

WHAT'S UP?



At Alexander Galt

Vol. 6 No. 2, November 1991

25 cents

Scandal at Galt?

BY: K.M. Fahmy

Unquestionably the biggest recent controversy to hit Alexander Galt is the question of whether or not condoms should be made available to students. About two months ago a petition began going around the school; it was to make condoms available to Galt students. I talked to the girl who started this petition, fifteen year-old Meme Napier, of North Hatley.

I was teeming with multitudes of questions but I started with the most obvious; "Why did you start the petition?" She replied, "Because I think that it's something that should be brought to the attention of students here at Galt and if the administration isn't going to do it and if they aren't going to give the students more education, then I think it's up to us to bring this issue forward."

She was concerned after hearing about all the risks people take every day when they decide to have sex: AIDS, pregnancy, etc. That's what got her going. It wasn't difficult to get the petition started. She wrote it, made copies, and the next day it was circulating. At the time of the interview she had 320 signatures out of 350 students approached and she hopes to have 700 in the near future. After signatures are collected she plans to present the petition to the School Committee and tell them this is what the majority of the students want. "Right now they are sitting back and



saying that the students are not having sex, but I've got news for you - the students are having sex. Maybe not all of them, but some of them."

When she attended the October School Committee meeting, Mr. McConnachie, our school principal, said "This is a Galt matter" and for this reason it will not be discussed at the Parents' Committee (a Board committee). She said Mr. McConnachie told her that sometimes petitions are misinterpreted and that she has to be careful as to what she says. He said that she has the right to freedom of speech and he couldn't stop her from doing what she believes in.

When asked how she felt about people who don't take the matter seriously she replied, "I think it's a matter that should be taken seriously; AIDS is spreading fast. With all of the social disease going around you have to be careful. It's not a matter that should be taken lightly."

"If the petition is passed through the School Committee we will most likely have condoms made available to the students

here at Galt who wish to use them. They'll be made available in the nurse's office." She admits some students will be embarrassed going into the nurse's office and requesting a condom, but the risk outweighs the embarrassment."

When asked what she hopes students will feel, Meme told me that she thinks some students will be against it.

However, "A lot of schools are doing this, and I think that if you're going to have sex, and condoms are made available, you'll use them, or you should. For the students who aren't having sex, they should think about this issue."

So far, student reactions have been good. She says that four out of the five parents she's talked to have been for it; the other is totally against. Her own parents are very supportive and are "behind me all the way." Some teachers feel, according to Meme, that they support the idea of safer sex, but some hold the belief that "If you're old enough to have sex, you're old enough to go to a pharmacy and buy some condoms." "Sawyerville, however, has no pharmacy," she pointed out.

Continued on page 7

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Vermont Model United Nations -

A Big Challenge

Five Level Four students, Ginette Fisher, Laura Madokoro, Kathryn Reynolds, Vanessa Seale and Danny Sanford represented the Ivory Coast at the 1991 University of Vermont High Schools Model United Nations. This year, two hundred and seventy-three students from Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and New York as well as our star diplomats from Québec met Friday, November the eighth at about 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November the tenth with short breaks for meals and sleep!

For most of the meeting time, each delegate sits on a committee and all delegates meet together at the General Assembly on the Sunday. Ginette was on the Charter Review Committee, Laura on SOCHUM or Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs, Kathryn on the Security Council, Vanessa on ECOSOC or the Economic and Social Council and Danny on the Legal Committee.

Experience gained by attending such a demanding event will pay

dividends in the months and years ahead. Delegates do a great deal of listening as well as participating in a great deal of discussion and argument. Despite the \$125 (U.S.) cost, half of which was provided by our Student Council, it is felt that the experience gained far outweighs financial burdens. On the long road back to Canada at the end of the conference the primary feeling is a profound desire to be able to return another year!

Letters to the editor

Dear Sir,

Finally we have an education minister who is willing to get something done, but does he have the right methods? Being an ex-teacher, he does have some ideas which could help our education problem although I think he could improve them. It is not a question of Mr. Pagé not wanting to "do the right thing", it is a question that he does not know how to "do the right thing". An easy solution to this problem is people like myself suggesting ideas and making proposals to help our education minister.

In a couple of Pagé's rough proposals, he mentions that he would like to lengthen the school year. He thinks that starting students earlier and finishing them later would help the drop-out rate (which is now at 36 per cent). I totally disagree with that. One reason is that it is not quantity, but quality of education; our quality is just not there. Students who do drop out, drop out because they don't want to go to school and I don't see how elongating the school year would help to keep students in school. What students need in school are more stimulating courses, more courses which kids enjoy going to. I guess what I'm trying to say is that students in Québec need to be stimulated.

On a personal level, I am not challenged at school to do the best I could do. I think it is because the programs that I am in at school are very easy and

I can glide along throughout the whole year and pass. The school programs should be divided according to high or low academic ability of the students. If a kid has learning problems, he/she should be put in a class that can give the student more attention and help the student along. On the other hand, a student who has higher academic abilities should not be put in an average class where they could glide through the whole year and pass. They should be pushed to their maximum and be made to do their best. I also think that schools should be divided into different areas of study; for example, a student who loves sciences should not suffer from a science program which is really feeble. He/she should have the opportunity to enter advanced levels of science. At our school we used to have the choice of taking physics or chemistry, but now at grade ten we are all put into an average science course, leaving the students with higher science abilities with another boring, unstimulating and unchallenging year.

Hopefully Mr. Pagé will think things through clearly and carefully before making any big decisions. He should take into account everybody's ideas and make school, in the next few years, a promising event.

Yours truly,

Todd Allen

Teach them drug and alcohol awareness, give them a taste of culture such as art, music, drama, but most importantly, social and personal skills. As mentioned before, they are more impressionable at such a young age. As well, remove religion to make way for the new age: computers. Religion is the responsibility of the home, not the school.

There are many changes that need to be made, and many things to be looked at before any final decisions are made.

Yours truly,

Erika Breck

Dear Sir,

I am writing you this letter in regard to a recent editorial entitled "Don't Mess With Grade 1". On almost everything you discussed, I agree. I do not believe the solution to the drop-out rate in Québec is to put a restriction on the age of youngsters entering Grade 1. We inquire as to how this would solve the drop-out rate which concerns high school kids. Actually, starting kids at a young age is probably more beneficial. Kids at the age of 3, 4, 5 are more apt to retain or absorb information given to them. Kids will learn their study habits, and learn how to maintain them. They are more impressionable. Personally, pre-school was an excellent experience!

Maybe if we took a look at the programs offered, or think of ways to teach the basics, with an interesting technique, we could hold the children's attention and be able to quench that need for knowledge.

Teaching just the basics such as English, Math., etc. are not enough. We need to help prepare our kids for the real world as soon as possible.

Dear Sir,

I realize M. Pagé has it in our best interests to improve French programs in English schools. What about second language programs in French schools? Francophones need to learn English just as much as Anglophones need to learn French.

I agree that our French program should be improved because we cannot live in Québec without some knowledge of the French language. At the same time though, M. Pagé should be improving the English program in French schools.

Anglophones begin learning French as early as pre-kindergarten and no later than grade one. Francophones begin learning English in about grade four.

Is it not true that most of the fighting which occurs in Québec is caused by this language barrier? If we taught young children each other's language, I believe that this language barrier would eventually be broken.

I think that we should make the next generation more peaceful. Making second language programs begin in grade one, at the latest, in all schools, would be the first step to a more peaceful life for our descendants.

Yours truly,

Melanie Filion

What's Up?

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ENGLISH STUDENTS GO BACK IN TIME

BY: K.M. Fahmy

On Wednesday, October 30th, the Level 4 English classes, as well as the EH 420 classes, attended a performance of "The collected works of BILLY THE KID: Left handed poems" (yes, that is the name of the play) by Michael Ondaatje. It was presented at the Bishop's Studio Theatre by the Bishop's University Drama Department.

The play was directed by Professor Ian Gaskell, with musical director Tim Parker.

As you may have guessed by the title, the play follows the life of Billy the Kid, one of the most famed outlaws of all time. His life, and that of his gang's, have been the subject of numerous Hollywood productions, the most widely known being "Young Guns I and II."

The play is set in the Wild West, in the time of cowboys and Indians so glorified by Hollywood. It begins in a pool hall with Billy giving a brief but chilling description of his life. It continues through many events of his life: the death of his best friend Charlie Bowdre (played incredibly well by Chad Barclay), his torrid love affair with a whore named Angie (who is also the subject of one of the funniest scenes in the play, a song with a few provocative lines about Angie's versatility in bed), Billy's relationship with Sallie and John Chisum (played by Martha Ham and Anne of Green Gables veteran, John Rolland), as well as his run-ins with friend turned Sheriff, Pat Garrett (Dan McMahon).

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LETTING YOUR HAIR DOWN

BY: DAWN SYLVESTER

The king and queen did not want to send their seven daughters away, for they loved them so. But they had no peace. Then one night the queen had a dream, which offered a solution.

The next morning the queen ordered her employees to start building a tower for each of her seven daughters.

"There," the queen declared to her daughters, "now you can make as much noise as you like, and I won't mind."

Although a drama, there are plenty of funny scenes in the play. There is of course the song about the aforementioned Angie, a side-splitting song including all the male cast members, when they sing about "what they like to do for fun" (I'll leave it at that), the love scene between Angie and Billy which begins very humorously but suddenly transforms into a morbid monologue about death, which is totally out of context. There is a lot of that in this play, scenes which have nothing to do with what proceeds or follows them. One minute you could be watching a laid-back scene in which all the characters are pleasantly drunk, the next minute you're watching a morbid description of how rats eat each other. It is weird but awfully effective.

The greatest out-of-context is late in the second act after Billy had just escaped from prison. He sits down at the far end of the stage and watches as the rest of the cast takes over. An announcer (played by Tom Guest, who, rumour has it, was the original choice for the part of Billy) enters, and he starts a comic book narration of a Billy the Kid story. A brightly dressed Billy enters, played by the same person who played Charlie Bowdre. He looks wonderfully out of place amid the drab brown and black set. The comic book story follows Billy as he meets a beautiful Mexican Princessa and attempts to save

her from the evil Toro. The Princessa's palace is reminiscent of our own "The Skin of Our Teeth" with bright reds, blues, and yellows. The comic book sequence is unquestionably the funniest part of the entire play.

The final confrontation follows. Pat discovers Billy had escaped and starts a manhunt for him. It all climaxes in a spectacular dying scene, including strobe lights and smoke, as well as an ear-piercing gunshot that unfortunately malfunctioned on Wednesday. Billy's life slowly comes to an end as he utters the final words of a haunting monologue, "I can still smell the smoke in my shirt."

The English department was somewhat concerned about taking their classes to see this play. A warning outside the theatre notes the fact that some of the language may seem a little harsh. One scene was cut out the first time I saw the play with my English class. I heard it was cut out for reasons of time, but after seeing it two days later I understand why; it describes the way Billy feels about being captured, how violated he feels. He describes it as a hand going deep down into him and disembowelling him. Extremely heavy.

Student reaction was overwhelmingly positive; comments ranged from "Outstanding" to "Realistic" to "Wonderful." Drama student, Marie Eve Owen, says "It's really a character sketch, it's the story of this one man and what happens to him." Even drama teacher Nelson Gonyer was impressed when he went to see the show on its final night.

The highlights of this play were most certainly the impeccable performance of Tim Campbell in the role of Billy as well as the incredible singing voices of the entire cast, especially Chad Barclay.

All in all, everyone seems to agree it was a worthwhile experience.

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how to cook and make crafts from their father. The queen said they could leave when a woman wanted to take care of them.

The seven sons were very angry at how insensitive and sexist their mother was.

"If our sisters can have their freedom, so can we. We're leaving in the morning," said the oldest son.

The queen said, "Fine. Leave. In a week you will be begging me to forgive you. You don't have the skill or talent to survive in the real world."

The seven sons packed and the next morning they left to discover the real world. They each headed their separate ways and hoped for the best.



PICK OF THE MONTH

STING - The Soul Cages

BY: K. M. Fahmy

It's been a long time since "The Police" and "Roxanne" but Sting has established himself as one of today's most innovative performers. This album has classic Sting, all the breathtaking lyrical magic and serene melodies that, through the years, have become Sting's trademarks.

You know it's good as soon as the first song hits you. "Island of Souls" tells the story of the fictional character Billy and how he must cope when his father, a shipbuilder, dies in a boating accident. An extremely powerful piece of music. The next song, "All This Time" was the first and most successful single off the album. It climbed to the top ten in both the U.S. and Canada. It is written for his father, who died while Sting was working on this album. The album is dedicated to his father and their relationship is a major theme throughout. "Mad About You" is a masterpiece, with an Arabic feel and remarkable lyrics, it is one of the best songs of the album, as well as the third single. "Jeremiah Blues (Part 1) -there is no part 2- is a song full of contradictions. The first verse is proof, "It was midnight, midnight at noon, everyone talked in rhyme.

Everyone saw the big clock ticking, nobody knew, nobody knew the time." You figure it out. "Why Should I Cry For You" is a mixture of sounds

that shouldn't work together but somehow do. It was the follow up to "All This Time" and was a unique choice for a single. "St. Agnes and the Burning Train" is a haunting instrumental. "The Wild Wild Sea" is a long story about a dream. When first listening to it I thought it was awful. I thought so for a long time until one day I actually listened to the lyrics. The way he describes simple things like the sky and the clouds is so fascinating. It is also another story of his father and shows the possible tension and sadness in their relationship.

"The Soul Cages" is a mix of guitar rock and old-fashioned Sting lyrics which make an unforgettable mix. Although a video version was released it wasn't released as a single, definitely a good choice for one. "When the Angels Fell" wraps up the album. A slow ballad that seems to go on forever, it is lacking something that all the other songs seem to have; that essential Sting essence that always seems to come out in his work.

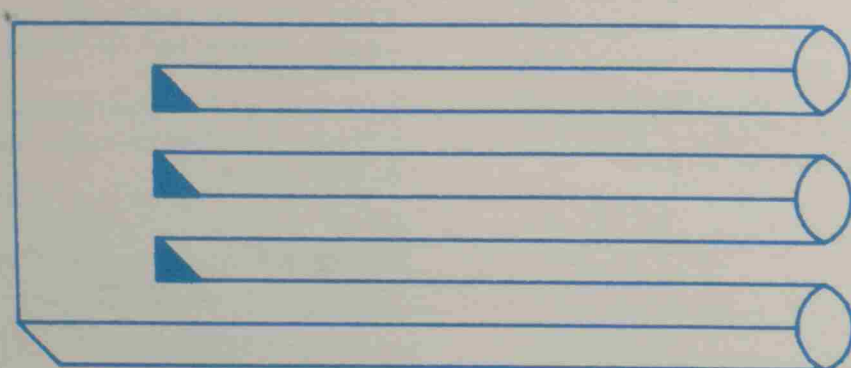
One thing that really got me was that he said the word "Goodnight" after the last song. Aside from a few artists such as Janet Jackson and Enigma no musicians seem to talk in their songs. It really added that little extra that can make or break an otherwise good album. Another of those little extras was the way Sting used the same last verse for both "Island of Souls" and "The Soul Cages" that is something you don't hear every day.

Although many of the themes were heavy I was glad Sting expressed some of them in a light-hearted manner. Really sad songs like "Island of Souls" and "The Wild Wild Sea" are excellent but make you feel really sad over the awful things they discuss.

Sting is definitely an acquired taste. You either hate it or you love it, there's no middle ground. I loved this album. The mix of unusual instruments such as the Northumbrian pipes (whatever they are!!) and the classic Sting lyrics took my breath away and may do the same for anyone willing to listen.

Sting music is not something you can dance to. It's not heavy metal rock and roll, it's just music, music you don't hear every day. Sometimes people need that. Isn't everything starting to sound alike?

CHOICE PICKS: "Island of Souls" "All This Time" "Mad About You" "The Soul Cages"



Optical Illusion

ANIMAL FACTS

CATS

BY: KATIA POULIOT

Cats are probably one of THE most known animals in the world. At least five out of ten families have one or more cats. Did you know that all cats are grouped in the family Felidae? The first cat or descendant of the cat first appeared about seven million years ago. In the fifth and

sixth dynasties, the cat was Egypt's sacred animal. One of the most characteristic and specialized features of the cat are its teeth. They are used for stabbing, anchoring, and cutting.

The cats nose and ears are probably the most important things because cats can smell food or danger over 250 meters away.

Their hearing is very acute. Their ear contains thirty muscles. Therefore their ears although receptive tube ultrasonic frequencies up

to 25 000 vibrations per second, are slightly inferior to those of dogs which register 35 000 vibrations per second. This therefore makes the cat a one of a kind animal.

I have a cat of my own. At first I really wanted a cat with a good breed, but when my parents brought to the S.P.A. to see if were any cats that interested me, I chose one that I thought I could have fun with and love. He did not have a certain kind of breed, but now that does not matter. What matters is that I can have a cat to take care of.

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Les femmes sont égales

TODD ALLEN

Parce que nous sommes dans le vingtième siècle, les femmes de nos jours sont égales à nos hommes. Non comme par les années passées, où les femmes ne pouvaient pas voter; elles ne pouvaient pas aller à l'université. Les hommes avaient tous les pouvoirs. Au cours des âges beaucoup de choses sont arrivées. Tous les changements favorisaient les femmes.

Premièrement, elles avaient le droit de voter, et de plus en plus, les femmes allaient à l'université. Je pense que la raison pour laquelle les hommes pensaient qu'ils étaient supérieurs, c'est parce qu'ils étaient plus forts que les femmes en puissance à cause qu'ils étaient plus gros, et ils avaient plus de pouvoir. Si un homme dit ça aujourd'hui, il va avoir "une claque sur la gueule". Maintenant, si les femmes ont les mêmes qualifications que les hommes, elles peuvent faire tout ce qu'elles veulent faire. Il y a de plus en plus de femmes dans le monde de la médecine, dans le monde juridique, et même dans le monde des travailleurs manuels, (ce qui demande beaucoup plus de force).

Les hommes disent qu'ils sont plus intelligents, mais regardez "Jeopardy," il y a des filles qui gagnent tout le temps; pour moi, c'est égale en intelligence. Je pense que les femmes sont plus émotionnelles que les hommes. Mais ça ce n'est pas une mauvaise qualité.

Le monde serait une meilleure place si les hommes étaient plus émotionnel.

De toutes les femmes que je connaisse aujourd'hui, il n'y a pas de question qu'elles sont égales aux hommes. Elles peuvent obtenir un salaire égale aux hommes, et elles peuvent faire tout le travail que les hommes font. Les femmes sont vraiment égales.

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Résumé de livre effectué dans
le cadre du cours de français
langue maternelle, niveau 3.

Changer sa vie

Ce soir là, Vincent conduisait sur l'autoroute menant à Springfield, où il habitait. Il faisait très froid et les chemins étaient couverts de glace. Il vint à une intersection et ralentit quand soudain il perdit le contrôle de sa voiture. Une autre auto se trouvait devant lui, et comme il ne pouvait pas s'arrêter, ce fut une collision face à face. Sous le choc, il perdit connaissance instantanément.

Lorsque Vincent se réveilla, il ne savait pas où il était. Finalement, il réalisa qu'il était dans une chambre d'hôpital. Quelques minutes plus tard, le docteur entra.

"Bonjour, Vincent. Comment est-ce que tu te sens?"

"Pas trop pire."

"Tu t'en es bien sorti, en tout cas. C'est pas souvent qu'on survie à un accident face à face."

"Oui, ça doit être de la chance!"

"Peut être, mais je suis déçu de t'annoncer que tu as perdu tes deux bras comme tu dois déjà le savoir."

A vrai dire, Vincent ne l'avait même pas remarqué. Il resta bouche bée. Il essaya de sentir ses mains, mais il n'y avait rien. Sans ses mains, il ne pouvait plus peindre, ce qui voulait dire que sa carrière de peintre tombait à l'eau. Il n'y avait plus d'espoir pour lui.

Quelques semaines passèrent et enfin, quelque peu adapter à son nouveau handicap, Vincent retourna chez lui. Il dû informer son patron de ce qui lui était arrivé, et qu'il ne pourrait plus jamais peindre, ce qui le découragea grandement puisque la peinture était une passion pour lui. Au studio, il était reconnu comme un des plus doués et quand ses amis et les autres employés entendirent parler de son accident, ils s'accablèrent de peine. Son grand camarade, Samuel vint souvent le visiter chez lui, et un jour lorsqu'il lui prêtait visite, Samuel lui fit remarquer quelque chose d'intéressant. Même si Vincent ne pouvait pas peindre avec ses mains, il pourrait essayer de peindre avec ses pieds ou sa bouche, comme certains handicapés le faisaient. Samuel avait fait quelques recherches et il finit par trouver un homme qui donnait des cours de peinture pour les handicapés. Vincent fut très joyeux d'apprendre qu'il pourrait quand même poursuivre sa vie comme avant et que son cas n'était pas désespéré. Samuel prit des dispositions pour aller voir le peintre avec Vincent.

Trois mois plus tard Vincent avait appris comment peindre avec sa bouche. Cela pris beaucoup d'efforts mais il parvint à peindre aussi bien qu'avant. Plus tard, son patron l'engagea de nouveau et, grâce à Samuel, il put continuer à faire ce qu'il aimait et désirait accomplir. Il réussit parce qu'il était déterminé. Il fit beaucoup d'efforts pour y parvenir, mais grâce à cette attitude, il devint connu à travers tout le monde pour ses peintures extraordinaires et son superbe talent.



TONY AND BRONWEN ON HIGH



ERIN AND TAMSIN CAVORT

Council News

BY: Stephanie Boluk

Approximately ten students will be attending the Ministry of Education's "Colloque régional" which will be held at Le Triolet in Sherbrooke, Saturday, November 23. The purpose of the conference is to discuss five themes concerning education (la réussite scolaire). There will be workshops on topics such as the age at which children should start school and extending the school year.

The prom committee is discussing the possibility of starting a fundraiser called the "dividend card." It's a membership card which allows the holder to get rebates on costs in restaurants, motels, and vacations.

Council are considering the date of the next dance.

Terri Goodsell and Tammy Coates are our student representatives on the Orientation Committee.

Erika Breck corresponds with our foster child.

Discussion continues concerning the condom issue. One student for and one against will be interviewed on CBC Radio. (Marie-Eve Owen: for).

The council are working on plans for activities at Christmas; for example, block decorating and Christmas baskets.

Galt Sports

JUNIOR BOYS SOCCER

BY: Stephanie Belanger

This year's Junior Boys Soccer team was a good one. They all had a great time.

I got some information while I watched the boys play.

They told me that the competition this year made them feel competitive. They had a feeling of winning. The hardest to beat were Richmond and Massey Vanier.

The weather this year was muddy, but it was nice sometimes.

When the team went to the Pizza Hut for the pizza party they gave the coach, Stewart Gear, a card which all the members of the team had signed. This was a fine way to end the season.

In the finals on October 26, the Junior Boys won the first game 1-0 in a ten-minute overtime period. The goal was scored by Evan Mooney. But unfortunately they lost their second game 1-0 to Richmond.

All in all the Junior Boys had a great time and a great season.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

BY: Stephanie Belanger

Ask the Senior Football team what they will remember as the greatest event this season, and they will probably say it was shutting out BCS 22-0 to win the Principals-Headmasters Cup.

Our team was up against good competition. Locally, Stanstead was strong, and the Montreal schools were very competitive.

The team won their game on Activity Afternoon, October 9th. The finals were lost to Stanstead 18-8, with the season score at 4 wins and 4 losses.

Thanksgiving weekend saw the team playing against Selwyn House in Montreal. This was different for our players; they are unaccustomed to astroterf and a large stadium. To add to this challenge, the team played without their starting and back up quarterback. This was only the second trip the team made in years. Speaking for the team, Sean Ride said, "Although we lost, we had a great time; it was fun, and we used it as a learning experience."

Galt Pipers are losing valuable players who will be graduating this year: Sean Ride, Jason Morse, Russell Wallace, Stephane St. Pierre, Dany Bailey, Mike Lowry, Mark Binny, Jason Leith, Chad Barter, Paul Paxton, John Letourneau, Marc Cabana, Danny Descoteaux, and Clint Poland.

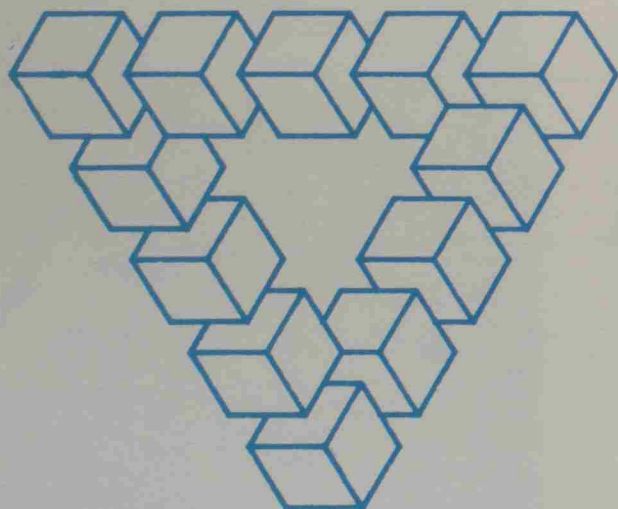
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THE MAGIC'S STILL THERE

BY: K.M. Fahmy

before they signed it. Meme holds that she and the friend she worked with the first few days, Rachel Bury, both thoroughly explained the petition's purpose and what the person was committing himself to when it was signed. That argument, as well as a very convincing speech the night of the meeting by students against condoms, were minor drawbacks in her campaign. Meme is confident that all will work out and that the campaign to have condoms available here at school will prevail.

"Is all this pressuring you? Do you think it's really worth it to do all this? You'll be leaving in two or three years, anyway," I asked. "I think it is worth it, definately. I think condoms should be made available. Granted, some students aren't going to use them even if they are made available, but more and more people are saying, especially girls, 'Look Bud, I'm not going to do it unless you have one on'."

"I don't think condoms will solve all the problems we face, but it will help prevent the spread of disease. That's all that counts," she told me.

When asked about the Sexual Education program in the school she expressed her concern. "It should be expanded; we have to teach the students more. A lot of the students simply don't understand what's going on. Some students, I'm sure, don't even understand that AIDS is deadly; there is no cure!"

Will condoms promote sex? Meme doesn't think so, and that's not her aim. She is simply saying that in the new decade you have to take precautions. She believes that people who support the fact that condoms promote sex have a valid argument, but all she wants to say is that people must "take the responsibility for their actions. You can't afford not to at this time."

She has no intention of letting this slide. When asked if there is anything that can stand in her way, she replied that the parents might have a small problem with the whole issue, but a lot of them are simply "sticking their heads in the sand." They want to live in an "ideal world" but it isn't an ideal world. "They can't afford to bury their heads any longer and say that this isn't happening; our kids are having sex."

The Student Council has already showed their support with a vote of 14 for, 3 against, and 1 who abstained from voting. She believes that the members of the Student Council are voting both for themselves and for the well-being of the student body. She is very happy most of them see her point of view. "We're not trying to pressure anybody into voting for this," she replied.

On Wednesday, November 6th, one of professional basketball's biggest superstars discovered something awful. The next day Earvin "Magic" Johnson held a press conference in Inglewood, California to announce that he has to retire from the Los Angeles Lakers because he tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. He won't say how he acquired the virus (if he knows), but he made a point of saying that his wife of several months, Cookie Kelly, and their unborn baby, both tested negative for the virus.

At 32, Johnson is one of the greatest players ever to grace a basketball court. His credentials include three MVPs (1987, 1989, 1990), all-time playoff leader, assists, and countless others. He is a hero to many young basketball fans and helped the Lakers clinch the NBA trophy on five separate occasions. He is, undoubtedly, the best point guard ever to play the game.

Although he has not been diagnosed as having AIDS (Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome), he has been told that playing professional basketball could heighten his susceptibility to the disease. Therefore, he has retired from the Lakers and will not play on the U.S. "Dream Team" at next year's Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

The news of Magic's condition came as a shock to friends, family, and especially fans. No one could believe that a role model such as Magic could acquire such a dreaded virus.

I have some statistics for you: there are 4647 cases of AIDS in Canada, 78 per cent are homosexual men, 1 per cent are intravenous drug users, 5 per cent received contaminated blood from a donor, and 7 per cent are heterosexual. Strangely enough, no one has brought up homosexuality in Magic's case. There have been cases of famous people dying from AIDS; examples are Rock Hudson and Liberace, but these cases were dismissed as two homosexual men who didn't play it safe. In the case of Magic it is an example of how someone can acquire AIDS from heterosexual contact.

When asked how she felt about the one abstainer, she said, "If he or she's against that, then they can say so."

One somewhat major setback took place the night of Tuesday, October 29th when there was an open meeting to discuss the issue. Some parents argued that their children signed the petition not knowing to what it pertained and didn't have the petition explained to them

Magic is happy. Friday the 7th, he appeared on the talk show of his good friend, Arsenio Hall. He received thunderous applause that never died down. The whole audience stood and cheered his courage. He said he was happy no matter what his condition, and plans to use his misfortune to benefit others. He plans to go on a national tour, spreading the word about safe sex. He hoped that people will see that even heterosexuals can get HIV and that they will not dismiss AIDS as a "gay disease" and see that anyone can get it - even Earvin Magic Johnson.

I was really sad when I heard about this. I was on the edge of my seat all through last

year's NBA season, praying the Lakers would make the finals. They did. The Bulls did beat them, but at least they made it. I thought Magic was incredible, amid all the talented players around him, Michael Jordan, John Paxson, and Vladi Divac. Magic stuck out as an incredible player and a definite gentleman. It seems ironic that this comes out just when Galt is caught in an argument about condoms. Maybe if Magic had taken a few seconds to slip on a condom he might still be dribbling the ball down the court in a yellow and purple uniform or connecting with his long-time friend Jordan for a basket against the Italians. Maybe having condoms will lessen the chance of anybody in our school getting AIDS. It has been rumoured that there is a student in our school who has AIDS; even if that were true, condoms would still help prevent the spread of this vicious killer.

Basketball will continue, but it will never be the same without Magic. Players come and go, but some stick in your mind and never leave; that's when you know they're good. It may be years, decades, centuries, until a cure for AIDS is found. Until then, isn't it better to be safe? Everyone has their opinion about the condom issue; I was not planning to publish my own, but when this happened I saw it as a perfect opportunity. AIDS kills, and one day it will claim Magic Johnson. It has already claimed thousands. AIDS does not discriminate: you can be an actor, a business tycoon, a clerk in a department store, a famous basketball

star, or a student at Alexander Galt Regional High School.

Experts say that in a few years everyone will know someone with HIV. That doesn't have to happen. Be safe...please.

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Ah! That Magic Word!

STARTING SCHOOL AGAIN

BY: Brandy Deslauriers
Melissa Fortin

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	C	A	B	C	S	T	N	E	D	U	T	S
2	Q	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	E	R
3	F	H	O	M	E	W	O	R	K	M	A	E
4	E	N	O	P	B	Q	B	E	L	L	C	V
5	T	R	S	T	O	U	U	P	F	W	H	I
6	E	S	C	H	O	O	L	A	R	X	E	R
7	R	R	L	R	K	Z	I	P	I	A	R	D
8	I	E	A	E	B	C	B	D	E	E	S	S
9	A	S	S	C	F	G	R	H	N	I	J	U
10	K	A	S	E	L	M	A	M	D	N	O	B
11	D	R	E	S	Q	J	R	R	S	S	T	U
12	U	E	S	S	W	G	Y	M	X	Y	Z	A

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SCHOOL DANCE

BY: Stephanie Belanger

This year's first school dance was terrific! The music was great to dance to, but then again, it always is.

There were two screens, and in between was a D.J. The bleachers on the side were for people who didn't feel like dancing.

Around 400 to 425 people were there.

Approximately 15 to 20 people wore costumes. One was wearing a Garfield costume, which was really neat.

The music selection was fantastic. It went from the fast "U Can't Touch This" to the slow "Anything I Do, I Do It For You." And we would really like to thank the "Sights and Sounds Video Show."

The refreshments were good; we had soft drinks and doughnuts from "Duncan Doughnuts."

In case anyone is wondering, the next school dance will be December 15th. So don't put your feet to rest. You'll need them for the next dance.



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