

The D'Arcy Voice

HOLIDAY ISSUE

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE CHARITABLE

KASIA TKACZ & CATARINA GARCIAS

When that mean old Jack Frost is nipping at your nose and you're standing there thinking to yourself "Gosh I'm cold," maybe you should be thinking about all those people out there with no roof over their heads, no food in their bellies and to top it off no family. Are the wheels turning yet?

So what can you do on this holiday season to help them?

Find a legitimate charity, give canned goods, used toys, old clothing and a spare Looney here and there-people are not asking for much. I'm sure that many people would be thrilled to have half of what we as teens and as students often take for granted (such as food, warmth and shelter as well as the high priced high tech gadgets that we have at our disposal.) D'Arcy McGee high school will be holding a couple of charitable drives to benefit the needy. The less fortunate don't have to be "less fortunate" then any of us. Have a heart and help the needy this holiday season. Together we can make everyone's Christmas a joyful one.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

COURTNEY WEEKS

The tree is standing and the lights are shining for Christmas is just around the corner. Many of you are running around picking up last minute presents while some of you are too consumed with term exams to even think about the holiday season.

Most people are so jumbled in their own last minute activities that they completely forget that Christmas isn't just in Canada. In fact most countries in the world celebrate this happy time of year. Here is a look at three countries and the way that they celebrate Christmas.

Greece- In Greece it is said that St. Nicholas wears clothes drenched in brine (salt water). He drips with sea water and perspiration from working through the angry waves of the sea to get to ships. In Greece they say "Eftihismena Christouge" for Merry Christmas. Some households keep a fire burning through the twelve days of Christmas to prevent bad spirits from entering by the chimney. At Christmas, children travel house to house singing 'Kalanda', a carol, and giving good wishes. Afterwards the children are often given sweets or coins in appreciation.

Australia- As you know, the seasons are opposite in Australia from those in Canada. Instead of white, snowy scenery, Australia is filled with blue skies and lots of sunshine. The temperature gets as high as thirty-five degrees Centigrade (100 degrees Fahrenheit)! In Australia on Christmas Day, families might gather for a traditional barbecue surrounded by family and friends or spend the day at the beach. They rarely stay at home. Australians enjoy 'Carols by Candlelight' on Christmas Eve which is broadcast on TV across the country. Traditional carols are sung as

well as some Australian ones like "Six White Boomers" and "Santa Never made it into Darwin". Many people attend church services both on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day and celebrate the religious aspect of Christmas and the Birth of Jesus. Australians say "Merry Christmas" and Santa Claus looks the same as ours.

Japan- Christmas is one of the few world renowned holidays Japanese people celebrate but with as many unique traditions as there are places on earth! This is ironic due to the fact that only one percent of people in Japan believe in Christ. Whether the symbols of Christmas are candles, singing carols or Santa Kurohsu, the spirit doesn't change: In Japan they say Shinnen Omedeto or Kurisumasu Omedeto for 'Merry Christmas.' There is a priest called Hoteiosha who acts like Santa Claus. He brings presents to each house and leaves them for the children. Christmas day is different from ours. Instead of spending time at home, eating turkey and pudding, they spend the day helping others, particularly those sick and in hospitals.

Whether you are working in a hospital, finishing exams, or getting everything ready for the relatives, let's not forget what this holiday is all about; giving, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and showing love towards others. This is a happy time; don't waste a minute of it because after all, Christmas only comes once a year.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

CASSANDRA MONETTE THOMPSON

Everyone remembers the classic Christmas video "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." How even without all their presents and treasures the Who's got up and showed the Grinch what Christmas was really about. We all have a little 'Who' in all of us. Christmas isn't the same without a little Christmas spirit. That's why I'm here to help your little 'Who' get in gear for the Christmas holidays.

Decorate you're heart out. Hang up the Christmas lights everywhere and anywhere you can; in your room, outside, in the kitchen, hey why not even in your locker, but I would be surprised if you got them working. Help you're parents decorate the Christmas tree. Hang up your stocking and please don't just wait for Christmas to come, make it



Members of The D'Arcy Voice hard at work on this issue of The Voice

come. Don't stare out the window counting the long days until Christmas day is finally here. Go do something with your friends. Plan a secret Santa adventure, do a little get together, go caroling, sliding on the hills, have a snow fight or even build a snow man.

D'Arcy also planned some exciting events to make Christmas come alive. There's a caroling squad that are going caroling as a group on the 21st, it's not too late to join. Julie Parizeau will be in the cafeteria taking names of people who would like to join them. Samantha Dupont and Kelli Cockerell will be wandering the halls with mistletoe spreading the love of Christmas. Don't forget to plant yourself under one with a special someone. We can't forget the Christmas semi-formal dance which was held on the 16th. Most of all we shouldn't forget to give to the ones in need and student counsel are making sure that you will. Let's just say they have a little something up their sleeves that they haven't told us yet. Something that might need you to invest in a pair of ear plugs. I'll leave you guys to investigate this one. Remember that Christmas is only what you make it. So take advantage of it, Christmas only comes once every year.

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

FELICIA BROWN

You can feel the spirit, Christmas is here, bright lights that light up the street, decorations in stores and people selling pine trees here and there. Of course, who can forget that jolly old man, who kids look forward to see, the man of the month... Santa Claus.

As teens we think that Christmas is the time of year when we get to spend money and receive gifts, but for some it is a peaceful period, when people mark the religious event. When we were younger we knew that Santa Claus was real and we looked forward to opening our presents that lay under the beautiful, decorated Christmas tree on Christmas morning.

Today, millions of children still count down the days until that special Christmas morning, they go to bed early on Christmas eve, ready to wake up early to see what Santa brought. With all the commotion going on sometimes it's easy to forget that not everybody celebrates Christmas Day. A quarter of the population in the UK doesn't celebrate this event. The reason for this is because it is not their religion or their choice. There are a lot of different ways to celebrate such as Ramadan. For Muslims it's their most important religious tradition, their most important observance each year.

The fact that Christmas is a Christian holiday is becoming less and less important with each generation as the religious celebration gets exchanged for the commercial event.

In many ways Christmas seems sponsored by the media. Most of the population thinks that Christmas is more about spending money than an actual religious observance.

It's time to give and to receive, but let's not forget what Christmas is all about. Christmas is not about giving; it's to

honor the birth of Jesus Christ.

HOW TO GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

BRANDON CROISIÈRE

Finding yourself a little down lately? Stressed out about having to buy presents? Not all that excited for Christmas? Relax! I have the best ways to get you into that great Christmas spirit.

Go out for a snow day with your friends. Go skiing, snowboarding, tobogganing or whatever. Just have a blast outside.

Decorate your house. Put up some lights outdoors and indoors. Put up your tree and decorate it. The decorations should make you feel a little more cheerful and excited.

Another thing you could do would be to go shopping. Hit the malls and have fun picking out presents for your family and friends.

Listen to some good ol' Christmas tunes. Who wouldn't get excited for Christmas when hearing about presents and Santa Claus??

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is to sing loud, for all to hear.

If you can, tie a little Christmas baking into your schedules, cookies and cakes are always a fun way to notice that Christmas is near.

Last but not least, wrap your presents. This always seems to get me into the holiday spirit. As you're wrapping, just think of how happy people will be to receive your presents and how excited you are to open your own.

I recommend these suggestions to anyone who isn't that happy for the holidays. These five suggestions should definitely work for you and if not, you must truly be the Grinch himself.

JADE BELL

CANSU KOCH

As we walked into the gymnasium of D'Arcy McGee on Monday, November 28, we had no idea how much we'd be affected in the next 60 minutes by one person. The chatter of the student body slowly died down and soon, all that could be heard throughout the room was an emotionless, computerized voice telling the very emotional story of Jade Bell.

Jade started his story at the very beginning, telling us

how death had been a part of his life since a young age. He told us that when he was 11, his friend hung himself. Around the same time, Jade started drinking and smoking excessively. By the age of 21, he had had his first injection of heroine. He overdosed five times until finally, his body couldn't take it anymore. On August 22, 1997, the 22 year old decided to take injections of cocaine and heroine, a bad decision made under the influence of alcohol. He overdosed and suffered 15 minutes of oxygen deprivation and fell into a coma for a month. When he woke up for the first time, Jade seemed perfectly healthy. His family was relieved and his doctors were speechless by the fact that he didn't have any damage to the brain. However, he only had time to ask the nurse for a martini before he fell back into a coma. The next time he awoke, he couldn't walk, talk or see, he was confined to a wheelchair with only partial use of his limbs and he needed attention and care 24/7. The fact that he didn't suffer any cognitive damage still amazes doctors. (Cognitive damage refers to one's inability to think, learn, imagine, remember, or make decisions; "the means by which an individual becomes aware of people, objects and situations in the environment and their subjective, symbolic meaning".)

Somewhere in the middle of his presentation, Jade showed us a short documentary called "The Wrath of the Dragon". The short film came with warnings of severely disturbing scenes filled with swearing and images of violence, and death. However, the video tells it like it is; no hiding the truth, no softening of the edges; it gives the audience a first hand look at the regular life of a junkie as the camera follows around several teenage kids from Coquitlam, the hometown of Jade. "Once is too many times, 10,000 times is not enough," says one addict. After the video, Jade goes on to say that from the time that video was made in 1999 to this day, he is most likely the only one still alive. Even through the monotone droning of his computer, you can hear the sadness in Jade's words.

At the end of Jade's presentation, he asked two students to read his poems and rewarded them with a compilation CD of his favourite songs and a book of his own poems. Then he invited people to come up and shake his hand or give him a hug, saying that he wouldn't bite. More than half of our school's population (including teachers and staff) went up. No one shook his hand; every individual embraced him in a long hug, whispering their gratitude in his ear and introducing themselves. The simple gesture of his hugs brought nearly everyone to tears.

"I thought it was great, it changed my mind about everything. It was really powerful to actually see him in front of you, suffering," Kelli Cockerell states, and she's not the only one. Nat Gauthier says that the presentation was a wake-up call for her and for many other D'Arcy students. I personally was amazed by the fact that he still has the ability to smile and laugh and have fun. "I can't believe he is still able to smile after all that," Sam Dupont said.

Jade will continue with his journey across Canada's Lower Mainland, teaching students about the consequences of drugs and while he may not be able to save the world, if he reaches at least one kid, it will make his efforts worthwhile.

KISSING UNDER THE MISTLETOE

SAMANTHA DUPONT AND KELLI COCKERELL

Underneath the mistletoe you get that magical and intense feeling that runs through your whole body when you're kissing that special someone. Your lips feel as if they belong, your heads seem to meet at the perfect spot and life around you seems to stop and all you can think about is how to hold that other person and how to make them feel the same way you do.

The tradition of kissing under the mistletoe started with the Greek festival of Saturnalia. One of the beliefs concerning mistletoe was that it had the power to make a person fertile. Closely connected is the second belief that the person would have life giving power. In some areas, such as Scandinavia, the mistletoe was a plant of peace, allow-

ing enemies to declare a truce. The tradition of exchanging a kiss under the mistletoe is also present in Canada and many European countries. When a couple would kiss under the mistletoe they were promising each other to marry. Today kisses can be exchanged under the mistletoe anytime during the holiday season. Such a kiss could mean deep romance or lasting friendship and good will.

It has been known that the mistletoe is a sacred plant of Frigga. The Scandinavian goddess of love, the mother of Balder and the god of the sun. Balder had a dream of death, which alarmed his mother because if he would die, all life on earth would end. In an attempt to keep this from happening, Frigga went at once to air, fire, water, earth, and every animal and plant seeking a promise that no harm would come to her son. Balder could not be hurt by anything on earth on under the earth. But Balder had one enemy, Loki, the god of evil and he knew of one plant that Frigga had overlooked in her quest to keep her son safe. It grew neither on the earth nor under the earth, but on apple and oak trees. It was the mistletoe. It is said the tears Frigga shed for her son turned into the pearly white berries on the mistletoe. The story states that no harm should come to whoever stands under the mistletoe, only a kiss, a token of love would be experienced there.

We hope this holiday season you will receive your first real foot popping kiss.

Words end...

The mistletoe will defiantly be one of our accessories used this holiday season. Prepare yourself to see us walking down the hallways showing off our mistletoe.

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

A POEM BY SAMANTHA DUPONT, KELLI COCKERELL, AND CANSU KOCH

*Lots of people
Crowds everywhere
Rushing and pushing and shoving
Going nowhere
It's Christmas time again
Have to get all those things done
Hustle, bustle, quickly
We must beat the sun
Must get this and must get that
Maybe this nik, maybe that nak
When did it happen?
When did we lose track?
It's a race, yes it is
We are running, yes we are
But let's not forget
Before we get too far
What is really important
Doesn't take much to figure out
Take time to love
Love from the heart*

WOULD YOU LIKE THE SPECIAL?

RICHARD COELHO

What dominates the television channels over the holidays? It's all about the Christmas specials coming back for another year to spread the cheer of the holiday.

Television stations will broadcast the various versions of films and many will be repeats, but it's an essential part of Christmas. The trouble is finding when your favorites will be shown. Here are some major stations' website links to make your search a little simpler:

Global:
http://www.canada.com/globaltv/listings/listings_quebec.html?category=7

ABC:
<http://abc.go.com/>

YTV:



<http://www.ytv.com/programming/guide/guide-EAST-ERN-18.asp>

CityTV:

http://www.citytv.com/toronto/tvschedule_schedulegrid.aspx

Teletoon:

http://www.teletoon.com/unrealworld_v2/teletoon.php?language=En&user=0&func=0&init=0

Many stations play tons of your old favorites such as: Frosty the Snowman, A Charlie Brown Christmas, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas and A Christmas Carol. They also play new takes on what can turn classic like: Olive the Other Reindeer, and The Nightmare before Christmas. Just ask your younger siblings for more information on the new ones. If you don't have any siblings I guess it's up to you to know or double check on the sites listed above.

Hopefully you enjoy the many movies that will be playing this Christmas. Have fun watching and don't forget to drink lots of hot cocoa.

THE SEDUCTIVE WORKINGS OF BANANA SPLITS

COURTNEY WEEKS AND GEMMA WAGNER

When it comes to banana splits, student council left no banana unpeeled. The taste told it all... but what about the story behind banana splits?

Banana splits were invented in 1904 in the small town of Latrobe, PA by a little boy named David Strickler. This curious person was always interested in making new sundae creations at the Tassel Pharmacy where he was employed. (Did you know that there used to be soda shops in pharmacies?) One day he came across the tropical banana. In order to prepare his new concoction, he split his bananas in two, straight down the middle and this simple gesture opened the doors to the flabbergasting creation of the banana split. Traditionally you pile three different flavors of ice cream onto each of the halves, sprinkling it with fruit, dribbling it with chocolate adding a grand finale of mile high whipped cream, peaked with a cherry. From that one store, blossomed an international phenomenon!

During Spirit week, D'Arcy students were apprehensive about the whole 'bring your own banana day', totally clueless as to why they were asked to bring such a bizarre item. But, the student council was proud to showcase their talents by making banana splits, pleasantly surprising all with this delicious treat.

FUNNIER WITH AGE?

ALI WRAY

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Rating: 4.5/5

Daniel Radcliff, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson are back! Reprising their roles as Harry, Ron and Hermione in the fourth installment of Harry Potter.

The fourth Harry Potter movie, entitled "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" sure doesn't disappoint. This year at Hogwarts involves a Triwizard Tournament which is only supposed to involve three wizards over the age of seventeen, but when Harry's name miraculously comes out of the Goblet of Fire three wizards quickly changes to four.

With two schools, Durmstrang and Beauxbatons visiting Hogwarts this year the students make new friends, enemies and crushes. Harry, Ron and Hermione are now fourteen and of course are interested in the opposite sex. Harry meets Cho Chang, a fifth year whom he asks to the Yule Ball. Sadly Cho already had plans. Hermione meets Viktor Krum, a gorgeous Quidditch hero who plays for the Bulgarian National Quidditch team. He attends Durmstrang and competes in the Triwizard Tournament and is Hermione's escort to the Yule Ball, while Ron sits out with Harry looking jealously over at Viktor.

While the three previous Harry Potter movies were



PRESENTS FOR ALL!

ASHLEY MOFATT

It's Christmas Eve and you still haven't bought your presents. What do you get people? Well here are some ideas.

For your younger sibling: A lava lamp. It isn't too expensive, so you don't have to spend all your money on it. They'll love it; it's kind of like a night light, but cooler. So they won't have to feel embarrassed that they're afraid of the dark.

For your older sibling: A gift certificate. Look through their old shopping bags or pay attention to the stores they go into while shopping. This gift is more personal than just money, but is almost guaranteed to make them happy. After all, they get to pick their own present.

For mom: A day of relaxing. It doesn't mean she has to go to the spa, just give her a day off. She cooks and cleans for you all year round. So why don't you do her chores for a change! Make her a nice dinner, clean the house, and have a family dinner. I'm sure she'll appreciate it.

For dad: Swing by Tim Horton's and get him a traveler's coffee mug. Then get a bag of coffee from Tim Horton's. The coffee isn't too expensive. Neither is the mug. So go ahead, get him both. He'll love it.

Friends: Have you run out of money yet? It's okay if you have. This next gift is free. Burn them a CD; everyone has a burner now. But if you get them songs they may not have heard, and you know they'll love, they'll appreciate it. To make it personal, customize the CD case. Put a picture of all your friends on it, or something they really love.

TOP 10 CHRISTMAS GIFTS

SAMANTHA DUPONT, KELLI COCKRELL & CANSU KOCH

Are you having problems figuring out the best gifts to give this season? Well here are some options... We've compiled the 10 most wanted Christmas gifts for 2005.

- #10: Laptop computer
- #9: Clothes / make-up
- #8: Video games
- #7: Money
- #6: DVD player/CD player
- #5: Webcam
- #4: PSP/PS3

dramatic and dark the fourth had many comedic moments. Don't get me wrong, this movie had a scary ending, including a nose-missing, dark eyed creepy Lord Voldemort but this one had more humor, with many of the comedic moments coming from Oliver and James Phelps who play Ron Weasley's older prankster twin brothers Fred and George. These nineteen year olds will defiantly have a career in comedy.

Leaving out many parts from the book is very understandable considering the book is 736 pages long and the movie is only two hours and fifty-five minutes. The first idea was to split the book in half and release the two movies several months apart and I personally like that idea better because, hello, an entire extra movie with those gorgeous guys!

Even though they decided to go with one movie it was a

- #3: Cell Phone
- #2: Digital Camera
- #1: Apple iPod Nano

I'M SURE SHE WILL LOVE THAT CORDLESS DRILL...

CATARINA GARCIAS AND KASIA TKACZ

Are you dreading the countdown until Christmas? Fearing the lack of gifts, parking, and empty shelves and above all the lack of time? Well worry not! We can help you out by giving you a push in the right direction.

All girls know that when it comes to gift giving guys tend to need a little more help than us girls. I mean the gift giving ritual could take years to perfect... Either was we conjured up a super transitional wish list for both males and females based on a survey that we took around the school.

Girl's Wish List

- Gift Certificates.
- Chocolate (Assuming she is not allergic)
- Books
- Jewelry
- Movies
- Shoes
- Make-up
- Clothes
- Outdoor Equipment
- Sports gear
- Perfume

Guy's Wish List

- Gift Certificates
- Watches
- Sweaters
- Toques
- Tools
- Cologne/ body spray
- Shoes/ boots
- Razors
- Sports gear
- Outdoor equipment
- Video games
- Books ("A trip into the female mind." The yet to be written novel)

fabulous arrangement of magic, competition and significant others.

I give it 4.5 golden eggs out of five.

TIDINGS OF JOY AND POLYGONS

KEAGAN LEROUX

Christmas is the gamer's dream. This cup of glory is known as an easy excuse to ask your parents/relatives for games, and being an award winning gamer myself I have taken upon myself to give you, the readers, a list of games I think that you should own. Since I'm nice I will do the top five for each system as well as the top ten.

Top Ten Games:

Resident Evil 4 (PS2, GC)

GTA: San Andreas
 Need for Speed Underground 2 (All)
 Halo (PC, XBOX)
 Metal Gear Solid 3 (PS2)
 Prince of Persia 2 (PS2, GC)
 True Crimes: Streets of LA (All)
 Time Splitters (All)
 Burnout 3/ Revenge (PS2, XBOX)
 Splinter Cell: Chaos Theory (All)
 Top Five PC games:
 World Of Warcraft (Monthly Fees)
 Star Siege Tribes
 Counter Strike
 Ragnarok Online (Monthly Fees)
 Age of Empires 3
 Top Five Game Cube games:
 Paper Mario:Thousand Year Door
 Metroid Prime 2: Echoes
 Killer 7
 Enter the Matrix
 Mario Kart Double Dash
 Top Five Xbox Games:
 Halo 2
 Fable
 Ninja Gaiden Black
 Need for Speed:Wanted
 Project Gotham Racing 2
 Top Five PlayStation 2 games:
 Metal Gear Solid 3
 Jak 3
 SOCOM 2
 RPG Maker 3
 Kingdom Hearts



MEMBERS OF THE D'ARCY VOICE

HOW THE D'ARCY VOICE IS MADE

DAVID SCHLACHTER

Have you ever wondered just how we make The D'Arcy Voice, how the articles get written, how the pages get set up, where the graphics come from? Well, soon you'll know.

The D'ArcyVoice usually starts off with brainstorming. We try to think what the next issue's theme will be, what we will write about, and when we'll release the paper. Once that is done, we start to write.

Writing articles is probably the most important part of the process, besides, what would the paper look like with no text? Usually the articles are written until there is no more space left in the paper, and then the extra articles get filed away for future use.

While all this is going on, the layout crew is busy trying to design the visual feel of the upcoming issue. We consider when TheVoice will be released, and what most of the articles are about. Often, we look outside at the weather and try to reflect it in The Voice. We also try to figure out where the text and pictures are going to go. Overall, we try to make the paper look good enough to sell.

As people finish their articles they email them off to the layout crew, which is also in charge of some editing. The articles are quickly edited, and then placed in the paper.

Simultaneously, the graphics designers & photographers are busy trying to get images for the paper. The photographers run all around the school snapping photos, while the graphics designers stay in front of the computers busy working with Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator.

As all the pieces of the puzzle come together the layout crew fits everything together and get it ready for printing. When everything is together, and the paper is edited, they run off a few copies on the classroom printer.

At this point a class member runs down the the photocopier, and transfers The Voice to its 11x17 paper. After rushing back with a few hundred copies, people start to

fold the papers.

Once the folding of the newspapers is done, energetic volunteers grab the copies and sell them in the cafeteria for 25¢ each, and once selling is done an unprintable copy of TheVoice is put up on the website.

And there you have it; how the D'Arcy Voice is made, from brainstorming to publishing.

CHOCOLATE MAKES YOUR CLOTHES SHRINK

HOW TO TAKE IT EASY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

COURTNEY WEEKS AND GEMMA WAGNER.

Although many of us can't wait for the Christmas season, what with all the food and treats galore, some of us fear the inevitable result of gorging one's self. Our best advice is just go for it! You have plenty of time to stress about your waist line later. Christmas is a time for being together, being jolly and being full. Your feeling of Christmas spirit and warmth is often accompanied by your favorite dish at Christmas dinner. There is no point in even trying to resist, you'll fail. Be happy with this failure! It will satisfy your appetite and put you in a good mood. Don't be afraid to snatch a candy cane of the tree, or grab a chocolate mint from the bowl in your living room. The annual 5-10 pound gain; hey, the January diet will take care of that.

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Take a look at The D'Arcy Voice's website at:
<http://www3.sympatico.ca/alan.schlachter/darcyvoice/>

