



THE IVY



It'll grow on you

St. Michaels University School Victoria BC Canada

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THE VALENTINE'S EDITION

Narwhales, Nebraska and Norweigans

By Ryley Erickson

As I arrive in front of the entrance to Aphrodite's Tunnel of Love I stop and casually adjust my bright red suspenders, taking careful note to fix the aluminum foil lining, a protection against the incredible heat exuded by the Goddess of Love. The entrance is crowned with sculptures of the human heart and cover models of Sports Illustrated swimsuit editions, flashing me their radiant smiles. The Gates of Bliss slam open, revealing the Foyer of Desire and smashing two passing cherubs into a wall, and I tentatively step onto the Carpet of Pleasure. The fibers begin to rub my feet sensually, causing an immense tickling sensation that brings laughter I have to work hard to contain.

I continue through the Foyer and end up in the Passion Parlor, where Aphrodite is waiting for me atop a loveseat created entirely out of green

grapes and woven with the golden locks of ancient Norwegians, seduced by Aphrodite herself. I climb the 835 steps up to her pedestal and arrive in a sweaty, panting state because of all the extra metal I'm hiding inside my outfit. Aphrodite is dressed wonderfully, her hair coiling around her body to cover all the necessary areas for this article to be published in a school newspaper, as well as tiger fur slippers (she assured me that the tiger had given it's pelt up willingly).

I'm awkwardly looking around for a place to sit when a strand of Aphrodite's hair beckons me to sit down beside her, which I do. She gives me a seductive smile which causes my notepad to catch on fire. Hastily throwing it off the pedestal, I draw out my fireproof laptop and proceed with the interview.

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The Desperate Dilemma of Syria By Julia Milden

While most revolutions across the Middle East were a testament to the power of individuals against authoritarian and often tyrannical governments, one country is still locked in brutal violence against civilians, even as international organizations and its Arab neighbors are taking a stand against it. Syria, currently headed by President Bashar al-Assad,

bordered by Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Israel, has been locked in violence since last March, when aggressive government crackdowns on political protests began. Neither the violence by the military against citizens, nor Mr. Assad's feeble offers of political reform —rejected as shams by the international community— succeeded in bringing

an end to the unrest, even as the protesters were, and continue to be, unable to withstand the direct violent assaults by the military, resulting in massive civilian casualties. The United Nations estimates that over 5, 400 people have been killed in Syria since March.

A series of economic sanctions were introduced in May of
(cont. on pg7)

The Science of Love

By Andrew Kang

“What is love? Baby, don’t hurt me... baby, don’t hurt me... no more.”

-Haddaway

For centuries people have wondered about love and the science behind it. As human beings, we cannot comprehend complexities such as love, even though it underlies many of our thoughts and actions. Scientists have proposed many explanations to what causes love and what it is in scientific terms, but one theory seems to stand out from the others. This theory, suggested by anthropologist Helen Fisher, is a detailed analysis of the factors that cause love and the hormones

behind them.

Fisher’s relatively recent study from 2004 proposes that there are three stages of love, each caused by different hormones: lust, attraction, and attachment. Lust is caused by testosterone and oestrogen, which are present in both males and females and are what drive people to be physically attracted to each other. Contrastingly, attraction —what causes people to think about love— is caused by dopamine, adrenaline, and serotonin. Serotonin is espe-

cially important as studies show the hormone correlates to how

much a person thinks about love.



The final stage is attach-

ment, which is possibly the most important stage, as it means the start of a relationship. Attachment is caused by oxytocin, which is also responsible for causing the love between child and mother, and by vasopressin. is true for every kind of love. Regardless of

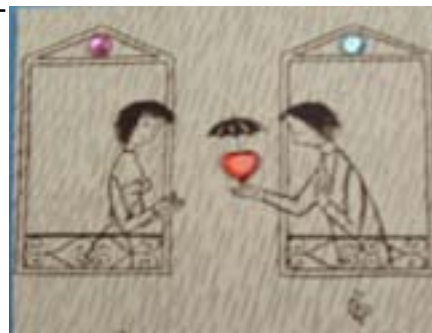
(cont. on pg3)

International Loving

By Shannon Wong

Valentine’s Day is a holiday eagerly awaited by the young and old all around the world. It is a chance for young men and women to confess their love, for couples to strengthen their relationships, for the married to reminisce upon past loves and for singles to indulge in the sweet product of the cacao bean. Yes, this is a holiday full of red, pink and white, of chocolate and flowers, hugs and kisses, but if that is the standardized “Western” V-Day, then how is it celebrated elsewhere?

Valentine’s Day is commonly celebrated in many European countries. For example, in Britain it is common for children to sing songs in exchange for fruit, candy or money. Special Valentine’s buns spiced with raisins, plums and caraway seed are also baked once a year on this day. In the past, France had a tradition known as “drawing for”. Here men and women would sit in houses opposite each other and attempt to scream through the windows in an attempt



to find a promising date. Those women who were unsuccessful in getting a date would be abandoned by the remaining men and would vent their anger by burning pictures of these men in large bonfires while repeatedly cursing and swearing at them. This tradition was then later banned by the French government as it promoted unnecessary humiliation and frustra-

tion. “Drawing for” was later replaced by a tradition of card giving or “cartes d’amities”, where folded pieces of paper filled with heartwarming messages were exchanged.

In Germany and Italy Valentine’s Day becomes a part of daily life. Love tokens and cards are given year round in Germany, and in Italy engagements are frequently announced on Valentine’s Day. The Scottish Valentine’s Day is more of a

(cont. on pg6)

Interview with Aphrodite

So Aphrodite, what's life like living among the Greek Gods?

Boring. They never want to do anything except sit on their thrones and enjoy the fact that they're immortal and wise and better than everyone. Not that they aren't all of the above, but man, they could at least cut out the thunderstorms that appear when they talk.

Why don't you join them and sit on your throne all day? Do you not have one there?

I used to, but I kept distracting the other Gods from doing their duties. Zeus would call a meeting to order, and then all the male Gods would proceed to spend the next two hours gawking at my luscious figure. Needless to say, the wives weren't pleased because they couldn't compete with my gorgeous bod, so I was banished from those meetings until I covered myself with something besides my own lovely hair.

What do you like to do for fun during the day?

The Science of Love (cont. from pg2)

hormonal influence it seems that whether it is love at first sight, "friends with benefits", straight love or gay love, all love seems to follow these stages. Interestingly, in another study, Professor Arthur Arun gathered several subjects who were complete strangers to each other. The subjects revealed intimate details about themselves and then stared into each others' eyes in complete silence for four minutes. Many of the subjects fell in love during the experiment and two even got married! Psychologists claimed in another study that it takes only a few minutes to fall in love and that the majority of love is caused by body language and the tone or speed of a person's voice. Do these studies show that there is more to love than the hormones released in the human body? Perhaps the few minutes when two people get to know each other can shape a relationship forever.

Yet another study showed that you are more



(cont. from front page)

I won the InterUniversal Ping-Pong tournament 496 years in a row, and am going for my 497th title this year. Only four years until the 500th win!

You must be pretty good! How often do you practice?

Well, the pedestal that we're sitting on now is large enough for the two couches and a ping pong table. Since I don't sleep and the line of adoring lovers tends to ease around 2AM, I get a good five hours of playtime per day.

What's your favourite flower?

The tulip wins this contest by far. I love them so much that I had a bed specially fashioned for me out of tulip petals and generously donated fairy wings. Of course, I then realized that I have no need to sleep, so I threw the bed off the top of this pedestal and watched it fall somewhere in Southern Nebraska and crush three vegetable farmers and their prize-winning watermelon. Since it was Nebraska, things

(cont. on pg7)

likely to fall in love with someone who looks directly at you than someone who averts his/her eyes. Of course, this makes sense at first glance, but does this study have other implications? Maybe we love people because they pay attention to us. As ego-centric as that sounds, this kind of love happens all the time. Even in small situations, when someone says "hi" to you, that one sign of acknowledgement makes you feel happy and even smile back.

So what does this mean for you? Maybe it means you should just start talking to that person you've been checking out for the past week... if you know what I mean!

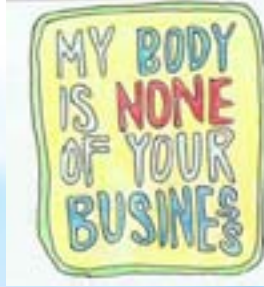


Self Esteem

BY ELLIE PATMORE

The idealized body size of a woman is 13- 19% below healthy weight, for many an unachievable goal. Most women spend at least ten years of their lives on a diet, a quarter of them losing nothing at all. It has also been said that one in ten women spend 25 years of their lives dieting. The constant pressure from society is not only on women; men also have many standards that they are supposed to live up to. It is estimated that about 45% of Western men are unhappy with their bodies, but 25 years ago, only 15% were unhappy with their bodies. To reach unattainable goals they often use steroids and supplements; this is especially common among athletes who want to enhance their performance.

Low self-esteem is not always about our physical appearance; it can also be related to



events, relationships or school work.

Here are a few things that you can do to help boost your self-esteem. Followed, these tips will not only make you look more confident, but can also make you feel confident.

- Pay careful attention to your posture, the way you walk and how you dress. Speak up, start acting more confident.
- Be grateful for what you have —having a good attitude towards life always makes you feel better inside.
- Compliment other people — it makes you feel good about yourself without you even realizing.
- Instead of focusing just on what you want to achieve, focus also on contributing to what other people want to achieve. Workout, enjoy yourself, trust that you are competent. Give yourself a little love this Valentine's Day.

THE HELP: A Review

BY ELLEN LAW

“I wonder if I could've made her days a little bit easier, if I'd tried. If I'd treated her a little nicer. Wasn't that the point of the book? For women to realize “we are just two people. Not that much separates us. Not nearly as much as I'd thought.” When young, aspiring journalist Skeeter Phelan decides to write her first book, she is determined to write about something that is important to her, something that means something, that disturbs her, even though it doesn't seem to be bothering anybody else. In 1963 Jackson, Mississippi especially, the mistreatment of the African American domestic servants seems to be an inconsequential issue to the average white family, but in order to bring the plight of “The Help” to the attention of the people, Skeeter also needs help. This help comes in the form of stories, real stories from the African American maids themselves in her town of Jackson.

Skeeter asks a maid named Aibileen to tell her story; however, in order for her book to be published, Skeeter needs the stories of at least a dozen maids and it was difficult enough to get Minny Jack-



son, Aibileen's best friend, to accept. Minny, having worked for the town's heavily influential —yet extremely racist and villainous— housewife, Hilly Holbrook, she has more than her share of cruel stories to tell. Skeeter's published book, “The Help”, presents a set of potential dangers for the housemaids—they could be fired from their jobs, found out by Hilly Holbrook, arrested or even killed because of the current times they live in. These reasons make it more difficult to find other maids that are willing to tell their stories. The times of segregation and racial injustice are beginning to become more frustrating and intolerable and things might just begin change with the help of “The Help.”

“The Help” is a very intriguing book and brings the modern reader's attention to the hard times of racial injustice in the early 1960's, a topic that not many current books discuss. Although it is a rather heavy subject, the book tells about the daily lives of its three main characters, as well as their contributions to an important cause.

The Soundtrack to Valentine's Day 2012 **Alicia Knight**

Valentine's Day is a time for romance and passion. Whether you and your date will be sharing the day (and your iPod) or your true love *is* the music itself, there are some key love songs to have on your playlist. Knowing Victoria and its lack of sane weather patterns, there are many environments that you may end up spending your time in. If you're staying in on a rainy V-Day and enjoying a nice meal by the fire, or in the great outdoors, basking in love and warm rays of sun, here are some songs to keep with you. For you hopeless romantics, I selected a popular love song from each of the past seven decades (only seven because digging back into the early 20th century got a tad difficult), and added a few classical songs along with a list of my personal favourites.

Seven Decades of Love

1940s: "At Last" by Etta James (1941)

An incredible song by the late Etta James, you simply can't not listen to this at least once!

1950s: "Love Me Tender" by Elvis (1956)

One of the most recognized songs by Elvis Presley and a popular 50's love song.

1960s: "When A Man Loves A Woman" by Percy Sledge (1966)

A powerful ballad by a man with a voice that cuts through your soul.

1970s: Theme From "Love Story" (1970)

The theme song from the most famous romantic movie of all-time.

1980s: "I Want To Know What Love Is" by Foreigner (1984)

This was a huge hit in the mid-80s, and is still played on the radio today.

1990s: "I Will Always Love You" performed by Whitney Houston (1992)

Originally written by Dolly Parton, this was the most played love song of the 1990s worldwide.

2000s: "Yellow" by Coldplay (2000)

Personal Favourites (In addition to the selection above)

"Can't Help Falling In Love" – Elvis Presley

"I Belong To You/Mon Cœur S'ouvre à ta Voix" – Muse

"I Will Follow You Into The Dark" – Death Cab For Cutie

"Fix You" – Coldplay

"Beside You" – Marianas Trench

"Something About Us" – Daft Punk

"Hey There Delilah" – Plain White T's

"Chasing Cars" – Snow Patrol

"Cross My Heart" – Marianas Trench



Classical

"Claire de Lune" – Claude Debussy

"Liebestraum" - Love Dream – Franz

Liszt (Andrew Kang's Favourite)

"Für Elise" – Beethoven

V-DAY JOKES

ORLA GLEN



1) What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day?

Forget-me-nuts.

2) What did the stamp say to the envelope?

I'm stuck on you.

3) Why did the banana go out with the prune?

Because it couldn't get a date.

4) What is the difference between a girl who is sick of her boyfriend and a sailor who falls into the ocean?

One is bored over a man; the other is a man overboard.

5) What did the elephant say to his girlfriend?

I love you a ton!

6) "My boyfriend thinks I'm beautiful!"
"Well they do say that love is blind."

International Loving (cont. from pg2)

festival than a holiday. An equal number of men and women would gather and take turns drawing names out of two separate hats. The men offer their lady a gift; dancing, drinking and often marriage would follow. In Wales, Valentine's Day is celebrated on January 25th instead of February 14th. In fact it is quite common for elaborate spoons to be given to loved ones, historically carved by young men in an attempt to win over their ladies' hearts. Symbols such as the heart, horseshoe, Celtic knot, twisted stem, and birds were often used.

In Asia, Valentine's Day is the seventh day of the seventh month on the lunar calendar. It is an opportunity for women to wish for a good husband and display their talent in the domestic arts. It is historically known that on this day the two lovers, separated by the Milky Way, Zhi Nu, the seventh daughter of the emperor of heaven and Niu Lang, a common farm boy, were able to cross a bridge of magpies in order to meet. In Taiwan, Valentine's Day is celebrated on two separate days, February 14th and July 7th, where large and often expensive bouquets of flowers are given to loved ones. One red rose symbolizes an "only love", eleven roses means a "favorite", ninety nine roses for "forever" and one hundred and eight roses signify marriage.

Japanese Valentine's Day is also split into two days,

one on February 14th and the other on March 14th. Women traditionally offer two different types of chocolates to men on February 14th. "Giri-choco" is a type of chocolate given to close friends, colleagues and other men. This is done to ensure everyone receives chocolates and no one is left out. The second type of chocolate is "honmei-choco". These are given to husbands, lovers and boyfriends and are typically homemade, where as "Giri-choco" is store bought. On March 14th the men return the favor on White Day and gift white chocolates to the women. In Korea, Valentine's Day is celebrated much the same as in Japan except for one more additional date. On April 14th those who did not receive chocolates in February or March celebrate Black Day and singles gather together to eat "jajangmyeon" (white noodles with black sauce).

So whether in Britain, Germany, China or Taiwan, Valentine's Day is celebrated by all: whether it is for engagement or marriage, with intricately carved spoons or cursing at bonfires, large bouquets of roses or several types of chocolates, or even black bean noodles. Although Valentine's Day may seem like an expensive, high calorie and heart wrenching endeavor, many have come to appreciate the opportunities it gives us to connect with one another, all across the world.

SMUS Reads

The SMUS reads program that kicked off in the second term of this year was created because our wonderful English teachers want their students to develop a life-long passion for learning. Reading stimulates the brain and helps us better understand the world around us. The English teachers got together this summer and discussed ways to motivate students to read. They decided to talk more about literacy and reading in class, so that students would have books in mind to read this coming summer.

This year the school has

an enthusiastic group of students from grades nine through twelve in the Library Book Club. They are an important factor in the SMUS reads project and they help promote literacy in the school. Also, Mrs. Stenson and Miss Egan introduced a successful reading program at Claremont Secondary, their former school, which involved contests, book talks and draws.

So the SMUS English department and the Library Book Club decided to try a reading program here at SMUS. Most students have said that they enjoy reading,

By Charlie White

but have a hard time finding time to read. So, in order to get students reading more and talking about books by the time summer rolls around many English teachers have begun a silent reading time at the beginning of every class. SMUS is a busy community and most students have academic, athletic, arts and music commitments, so through SMUS reads, we hope to help students find time to appreciate the true value of reading. Next time you are in the library, ask Mrs. Tweedie for a good book and find some time to enjoy all that the library has to offer.

Narwhales, Nebraska and Norwegians (cont. from pg3)

like that happen all the time, so no one thought anything of it.

Do you have your eye on any permanent lovers now for yourself?

Well, since I am immortal, it's impossible to find a long-lasting lover in the human race, and since they are all so unstunningly unattractive in comparison to me, I don't really see the point anyway. I do have a soft spot for narwhal lovers, as I too am a fanatic of these horned wonders. My goal in life is to capture a narwhal and keep it as a pet in my Swimming Pool of Sensuality and then spend all day long swimming and playing water polo with it.

Your goal in life is to own a narwhal?

I'd name her Tiffany.

One last question. What advice do you have for those people who are desperately seeking love?

Don't seek love. Let love find you, whether it's in the form of a Brazilian swimsuit model, an adorable miniature Labradoodle, or a thirteen layer decadent chocolate cake. Or a Brazilian swimsuit model carrying a thirteen layer decadent chocolate cake in the shape of a Labradoodle.

I thank Aphrodite for letting me interview her and give her a little

present I brought, then struggle out of the

hold that her hair has on me. The aluminum foil is so hot to the touch that each step feels like walking in a diving suit filled with melted, chili-flavoured Jell-O as I make my way back down the 835 step pedestal. I take one last glance behind me and see Aphrodite framed by her glowing golden locks, petting the present that I got her; a Labradoodle and a thirteen layer decadent chocolate cake shaped like a Brazilian swimsuit model.



The Desperate Dilemma of Syria (cont. from front pg)

last year and, in November, when those saw no effect in reducing violence, Syria was rejected from the Arab League. Soon after, Damascus, the capital city, finally accepted a peace plan that called for the removal of armored forces from populated areas, the allowance of observers and foreign media to monitor the situation, and the beginning of talks with the opposition party. The option of this plan appeared to be the cause for minor improvements in the situation within the country for a while.

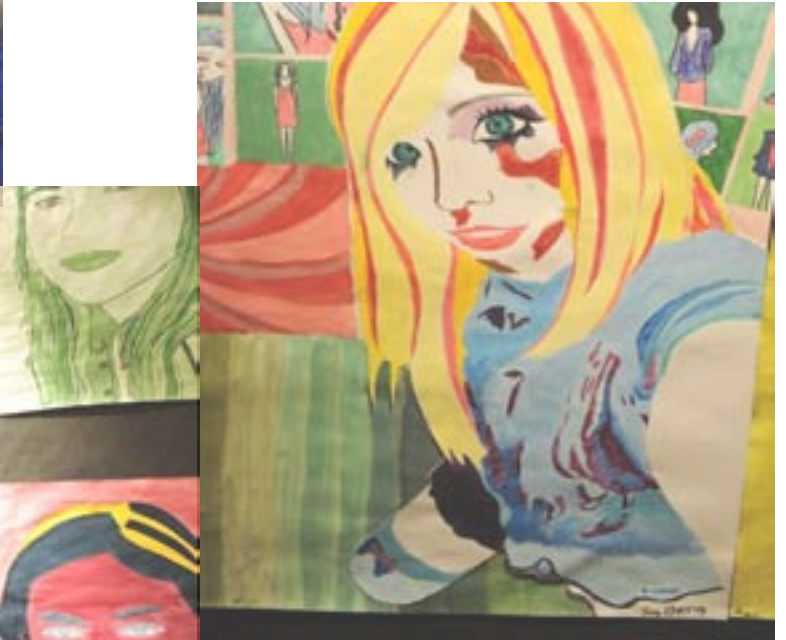
However, the final days of January of this year saw the Arab League suspend its monitoring mission due to what it described as a dramatic upsurge in the level of violence, creating dangerous conditions for observers. The head of the Arab League made a public statement saying the decision was made

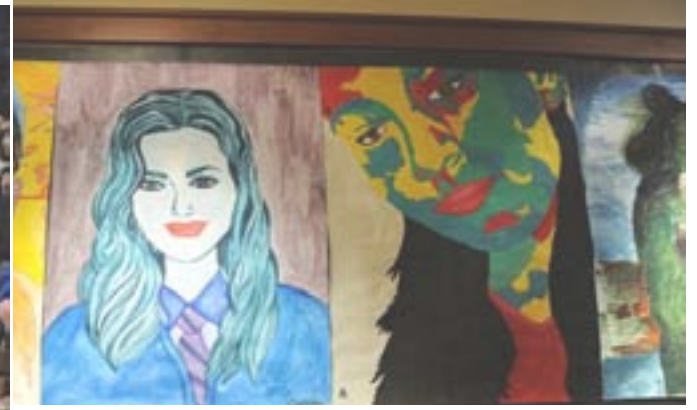


because of "a severe deterioration of the situation and the continued use of violence" and blamed this on the Syrian government for its decision "to escalate the military option", suggesting violation of the terms of the peace treaty by Damascus. The removal of monitors and some foreign media will make it even more difficult to obtain legitimate information about the situation, and will hamper further diplomatic efforts to halt the escalating casualties.

International efforts have also been made to curb the violence, urging al-Assad to step down and allow the formation of a new government. The United States, Turkey, Jordan and the members of the European Union have all publically voiced their concern about the violence and asked al-

(cont. on pg13)





SMUS Sports Corner *with Chris Bjola*

After the Christmas break, Term Two SMUS athletics took no time getting back into the swing of things, hosting two major basketball tournaments within the first two weeks. Here are the results from the first month of Term Two sports:

Senior Boys Basketball

The senior boys started their second term with the SMUS Invitational, an annual tournament featuring schools from across western Canada. The team went 3-2 en route to a fifth place finish in the tournament, including a 75-37 victory over Bowness School from Calgary, and a solid effort in a 62-45 loss to AAA #2 ranked Vancouver College in front of a packed SMUS double

gym. The next week the team competed in the annual Victoria City Police Tournament, also held at SMUS. After a comfortable 62-46 victory over Windsor, and a solid 71-59 victory over Lambrick Park, the Blue Jags were pitted against rival Oak Bay in the final. In front of a massive crowd of over 500, the Blue Jags were able to keep pace with the Bays and held a one-point lead at halftime. However, with the score tied at 54 apiece with about five minutes left, a few turnovers proved to be the difference, with Oak Bay gaining a 7 point lead that they would not give up. The next week the team faced off against PCS and Cowichan. The team



was able to handle PCS comfortably; the same could not be said for the game against Cowichan. After falling behind 22-4 early in the second quarter, the boys bounced back to tie the score at 47 late in the game. However, the comeback wasn't meant to be, as a travelling violation for SMUS followed by a jump shot for Cowichan secured the win
(cont. on pg12)

Alex Nesnidalova in QUEBEC

My experience on the Quebec exchange was short and sweet and I couldn't believe how fast my three weeks there flew by. Montreal has to be the most European city in Canada; with its monumental architecture, historic churches and statues, there really is no other place like it. Venturing out of the residential area and into the city you can quite literally be blown away; especially during the winter months. Montreal winters closely resemble those found in the movies; they are very cold, extremely windy and absolutely beautiful. Remember when SMUS had their snow day? How much did it snow? Ten centimeters at the most? In Montreal there can be a meter of fresh powder and the people there will consider themselves lucky, not even thinking about calling it a snow day.

The school system in Montreal is also a bit different than ours in that they offer a different variety of programs to choose from. No matter what your interest is there is sure to be a program that suits your needs: if you are a sports fanatic, then

you most likely would choose Defisport, a program focused on sport and development requiring you to participate in outside of school physical activity as well as team activity. If music and theatre is more of your thing then you most likely will find your niche in Concentration Dance, a program focused on the art of dance. If expanding your horizon and learning more about language and culture is a fascination of yours then Defimonde is the perfect program for you. Concentration Music and Art/Sport Elite is an interesting program that allows students to explore both the arts and sport.

College Sainte-Anne also differs from SMUS, because it doesn't have a ten-day school rotation like we do, but rather a seven day one. On days 5, 6, and 7, students get two hours after lunch of whichever program they have chosen to pursue.

If presented with the opportunity to experience the Quebec exchange, I would definitely encourage anyone interested in doing so to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

V-DAY HOROSCOPES

with **DR. LOVE**

Aries March 21st-April 19th. Rejoice! For this month you will form a loving relationship that will change your view on life entirely! I recommend you look for The One in unlikely places, maybe changing your daily routine in order to run into some unusual people. The relationship will not have completely solidified by Valentine's Day, but be patient, grasshopper –don't force it!

Taurus April 20th – May 20th. I don't know how to say this without causing you alarm, but I'm afraid your Valentine's Day will not go anywhere near as planned, much less as hoped. On the bright side, however, you are guaranteed that the rest of February will be virtually stress free.

Gemini May 21st – June 20th. Can you guess who wants to be your valentine this year? Here's a hint: he/she is either a Capricorn or a Libra. I don't recommend confronting them about their feelings though; there's a strong chance that they're especially protective of their heart!

Cancer June 21st – July 22nd. You're a tough one and you're usually secretive about your feelings, sometimes doubting whether there's any point in trying for that elusive valentine. But this is the year when you should step out of your shell! Even if you don't have someone particular in mind, being generous with compliments and roses will ensure romance.

Leo July 23rd – August 22nd. You already have some kind of a relationship with the guy/girl you're into, but, face it, you want something more. You don't want to drive him/her away, but it's time to step it up a little. So, you've got a big decision to make; should you look for love elsewhere or make a big move? Trust me, if you leave things the way they are now, V-Day will not have a fairytale ending.

Virgo August 23rd – September 22nd. This February your grades will really improve, due to your magnificent efforts or maybe sheer Valentine's Day luck! However, V-Day luck will not be around in the romance department. Tough!

Libra September 23rd – October 22nd. Aphrodite, the goddess of love, seems to be favoring you this month. In your forecast there is plenty of passion and even the possibility for true love, which commonly is considered very rare for Libras. Be careful where you place these cards of passion though, because, mid-February, embarrassment will always be one wrong move away. **(cont. on pg13)**

The Origin of Valentine's Day *By Riley Scott, in Detroit*

When we think of Valentine's Day, we think of a day to celebrate friends and loved ones. Cards and gifts –especially chocolate– are exchanged. Couples go out for a romantic evening, while single girls sit at home in front of the television watching sappy chick flicks and eating ice cream. Okay, so you get the picture: we're celebrating our relationships. But where did this holiday even come from? Who decided that on February 14th, we would send out cards and candy to loved ones? And where did the name "Valentine's Day" even come from?

The tradition of Valentine's Day is one of history's mysteries. Very little is known about St. Valentine and what his involvement in this holiday was. In one legend, it is believed that Valentine was a priest in Rome during the 3rd century. During this time, Rome's Emperor, Claudius II forbid young men from marrying; it was his belief that single men make better soldiers than their married counterparts. Valentine saw the unfairness of this and married people in secret. When what he was doing was discovered, Claudius ordered him to be put to death. Another story portrays Valentine's sentence as being for helping Christian prisoners escape from the cruel treatment they faced in Roman prisons.

A different legend explains the origin of the popular Valentine's card. Valentine himself may have sent the first "valentine." Valentine is thought to have fallen in love during his time in prison –possibly even with the jailor's daughter. It is believed that he wrote her a letter before his death, signing it "From your Valentine" and, for some reason, we use this expression today.

So that's St. Valentine. But what about the random date in February? For some, it is believed that the mid-February date is to pay tribute to Valentine's death or burial. For others, the idea is that the Christian church wished to neutralize the celebrations of the pagan **(cont. on pg 14)**

SMUS Sports Corner (cont. from pg10)

for the team from Duncan. The senior boys hope to bounce back with a solid performance at the upcoming Shawnigan-Brentwood "Countdown to the Playoffs" tournament.

Junior Boys Basketball

The junior boys started off Term Two by competing in the Vancouver College tournament. The team went 1-2 in the tournament,

up against some tough competition in the form of #1 ranked Vancouver College and another strong side in Burnaby South.

The team's one win in the tournament came against Kelowna, with Matt Rud putting up 10 points. The next week, the team competed in the ISA tournament at St. John's school. The team went 2-1 in this tournament, including a 70-48 victory over Southridge School from Surrey. The team's lone loss came at the hands of powerhouse St. George's and their 6'7" provincial team guard. Overall, the team was successful in the tournament, with team captain Matt Rud being named to the all-tournament team. After the tournament, the team rounded off their first few weeks of action with a game against Stelly's. The team handled the North Saanich team quite easily, with Abe Kharghani finishing with eight points and eight rebounds, and Matt Rud contributing thirteen points in a 66-32 shellacking against the Stingers. The team will be competing in the Claremont Invitational coming up, with their first game against Dover Bay.

Junior Girls Basketball

The junior girls were in Vancouver in the ISA tournament at York House to kick off the second half of their season. They started off the tournament against St. John's - and really, the score says it all - with a 77-3 win over the Vancouver side. They then faced off against Shawnigan, and cruised to a 43-15 win. However, a sloppy start in the semi-finals against Crofton House proved to be costly for the Blue Jags, as they fell 29-21 in a defensive struggle.

A third place finish was in sight for the girls, as they were able to hold Shawnigan to 29 points and finish off the tournament with bronze medals. The team then faced Stelly's and Spectrum in league play, coming away with wins in both games.

Senior Girls Basketball

The senior girls' team opened league play

against Edward Milne from Sooke. The girls proved to be too strong for the Sooke squad, with Abbey Piazza chipping in 15 points. The team then participated in the Police Tournament along with the Senior Boys. The team managed to squeak out a 60-58 win against GW Graham, with Allie White contributing 20 points. The team then faced Mt. Doug in

the semi-final. After a slow start, the team picked up the pace and pulled off a 45-34 win. This then set up the final against cross-town rival against Lambrick Park. Unfortunately, the team came up short against the Pride, losing 62-31 in the championship game. Sophia Ducharme led the team with 12 points in the loss. The team then had an actionless week, with their only game being cancelled due to the snow day; however, their next set of games are at the Belmont Invitational.

Overall, the basketball teams have had excellent results since the start of Term Two, and hopefully all of the teams will be able to hit their stride leading up to the playoffs and perhaps even the provincial championships.



The Desperate Dilemma of Syria (cont. from pg7)

Assad to turn over power.

The debate over Syria's future is set to shift over to New York in upcoming weeks, as the United Nations Security Council will be drafting a new resolution calling for an end to violence in the country and for democratic elections. As the debate begins, however, Russia holds the cards, and vows to veto any Security Council resolution that calls for either the use of force against Syria or that promotes attempts to end al-Assad's regime. While Russia has said that it is in talks with al-Assad in an attempt to persuade him of the futility of his crackdowns against citizens, their talk pales to the undeniable fact that Russia continues to ship arms to Mr. Assad's government, including a recent \$550 million contract for fighter planes. Russia defended their actions, saying that change in Syria could lead not only to a civil war, but also to even more violence and even terrorism, along

Horoscopes with Dr. Love (cont. from pg11)

Scorpio October 23rd – November 21st. You don't usually believe in horoscopes, especially those written by some kid laughing crazily at the misfortunes they believe you'll think are real. But, Honey, that's only because you always seem to draw the short straw when it comes to fortunes. This time it's your turn! Have faith in your instincts this month and go as far as your dreams! I can't explain further, but I promise you'll enjoy what this February has in store.

Sagittarius November 22nd – December 21st. Your Valentine's Day this year is gonna be sweet. Like, too sweet. Like gut-wrenchingly, tongue-witheringly sweet. This may mean you'll get sick of the love-sickness and twitterpation that's going around this time of year, an over-eager admirer will surface or you'll just overdose on chocolate. Late February though, there will be a cinnamon-like twist that may lead to a bright, passionate relationship.

Capricorn December 22nd – January 19th. Alas! This Valentine's Day you're doomed to be the matchmaker. Although the couples you set up and the relationships you fix will bring you great joy,

with mass movements of refugees into Azerbaijan and Russia. They maintain they support not Mr. Assad, but merely stability, and shrug off the fact that Syria continues to be a valued customer for Russia, handing over an average of \$700 million per year in exchange for various weaponry and petroleum products.

Concern has been raised over the mounting humanitarian crises that is occurring without sign of ceasing and the limited number of options open to the military community to take in response, especially considering the negative ramifications military intervention created in Libya's respective revolution, yet also over the apparent ineffectiveness of the diplomatic approaches. As casualties continue to mount, tensions continue to rise and options seem to be running out, the situation in Syria remains a dilemma in desperate need of a solution.

you're bound to be a little jealous. I can, however, say with a little authority that sometime around the 24th you may run into a little love of your own, even if it might not develop until next month.

Aquarius January 20th – February 19th. Although you may be wanting to search for that "Great Romance", I'd have to recommend to you that you focus on your relationships that are not romantic. Your closest friends may be seeming a little out of reach and the worst thing to do would be to deny it. Maybe make them a card or get them a little present on V-Day, just to let them know you still care. If you pay attention to this, that "Great Romance" may be one step closer, as The One really values their friends and family.

Pisces February 19th – March 20th. You are the only zodiac group that will be delving into the past this Valentine's Day, instead of moving forward. Resistance is futile; your history will not leave you alone. Re-trying an old relationship could be the best thing you've ever done, but maybe you're just meant to realize how wrong that past love was, so you can truly move on. Prepare yourself for the future, as Venus is due to shift in your direction.

V-DAY POEM WINNER: GABE LUNN

THE EGYPTIAN PLOVER (ALLIGATOR BIRD)

The first night we made love,
in the ruffled bed sheets of your nest,
a room closed off
from the Scotch stench of stained couches
we lost the feeling of chasing each other,
the single thing that made us animals.

We both knew your family was watching,
eyes peering through a keyhole at us
sprawled on the canvas of your mattress.
We had what they wanted,
their Kens and Barbies,
clothes stripped, hair tangled,
scattered across the carpet,
shifting and weaving together like
seahorses dancing.

In our heads, we are making love
far past eye contact and the laughter
of our worst hangover stories.
In our bodies, we think only of the other,
hands and lips brushing against necks,
 chests pressed against each other
weaving hair through palms.
When our bodies were too tired to stay awake,
we pulled the duvet up and closed our eyes,
keeping the warmth between us cocooned.

You would tell me
when the drapes had a golden glow to them,
you dreamt you were sprinting, but you couldn't
see your feet,
and you saw my arms paddling through water,
a group of silver minnows following me through
the stream,
surrounding me and laying their eggs in my hair.

You told me that love was a crocodile without ap-
petite,
stalking its prey without true purpose,
swimming away will only further the pain,
it will catch you, roll you,
and leave you deserted in bites and wounds.
Your eyes were shadowed circles, a four AM
symptom.

Dropping down to dewed grass
from your nest,
through the kitchen window, I could see your
brother
in front of a snowy television, smacking dinosaurs
together, mimicking their death,
and your father,
sitting in his lazyboy, reading,
folded jeans covering the stub of his left leg.

The Origin of Valentine's Day (cont. from pg11)

Lupercalia festival, celebrated in ancient Rome, and so set the date for Valentine's feast in the middle of February. Sometime around 498 A.D., Pope Gelasius set the date as February 14th. In the Middle Ages, the common belief in France and England was that this date marked the start of bird mating season –thus adding to the idea of a romantic holiday.

In the seventeenth cen-
tury, celebrating Valentine's Day

in Great Britain was very popu-
lar. People exchanged gifts and
handwritten notes, later evol-
ving into printed cards with the
improvement of
printing technology. This holiday prob-
ably came to North
America sometime
in the 1700s, evol-
ving into the holiday
we know today.

Very little is known about

how this holiday truly came to
be, but its mystery only adds
to its appeal. As to the differ-
ences between the celebrations in
Canada and the U.S., let's
just say I won't be receiving
Aero bars or going to Bos-
ton Pizza for a heart shaped
pizza. But, wherever you
may be, the idea's still the
same. Valentine's Day is a
time to celebrate our friends and
the relationships we've created.



Night in a Box

By Leanne Farmer

Break the Cycle is a group that was created this year, a spin-off of free the cycle dedicated to ameliorating the situation of local poverty.

Why would we give up the comfort of our beds to sleep outside on a wet and windy night in January? What were we trying to accomplish?

First of all, we wanted to raise awareness. Everyone knows there are people in Victoria who are forced to sleep on the street, but it's so easy to forget exactly what these people are going through downtown when the rest of us always have somewhere safe to go. We hoped that interrupting students' days would make them think about how lucky they are, just a little bit.

"Was it cold?" was always the first question asked the day after nine Break the Cycle girls and I slept on campus. I can't say I either slept soundly or that I spent the night tossing and shivering. There was a bit of both. I think it was sometime around one am that the wind picked up, filling my cardboard box with freezing air and, for half a second, I thought the box would fly backward. We had built our cardboard village in the nooks of Crothall, hoping to hide from the wind, but there was really no escaping it.

There was much incongruence between our situation and the situation downtown. For one, our clothes and sleeping bags were clean and dry and well suited to the temperatures. At no point were we at risk of being attacked or forcefully involved in any drug-related business. There was a large supply of hot chocolate and access to a clean, lit bathroom and running

water all night long. Nevertheless, I can't emphasize enough how important it was for me to feel the way that I did: disadvantaged.

We woke up early the next morning—just as those downtown would in order to avoid being kicked out of their sleeping area by shop owners and police—and moved our boxes into view of those unloading by the flag poles. Maybe you saw us—we were the ones seemingly overdressed for the relatively mild day and holding cardboard signs that read "we want change, not money."

And now, for you, comes the best part. Because there are ways you can help our cause, without giving an impersonal donation. The first is assisting with our initiative directly, by joining Break the Cycle and serving chili (bought with the funds gained from our service day) to the homeless of downtown Victoria on Sundays. The club also has other plans, such as a documentary on local poverty and a poverty panel, both with the goal of finding a long-term solution to poverty. We meet Thursdays at 7:15AM in the Lecture Theatre, it's early but what we accomplish is worth getting up for.

The second way you can help is to volunteer at the Mustard Seed food bank, cooking breakfast for those who would not otherwise eat on a Saturday morning. From firsthand experience, I can say this is an amazing opportunity to get the feel of what's actually happening on the streets, even if you only come once. If you are interested in volunteering at all, email me!

The Editorial

By Leanne Farmer

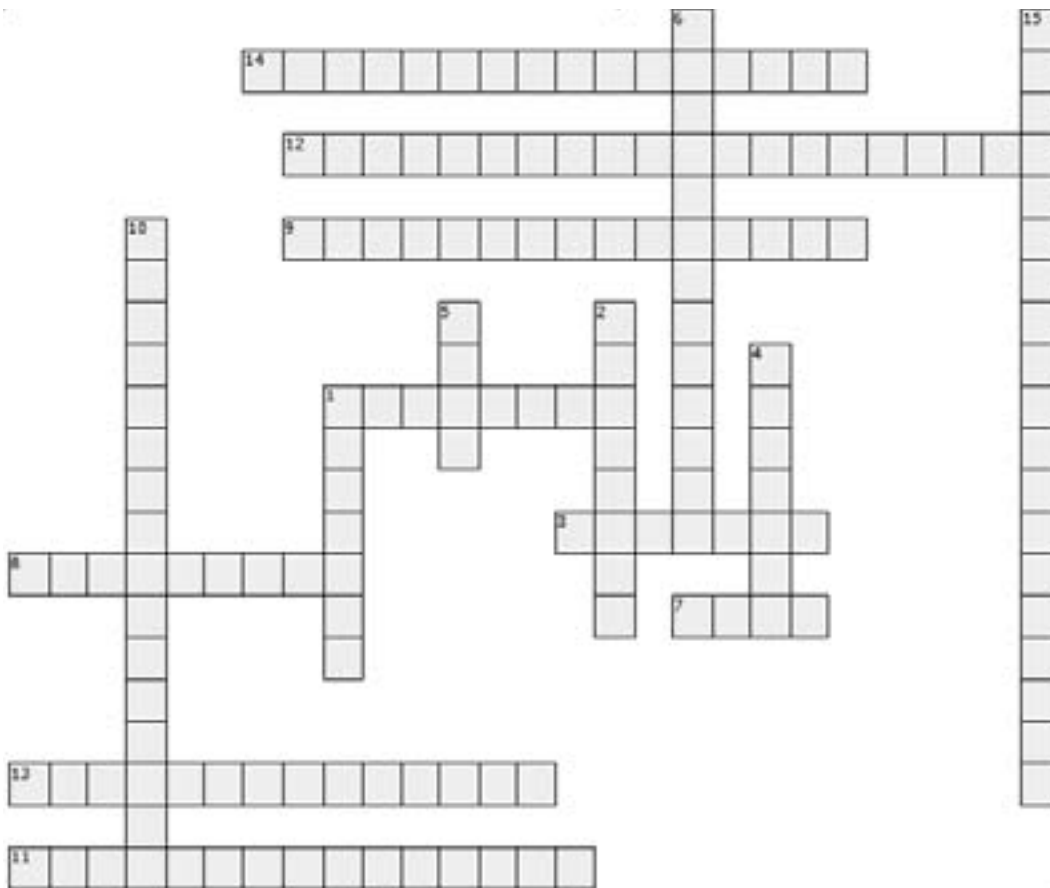
One of my favourite things about SMUS is the mood around the holidays. Even though Valentine's is not an official holiday—that is, a vacation from school—there are so many cool things going on, like the free hugs chapel. Upon writing this editorial the chapel hasn't actually happened yet, but I'm sure it will be amazing, as Ethel Kiggundu has been tirelessly trying to download "All You Need Is Love" for hours. Oh, Ethel.

And if you've been spending any time in the library this week, you know about the grade twelves' plans for Valentine's Day. Newcomers to SMUS be warned: if the senior grade gets their act together, there will be some first-rate dancing going down on Tuesday.

Last, but not least of course, is the V-Day edition of the Ivy. Since you're reading this, you've probably made your way through the articles already, but if you haven't, read it cover to cover. I believe this issue has the greatest density of writing talent of any that I've put together so far and the diversity of the topics is astonishing. That the Ivy team can produce articles ranging from fictional comedies about visiting Greek goddesses to informative and sobering accounts of human rights abuses in Syria is a thing worth admiration. But the largest congratulations go to the multitude of smaller articles that keep us up to date or entertained or filled with school spirit. That's what the Ivy is really constructed of.

"I Love You Like a Love Song" Crossword

Song titles of the lyrics, no spaces and no punctuation. Be the first to hand it in to Becca Clayton or Chiara Clemente to claim your prize!



Across:

1. It's a beautiful night, we're looking for something dumb to do
3. Hopeless, head over heels in the moment
7. You don't have to be beautiful to be my girl
8. We were both young when I first saw you
9. Times Square can't shine as bright as you
11. Love can touch us one time and last for a lifetime
12. The power you're supplying is electrifying
13. Tell me princess, now when did you last let your heart decide?
14. When you smile the whole world stops and stares for a while

Down:

1. You wear white and I'll wear out the words I love you
2. It's a little bit funny, this feeling inside
4. Nothing's gonna stop me but divine intervention
5. I will stand by you forever, you can take my breath away
6. Angels cheer because we're together
10. Nothing you can sing that can't be sung
15. I don't want to close my eyes, I don't want to fall asleep

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