

# The **BLUE** & **White**

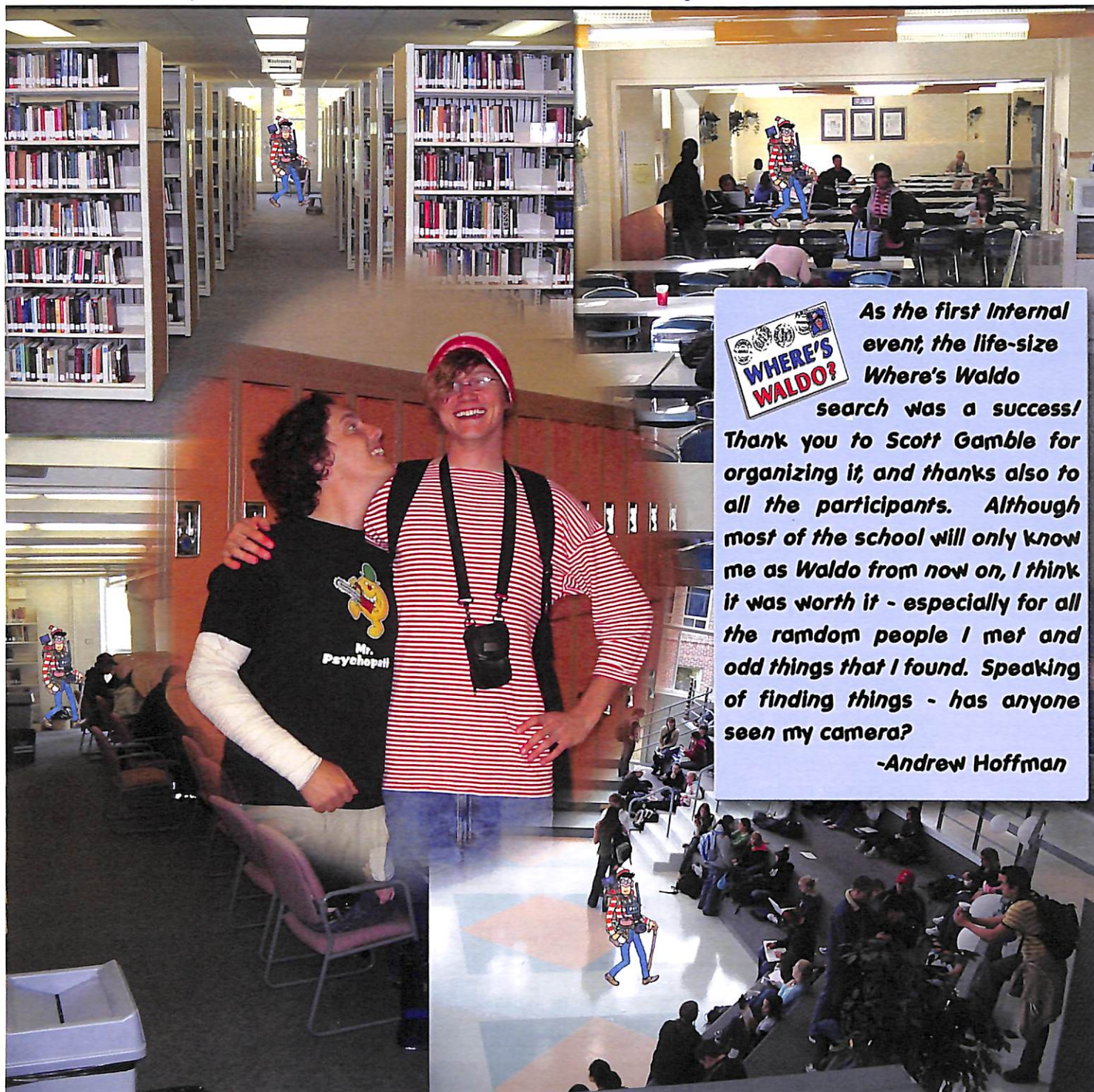
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Issue 1

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**As the first Internal event, the life-size Where's Waldo**

**search was a success! Thank you to Scott Gamble for organizing it, and thanks also to all the participants. Although most of the school will only know me as Waldo from now on, I think it was worth it - especially for all the random people I met and odd things that I found. Speaking of finding things - has anyone seen my camera?**

**-Andrew Hoffman**





[illegible]







# Feature Movie Proves Fanshave Clout

by Janet Buterman

Once in a long while, a gem comes along in the world of televised science fiction. No, it's not *Star Trek* and its sterile future, where technology solves all problems; the gem I'm discussing is the short-lived show *Firefly* that ran in the autumn of 2002, killed even before Christmas finished its incessant commercial season.

No one who's talking is saying why this happened. Certainly, it wasn't for lack of viewers. The show, penned and directed by *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*'s Joss Whedon, had a larger viewership than *Buffy* right out of the gate. But *Buffy* was given several seasons to find its audience; the decision makers at FOX Television didn't even give

screen as *Serenity* this September 30, including all original members of cast and most of the crew. *Serenity* is the name of the *Firefly*-class ship that *Firefly* fans around the world have come to know and love, and those fans will be attending theatres in full force, watching their favourite Big Damn Heroes as they fight injustice on the galactic frontiers.

*Firefly* fans, known as Flans or Browncoats, cross international, cultural, and political boundaries. Not to mention age: some fans are still young children who love the hijinks and adventure common to many good sci-fi stories. Some fans do not even consider themselves sci-fi fans,

but the consistent quality of writing and characterisation easily won them over to this special adventure.

*Firefly* is chock full of classic themes, such as the need to do the "right" thing, even when that isn't necessarily the "legal" thing to do. Trailers for the movie *Serenity* let us know these themes are still there, complete with wry humour and good ol' fashioned frontier dustups.

Browncoats/Flans even have their own language: an interesting aspect of the show is the strong presence of Mandarin Chinese throughout the

'Verse (universe), and every character at one point or another uses Mandarin in talking, eating, or cussing. And no one dresses better than a Browncoat ... from the, um, well, "brown" coats to the badly-knitted orange toque, sometimes it is hard to miss the Browncoat in the crowd, even if you try. And Edmonton Browncoats/Flans have a local connection: Captain Malcolm Reynolds is played by Edmonton's own Nathan Fillion.

Movie trailers can be viewed at [www.serenitymovie.com](http://www.serenitymovie.com). Several large fan groups exist on the Internet, easily found by Googling. Canadian Browncoats has members from across Canada (including some Concordia students!) and can be reached at [www.canadianbrowncoats.com](http://www.canadianbrowncoats.com).

(With special thanks to Canadian Browncoat members Alexis, Chantelle, Mark, and Alex for their help with this article.)

[www.canadianbrowncoats.com](http://www.canadianbrowncoats.com)

## THE GORRAM CANUCKS

"because in space, you need people who are used to the cold."



Something every Canadian can relate to: a warm, woolly toque.

*Firefly* a single season.

Certainly there had never been a sci-fi series like this before: no aliens, no shiny spaceships and a grit and realism that mirrored life on the frontier, in this case, the frontiers of space. But the fans loved it, and the cancellation sparked fan angst worldwide. Emails were exchanged. Letter upon letter was sent to FOX. Joss Whedon took the show shopping for a new home. But all to no avail: science-fiction speciality channels weren't interested in producing the show, and FOX had outright refused to make new episodes. Without anyone able to back the show, a resurrected TV show for *Firefly* became both legally and logistically impossible.

Again, enter the fans. Fans continued to agitate FOX to provide a complete series DVD set. International sales were strong, enough so that Whedon was able to sell the movie rights to Universal, and thus *Firefly* hits the big

Visit The Website! [www.serenitymovie.com](http://www.serenitymovie.com)

## Introducing: The Blue & White

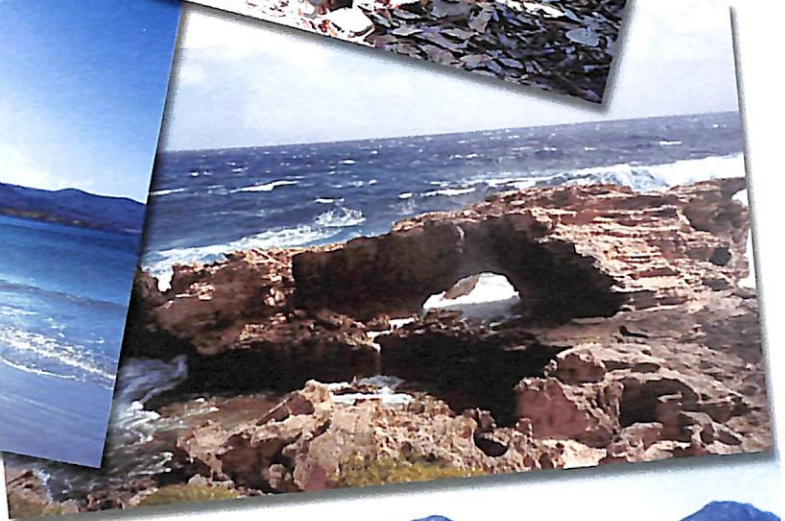
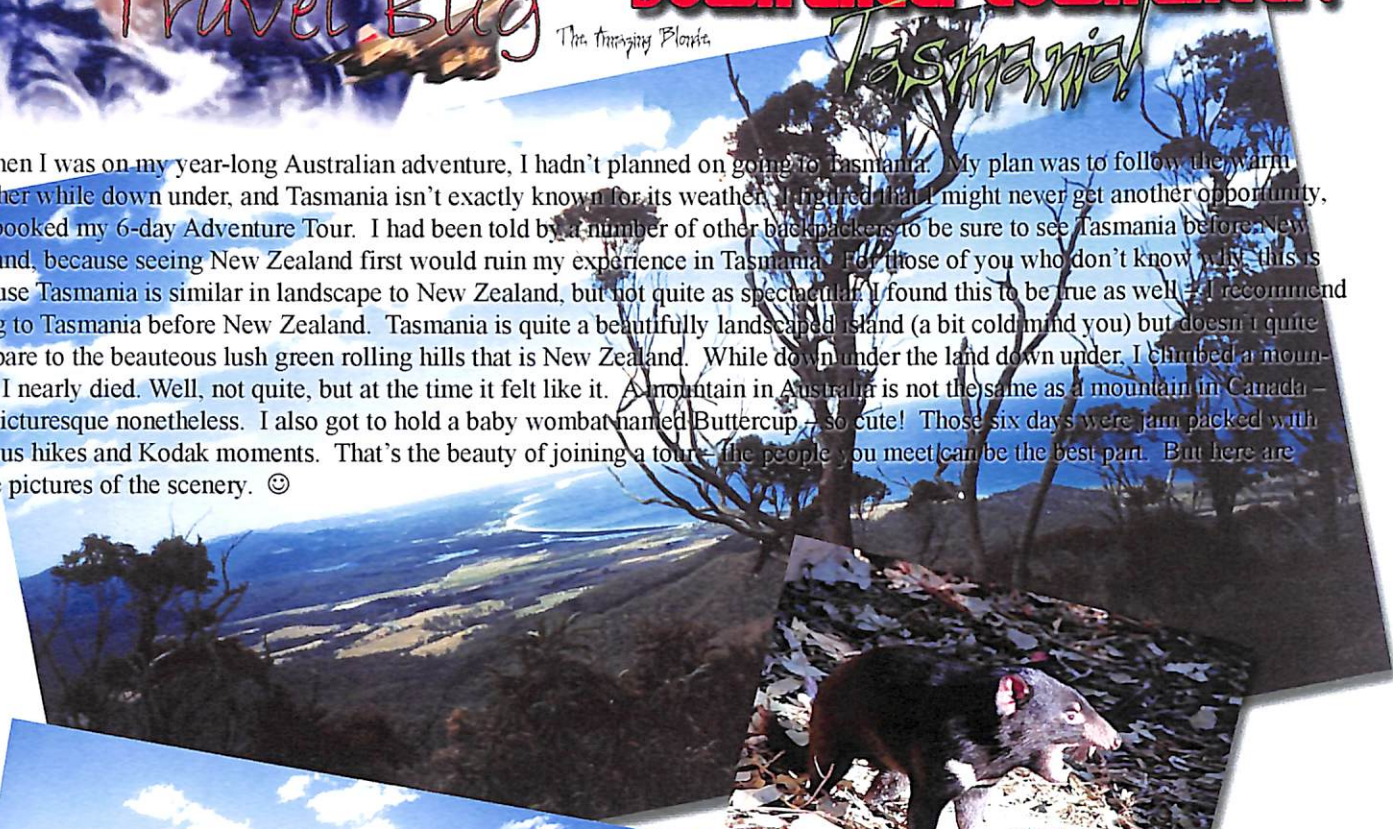




## down under down under:

### Tasmania!

When I was on my year-long Australian adventure, I hadn't planned on going to Tasmania. My plan was to follow the warm weather while down under, and Tasmania isn't exactly known for its weather. I figured that I might never get another opportunity, so I booked my 6-day Adventure Tour. I had been told by a number of other backpackers to be sure to see Tasmania before New Zealand, because seeing New Zealand first would ruin my experience in Tasmania. For those of you who don't know why this is because Tasmania is similar in landscape to New Zealand, but not quite as spectacular. I found this to be true as well. I recommend going to Tasmania before New Zealand. Tasmania is quite a beautifully landscaped island (a bit cold mind you) but doesn't quite compare to the beautiful lush green rolling hills that is New Zealand. While down under the land down under, I climbed a mountain! I nearly died. Well, not quite, but at the time it felt like it. A mountain in Australia is not the same as a mountain in Canada – but picturesque nonetheless. I also got to hold a baby wombat named Buttercup – so cute! Those six days were jam packed with various hikes and Kodak moments. That's the beauty of joining a tour – the people you meet can be the best part. But here are some pictures of the scenery. ☺



Email your exotic adventures to [blueandwhite@csa.concordia.ab.ca](mailto:blueandwhite@csa.concordia.ab.ca) and don't forget the pictures!