody or anything that they perceive as being strong and capable of suppressing those fears. In this case, the fierce authoritative figure is George W. Bush. At the debate, the first topic of discussion dealt with security issues. Bush reminded people that the terrorist attacks in Beslan, Russia can happen in America and that their children and grandchildren are susceptible. After making the statement, Bush reassures his country by presenting himself as a sturdy leader. Everything Bush says sounds convincing because fear short-circuits one's good judgment. This is the curtain Bush uses to cover up mistakes.

When votes are the hot commodity, politicians, especially Bush, tend to depict themselves as being the supreme bearer of affection. Love is the strongest emotion an individual can possess and is considered a godly characteristic. When we first fall in love, nothing else in the world matters, which means that we are susceptible and oblivious to our surroundings. Love distracts the individual from being levelheaded. By appealing to the emotions of his fellow Americans, Bush sidestepped Kerry's allegations. The shimmering glow of the President's heart blinds the public from the truth.

John F. Kerry's chances of winning the election were doomed right at the start. George W. Bush won the presidential race by effectively portraying his rival as being irresolute, playing on the fears of the public, and depicting himself as a champion of affection. A leader must lead by taking firm action and not being indecisive, otherwise voters will lack faith in the candidate. A leader must be firm, especially in an environment riddled with fear. Capitalizing on 911, Madrid, and Beslan, Bush drowned out Kerry's attacks by promising to purge the world of its terror. In doing so, Bush added to his image as a passionate man. My only consolation to the Democrat supporters is that George W. Bush will not win the election in 2008. The odds are 100% against the Texan. Thank God for the two terms per president rule.

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation is looking for someone who is an inspiring leader, an innovative thinker, involved in his or her community and, through it all, somehow manages good grades. If this sounds like the stuff you're made of, you could be on your way to an award worth \$4,000 to \$10,000. Students must be completing their second year of their first undergraduate degree in April 2005. Information regarding this scholarship is available on their website at: www.millenniumscholarships.ca/incourse/ or at the Admissions and Financial Aid Office (G202). Concordia is accepting applications for the National In-Course Award (Millennium Excellence Awards Program) until April 30, 2005. Late applications will not be considered.

New scholarship - Alberta Award for the Study of Canadian Human Rights and Multiculturalism

One \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded each year to an Alberta graduate student whose studies promote human rights, cultural diversity and multiculturalism. Further information and application forms are available from the Scholarship and Bursaries website at: <http://alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=876>.

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The CSA will be holding a weekly draw to win a free assigned parking stall for a week. Call Sean for details 479-9218 or stop by the CSA office.

The Library has a new suggestion box located by the circulation desk. Please fill in the comment/suggestion card, and if you would like a Library Staff member to contact you about your comment, please include Name, Student ID#, and Phone# or email.

Career Services Events for Concordia Students

- **Career Planning Workshop:** Can a Career be Planned?

Yes, to some extent, it can. If you are not sure what you want to do with your career, this will be a useful workshop for you.

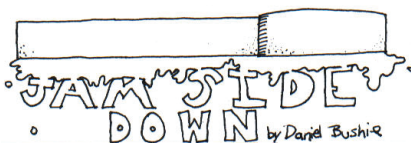
Tues., Jan. 25, 2005
12:30-1:30 pm
CSA Conference Room

- **Career Fair:** Come to meet and chat with presenters who are employers and learn about what they do and what their company or organization does. In addition, come to learn about further education after Concordia... and more.

Wed., Feb. 2, 2005
10:00 am-2:00 pm
Tegler Centre

- **Job Search Workshop:** Time to start applying for summer jobs and/or permanent jobs. Pick up some useful job search ideas including tips on resumes and interviews.

Wed., Feb. 16, 2005
1:55-2:45 pm
CSA Conference Room



COINCIDENCE ?

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Spain

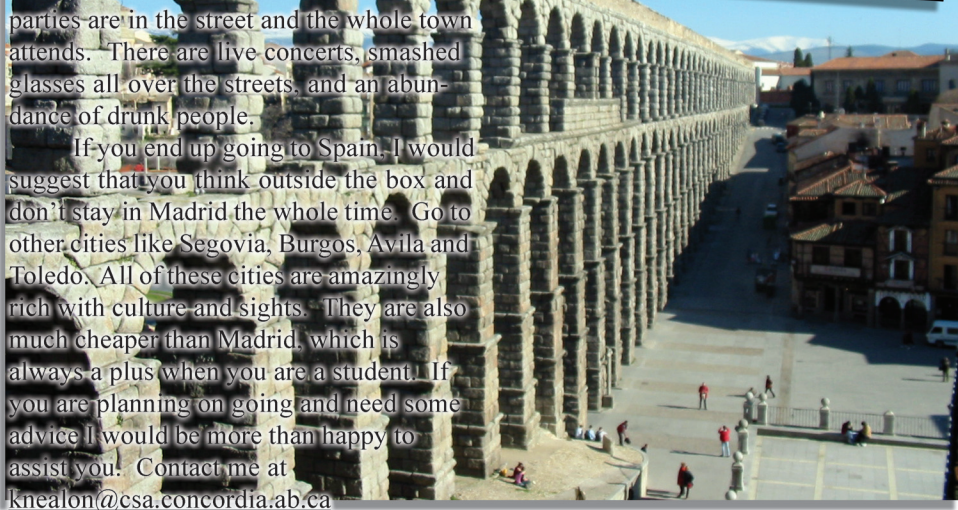
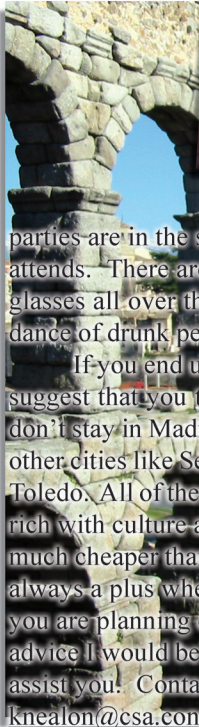
Kathryn Nealon

I can't pinpoint exactly why I love this country so much. Could it be the amazing food? The antique architecture? The music? Or maybe it is for the simple reason that the people of Spain know how to have a good time?

I have been to Spain twice; my first encounter with the far away land was on a student exchange in grade 11. I was going over there to get a stronger language base and understand (or try to understand) the culture. I had about a year and half of Spanish knowledge and then I was off on my own (well, with 9 other Canadians). It would have been easier in Madrid or Barcelona where you have to speak a little bit of English in order to get a job; however, I was going to Cantimpalos, a town of about 1500 that is located 2 hours north of Madrid.

When I was there the first time I was able to get a glimpse of the way the people of Spain are. They are laid back and just trying to have a good time. When Spanish people go to a fiesta they don't get out of the house until 1am. This is mostly because the family doesn't eat dinner until 10pm. And when Spaniards are out to party most of them won't be home until 11am the next day; they drink and be merry until the sun rises and then some.

When I returned for my second time this past summer it was "fiesta season," which means that all the small towns have their own parties with bulls running in the streets and drinking for 3-5 days straight. There is no sleeping involved; it is unbelievable how they can do it. I am not talking about a party in a house; these



parties are in the street and the whole town attends. There are live concerts, smashed glasses all over the streets, and an abundance of drunk people.

If you end up going to Spain, I would suggest that you think outside the box and don't stay in Madrid the whole time. Go to other cities like Segovia, Burgos, Avila and Toledo. All of these cities are amazingly rich with culture and sights. They are also much cheaper than Madrid, which is always a plus when you are a student. If you are planning on going and need some advice I would be more than happy to assist you! Contact me at knealon@csa.concordia.ab.ca

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