

Carl BR Johnson's Journalism Portfolio



Enjoy!

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Weal staffers finalists in Community Newspaper competition



JAMES MACKENZIE PHOTO

Journalism students James MacKenzie and Emily Kreiberg celebrate being names finalists in the Canadian Community Newspaper Awards competition.

BY CARL B.R. JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

Two Weal staff members, Emily Kreiberg and James MacKenzie, are finalists in the Canadian Community Newspaper Awards competition. Kreiberg is in the running for the best campus feature story and MacKenzie for best campus photography.

Kreiberg's piece focuses on Calgarians Lisa and Bruce St. Pierre, and how they've dealt with the loss of their son, Jonathan, and his girlfriend Tiffany Cox, who both died in a house fire in Calgary in 2009.

When Kreiberg was alerted to her finalist position, she was ecstatic.

"The odds are so incredible," said Kreiberg. "The fact that I've made it this far is thrilling. I'm so happy to be in a potential

winning position."

Kreiberg said she was happy to be recognized for such a powerful story. "I truly believe that humanity is what it is because of the power of story."

MacKenzie's cover photo was of a test fire put on by the Calgary Fire Department in 2010 at P1 parking lot to demonstrate to students how fast a typical apartment could be destroyed by a fire.

"It kinda took me by surprise," said MacKenzie of his photo entry.

"Out of all the schools that were given consideration, my photograph from my college was chosen as a finalist. This whole experience has been real fun."

"It really gives all of us SAIT alumni something to brag about," he said.

OFFERING YOU A SEAT SINCE 1926

the WEAL

VOLUME 85 ISSUE 25 EVERY THURSDAY APRIL 7, 2011

C-Train safety not a concern for students

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

C-Train safety and security has recently been brought to the forefront of Calgary news, with recent deaths and safety incidents.

But even in the wake of recent events, safety on the C-Train is not often on the minds of SAIT's students and employees.

On Sept. 12, news circulated that four people had been hit and killed by C-Trains in the last two weeks.

This past March, a SAIT student witnessed a stabbing near the Victoria Park Stampede C-Train station.

Leo Knight, chief operations officer for Paladin security says Paladin, which handles campus security only, said Calgary Transit security would handle any situation that would occur on the C-Train platforms.

"We extend as far as the campus goes," said Knight.

"Calgary Transit has its own security force, and that is aug-

mented by the Calgary Police service."

Students and staff on campus had their own thoughts concerning C-Train security.

"I've never seen any members of Transit security, and I ride the train every day," said Mark Montgomery who works for SAIT's School of Construction.

Though he has never seen any security, he has also never witnessed any violence.

Megha Lotey, a student in the English Language Foundations course, said that she's "seen (Transit security officers) in almost every C-Train station, and on the trains themselves. I think the security Calgary Transit provides is perfectly fine."

Lotey said she hasn't witnessed any violence, but she has encountered an emergency situation. "I witnessed an older gentleman who had collapsed on the train and Transit security was there at the very next station to pick him up and take him to the hospital," said Lotey.

TAKING ON THE WORLD SINCE 1926

the WEAL

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE SAIT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 86 ISSUE 4 EVERY THURSDAY THEWEAL.COM SEPTEMBER 29, 2011

Run date September 29, 2011



Run date May 2011

Numbers Show Growth for Calgary Service Center

Set against the backdrop of Alberta and Canada's beautiful Rocky Mountains, the Calgary Customer Service Center (CSC) is Southwire's newest addition. The center - which opened for business last August and fills 100,000 square feet - positively contributes to the growing success of the company.

A native of the Philippines,

at any facility.

"I enjoy working with the diverse group of people at this location," Turbuck said. "I also like the fact that we're the second facility established in Canada."

Primary shipper Angie Icelton ensures all wire and cable orders leave the facility in perfect condition.

"Dealing with all the truck-

reels that come through the facility, employees have all that they need to complete their jobs to the highest standard.

Despite its low employee numbers, the Calgary facility managed to ship an impressive 1.56 million pounds of wire and cable in January - its highest monthly total thus far. The facility also made 219 cuts in a single month and has totaled



Paul Songco manages the Calgary CSC. He works with the other six employees to ensure the facility maintains a productive and safe environment.

Lorna Turbuck, one of two primary order pickers and a back-up shipper, says working with a wide variety of people is an important part of working

ing companies that Southwire has partnered with, I enjoy the camaraderie that comes with working with those that are in the transport industry," said Icelton.

From the high-tech radio frequency scanners used on a daily basis to the large forklifts used to move the 5,000 pound

only two Customer Service Now complaints (CSNs) for its operations.

"I enjoy the work atmosphere at Southwire," said Shayne Aho, primary wire cutter for the Calgary CSC. "We have a very good teamwork dynamic here allows us to accomplish our goals efficiently."

submitted draft

Calgary Facility Comes Into Its Own

Numbers are picking up for Canada's second CSC

by Carl BR Johnson

Contributing Writer for Inside Southwire

Set against the backdrop of Alberta, Canada's beautiful Rocky Mountains, the Calgary CSC is Southwire's newest addition to the Southwire family. The first few employees started work on August 3, 2010 at the Calgary site and today with just seven employees, this little 100,000 square foot facility has managed to contribute in a big way to the growing success of the Southwire empire.

Currently at the helm of the good ship Calgary is Paul Songco, a native of the Philippines and born in Manila, he arrived in Canada and indeed Calgary in 1998.

When asked about his favourite thing about working at Southwire, Songco had this to say, "Everyone here is new and fresh in the job, people who have been in their jobs too long are not as easy to work with in my position."

Teena Hopman, originated in Edmonton, Alberta, and the young lady who first greets all who enter the Calgary CSC, says she would be the first one to say that learning new things is a most enjoyable experience.

"The adventure of learning and sharing knowledge about Southwire's processes is of great interest to me, and professionally satisfying." Hopman explains.

Lorna Turbuck, hailing from Langley, British Columbia, is one of two primary order pickers at Southwire, and a back-up shipper, who commented that working with a wide variety of people is an important part of working at any facility.

"I enjoy working with the diverse group of people here, they're from all walks of life," Turbuck said. "I also like the fact that we're the second facility established in Canada."

Angie Icton, originally from High River, Alberta, is the Calgary CSC's primary shipper, as she sees all of the customer wire and cable orders leave the facility in picture perfect condition.

As Icton has contact with many different trucking companies, she had this to say, "Dealing with all the trucking companies that Southwire has partnered with, I enjoy the camaraderie that comes with working with those that are in the transport industry."

Brian Walker, from Flin Flon, Manitoba, has probably seen more of Canada than anyone else at this site, as he has lived in more than two dozen cities in four provinces and one territory. He is also the primary receiver at the Calgary Site as well as a back-up order picker.

When asked about his appeal to continue working at Southwire, he commented, "I enjoy driving a state-of-the-art forklift and the hours are really great because they fit perfectly with my personal life."

Going down the roster, we have Shayne Aho, coming from North Delta, British Columbia, he found his way to Calgary after a lack of opportunities in his home town. Aho is the primary wire and cable cutter as he uses the Reel-o-Matic Cutting machine on a daily basis to procure tailor-made wire and cable lengths for customer orders.

"I enjoy the laid back atmosphere at Southwire," said Aho. "We have a very good team work dynamic here that allows us to accomplish many things efficiently."

Working at Southwire has been an enjoyable experience for all Southwire employees, as they enjoy utilizing the many different types of machinery that they have at their disposal. From the high tech Radio Frequency Scanners that they use on a daily basis, to the large forklifts they use to move the 5,000+ pound reels that come and go in their facility, they have all that they need to complete their jobs.

Some interesting facts about the Calgary CSC would be that despite its low employee numbers, this facility has managed to ship out an impressive 1,555,970 lbs of wire and cable in January of this year; its highest recorded month in its short history. Also to add, would be 219 cuts in a single month thanks primarily to Shayne Aho.

Equally as impressive is that in all the months that this facility has been in operation, it has totaled only 2 CSN's for its operations.

Deaner brings his band and balls to the Gate

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

On Oct. 28, Fubar's Deaner will invade the Gateway, bringing with him the band, Nightseeker which first sprung to life in the most recent installment of the cult-followed mockumentary films.

Nightseeker's sound is definitely their own but Dean "The Deaner" Murdoch (actor Paul Spence), lead singer, has a somewhat similar vocal likeness to Stephenwolf. So far, the tour has gone well and Deaner is excited about passing through their hometown.

"Our show last night in Vancouver was awesome. We had these three peelers come up on stage and they were streaking everywhere and gave the crowd a good show. This will be Nightseeker's first show in Calgary as a band, so it's gonna be awesome," said Deaner.

Judging by the tour itinerary, so far, they've definitely shown favour to Alberta. Nightseeker plans to stop in 11 cities and small towns in Alberta alone.

"A lot of people in a lot of towns wanted to see us so we basically said if you guys want us to come, we'll go wherever you want. The people of Alberta gave us a lot of feedback and the response we got was awesome," said Deaner.

"This is gonna have a beginning, a middle and an end; it's like an apex. It'll be like a triangle of power," said Deaner.

True to his roots and his own life experiences, Deaner stressed that SAIT trades

"NIGHTSEEKER'S SOUND IS A FUSION OF DIRTY ROCK AND HEAVY METAL."

- MARC THUSUSKA, SAITSA

students will likely find this music appealing.

"This is tradespeople music, man. I've done a lot of that kind of work, ya know. I've been a welder, I've done small engine repair. Well, I didn't really repair them, I mostly destroyed them."

Marc Thususka, SAITSA events and programming manager, says that he's "super excited" to see Fubar's Nightseeker make their debut at The Gateway.

"Nightseeker's sound is kind of like a fusion of dirty rock 'n' roll and heavy metal," says Thususka. "This sound will definitely appeal to a lot of people here and Calgary is where Nightseeker is based."

Thususka said Deaner will also be doing a live commentary about the movie, Fubar: Balls To The Walls, that was loosely based on the band's exploits.

"I wanna show people my favourite parts and I think everyone will love the movie," said Deaner. "When I watch the movie now, I totally don't remember doing any of that stuff like burning down houses. But now when I see the movie, I think I remember that stuff. The brain is a very strange place."

Monster Truck opens for Nightseeker on Oct. 28 at the Gate.

EVERY THURSDAY THEWEAL.COM

OCTOBER 20, 2011

SMOKING, DRINKING, AND CUSSING SINCE 1926

the **WEAL**

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE SAIT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

VICES

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Bye bye landlines, hello smart phones

Students abandon home phones in favour of multi-tasking smart phones

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

Recent surveys conducted by Ipsos-Reid suggest most young people don't have a landline, or use it rarely and have adopted smart phones almost exclusively.

Most young people use their smart phone for non-voice related tasks like texting, app usage and games.

Ashleigh Williams, a student in the academic upgrading program, said texting on her smart phone has been a huge part of her life.

"I've sent around 4,000 text messages a month, it's been a really important way for me to connect with friends and family," said Williams.

Bill Makson, a Business Administration student, said surfing the internet and playing games takes up most of his

smart phone time.

"You can play poker online for as long as you want to and I like using Gas Buddy, it tells you where the best gas prices are in Calgary," said Makson.

Landline usage is now mostly used for calling long distance as phone companies have created plans catering to land lines.

"I only use my land line for calling long distance to my parents as I live with my aunt and uncle...while I'm at SAIT," said Williams.

"I only use my land line for calling long distance, but I'm thinking of abandoning it altogether in favour of my smart phone," said Makson.

Dawn Johnston, a pop culture expert who teaches Communications and Culture at the University of Calgary, says the younger generation has driven the popularity of smart phones.

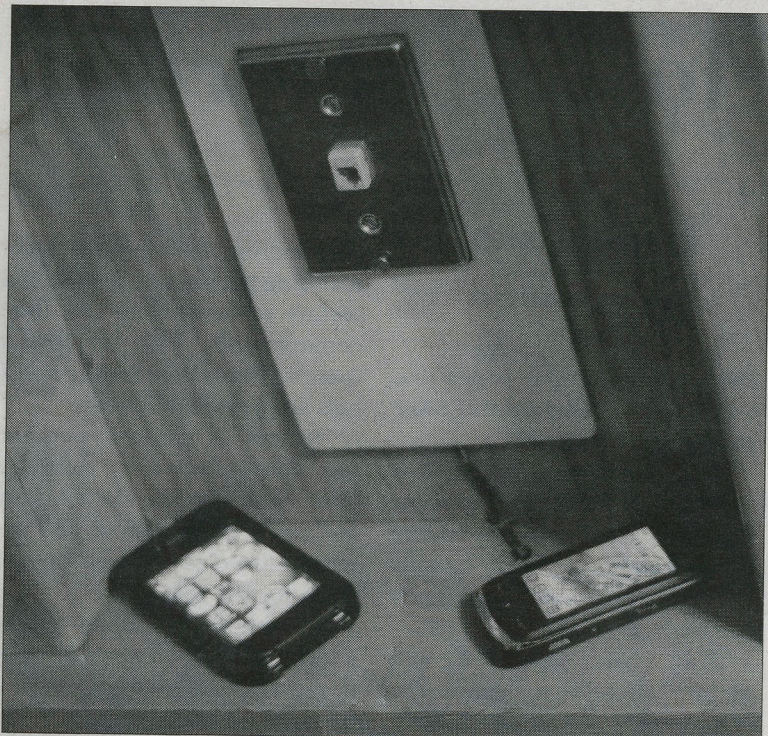
"I look at my students now,

and we're looking at an entire generation that has grown up with a computer in the house and who e-mail and text on a regular basis. Smart phones provide an immediacy of contact that we all now thrive upon," said Johnston.

The days of society using landlines are definitely numbered as Johnston says they are simply an outdated technology, one society can afford to remove as a technological redundancy.

"Landlines have been abandoned purely as a cost measure for tough economic times," she said.

"Landlines only provide voice usage, which is the least frequently used technology that phones in general can provide. So why would I want that when my smart phone can do that also, as well as everything else that a smart phone can do?"



NICOLE SANTERRE PHOTO

"Landlines have been abandoned purely as a cost measure for tough economic times," said Dawn Johnston. A recent study found young people don't use landlines, and have adopted smart phones almost exclusively.

HOLDING THE SMOKING GUN SINCE 1926

the WEAL

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the LAST WORD

Letters to the Editor

www.theweal.com

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OPINIONS, LETTERS AND COMMENTS

OPINION

Alberta up in smoke

Alberta likes to be first in everything: first in the economy, first in oil production, and first in hockey team performance... OK that last one is debatable. But now, we're first in smoking.

Health Canada's studies show smoking across Canada has decreased across the board amongst all age groups, but Alberta is bucking that trend. This new trend scares me and it should scare you.

I used to be a smoker. When I quit smoking, it was such a relief to be rid of a habit. But I did have a little help in the form of The Fear.

It gave me the personal will-power to quit. In January 2010, at 34 years old, I experienced a Myocardial Infarction, also known as a heart attack.

Let me impress upon you the reality of The Fear.

It's not just what may happen to you years down the road, it's what could happen to you sooner than you may think. Every time you smoke, you are taking an incredible and a quantifiable risk to your health that is not worth taking.

When a heart attack hits, it's like a nuclear bomb goes off inside your mind. It completely upsets all feelings of personal security and confidence in one's health. It destroys the

feeling of invulnerability that most young men have at that age and replaces that feeling with The Fear: the fear of another heart attack, the fear of more serious injury, the fear of not waking up.

It was a curious sensation, not like anything I could have imagined.

I can only compare it to

someone pushing his or her thumb outward from the inside and upper part of my chest, close to my throat. This imaginary thumb also felt as if it was heated to about a thousand degrees Celsius, creating an immediate pressure and heat sensation all at once.

But, it didn't just happen once. It came with every pulse

of my heart beat.

Relief finally came when I was given a single shot of Nitroglycerin underneath my tongue.

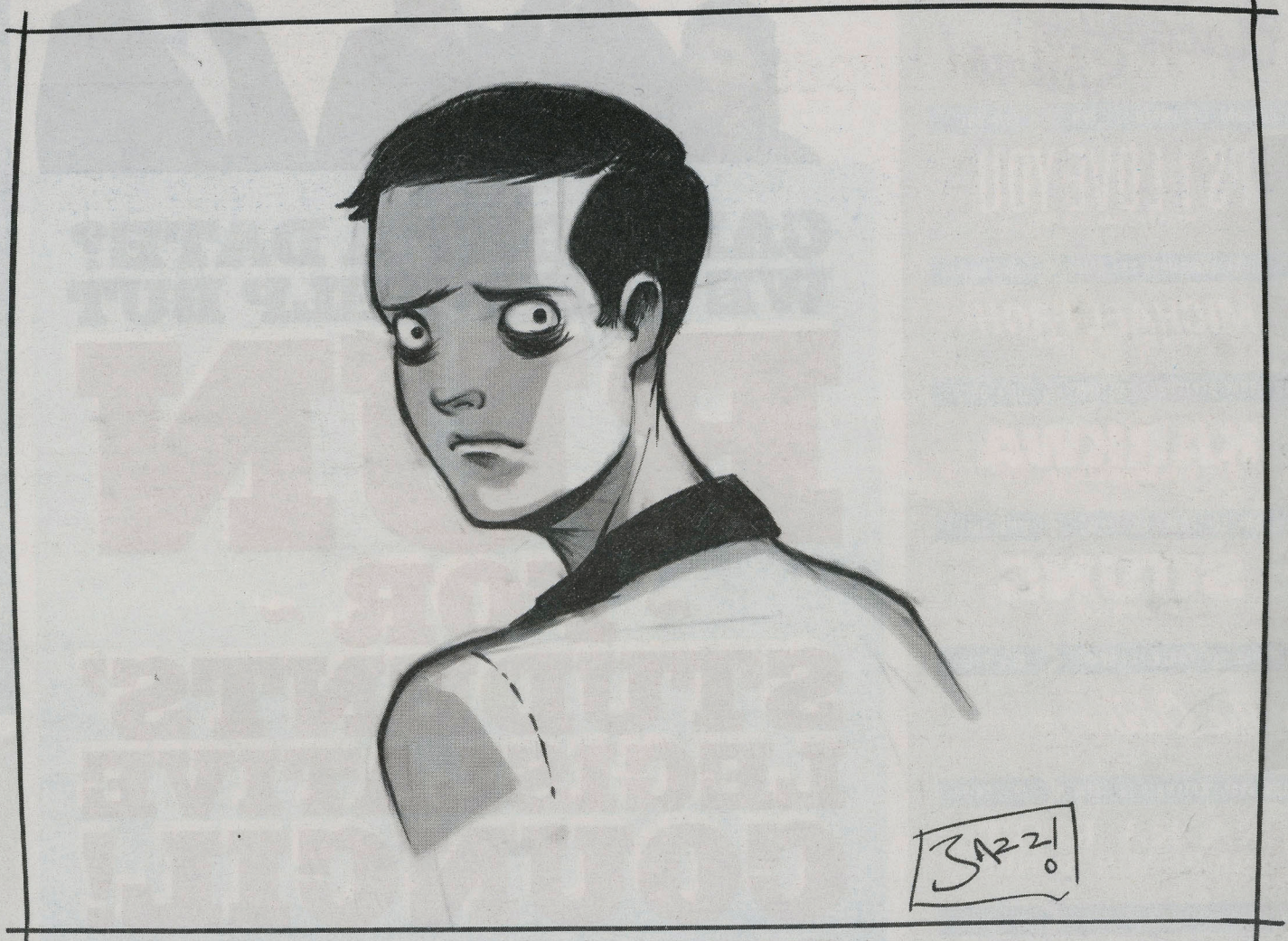
I now carry a little canister of Nitroglycerin with me everywhere I go in case I experience chest pain. I will also take blood thinners every single day for the rest of my life.

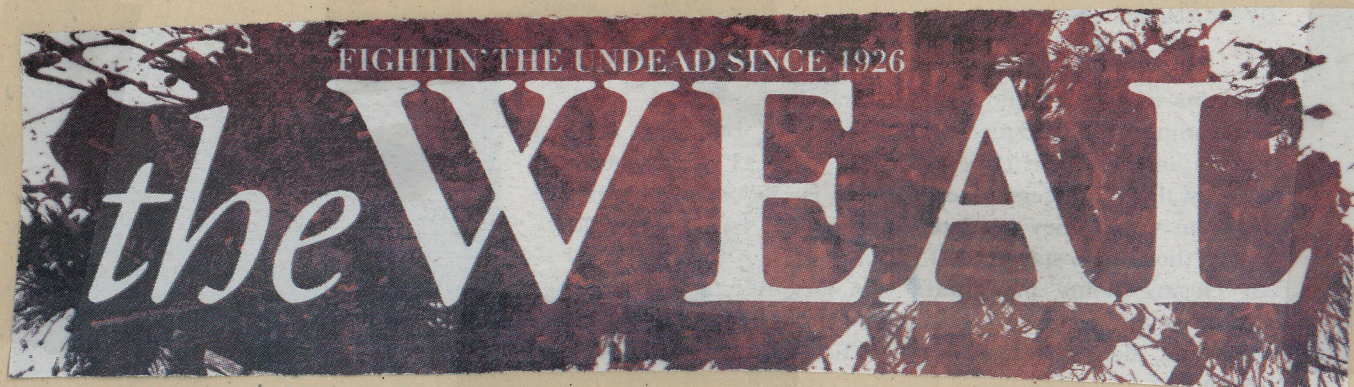
Smoking will kill you. You may also take others with you, thanks to the second hand smoke you will generate.

Take it from me, smoking may be seductive, but it's also detrimental, and certainly destructive.

Quit now before it victimizes you too.

—by Carl BR Johnson





Getting your head out of the cloud

Run date October 27, 2011

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

Cloud technology is much like a mysterious rock star emerging on the scene. Not everyone knows the latest details about him or her, but everyone wants to.

Simply put, a "cloud" is a digital term that refers to an online storage medium users can access from anywhere in the world through a WiFi or 3G/4G connection common to portable devices. Pictures, MP3s, eBooks, and video – anything your heart desires, really – can be stored online through a secure access port.

In recent years, the technology has become increasingly popular, even though you may not know you've been using it.

The hugely popular YouTube is considered a cloud service but only accommodates video files. The limit for video file sizes recently increased from 10 minutes to 15 minutes and is free of charge. Apple's iCloud system offers five gigabytes of storage for virtually any type of file and is aimed at bringing Cloud storage to the masses. This service comes free with the new iOS5 operating system and the storage capacity can be upgraded for a small fee. It works with almost any file type.

Despite the pressure to jump on this latest technological bandwagon, SAIT student Angelina Kelly says security comes to mind first. Kelly, a Business Administration student, said she's concerned about privacy risks. "I've been the victim of

identity theft and the thought of storing pictures of myself online kinda scares me," she said. Flickr, perhaps the most popular Cloud technology for pictures, allows users to upload 300 megabytes worth of photos and two videos every month.

This free account can be upgraded for unlimited usage for only \$24.95 a year with few restrictions.

Kurt Mitchell, a student in the Bachelor of Applied Technology Information Systems program, agrees security is a major issue and said anything stored online is inherently insecure. "Compared to storing your stuff on your PC, an online service would definitely be more risky. You never know who has access to it on the other end. On the other hand, information stored on a cloud

service wouldn't be lost as easily compared to only storing that same data on your laptop," he said. Jim Catley, SAIT's academic chair for Information Technology, said cloud services can be beneficial for instructors.

"It's not uncommon for instructors to wish for more portability for their digital assets. A cloud service would grant more versatility in accessing those assets wherever and whenever we wanted," said Catley.

"Accessing our digital assets on a cloud when we're away at a conference or a speaking engagement is really convenient. Even just in and around SAIT, it is typical for instructors to leave their office computer alone and simply haul around a laptop," said Catley.

Catley said the company pro-

viding the cloud service should be liable for lost data if you're paying for that service. But he advises buyer beware of the free ones. Without money exchanged, there is no guarantee of data integrity. Users should make decisions with the importance of the data to be stored in mind.

"Security would depend on the agreements, terms and conditions that the client is getting into with the cloud service, paid or free."

"If I was a bank and I had my employees' payroll data to store, I wouldn't trust a free consumer service like iCloud. I would use a more robust, enterprise level service off-premises. I would pay money for one of the big name clouds and I would expect nine levels of security for that data," said Catley.

Video games can be the ultimate mood changer

Run date November 10, 2011

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

A recent study suggests playing video games can affect mood, a result that might have repercussions for many students that enjoy gaming.

Students on SAIT's campus had a great deal to divulge on computer games and their responses favoured outright celibacy as well as a more discretionary approach to computer games.

The Social Psychological and Personality Science Journal published a study in June this year that showed some computer games can make players less aggressive.

The 150 Ohio State University students who participated in the study played one of

three games with their emotional responses measured afterward. The students were given either a relaxing game, Endless Ocean, a neutral game, Super Mario Galaxy or a violent game, Resident Evil 4.

After the students played the violent, neutral, or relaxing game they completed a questionnaire that measured their moods. Students who played the relaxing game were found to be kinder and less aggressive than the students in the neutral and violent groups. In the mood measurement, people who played the relaxing game rated themselves as feeling more happiness, love, joy and related positive emotions than those who played the violent game.

The results might help to dispel some perceptions that all games encourage violence.

Game critics, such as disbarred Florida lawyer Jack Thompson, have stressed the negative emotional aspects of gaming, leaving many to see all games in this light.

"People like Thompson definitely play an important role in society, crusaders like him awaken public interest and get people to speak out against violence," said SAIT Dean of Information & Communications Technologies Rand Ayres. "People definitely seem to be more violent than they were 50 or 60 years ago."

Ayres said that games could also be a cause for concern when played too much.

"When a student starts play-

ing computer games to the exclusion of other responsibilities such as his or her studies at SAIT, then computer games will turn into an obsession," said Ayres.

SAIT business administration student Jacqueline Elliot said games are an unnecessary distraction.

"I don't play computer games at all," said Elliot. "Now that I'm at SAIT, they would just take me away from my studies."

Petroleum engineering student David Rathgeber is an avid gamer with multiple gaming systems and disagreed that games have no place in the life of a post-secondary student.

"I don't think computer games are altogether bad,"

said Rathgeber. "They can be quite a distraction but as long as you allot your time appropriately to your studies then you should be okay."

So why do people act differently after playing certain games? The technology that has created these elaborate gaming environments today has also created a powerful, and measurable emotional effect on the human psyche. Gaming has come a long way since the days of Pong.

Many real life situations are displayed on our gaming screens and those situations cause actual emotional manifestations within us. The realism is so articulate that you feel like you can relate to the wartime experiences of a Navy SEAL.

Roundate December 8, 2011

SAIT's proud family legacy

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

Attending SAIT has become a legacy for a small collection of families, instilling a sense of pride over several generations.

The Fehrs are a third-generation SAIT family and proud to have attended. SAIT sheet metal working instructor Jim Fehr said his father John and son Chris, both have SAIT in their blood.

The legacy began after John Fehr received his sheet metal journeyman ticket from SAIT.

"I would hang around the shop [my father] worked at after and I was always amazed at what he could do," said Jim Fehr. "My son all of a sudden wanted to get into sheet metal too and I didn't have to say a word."

The youngest Fehr graduated from SAIT last May.

Fehr said he would encourage all families to come and learn at SAIT because the instructors, "Give 150 per cent."

Fehr is such an instructor. "Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, [my students] can text me and I usually get back to all of them within a few hours," said Fehr.

Another SAIT family is on their way to bringing

their fourth-generation to the school.

Architectural technologies alumnus Keri Himmelreich followed the trail to SAIT left by his father Brian Himmelreich, a civil engineer graduate and his grandfather Elmo Himmelreich, a gasfitter apprentice.

Himmelreich said he would encourage his own children to come to SAIT.

"I have a strong admiration for the trades program," said Himmelreich.

Himmelreich is the SAIT TTC building campus expansion project manager.

"It was great for me to be able to participate in the school I went to and give something back," he said.

Himmelreich said alumni need to be proud of their learning institution and to, "think about the huge benefits that a proper education will give you."

"When you have that pride in what you're doing at school it will encourage your family members to look at the world a little differently and they will follow your example," said Himmelreich.

SAIT alumni and development director Brian Bowman said when a parent shows pride and passion for the SAIT



Jim Fehr, standing in the sheet metal shop of the DC building at SAIT, is a SAIT instructor. Both Fehr's father and son are SAIT grads. CARL BR JOHNSON PHOTO

program they're in, "their children will notice."

Bowman said in an e-mail interview that when families decide to attend SAIT it creates a source of pride not only for the institution but for the family.

"What greater tribute could be paid to SAIT", its faculty

and our alumni, than to have several generations of a family attend SAIT?" said Bowman.

"We are proud of all our graduates, and our alumni family is well over 155,000—and many of these are family members who have attended SAIT and built successful ca-

reers," said Bowman.

The appeal of SAIT has spanned many generations and according to studyincanada.com, SAIT has an employment success rate of 95 per cent. It's little wonder why so many family legacies have been created at SAIT.

the WEAL

SHOVELIN WALKS SINCE 1926

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE SAIT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

EVERY THURSDAY THEWEAL.COM

DECEMBER 8, 2011

SAD and stress: the hidden cost of

the winter season

Roundate December 8, 2011
BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

The winter season is just around the corner and SAIT students are feeling the pressure.

This stress sometimes manifests as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a psychological condition SAIT students may experience.

SAD is a form of mental depression that can begin as early as your teens. People who live in northern areas with long winters are at greater risk due to the decreased amount of sunlight. A lack of sunshine causes a vitamin D deficiency in the human body which can lead to SAD. Other factors contributing are dramatic fluctuations in body temperature, genes, and hormones.

Petroleum engineering technology student Kathryn Thiesen said she has always struggled with SAD because the lack of outside light makes it hard for her to get out of bed in the morning.

"Living in Canada makes dealing with SAD harder for me because Canada's winters are so long," said Thiesen. "There are more that just internal factors that can contribute to student writer stress."

Business administration student Jun-Lin Yang said because he is a student he is aware of his budgetary limitations and always worries about getting the perfect gift for his friends and family during the Christmas season.

"I want to be able to make my friends and family happy by buying the best gift I can for them," said Yang. "Being a student with no income makes it really hard though."

Every student experiences holiday stress differently and both Yang and Thiesen have

different coping mechanisms.

"I deal with holiday stress by eating a huge amount of chocolate," said Yang.

"If I were working I would take a holiday in Mexico to help me deal," said Thiesen. "Now that I'm a student, I don't have the money anymore so I just drink a lot of coffee."

Registered Calgary psychologist Michael Haggstrom

LIVING IN CANADA MAKES DEALING WITH SAD HARDER FOR ME BECAUSE CANADA'S WINTERS ARE SO LONG.
- KATHRYN THIESSEN,
SAIT STUDENT

has over 20 years counselling experience and said that holiday stress is a serious problem.

"December is my busiest month for counselling because of the holidays," said Haggstrom. "Holiday stress is primarily caused by debt and it's a huge issue for students. November to February can be the worst time because of the financial burden that giving creates."

Haggstrom said the best way to deal with holiday stress and SAD is to organize a day of fun.

"Some students' lives get far too serious when they're doing their studies," said Haggstrom. "Play a video game, be goofy and crazy and let loose but whatever you do, do it in a community because that's when we as people gain the most happiness."

SAIT students must make sure their studies don't completely overtake their lives and it's important to maintain sound mental fitness by including all the joys that life has to offer.

Run date
December 1, 2011

From me to you, the joy of giving

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

With the holiday season approaching, a spirit of charity is descending on the minds of Canadians and there are many ways to translate that into helping others.

United Way Calgary president Ruth Ramsden-Wood didn't mince words about the need to help vulnerable youth in Alberta and in the city.

"We have a job to do. We have 9000 kids in Alberta dropping out of school, 3000 of them in Calgary," said Ramsden-Wood. "It only takes one friend, one supportive



United Way president Ruth Ramsden-Wood urges Calgaryans to help out this holiday season.

JOANNA KOSTANECKI PHOTO

person, one loving person to turn somebody around."

Convincing student-loan-stricken SAIT students to donate money might be a hard sell but former mayoral candidate and CTV anchor Barb Higgins said the United Way accepts several different forms of giving that anyone can qualify for.

"There are three ways you can donate; time, talent and treasure," said Higgins.

"You can organize a Day of Caring with the United Way to help paint a room for someone, that's your time and talent. The treasure is of course whatever you can give financially."

Higgins, a recipient of UNICEF's National Award for Volunteerism in 2007 and currently a United Way Calgary board member, spoke Nov. 22 at a United Way news conference for the benefit of vulnerable youth in Calgary.

The United Way is an international aid organization whose mission is, "To improve lives and build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action," according to the United Way's website.

Higgins stressed the growing need for a charitable spirit for the benefit of Calgary's youth.

Kendra Goncz attended the news conference as someone who has benefitted from the youth outreach program. Goncz hopes to enroll in SAIT's business administration program.

"This program has done so much for me, United Way and outreach came in to help out with the rent and buying bus passes," said Goncz. "Thanks to them, I've been able to upgrade my high school so that I can attend SAIT."

Ramsden-Wood said a SAIT students' investment in another human being is the most important contribution they can give.

"Be a mentor, be a big brother or big sister," said Ramsden-Wood. "It's not all about the money, everybody needs to be building up somebody else, not tearing them down."

Many SAIT students who want to give but don't know how.

"The Salvation Army is my favourite charity, if they had a cash box on campus, I would drop some money," said business administration student Marco Valderrama.

This holiday season, think about some of the ways that you can help out and direct your giving to places that need it.

FIVE EASY WAYS TO DONATE

1. Donating online, go to your favourite charities' websites. Almost all have an online donating option.
2. Convenience store charitable cash drop boxes.
3. In-person at the SAITSA office to donate to SAIT's family campaign.
4. Organize a "Day of Caring" with the United Way.
5. Bottle drives for your favourite charities.



Run date
December 1, 2011

Tiptoeing around internet copyright monster

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

If it was up to certain law makers, the wild west frontier of the internet would be a thing of the past.

Multiple proposals are currently in the US House and Senate that aim to stem internet piracy. While both the "Stop Online Piracy Act" and the "Protect IP" bill have received major attention over the past few months, another bill attempting to change legislation online is also meeting with opposition.

On May 12, 2011, three US senators proposed the "Commercial Felony Streaming Act", aka Bill S.978, in the US Senate,

where it currently awaits final approval.

The bill would make unauthorized streaming of copyrighted material, defined as streaming ten or more times in a 180 day period, a felony. Sites like Youtube currently host a lot of this content in the form of video game walkthroughs, music videos and movie clips.

The bill's open-ended political language would give the US government broad and undefined powers to "protect" copyrighted material that is streamed online.

The real problem is that this bill lacks specific language regarding the usage of government power and limits. To enforce the bill, interpretation

under the law becomes ambiguous at best. Looking at content aggregate sites under this lens will reshape the web as we know it.

This whole thing screams of internet censorship.

This bill is going to hit Youtube.com like a freight train hauling a fleet of 747s.

This bill, in essence, would obliterate Youtube's idea of community freedom.

Posting or hosting any copyrighted material can be punished with up to five years of imprisonment. The offence is currently a misdemeanour.

The bill would also impact Facebook's ability to link content to a user's wall. If linked with copyrighted material, such

as certain YouTube videos, that user could be subject to imprisonment.

The "free-harbour" protection granted to sites in the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act that removed responsibility for user uploaded content no longer applies. With a mix of proposed legislation making hosts and users more likely to be charged for content, restriction online will no doubt increase.

Now you're probably thinking, "That's the US, how does Canada fit into this?"

When was the last time you used Facebook or Youtube? If you're like me, sometime in the last five minutes.

Like the old saying goes, "When America sneezes, Can-

ada catches a cold."

Under pressure from lobbyists the conservative government re-tabled bill C-11, the "Copyright Modernization Act." Under the proposal, digital locks on material will trump any personal rights in regard to the material.

If Bill S.978 is put in place, it will only be a matter of time before Canada has a version.

When we have to tiptoe around copyright laws, we need to start worrying about our rights to the internet.

The internet is the world's primary vehicle to free speech and this bill opens the door for government to step in and extend its powers to control free speech as we know it.

CHERRY POPPIN' FUN SINCE 1926

the WEAL

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE SAIT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANDREW CROSSETT PHOTO
ILLUSTRATION

VOLUME 86 ISSUE 14

EVERY THURSDAY THEWEAL.COM

JANUARY 12, 2012

Sex sells everything, including video games

Reupdate Jan. 12/2012

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

Sex has been used to sell virtually everything, including video games.

But if the sexual content of a recent video game was taken out completely, would it still sell as well?

While no one can answer that question with absolute certainty, studios like Edmonton-based Bioware, certainly seem to think that sex sells. Certain aspects of the marketing campaign for the hotly-anticipated Mass Effect 3 have capitalized on an increased variety of sexual content.

"ME3 supports wider options for love interests including same-sex for male and female characters," confirmed the game's executive producer Casey Hudson via Twitter.

SAIT students had reactions varying from conditional acceptance to outright disgust, not the resounding praise that most video game companies could hope for.

Zacary Cline, a student in the Broadcast Systems Technology program, said video game companies can sometimes over-do it when using sex to sell a video game. "If sex in a video game is used for character development then I'm all for it," said Cline. "But if sex is shoved in all over the place ... then it's not a game anymore, it's an interactive porno."

Shelby Peterson, who is studying Administrative Information Management, said sex is used to, "get more profit."

She also said video games

with sex in them tip the scales in terms of fairness and equality because, in her opinion, women don't reap the same benefits as men do. "I feel like guys are playing these video games with lurid sex in them simply for pleasure and for the sake of sex," said Peterson. "It's not fair because girls don't get as much pleasure from playing video games with sex in them as guys do."

Calgary registered sex therapist Sheldon Walker said that he worries a lot about the desensitization of sex and sexual content in video games. He said this form of entertainment, especially in today's market, "Is all about orgasm and not enough about foreplay and tenderness. All of the nuances that flirtation and titillation have to offer are all going out the window in video games today," said Walker. "Suggestive sex has been trampled upon and explicit sex has taken over as the primary message to today's youth."

Sexual content in video games sold in the U.S.A., Canada and Mexico is governed by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB), a regulatory body that was established in 1994. This is a non-profit, self-regulatory body that was designed to rate and regulate violent and sexual imagery in virtually every video game sold in North America.

The ESRB doesn't have the authority to enforce its rating system at the retail level. However, most video game outlets in Canada do enforce the ESRB's rules and don't sell adult-rated video games to minors.

CES shows off future alternatives to hefty laptops

Rundate Jan. 19, 2012

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) is now in full swing in Las Vegas and with it comes a wave of new products for students to look forward to.

SAIT students on campus expressed a desire to attend the CES and see emerging technologies like Ultrabooks and how they could take advantage of them to benefit their daily lives.

James Hill, who is studying Broadcast Systems Technology, said, "The CES has many technologies that could ease the stress in your life."

"I really like the CES, I like technology, I'm really into my technology," said Graham.

"It would be nice to see the CES turn into more of a visual show and to make it more of an entertaining spectacle."

Just one of the products showcasing technologies such as this is the Ultrabook.

An Ultrabook is a direct upgrade to the traditional-style laptop but it's made to be the size and weight of a tablet without sacrificing any power or functionality in the process. At 1.4 kilograms and 20 millimeters thickness, you won't have

to bring the back brace along with you.

Shawn Abbot, a partner in venture capitalist firm iNovia Capital, and a patent holder on the now popular USB keys and who has held general management roles in 15 technology start-up companies, has been going to the CES for several years.

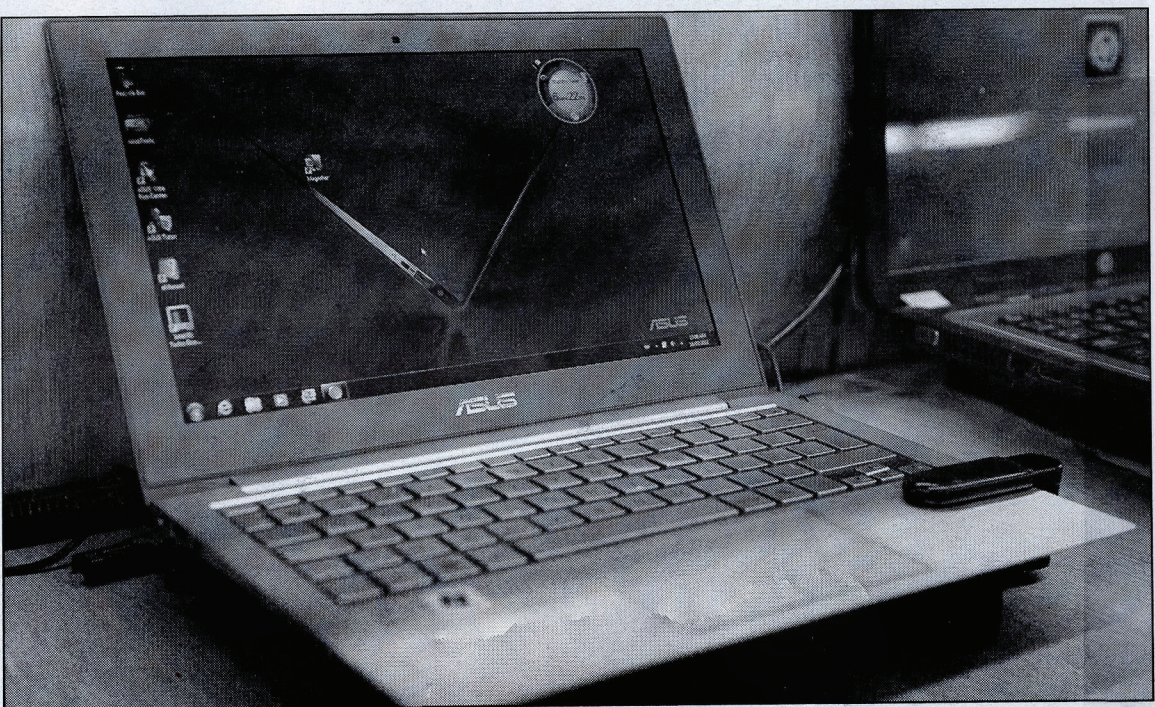
He said in a phone call from Las Vegas while in attendance at the CES that, "Intel has pushed very hard to promote the Ultrabook at the CES."

"Last year everyone had a (Apple) tablet, and those seem to be mostly gone now and the new thing now is the Ultrabook," said Abbot.

"The Ultrabook is where most of the innovation is now and it looks to be a very exciting time to see this technology emerge and I hope it fully develops into something that everyone can use and get excited about."

"I don't know too much about technology in general but I wouldn't mind going to the CES to see a better version of our SAIT laptops," said LaToya Graham, a student in the Architectural Technologies program.

"They're just too heavy and



The 11.6-inch Asus Ultrabook weighs less than two and a half pounds, and retails for about \$1000 at Staples - that's 15 per cent less than the MacBook Air's base model. JESSICA BURTNICK PHOTO

cumbersome to carry around."

Garrett Larson, who is in the Film and Video Production program said that, "The touchscreen technology will be pretty sweet on those new Ultrabooks."

He also added that in his par-

ticular program, he needs a more robust computing machine. Video editing demands an unusually large amount of hard drive space, RAM and CPU power to process the complex video editing functions.

"The SAIT laptops just don't have enough RAM and storage space for video editing," said Larson.

"SAIT's laptops are way too under-powered for what I need to do, I can't wait for those new Ultrabooks."

Don't be a Facebook troll

Rundate Jan. 19, 2012

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

Recently, I posted a humorous anecdote on my Facebook wall, only to find a rather nasty comment left below it by someone who I'd considered a friend. Then it dawned on me, I'd just been trolled.

Urbandictionary.com defines "trolling" as, "Being a prick because you can, trying to get a rise out of someone and forcing them to respond to you." Trolling can typical occur wherever the typed word can appear on the internet: news-group forums, online chat groups, Twitter and Facebook.

This method of typed abuse used to be called "flaming" back when the internet was just getting up off the ground,

and has since morphed into the modern and well-known term, known as trolling.

Many internet websites attribute World of Warcraft and other Massively Multiplayer Online games (MMOs) for refining the so-called troll technique into what it is today. These MMOs often have an online chat system built into the game so players can communicate with one another and this is where trolling really flourishes for players who are so-inclined.

A troll loves nothing more than to have the largest audience possible. And if it's live chat, it provides even better, immediate troll satisfaction.

Trolling, in modern English usage, is also a fishing technique of slowly dragging

a lure or baited hook from a moving boat. This definition can be precisely converted into what happened on my Facebook page. That person wrote that nasty comment, and I was being baited into launching an emotional assault for that person's amusement, and for the entertainment of those reading.

Placing all other forms of online writing aside, the Facebook factor is a unique target for would-be trolls. Facebook does have safeguards in place to prevent this sort of thing from happening. You can set your page to private, and allow only friends to post on your wall.

But, what if a "friend" starts trolling you? Unfriending that person on Facebook is the

easiest way to deal with the problem and you can also click the "x" beside the comment to outright delete it. But of course, the damage is done.

Facebook is a unique personal forum, because it can be described as one's "ego" page. This is where you can really promote yourself to the world and brag about your personal accomplishments in life. Blast troll-like comments onto one's own Facebook page for that person's friends, family and, dare I say fans, to see, and the offence becomes much more personal.

It's hard to justify the psychology of the act of trolling. Many theories for its purpose include the classic portrayal of a sad and lonely person sitting in their studio apartment,

looking to vent anger from a failed life on unsuspecting internet users.

But some would say that the declining moral fibre of society in general would be to blame for such a lack of respect for another human being. Some argue that honesty and decency have been given the boot over the past several decades and the 20th century has seen the greatest negative change in that perception.

Regardless of what the cause really is for such unruly and unacceptable behavior, there is enough animosity in the world today without pathetic addition of petty and mean-spirited comments being unleashed onto others. Grow up, and don't be a Facebook troll.

QUESTIONING CANDY FROM STRANGERS SINCE 1926

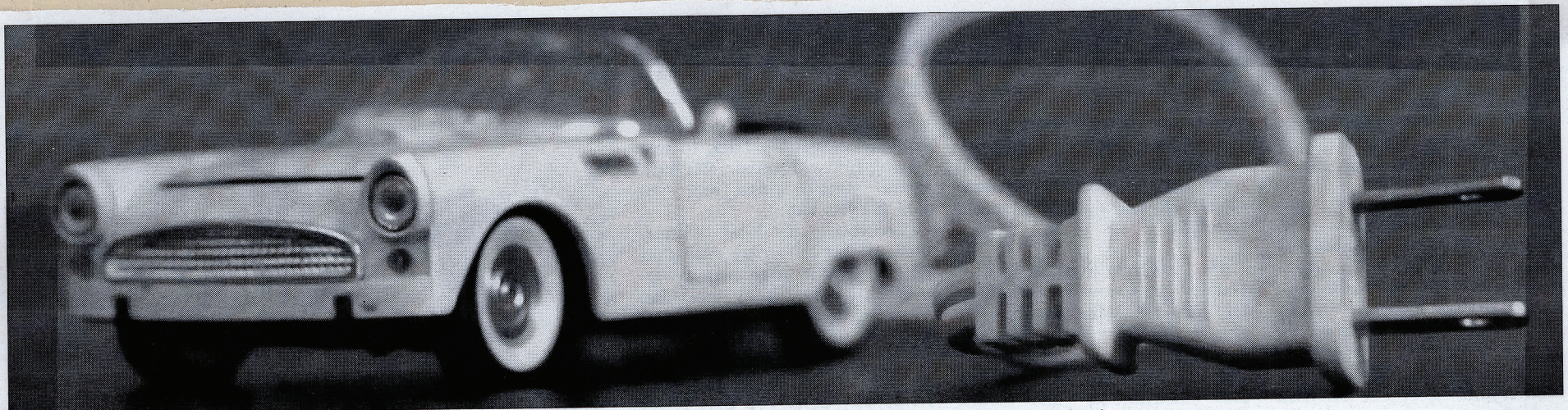
the WEAL

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JANUARY 26, 2012



The development of new technology in electric cars has sparked much interest, not only with the public but with SAIT's automotive service faculty. GLENN KELLY PHOTO

Run Date Jan. 26, 2012

Is society ready for a fully electric car?

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

The Model S roadster from Tesla Motors is an impressive all-electric vehicle that has pushed modern day engineering limits far beyond any other fully electric car on the road today.

But will society accept a fully electric car and more importantly, is an electric vehicle practical for every day usage?

The Tesla Model S has several battery load-out options to choose from: 40, 60 and 85 kilowatt batteries as well as an 85 kilowatt performance battery.

The top range of 480 kilometers would get you from Calgary to Sicamous, BC in one charge.

And after it's drained, a high powered 240 volt wall connector promises to charge your Tesla's car battery system in less than four hours.

According to teslamotors.com, reservations sold out even

before 2012 production had begun. More reservations will be available by the end of January with an asking price starting at US \$49,400.

The "Signature Performance" vehicle load-out for the Tesla Model S, essentially all the bells and whistles that Tesla Motors can offer with this car, will set the intrepid enthusiast back a cool US \$97,900.

There is also a danger with driving an electric car because once it runs out of energy, getting more power while the car is in the middle of nowhere can be extremely difficult.

Unfortunately, it isn't technologically possible to transport battery energy as conveniently as gasoline, so all-electric car owners will need to plan ahead when taking extended road trips.

In other words, make sure your electric car is near an electrical wall outlet when your battery gets low.

The Ford motor company's

mass production of gas powered vehicles during the 1920s flushed out electric vehicles from the market economy and secured the down-but-not-out existence of electric cars until today.

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) conducted a study in 2009 involving the business feasibility of car battery technology. One of the findings concluded, "The electric vehicle and lithium-ion battery businesses hold the promise of large potential profits for both incumbents and new players; however, investing in these technologies entails substantial risks."

SAIT students' opinions were cautious towards all-electric vehicles, with many interested in the technology but turned off for economic reasons.

Steamfitter and pipefitter student Jacob MacPherson said he might look into upgrading if gas prices rise too high.

"But for now, my gas pow-

ered truck is way better," said MacPherson. "I would worry about running out of energy [in an electric car] because you can't carry energy in a jug like gasoline."

Accounting for oil and gas production student Johana De Gracia said she would like to own an electric model, but can not afford to.

"I would probably go for a hybrid vehicle first," said De Gracia. "I would feel safer with a hybrid and I would be worried about running out of electricity."

SAIT dean of transportation Brian Moukperian said, "All-electric vehicles are pretty cutting edge and I think society is about five years away from fully accepting such a vehicle."

"I think the Tesla Model S's range is an acceptable amount at 480 kilometers," said Moukperian. "The big question is, can you park in a place where you can charge your car while you work so you can get home after?"

"I always look at the practical means for a vehicle. A [gas-electric] hybrid system on a truck was a very big step for society to take and it's going to be a while before an all-electric vehicle system becomes mainstream."

"Even if one out of a thousand cars on the road today were electric, it would still be pre-mature for us to introduce electric car training in SAIT's curriculum," said Moukperian. "We are just now thinking about introducing a module on hybrid vehicles for students to train on, so fully electric vehicle training is a ways off still."

Tesla Motors was founded in 2003, and based in Palo Alto, California by, "A group of Silicon Valley engineers who set out to prove that electric vehicles could be awesome."

Tesla Motors has 18 stores in North America that will offer the Tesla Model S with one location in Toronto. Production will begin this year.

Alternative routes ahead

Run Date Jan. 26, 2012

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

Around the city, several LRT platforms have already been upgraded to accommodate a planned four car LRT train configuration. According to Calgary Transit's website, SAIT's platform upgrade, "is expected to start in 2013 or 2014." Calgary Transit expects to start running the four car LRT trains in 2014 across its entire network.

The unclear construction date may not be surprising as the City of Calgary has a number of transportation projects underway, necessitating some to take priority over others.

Carol Armes, executive assistant to Alderman Druh Farrell who represents Ward 7 (in which SAIT resides), said, "The city has initiated construction on a number of transit projects in the city and they don't want to commit to too many at once."

"You can never accurately predict economic circumstances," said Armes. "The city will start so many projects at once, and then an economic downturn happens and then it takes longer to complete the projects already underway."

The SAIT/ACAD/Jubilee is one of the busiest LRT stops. According to Calgary Transit, 11,000 passengers use the stop every day, with most of those passengers being students attending SAIT or ACAD.

When the construction does take place thousands of student passengers may be forced to find an alternative route to classes.

At SAIT, students were taken aback at the prospect of learning that SAIT's LRT platform may be closing down when the four-car train upgrade occurs. Others were more practical, and were already thinking of what to do should the city shut down SAIT's LRT platform for the upgrade.

"I never would have found something like that out until it happened," said bachelor of applied technology information systems student Wei Guo. "I would have to start taking the bus instead and that might take longer to get to SAIT."

"I'm going to have to get off at the [Lion's Park station] if they shut SAIT's station down and walk to SAIT," said power engineering student Scott Hoogenboom.

"The city had better set up a shuttle bus system to go from the mall down to SAIT to transport us," said Hoogenboom. "This is really gonna impact us for at least a couple of years."

Ridership for the entire Calgary transit network reached 94,368,000 trips in 2010, with an overall satisfaction rating of 67%. Calgary has the second lowest single ticket public transit fare cost among the big cities in Canada, with Winnipeg being the lowest of all at \$2.45.



Passengers board the C-Train during peak hours. SHANE INNES PHOTO

BUILDING FUTURES SINCE 1926

the WEAL

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VOLUME 86 ISSUE 17

EVERY THURSDAY THEWEAL.COM

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

Giving up paper and learning from a computer screen

Run Date Feb. 2/2012

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

The iBooks 2 app has just been released by Apple for use with Apple's iPads to allow teachers and students alike to utilize a new digital textbook collection.

The iBooks system can liberate students across the globe,

from bulky, heavy and expensive textbooks with a modern and easy-to-use iPad textbook, that is if schools and publishing houses use the technology.

SAIT dean of information and communication technology Rand Ayres said SAIT plans to eventually use the iBooks system to replace traditional textbooks.

"The idea at SAIT is pretty immature at this point," said Ayres. "The iBooks have a lot of potential and the display on an iPad is excellent, so it's exciting to think that SAIT will have that system sometime in the future."

"iBooks textbooks offers iPad users gorgeous, fullscreen textbooks with interactive animations, diagrams, photos, videos, unrivalled navigation and much more," read a press release from Apple Inc.

Apple has the cooperation of such leading education service companies including Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, McGraw-Hill and Pearson to introduce their lines of textbooks via Apple's iBookstore.

According to Apple's press release, most of their textbook titles will cost \$14.99 or less.

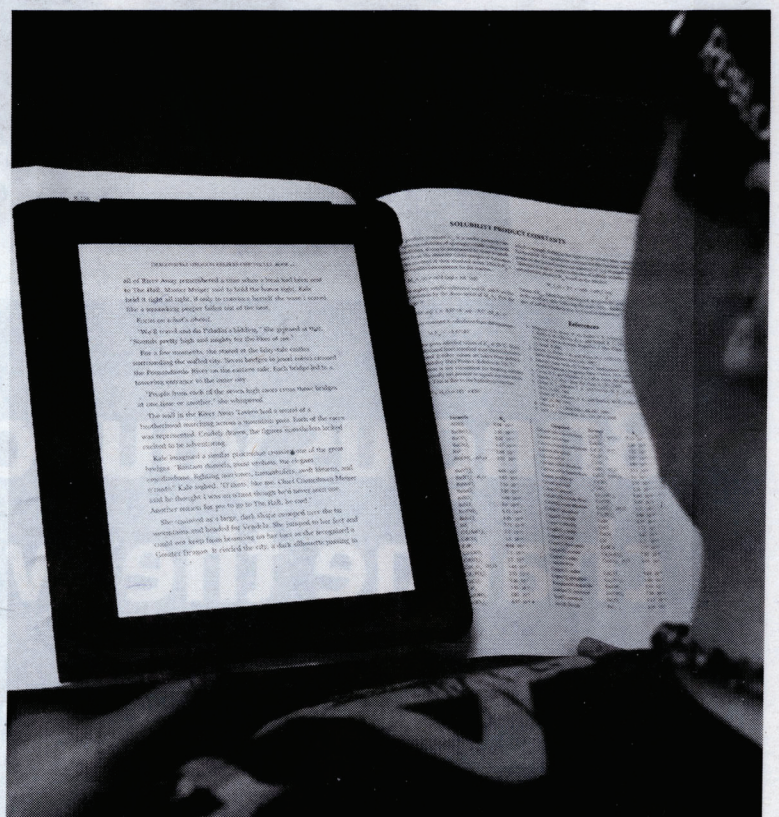
And the cheapest version of the iPad 2, will set you back \$519, a necessary investment for any student planning on using Apple's iBooks system.

SAIT business administration student and iPad2 owner Alexandra Warrington hopes SAIT adopts the iBooks system.

"I love my iPad, it would be a lot lighter to carry around an iPad instead of several textbooks," she said. "It would even be a lot lighter than a SAIT laptop, which I don't use anymore now."

SAIT academic upgrading student Randall Gagnon said because he isn't computer savvy he was wary about SAIT moving to the iBooks system.

"iBooks would be a good



With iPads being thinner and lighter than the average textbook, the iBook system is looking like a viable option for students looking to reduce their bulk. NICOLE SANTERRE PHOTO

thing if people like me were trained to use them," he said. "I'm having a hard time as it is with the school computers. I'm scared that I might fall behind."

Apple's iBookstore is online now and offers approximately 20,000 education apps with, "Hundreds of thousands of books in the iBookstore that can be used in any student's school curriculum."

According to information-week.com, Apple reported sales of 15.4 million iPads in its recent quarterly filing. That figure exceeded expectation of 13 million iPads to be sold.

The Windsor Star reported that the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board in Windsor, Ont. will be one of the first jurisdictions in Canada to offer the iBooks 2 through the use of Apple's iPads.

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Premier Alison Redford visits SAIT as the keynote speaker for the Architectural Technologies Industry Night, Jan. 27 JEFF CANN PHOTO

Run Date Feb. 2, 2012

A SAIT visit from the premier

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

It was standing room only in the Heart Building's main atrium as Alberta's first female premier glowingly praised SAIT's contribution to education in Alberta.

The Honourable Premier Alison Redford visited SAIT's campus Jan. 27 after being invited by the Architectural Technologies program to be a keynote speaker for their industry night.

"SAIT is such an important institution in Calgary and in the province," said Redford.

"It's a place where there are people who are learning incredibly relevant skills that matter so much to our economy."

"SAIT has successfully responded to what industry in Alberta needs and tonight is a celebration of that success and I wanted to be a part of that," she said.

Architectural technologies instructor Paul Norris said it was his students that first thought of inviting the premier for their industry night.

"It was the students' idea and they just dreamt big," said Norris. "They threw around

some big names and inviting the premier for industry night was suggested and next thing you know, it happened."

The purpose of industry night was to put SAIT architectural technologies students in contact with leading architecture firms such as Gibbs Gage and Dialog, both of whom are based in Calgary.

Premier Redford's appearance invigorated many SAIT architectural technologies students who attended and provided hope for their future in the field of architecture. They said the premier's visit provided them with the inspiration

they needed to finish their program at SAIT and to find a job after they graduate.

"She really gave us the idea that there really is something out there for us," said architectural technologies student Jonathan Vail.

Vail expressed a fondness for the Premier's down-to-earth approach with students and admired her dedication to the province.

"She's really in touch with students and with Calgary and Alberta, I found that she really wants to get to know what we're really all about," said Vail.

Architectural technologies

student Leah Stenvig said that Redford being Alberta's first female premier gave Stenvig the courage to pursue a more management level position in her future architecture job.

Much of SAIT's own brass was in attendance, including current SAIT president and CEO Irene Lewis.

"[Premier Redford] is a total testament to what our people here are doing," said Lewis. "The premier did her homework and saw that SAIT is a success story, and came here on a Friday night when she could be home with her family."

SMASHING PIGGY BANKS SINCE 1926

the WEAL

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FEBRUARY 9, 2012

SAIT students experience minimum wage blues

BY CARL BR JOHNSON

WEAL WRITER

Re-date Feb. 9, 2012
If you're a student in Alberta, chances are you're pretty used to being broke.

Part of that is because Alberta's minimum wage is currently the second lowest in Canada, and Calgary is the fourth most expensive city to live in the country.

Canadaonline.about.com reported Alberta's minimum wage to be the second lowest in Canada at \$9.40, with the Yukon Territory being the lowest of all at \$9.

But add up the second-lowest minimum wage with the fourth-most expensive city in Canada, and that presents a difficult combination for some living in Calgary, SAIT students in particular.

Academic upgrading student Manuel Barahona said he has to juggle three jobs on top of his studies at SAIT. He's a chef at the Stampede Grounds and at Heritage Park and an usher at the Saddledome.

"It's been really hard sometimes," said Barahona. "I couldn't manage financially with any less than three jobs thanks to Alberta's low minimum wage."

"With how the cost of living is increasing all the time, I feel that the minimum wage should be a little higher," said SAIT business administration student Jessica Couture.

"We have long held that the minimum wage in Alberta should be at least \$12.30," said Alberta Federation of Labour secretary treasurer Nancy Furlong.

Alberta Human Services and Employment Standards communications officer Jay Fisher said that students shouldn't throw up the red flags about Alberta's low minimum wage just yet.

"Only 1.2 per cent of all workers in Alberta actually earn the minimum wage," Fisher said, citing Alberta government statistics. "Canada's overall average is 7.5 per cent and Ontario is over 10 per cent of all workers earning that prov-

ince's minimum wage."

Furlong said that the most meaningful way that a student can deal with expensive living conditions and a low Alberta minimum wage is to contact their local MP or alderman and lobby the government for change.

"Students at SAIT shouldn't hesitate and call their local government official to complain," said Furlong. "We have strongly believed that the government should be catering less to business in Alberta and catering more to individual citizens."

"A SAIT student has already made a good decision by attending SAIT if they want to increase their hourly wage in the future," said Fisher. "For more immediate results, find a higher paying employer."

According to employment.alberta.ca, the overall average worker's wage in Alberta is \$23.80 per hour, and 48 per cent of recruiting employers reported they had difficulty in hiring for one or more occupational groups.

the WEAL

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FEBRUARY 16, 2012

Rundate Feb. 16 GPA vs work experience, which do you choose?

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

One of the most frustrating situations a student can run into after college is the age old quandary: I have education but no work experience, why won't anyone hire me?

I have been fortunate enough, at SAIT, to have the opportunity to pursue both of these options in my two pronged attack towards life after graduation.

Writing for publications while pursuing my studies at SAIT has allowed me to pursue a high Grade Point Average (GPA) and work experience.

But recently I have found myself questioning which one is really the most important, or more upwardly mobile option.

To abandon my studies in pursuit of only writing for published sources would be the same as committing career suicide. I'll have to admit; at times work experience has been a harsh mistress to please. Then again, I have another mistress, named GPA that also demands the same, if not more, of my attention. So which is more important?

On the one hand, if I have a nice long list of experience, one would assume that's

enough to get hired. But, what if my future editor asks me why my GPA from my chosen college isn't high enough because I put more emphasis on my work experience instead of my studies?

I'd probably look and feel pretty stupid in front of the one person with whom a personal opinion is the most important.

On the other hand, if I walk into an editor's office with no portfolio full of experience to show, and all I have is a college diploma, what will he or she say? Sometimes experience speaks louder than a diploma.

By only providing one or

the other, I can kiss that sweet job goodbye to another who was smart enough to have both GPA and work experience.

Being prepared for a demanding boss after college who may require both work experience and a high GPA from college is the smart thing to do.

It may seem like a huge commitment, but the best way to combat this head-wringing worryment is to get up off your ass and get into the juggling game of work experience and GPA. To abandon one in favour of the other would restrict you into a cycle

of a mind-numbing lack of options after college.

Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* says, "Every battle is won before it is ever fought."

The war is on baby, and if you haven't played your cards right at college you may have left home with a pee shooter when you should have been carrying a 50-calibre sniper rifle.

Pursue your studies at SAIT with the same amount of vigor and determination that you would with a practicum, internship or volunteer work program and come out ahead of the other guy or girl in your chosen field of study.

Rundate Feb. 16 Smart phone apps that can help lose that flab

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

Chalk up one more thing that smart phones can do—battle the bulge.

According to a 2010 Statistics Canada report, over 18 per cent of Canadians aged 18 or older (about 4.5 million) are classified as obese.

Many are looking to change their diets and fitness levels with the help of technology, but with many app options it's tough to know which is the best lifestyle fit.

Experts agreed smart phone apps are a great way to help diet and exercise and since they run on a smartphone, will always be convenient.

SAIT nutrition for healthy lifestyles instructor and registered dietician Lindy Kennedy said apps help many of her clients stay accountable to their goals.

"Users should make sure

that their chosen diet app is user-friendly and works with a large database," said Kennedy. "Also, I would want my diet app to have a breakdown of macro and micro nutrients for all the foods that the user eats."

Personal trainer and owner of buildingbodies.ca Ray Burton said apps help make the process of exercising easier.

"The most useful exercise app will help the user track their caloric intake," said Burton. "If the app encourages full body exercises, compound movements, anything that will require the user to move the most amount of weight over a large distance, then I'm all for exercise apps."

"For many of my clients, diet tracker apps are a great way to stay accountable to one-self," said Kennedy.

The Weal takes a look at six apps for tracking diet and ex-

ercise to see what each has to offer.

These diet and exercise apps are available free on the App Store, Blackberry Market Place, and Android Store.

We run down the top rated diet and exercise apps with some picks from our experts.

Diet

My Diet Coach

A quaint little app that offers users funny, yet motivational pictures that remind them why they want to lose weight. The Food Cravings Timer feature helps control eating urges, My Motivational Photos shows what they used to look like before dieting and My Goal Reminder reminds users of their weight lost objective.

Diet Point Weight Loss

Another dieting app that calculates Body Mass Index

(BMI); a heuristic proxy for human body fat based on an individual's weight and height. Based on a person's individual BMI, this app offers suggestions for a three-day cleanse, a three-day low calorie diet, a four-day protein diet, and several other useful eating routines.

My Fitness Pal

This app begins with asking several questions about height, weight, age, how active users are and how much weight they want to lose. The app then calculates recommended daily caloric intake and keeps track of calories throughout the day toward the user's daily goal through a built-in diary system.

Exercise

Jefit—Dietician Lindy Kennedy's Pick

An app designed by serious bodybuilders for users who

want to start working out in a gym. This app's design is elaborate and is intended for both the serious and casual user in mind. It has a vast library of exercise routines and an exercise tracker.

Sports Tracker

Intended for the avid jogger or walker, this app tracks daily runs and walks with GPS enabled statistics. It calculates the average speed, distance and time and keeps a diary to monitor overall activity.

LiftPro 3—Personal Fitness Trainer Ray Burton's Pick

A complete and comprehensive exercise tracker, *LiftPro 3* offers instructions to complete hundreds of exercise routines for any user. The app outlines exercise routines to target every muscle group. It has a Goals and BodyStats function to help track overall progress for users to stay focused on fat burning goals.

SAIT's parking fiasco

Run date
Mar. 1

BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

For years, SAIT students have wished for parking alternatives, and with the new Trades and Technology Complex nearing completion, several thousand new students will soon be doing the same.

SAIT students across campus were all too eager to comment on the "touchy subject," as SAIT legal assistant student Amanda Janzen put it.

"Parking should be free for students," she said. "We're already paying huge amounts of money to be here so we should get a break on parking fees."

Other students complained that SAIT's parking stall availability is also an issue, and if one doesn't arrive early enough on campus, then you're SOL.

"If I'm on campus before 8 a.m. then I can find a parking spot, but if I arrive after that, then the parkades are usually full," said chemical engineering student Taylor Northcott. "If I can't find a spot to park on campus then I usually park at [North Hill] mall."

North Hill Mall is notorious amongst SAIT students for its policy to ticket or tow SAIT students parking on mall lots.

For Janzen and Northcott, driving is their only option, they live in Airdrie and Okotoks, respectively.

"I tried the park-and-ride solution by driving down Stoney Trail to the Dalhousie C-Train station and riding the train to SAIT," said Janzen. "It takes a really long time to get to school after doing all that."

When the parking situation becomes desperate, other, less than legal, solutions arise that some SAIT students are using.

John, who asked his last name to be withheld, lives near SAIT's campus and has been selling the parking passes allotted to his residence, which would normally allow friends and family members to park outside his house, to SAIT students for several years now.

"I usually have about three or so students on the hook that I sell parking passes for my street," John said. "I will only sell them to friends of friends - I wouldn't sell them to complete strangers."

According to the City of Calgary's residential parking permit program, "It is an offence to sell, trade, give away, or otherwise dispose of the permit or to allow another person to obtain or use the permit."

Refusing to obey this can result in fines and confiscation of permits.

Some organizations have tried to solve parking crunches in unique ways, like a Volkswagen initiative that utilizes a powerful robotic arm to lift, transport and slot cars into one of hundreds of compartments along high walls.

This design, currently in use by VW's storage facility in Wolfsburg, Germany, uses only 20 per cent of the space of regular parking garages and results in a significant decrease in price.

Parking at SAIT can cost anywhere from \$8, in ACAD's Jubilee parking lot, to \$13 in the parking lot outside of the campus centre.

Once SAIT's new Trades and Technology Complex (TTC) meets completion in 2012, the building will add another 3,600 "student spaces" to SAIT's population.

According to SAIT Corporate Communications manager Anika Van Wyk, the total planned cost for the TTC will be \$400 million. None of that cost is being used to construct new parkades.

Wyk said that once the TTC building is complete, around 368 parking stalls will open up in the P3 and P6 lots, after all the construction equipment have been cleaned off of these areas.

SAIT's website states that SAIT currently has 2,300 parking spaces on campus, which is barely more than the 2,200 faculty members and nowhere near enough for the over 13,000 full-load equivalent students in 2010/2011.



Student and staff parking is a recurring problem at SAIT, mostly due to a lack of availability and high prices. JESSICA BURTNICK PHOTO

SAIT partners with FORD for ASSET program

Run date
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BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

Ford Canada treated SAIT students in the Ford ASSET program on Feb. 24 to a demonstration of Ford's new MyFord Touch system, a vehicle software upgrade being offered to all eligible Ford customers in the spring.

Ford Canada selected SAIT as the only Alberta approved Ford Automotive Student Service Educational Training (ASSET) centre.

Ford kicked off its first stop of an 11 city tour of Canada in the Clayton Carroll building to demonstrate its new voice-activated software technology system that will hopefully save lives.

"Ford wants to reaffirm its commitment to the Ford ASSET program at SAIT and we're here today to show our support to

education in the automotive industry," said product trainer Michael Robins, who was contracted by Ford through Maritz Sales & Marketing and facilitated the demonstration.

"MyFord Touch's voice activation technology will allow every Ford motorist to control most of the vehicle's functions hands free," said Robins. "Ford wants you to keep your eyes on the road, and your hands on the wheel."

SAIT dean of transportation Brian Moukperian was also in attendance and was impressed by Ford's dedication to the Ford ASSET program at SAIT.

"This was absolutely time well spent today," said Moukperian. "This is our largest Ford ASSET class to date at SAIT. It's remarkable to see that we have 17 apprentices on the go right now."

Many of the students in the eight-week-at-a-time Ford ASSET program already have jobs in Ford dealerships that are spread out all over the province.

"I'm looking forward to introducing this upgrade to our customers at Marlborough Ford," said SAIT Ford ASSET program student Caitlin Yoner.

Students said their respect for the company influenced their careers.

"One of the reasons that I wanted to take this class and work for Windsor Ford in Grande Prairie, is because they're one of the most technologically advanced car companies out there," said SAIT Ford ASSET program student Michael Adrian.

The Ford Motor Company has donated \$750,000 for ongoing support for the Ford ASSET program at SAIT.

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The life of SAIT swag

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BY CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

If you were to take a gander at the University of Calgary's campus you would notice a striking difference between their campus and SAIT's when it comes to students sporting their institution's merchandise.

The U of C's logo is frequently modelled by many U of C students, but it's like trying to find a needle in a haystack when it comes to SAIT students displaying the SAIT name on their clothing.

SAIT hoodies, sweat pants and shirts, pens and neck chains, everything of the sort is sold at SAIT's bookstore, a kiosk in the Senator Burns building, and the Trojan Pro-Shop underneath The Gateway.

It's not a lack of availability that is causing SAIT students to avoid proudly donning their school's name.

Why do SAIT students invest less money in their campus merchandise than U of C students? The first reason that comes to mind would be the same problem that plagues most students: a lack of money.

"I definitely want to get one of those Trojan hoodies and a T-shirt," said SAIT welding technician student Beau Tolan. "It's tough to come up with money for a lot of things that I want while I'm in college."

Business Administration student Shiyuan Wang agreed that the prices of SAIT clothing is too high.

According to the Trojan Pro-Shop website, the hoodies are priced at \$65, same for the hockey jerseys, T-shirts are \$21, and sweatpants are \$40. In relation to other college and university merchandise, SAIT's prices are on par.

"The price of cotton drives the prices that we set for our clothing items here at the

SAIT Bookstore," said SAIT Commercial Services Operations manager Cathy Midzain in an e-mail interview.

SAIT Recreation Manager Budd Brazier said prices at the Trojan Pro-Shop are generally a 40 - 60 per cent markup from BestCap, the retail supplier for all the items in the shop.

Perhaps university students are simply more financially endowed than poor college kids.

Another reason could be that those attending the U of C simply have a bit more campus pride.

"They have a really large physical education program at both the U of C and at Mount Royal so that could be the biggest reason why you might see more students wearing their schools' hoodies and merchandise," said Brazier.

Brazier said that for the first time in five years the athletics department has partnered with the SAIT Bookstore to carry more Trojan supplies.

"The ultimate goal of our department is to increase the awareness of the Trojan brand across SAIT's campus for the benefit of our entire student body," said Brazier.

Brazier counts himself lucky because he has a say in the design the Trojan athletic wear will have.

"We are always open to new design ideas from anyone as long as they follow the brand standards we've laid out," Brazier said.

If any student at SAIT has purchased anything from the Trojan Pro-Shop or the SAIT Bookstore, then they can take pride in knowing that they'll have physical proof of their college years.

"Buying one of those Trojan Hoodies is a big symbol, and it represents my college years here at SAIT," said Tolan.

SAIT student architects connecting with people of Guatemala

Run date
Mar 8
BY CARL BJ JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

SAIT architectural technologies students can call themselves humanitarians after they put their hearts and skills to the test in a two-week practicum and volunteer work program in Guatemala.

From Feb. 19 to Mar. 3, 13 architectural technologies students, one electrical apprentice, four instructors and one alumnus were sent to Guatemala to utilize their education to help improve life in the Central American nation.

This now annual tradition began in 2010 with the launch of the Pana Project, a architectural technologies student initiative. In 2011, the students designed a trade school for the Mayan community in Panajachel, Guatemala, hence the "Pana" Project.

The Guatemalan tradition continues this year as a practicum and general humanitarian work experience program for architectural technologies students.

"This is about a trip to another country to employ our architectural technologist skills we learned at SAIT to fill an ongoing humanitarian need," said architectural technologies student Nichols Heathcott, in an e-mail from Guatemala.

With the help of the Mayan Families Non-Governmental Organization in Guatemala, the students' goal was to help to re-build the country after a devastating 36 year civil war, which ended in 1996, as well as enduring yearly earthquakes and mudslides.

"Guatemala has lots of re-building to do," said Heathcott. "We have been using our skills from both our education and personal experience to aid in several construction projects."

SAIT architectural technologies instructor Paul Norris, who was in Guatemala at the time of this interview, said in an email that at first he was skeptical of how relevant the country could be to students.

"It's becoming brutally obvi-

ous that the skills we learned at SAIT are changing lives here," Norris said.

Norris noted several of the projects that the architectural technologies students have undertaken.

The students used their SAIT skills to design the "Litre of Light," a remarkably simple technology where a hole is bored in the roof of a local home, and a plastic bottle is installed, to provide light for that family's home.

Another project involved designing two homes with concrete blocks and rebar to provide shelter for local Mayans. One of the two-room houses gave a widow and her six children a place to call home.

According to the CIA's World Factbook website, more than half of Guatemala's 15 million people live below the poverty line, with 15 per cent living in "extreme" poverty. Money laundering, drug trafficking and government corruption are serious problems in Guatemala.

This trip has also been about connection with the people of Guatemala.

The SAIT students have been diligently updating their blog, panaproject.org, with written entries and pictures posted throughout their time in Guatemala.

Student Ashley Stefanuk posted a picture of a young Guatemalan boy and the need for companionship that filled his eyes was evident.

Stefanuk wrote, "I got chased around by one of the little boys. I went in circles before I ran out of breath. Maybe I should lay off the fried chicken."

Brady Horner, another SAIT student, remarked through the student blog about the opportunity they received to visit several schools in the countryside, including a pre-school.

"The children sang some very cute songs for us," he wrote. "In return, we gave each of them a toothbrush and toothpaste, and they couldn't have been more appreciative."

TASTING GREAT SINCE 1926

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Stopping the social media itch

Update Mar 15
CARL BR JOHNSON
WEAL WRITER

It has been noticed recently that many people appear to have a crack-like addiction to their social media and this can only encourage anti-social tendencies.

For those wired into the web, it's difficult to imagine what life would look like without social media.

Those not using some type of social media might as well be living under a rock, in a cave, on another planet, in the constellation of Orion.

It's hard to ignore the sheer number of social media options being offered to anyone with a computer or smart phone.

There is Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Orkut, Yahoo Answers, Qzone (Chinese), StumbleUpon, Mixi (Japanese), Odnoklassniki and Vkontakte (both Russian) and Flickr - just to name a few.

According to searchengine-journal.com, the usage statistics for many social media sites are a staggering thing to behold.

Facebook has a daily visita-

tion rate of 310 million unique users. Although the rest of the social media sites trail far behind they are still quite high.

Google's Orkut has a daily visitation of 51 million unique users, China's Qzone sees 37 million, StumbleUpon 27.5 million, Twitter 22 million, Yahoo Answers 15 million, the list goes on and on.

If Facebook were a country, with its 640 million registered users, it would be the world's third largest country after China and India in terms of population.

During an average 20 minute period in 2010 there were 5,870,000 wall posts, 2,716,000 photos uploaded and 10,280,000 comments posted.

In 2011, Flickr, a popular site to upload and store photos, boasted a monstrous collection of 6 billion images. Roughly 3,500 images are uploaded per minute. Also in 2011, LinkedIn, a popular network among business professionals, celebrated its 100 millionth user.

Shawn Vucurevich, social media expert and owner of Online Marketing Calgary, said that many sites are expressing the same idea of sharing and connecting with friends in

slightly different ways.

"All of these social media sites are simply putting a different spin on the same idea," he said. "There are so many that have come and gone, I know that Twitter appears to be dying a bit but Facebook will probably last forever."

Vucurevich said the biggest worry is that social media will de-humanize people. He notes that his own children almost speak in a different language because of the social media sites that they use.

"Sometimes I think that my kids speak in Facebook posts, never really talking to anyone in particular, just expressing random thoughts to anyone who might be listening," he said.

At the end of the day, there is a danger that these social media sites will turn users into Borg-like drones, constantly hooked into each other and end up de-humanized as a result of impersonal conversation.

So once in a while, shut the Facebook down, and call up a friend to meet for coffee and try some face-to-face conversation. Your humanity will appreciate it.