Christmas Season Consumerism

By Chris Scarvelis

$34.5 billion: the amount of money spent by Canadians in 2008 while Christmas shopping. While the supposed “fact” that retailers begin turning a profit on Black Friday (the day after American Thanksgiving) is largely apocryphal, Christmas shopping does account for a relatively large portion of retailers’ annual revenues, namely, an average of 20%.

Yes, money does drive the world’s economic engine, and retailers will always be intent on ensuring the presence of parents purchasing gifts to avoid the sight of Dickensian hatred in their children's eyes come Christmas Day, but the puritanical reaction of many at the perceived blight of consumerism is overdone at best, and fanatical at worst. Such people would have you believe the antiquated canard of the transformation of “this generation” from wide-eyed cherubim to Fagin’s Urchins at the hands of callous, capitalistic marketing executives, repeated today even by precocious young children.

At risk of appearing arrogant, I can vouch for the overwhelming likelihood that such arguments have been repeated by generation after generation of exasperated parents seeking an entity on which they could lay blame for their plight. $34.5 billion is a surprisingly small amount of gross national expenditure on a holiday that many now associate with unrestrained consumerism rather than such nostalgic concepts as strict piety or togetherness, most of which are by-products of the Great Depression.

(Continued on page 3)

Drama Review: Ransom of Red Chief and Darlin’ Hero

By Alex Banks, Editor
Photos by Jim Newman

It is one thing to review a classic play that is so familiar, one could almost speak those celebrated and beloved lines in unison with the actors responsible to present them. Such was the case last year, with Loyola’s production of “A Christmas Carol”. Critiquing two plays you have never heard of in the same review, is something entirely different and certainly more challenging. However, it is all that much more enjoyable to be presented with a fresh work where the audience composed mainly of those unfamiliar with

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**Remembrance Day at Loyola and in Ottawa**

The Remembrance Day service at Loyola in recent years has been a dignified, respectful, and solemn occasion, befitting an educational institution that values the dedication and service of Canadian soldiers over the years. This year was no exception. Organized by Social Studies Department Head Ms. Wendy Polverari, and featuring the participation of numerous students and musical director Ms. Marthe Lacasse, the ceremony was beautifully choreographed, educational and at times very moving.

As well, throughout the week leading up to the ceremony, Loyola welcomed some important guests who are currently serving Canada in the military: Capt. Farnham and Sargent Jonathan Jacobs.

Capt Farnham (pictured at right, on top) joined the Black Watch in 2004 and served as Platoon Commander from 2005-2006. He instructed on courses at Canadian Forces Base in Gagetown, New Brunswick and C.F.B. Farnham in Quebec. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2007 as the Liaison Officer to the Provincial Reconstruction Team at the Kandahar Air Field Headquarters doing his pre-deployment training in Valcartier, Quebec; El Paso, Texas; and Wainwright, Alberta.

Sargent Jonathan Jacobs (Loyola Class of 2002, pictured at right) visited classes to discuss his experience in the military and his assignment in Afghanistan where he will be training Afghan police recruits. Jacobs was deployed on November 29.

If you would like to read the script from the Remembrance Day service, it is available online at news.loyola.ca.

**Ottawa Trip**

*By Antonio De Lauri*

Also, on November 11, six secondary IV Loyola students were chosen to represent their class on a field trip to Ottawa for the Remembrance Day ceremonies. They were accompanied by Mme Nadeau and were also joined by several other students from LCC, Selwyn House, ECS, The Study, QAA, Trafalgar and Sacred Heart. It was a great opportunity which allowed them to participate in such an important event that honours all the men and women who served Canada during the war. The freedom and the life we are privileged to have today, is thanks to their courage and determination. It was a privilege to commemorate the fallen soldiers. It is thanks to Mr. Paul Kavanagh, a Loyola parent and founder of Operation Veteran, that this trip was made possible. Through this program, he wanted to provide a free meal at the Canadian War Museum cafeteria for all veterans and army personnel. Thanks to over 11 schools in Canada who fundraised to support his dream it soon became a reality. It is through these charitable acts of kindness that make Canada the unique country we are proud to be living in today.

**James Fell is the new manager of the cafeteria**

By Alexander Venditti

The cafeteria throughout the years has been constantly ribbed on. “The food is terrible.” “It takes forever!” But no more! This year, the cafeteria has so far undergone changes for the better. With new head of cafeteria, James Fell (pictured at left), the cafeteria proves to be better than ever this year. In a recent interview with James, we’ve found out a bit more about how the cafeteria works and its future.

**Loyola News:** How long have you been working in this field? Where have you worked while in this field?

**James Fell:** I’ve been working in this field for 25 years now. Throughout my time working, I have worked in restaurants such as Wendy’s, Mr. Sub, and Domino’s.

**LN:** When does your average day start and end?

**JF:** I come in and begin my day at 6 a.m. At that time, we prepare the muffins, the Jell-O, sandwiches and I fill out paperwork for the day.

**LN:** What changes do you plan on bringing to the cafeteria?

**JF:** To start, I plan on changing up the breakfasts and offering different selections. For example, we plan on offering waffles and pancakes to the students. As well, we’re thinking of bringing an espresso machine to the teachers and possibly the Sec. 5 students too. At holidays, we’ll put up decorations like we did at Halloween. So far, we already have a small tree up in the cafeteria.

**LN:** How does the food for lunch get prepared?

**JF:** During the morning, the pizza, hamburgers, and sandwiches are all prepared here at Loyola. The warm meals are all prepared in the big kitchen at college Brébeuf. They are then distributed to the schools.

**LN:** Therefore, you work for Loyola or Sodexho?

**JF:** I work for Sodexho.

**LN:** What do you think of the student body here at Loyola?

**JF:** I think that the students here are really great. I’ve heard stories that students from other schools can be nightmares, but the students are great here. I truly enjoy working here.

The Loyola News thanks Mr. James Fell for his time in answering our questions and we can’t wait to see and taste what the future holds.
Christmas Consumerism, continued from Page 1

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pression. Contrary to the assertions of the Yuletide jeremiads that are regularly peppered throughout newspapers, I have yet to notice a decline in the popularity of the Christmas dinner, and nor have I seen a child throw a tantrum in response to an unwanted gift.

Children will always be children, and one of the trademarks of childhood is the inability to control one's emotions, no matter the quantity of marketing force-fed to children through television. One might even suggest that those who tilt at the windmills of consumerism are themselves falling victim to the persuasion of the media that conjure up quixotic ideals that never truly existed.

The cancerous society that they prophesize will most likely remain a product of their overactive imaginations, but if one assumed, arguendo, that such a society did in fact exist, would their lifestyle be affected? Perhaps their children would not be quite as stoic as their parents, but in that case, their argument devolves into a matter of poor parenting, an exclusive responsibility of the parents themselves. Personal responsibility, not social engineering, is the key to avoiding the plague of consumerism.

Veni, Vidi, Vici (The Douglas Creek Estates)

By Chris Scarvelis

Who would have thought that the First Nations would have come this far? Over the course of four hundred years, they have transformed themselves from lowly pawns in the endless quarrels of their newfound European overlords to actual “enforcers” of some convoluted form of law existing only on a small tract of land in Caledonia, Ontario (Zimbabwe excluded, of course). This is the nature of modern identity politics; petty disputes transformed into issues of ethnic pride that rise far above the lowly peasants that inhabit the lawless countryside of Southern Ontario.

The Douglas Creek Estates Project was intended to be a residential development encompassing forty hectares of land outside the small town of Caledonia, Ontario. To call the subject controversial is to do injustice to the tireless efforts of Native agitators to draw national attention to their supposed cause. The complexities of the affair are, well, complex, and not of any particular value to this argument, but it's worth knowing that the conflict began on February 28, 2006, when members of a First Nation reserve set up camp on the prospective site for the Douglas Creek Estates.

Several injunctions were issued in an attempt to force the would-be squatters off the land, but an attempt by the OPP to force the Natives off what ostensibly was developer-owned land ended in a Native insurrection. Residents of the area were regaled with such savoury incidents as a tire fire, a burning bridge, and a blackout resulting from the use of a dilapidated truck to firebomb an electrical substation.

The OPP, exhibiting a surreal sense of noblesse oblige, proceeded to retreat and leave the supposed protesters to their own devices. The protesters, seemingly imitating the chivalry of King Arthur’s knights, proceeded to target the homes of elderly residents, “peacefully” casting stones at the home of an 89-year-old man and violently harassing a 68-year-old German couple returning to their home. Peaceful protest is a wonderful thing, isn’t it?

Among this chaos, where were the OPP to be found? Nowhere. Well, that cannot be said with complete accuracy; they were present, but completely inactive. In fact, their explicit orders were to only engage the protesters in event of dire medical emergencies among their victims. Shameful behaviour for those who are tasked with upholding the rule of law in our society. An alternate explanation given by the OPP claims that they performed the legal equivalent of subcontracting law enforcement to the First Nations protesters (read: thugs).

We’re coming dangerously close to Mexican levels of corruption, but not for such a noble cause as personal enrichment. The OPP is serving the interests of a group of people that refuse to integrate into society, but instead prefer to brood in their persecutory delusions to the detriment of all parties involved. It is irrelevant to invoke former ownership of land in a property rights debate, and even more so for a group that claims to follow the traditions of a society that dictate a lack of private property.

Whether the Douglas Creek Estates are being built over land owned by the First Nations hundreds of years ago or not is utterly unworthy of discussion. What is relevant is whether the Crown ever repurchased the said land from the First Nations, and whether it was ever sold to the developer or not. On this matter, all legal documents presented by both sides point to clear legal ownership of the land by Henco Industries Ltd., the prospective developer of Douglas Creek Estates. Is our society advancing at all, or are we rather regressing?

Pictured above: according to the Turtle Island News, a group of youths have virtually “taken over the [Douglas Creek Estates] site.” On May 14th some of them set fire to bales of hay near residents’ homes. From voiceofcanada.ca
Drama Review: *Ransom of Red Chief and Darlin’ Hero*

The play, is dependent entirely on every acted word and movement.

This year, Loyola’s production was two-fold; “The Darlin’ Hero” which was thirty minutes in duration and “The Ransom of Red Chief” which was an hour and a half long were presented in that respective order with a short intermission separating the two pieces.

To be quite honest, I was familiar with neither of the two works. Though, after researching “The Darlin’ Hero” written by Charles Kray, I realized it was intended to take place in Dublin and reminded me of another classic Irish funerary depiction, “Finnegans Wake” by James Joyce. Both depict an Irish wake, where alcohol and the subsequent behavior are stereotypically very prominent. However, the most obvious similarity in both pieces is that the deceased character is somewhat “resurrected” after being exposed to whiskey (which is a derivation from the Irish word for water of life).

The second piece, “The Ransom of Red Chief” which was originally written in 1910 by O. Henry, was more lighthearted in terms of comedy and contrasted well with the first sketch’s black humor. In my opinion, it was a very good portrayal of typical small-town Southern-American culture (the obtuse and naive sheriff/constable, the wise and caring school teacher, and the rambunctious boy). Overall, the decision to have a duo production was bold and certainly risky, yet, in my opinion, it did indeed pay off.

In the first presented play which was the “Darlin’ Hero” all actors were well prepared and stayed true to their character throughout the duration of the piece. As the play was relatively short and not as intricate in terms of plot-line, it did not allow for more complex character development present in the following piece. Thus, it must be said that all roles were fairly equal with none that truly stole the limelight. However, it must be said that the performance of Roberto Casoli as Mrs. Wishing left the audience and myself in hysterics. In theater, it appears there is something infinitely hilarious about a man who plays the role of a physically unappealing female character. Whether it is the nurse from Romeo and Juliet or Eric Idle from Monty Python, this brand of gender confusion is a constant and reliable source of comedic relief.

Throughout his performance, Casoli undoubtedly became the dopplegänger of Joy Behar from the television program “The View”. Nevertheless, all actors allowed for a very enjoyable tale of drinking, death and amusing tavern pandemonium. “The Ransom of Red Chief”, was longer in duration, and told the story of small-town living, disorganized crime (to say the least) and the seemingly harmless mischief of youth. The portrayal of the conniving con-man Sam by Michele Burchiani was outstanding. With the constant writhing of his hands, his appropriate smarmy attire and the saccharin tone of his voice, Burchiani gave the impression of a genuine snake-oil salesman. His hapless sidekick, Bill Driscoll, portrayed by Alex Mackenzie, best reflected the irony of the playing which the kidnapper ultimately becomes the hostage. Of course, being the title character, one cannot ignore Cole Brillinger’s depiction of Johnny Dorset who’s fiery hair, impressive agility and undying motivation reminds us of the endless pool of energy we were all as children. Also, Taylor Pogue’s performance as the schoolteacher Miss Millstead must also be highlighted. She did indeed play the role very well by contrasting the two main impressions one would have of a small-town teacher: a caring and innocent motivator as well as the commanding and law-abiding educator.

I attended the play on Thursday, November 18. Considering the fact that I saw the play on a weeknight, the number of attendees was obviously a lot smaller.

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What’s Hot and What’s Not on Christmas Wish Lists?

By Kevin Khoury

HOT: The iPhone 4 may very well be considered the best smart phone to date. If you’re looking for an efficient phone and you rely on your phone for a lot for organization or internet access, this phone is certainly for you! Its glossy glass cover and Retina display certainly isn’t an eyesore. Its stainless steel band and powerful Apple A4 Processor ensures high quality! However it does come with an expensive price tag! 16GB: $659/32GB: $779

HOT: The new Xbox 360 is here! With its built-in Wi-Fi, brand new leaner look and black gloss texture, the new Xbox 360 (both available in 4G or 250G) ensures a quality finish. The built-in Wi-Fi ensures a much easier connection to the online world of Xbox Live. However, Xbox Live comes with a cost. 4GB: $200/250GB: $300

HOT: With its new slim design, the PS3 is fitting its way into more homes. Its remarkable gaming features such as simply pausing in the middle of a game to text or even talk with people on the PS3 network just makes it so easy to do many things at once. PS Network still remains free! There’s no need to buy an expensive Blu-Ray player, because the PS3 is designed with built-in Blu-Ray technology. 160GB: $300; 250GB: $350

NOT HOT: Medal of Honor might have been one of the most popular shooter games in the era of the Game Cube / Playstation 2. Many might say this one disappoints. Its constant lags and somewhat boring and repetitive campaign makes for a poor entertainment level. Many might suggest it tried to copy the Modern Warfare design. Medal of Honor is certainly nothing special. $60

NOT HOT: The iPod Toilet Roll Holder might be one of the most useless iPod speakers out there. It is exclusively sold online and its ridiculous price is not worth it.

HOT: The new Xbox 360 Fi ensures a much easier connection to the online world of Xbox Live. Features such as simply pausing in the middle of a game to text or even talk with people on the PS3 network just makes it so easy to do many things at once. PS Network still remains free! There’s no need to buy an expensive Blu-Ray player, because the PS3 is designed with built-in Blu-Ray technology. 160GB: $300; 250GB: $350

You might as well get a better set of speakers which you could just put in your bathroom. This design also charges the iPod but it is till not worth it. $230

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Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Jolly Kwanzaa and many more!

By Erik Huang

We live in a very multi-culturally diverse community; Races, nationalities, and religions from all over the globe can be found here. Often times, these communities feel upset during the winter holidays, as their own religions’ version of Christmas are frequently neglected. That said, let’s shine some light on these dusty traditions and festivals.

You, dear reader, are probably as curious as I am to know what other religions are celebrating. Or not. Either way, let us now dive headfirst into the “Christmases” of the world; Here we go!

Christmas, aka X-mas

Our very first stop is the Christian holiday of Christmas, the day on which Jesus is supposedly to have been born. One of the most celebrated holidays in the world; it is a time of gathering to celebrate the birth of Christ, drinking eggnog, and of getting as many presents as humanely possible. It is often associated with candy canes, mistletoes, and sometimes even a hand-knit sweater from Nonna. Although this festive season originally celebrated the birth of Jesus, He was actually born sometime during April. However, that doesn’t stop us from having to go to Christmas family gatherings, nor does it stop the Christmas carols from playing 24/7.

It is estimated that there are over 20,000 Christmas carols, and even more from different Christian backgrounds (Australia, Philippines, Finnish, French, Romanian, German, etc, etc), and even of different musical styles; classical, baroque, jazz, etc. Despite this, there are only about 30 widely played carols, all of which become exceedingly annoying after listening to them for at least 14 years in a row.

Hanukkah, aka Chanukah, Festival of Lights, Festival or Rededication

This wonderful, Jewish eight day holiday has an intricate background. Once upon a time, there was a group of Jews who had just defeated their oppressors; they rebuilt their Temple, and celebrated, but there was only enough oil for a day. Miraculously, the oil kept on burning for eight days, which was just enough time to make more oil. From then on, the Festival of Rededication would last for 8 days. To mark each day of the eight days, a candelabra’s (decorated multiple-arm-candle-holder-thing called a menorah) candle would be lit.

Hanukkah is often related to Dreidels, a small, four-sided spinning top. Each side of this top has a different symbol, each meaning different things; each letter forms the acronym Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, which means a great miracle happened there.

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**Groovy Movie Reviews**

**YOU DON'T GET TO 500 MILLION FRIENDS WITHOUT MAKING A FEW ENEMIES**

**By Alex Kozina**

**The Social Network**

It's all around us - on our computers, laptops, gaming devices, anything that's connected to the internet at all. All you have to do is see the familiar blue and white “I” logo and you know what I'm talking about: Facebook, the most popular social networking website ever. In The Social Network, director David Fincher retells the genesis of this website, from the time when it was merely an inking within a programming student's head - to the massive, confusing legal battle that ensued years later.

After being both rejected by his girlfriend and put on probation for causing server-crashing internet activity, Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenburg), a brilliant yet socially-awkward Harvard student, decides to put his outstanding programming skills to test when he creates “thefacebook”, an online social networking website for other Harvard students.

After a series of enduring struggles, this creation draws the attention of several individuals. This includes Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss, identical twins who insist the “idea” of “thefacebook” was stolen from them by Zuckerberg, Eduardo Saverin, a friend of Zuckerberg and co-founder of Facebook, and Sean Parker, the eccentric and egotistical Napster founder (a now closed free-file sharing music website). Together, this melange of friends and enemies take part in a long, dramatic story which proves that you don't make 500 million friends without making a few enemies.

One thing that must be understood about The Social Network is that ultimately, if you're looking for a reliable, accurate depiction of what occurred in Facebook's beginnings, you'd best look elsewhere. Being heavily adapted from the book The Accidental Billionaires by Ben Mezrich, Network is ultimately very fictitious in terms of many of the locations and events it portrays.

But even so, Network is still an excellent movie choice. Aside from being brilliantly cast, Network is fast, intelligent, and excellently scripted from beginning to end, with absolutely no slow downs in quality. It's a sad tale, layered with controversy and disputable opinions about every character, but in the end a triumphant one, that goes to show just what perseverance and pure wit can gain you in life.

My only complaint would be that the character of Zuckerberg himself, while well acted, seems too antisocial and uncaring, and comes off as very different from his real-life counterpart. Otherwise, The Social Network is a fantastic movie in every regard, and well worth your time and money.

**Retro Rerun**

If you like The Social Network...check out WarGames.

From the mind of director John Badham (Saturday Night Fever) comes an unusual, unique thriller from the 80s: WarGames, a war-related movie featuring no war but plenty of games.

David Lightman (Matthew Broderick), a computer hacking whiz and rebellious high school student (not entirely unlike Zuckerberg in The Social Network), lands himself in an ocean of trouble when his hacking skills bite off too much for him to chew.

Discovering what he believes to be a list of unreleased video games from an ominous source, David and his girlfriend become suspicious when playing one of the games, Global Thermonuclear War, initiates a string of strange events.

After being arrested by the FBI and interrogated for suspected espionage, David learns he hacked into WOPR, a supercomputer designed to simulate and control nuclear warhead damage, and his “game” of Global Thermonuclear War could've just started – wait for it – Word War III. Oh dear. Now armed with little more than the clothes on his back and his quick thinking, David must stop the threat he's created while trying to determining what exactly the threat is.

WarGames essentially preys upon the fears circulating at the time of its release, when a nuclear Soviet-American war appeared to be a potential future. As a result, some of the characters' motivations within the film can feel dated, and are better understood when you understand the film's context.

What isn't dated, however, is a unique plot that never goes where you expect it to, and comes off as brilliant, self-aware, and very suspenseful. Only occasionally cheesy dialogue keeps this movie from reaching greater heights, but I'm sure most people will be able to overlook this little hurdle.

So if you're into movies featuring cold-war military operations, funky protagonists, and massive computers with less RAM than modern-day Macs, check this one out. You won't be disappointed.
Rock Band 3

By Anthony Pavoni

Tired of practicing a real instrument? Do you want to feel like Justin Bieber up on stage with millions of screaming girls praising the ground you walk on? Okay, maybe not the last one but Rock Band 3 is supposedly the closest thing to actually playing in a band! “When you get to ‘hard’ or ‘expert,’ you’re actually playing the songs,” says Daniel Sussman, Rock Band 3’s project director at Harmonix. Say goodbye to colourful plastic buttons and say hello to actual musical notes! For all the nonbelievers, read on.

If you want to play the guitar on Rock Band 3 get ready for a challenge. You will need to learn to play actually guitar chords on six strings. This requires much more practice than pressing buttons but will feel much more rewarding. The same pretty much goes for the other instruments available with the new Rock Band. The keyboard isn’t a full-size keyboard but it does require the knowledge of certain notes on an actual piano as well. The drum set looks quite similar to the previous sets save for a few extra symbols. If you were master at the drums on Rock Band 1 and 2, Rock band 3 drumming shouldn’t be that much harder.

I guess we can say that Rock Band 3 is in fact revolutionary. How revolutionary though? Perhaps rock gods will emerge from the fog, stage light beaming across their sweaty face, Rock Band guitar in hand. Perhaps the next famous band will have started in their garage playing Rock Band 3 until they couldn’t feel their fingers. Considering how close the guitar from Rock Band 3 is to an actual guitar, it is possible that you actually learn quite a bit by simply playing the game. The problem is the game does not offer any theoretical lessons. This is one of the major reasons why you should stick with the real guitar. As for the keyboard and drums, believe me when I tell you that you are better off learning to play an actual instrument.

If you’re interested in having some fun at a party you should definitely pick up Rock Band 3. Be warned however that you must purchase each controller individually along with the copy of the game. Ultimately, if you are looking to become one of the next Rolling Stones, you should probably look elsewhere.

Firebird X by Gibson

By Anthony Pavoni

A new guitar by Gibson has recently been unveiled: The Firebird X. A new revolutionary instrument specifically manufactured to please even the pickiest of guitarists. The Firebird X has a lightweight body made from hand-sorted swamp ash with a rock maple neck and Brazilian Angelim Rajado figure board. These incredible features make the guitar light and enable it to achieve amazing sustain and tonal range. To add to the list, Gibson’s new guitar has built-in effects, tuner and controls. The instrument itself weighs six pounds and is powered by a standard cell phone battery. The guitar also includes a state-of-the-art wireless system based on Bluetooth technology to transmit data to a computer or pedals.

The Firebird X seems to be a hit or miss depending on the musician. Some people are disappointed that Gibson has left behind their signature design and have discovered a new path. What they don’t know is that despite the new guitar model, Gibson will continue to make their classic guitars that everyone has grown to love. Others love the guitar and agree that it is extremely revolutionary. I have never tried the guitar myself but I have tried Les Paul’s and SG’s. The Les Paul’s were never the lightest of guitars and I am pleased to hear that Gibson’s Firebird is light. On the other hand, I don’t really care for the Firebird’s built-in effects. I don’t find them all that cool and they don’t really affect the playability and quality of the guitar itself. Now to discuss the price. We all know that Gibson can make some really awesome guitars and the price you’re paying for the SG or Les Paul is well worth it. However, I am not sure if the Firebird X is worth six grand. That’s right, six thousand dollars. I can buy a decent guitar for a bit less than one thousand dollars.

I decided to skim through the Gibson Forums to gather as many opinions as I could. One of the main concerns people have is the guitar’s look. They claim that no matter how hard Gibson tries they will never be able to make something as nice as their previous instruments. I’ve got to agree with them on that point. Why fix something that isn’t broken?

It seems as though many companies besides Gibson have been way too concerned about making a new, improved and mind blowing product that will blow you off your feet. If only they knew that the reason they are still around and have the money to make something new is because we liked their previous products. And besides, buying the same color Les Paul as Jimmy Page is awesome and genuinely makes you feel special. Buying a six thousand dollar guitar which focuses on its special effects would make me feel more like a show-off and less like a musician who is actually passionate. I guess all we can do is wait before we can see how revolutionary the Firebird X really is.
What’s Hot and What’s Not, continued from Page 5

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instalment: It’s incredible multiplayer and epic single player campaign provides endless replayability. Its fun co-op gameplay which features the fun zombie killing matches or the combat training which allows you to play against enemy controlled AI with your friends, split-screen or online, will keep you glued to the television! $60

HOT: Suzanne Collins published “The Hunger Games,” a young-adult trilogy about a heroic adolescent girl who shot strange beasts, dodged force fields and battled murderous zombie werewolves! The New York Times Bestselling Author’s book is sure to keep you interested as it is rated to be one of the best books for young adults by some. The author also recently came out with a sequel to the trilogy called “Catching Fire.” $15

NOT HOT: Many call the Apple TV anywhere from satisfactory, to limiting, to a serious blunder. Many customers claim that Apple has not put much effort into updates, upgrades and enhancements. Its previous design had a high cost of $300; people might as well have turned to other providers that offer better service for less. Some say the Xbox 360 has become a veritable competition. The second-generation Apple TV drops in price in comparison to its successor but offers poor performance next to other competing systems. $120

HOT: The Acer Aspire 15.6” Laptop might be classified as the best laptop you'll get for the price of a netbook. But the Aspire 5735 is far from a Netbook’s dimensions. It features a roomy 15.6” screen. It’s very affordable and offers a 16:9 display, which will really appeal to movie lovers. This laptop gives you the best bang for your buck! $400

Merry Christmas...and many more! continued from Page 5

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[Israel]. It is thought that, when the Jews were ruled by the Romans, they would play this game to disguise the fact that they were actually studying the Torah.

To commemorate the miracle of oil, foods eaten during the Festival of Lights are normally fried, or baked in oil.

(NOTE: The blending of Christmas and Hanukkah are sometimes referred to as Chrismukkah, a holiday where a family of Jewish and Christian background customs and have “eight days of gifts, and one day of many gifts.” For even more extreme merging, try Chrismukkwanzadan)

Kwanzaa, aka Quansa

Kwanzaa is the African version of Christmas; spanning from December 26th to January 1st, Kwanzaa was created to celebrate African heritage. This holiday was originally meant to shun Jesus and Christianity, as they were “white religion”, but, as Kwanzaa became

more and more well-known, the creator, Ron Karenga, changed his position, and called it “A Celebration of Family, Community, and Culture”.

Kwanzaa is often observed similarly to Hanukkah: A candle from a kinara (Swahili for candle-holder) is lit every day for 7 days starting December 26th. There are 3 red candles on the left, 3 green on the right, a single black candle in the center; these candles represent the “7 Principles of Blackness.” Much like the 10 Commandments, the 7 Principles of Blackness are a set of guidelines to living properly: unity, self-determination, collective responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

Bodhi Day

Bodhi Day is a Japanese Buddhist holiday which celebrates the day Buddha attained enlightenment. There are many versions of how he did it. Buddha, one day, decided to sit under a tree and meditate until he found the root of evil and human suffering, or die trying. Another version tells of how

Buddha kept going into deeper states of meditation, much like how in Inception they went into deeper levels of dreams, until he confronted his own nature. Others tell how, while meditating, Buddha was harassed and tempted by the evil god Mara, much like how Satan harasses and tempts everyone with evil.

Bodhi Day, although not as popular as other Buddhist holidays, is practiced in many mainstream “denominations” of Buddhism. Activities performed during this time include meditating, studying the Dharma, chanting Buddhist texts (sutras), or by doing acts of random kindness towards others. Tea and cake accompany readings.

Kronia, celebrated from December 17th to December 23rd, was a week full of chaos; gambling became legal even for slaves. In fact, slaves were not allowed to receive punishment, and they could disrespect their masters. Often times, slaves would have banquets at which their masters would serve them, or the slaves would sit in the seats of honour.

Winter Solstices

Celebrated by many cultures (including Native Americans) all over the Northern Hemisphere, the winter solstice is the longest night of the year, and, therefore, the shortest day. Observed since Neolithic times, Stonehenge is an example of a monument erected as a result of the solstice.

Cattle were slayed during this day before the cold winter settled, thus, allowing for a resource of fresh meat. Wine and beer would also have fermented by this time, allowing the people to get intoxicated for the (longest) night.
Top 10 Youtube Videos

By Anthony Pavoni

This is the first article in the new feature “Top Ten Youtube Videos”. In each issue I will include ten different videos in a specific category. This issue’s topic is comedy!

1. Llamas With Hats 1, 2 and 3
The llamas with hats (pictured at right) rilogy is a comical series about-you guessed it- llamas with hats. Carl always seems to get him and his friend in hot water. How much damage can a llama do, you ask? Well, you’ll have to watch the videos to find out. What more could you ask for on this earth than two llamas wearing hats?

2. The Lazer Collection
This video is a compilation of different scenarios of “I ma Firin’ Mah Lazer.” Do you have no idea what I’m talking about? Check this video out. It is extremely funny.

3. Dramatic Look
This video captures what is possibly the best moment in animal history. It features a chipmunk/gopher mammal that has one of the most hilarious expressions of all time.

4. Star Wars Kid
In this video, a kid attempts to perform Jedi moves with what looks like some sort of rod. Will he succeed? Will he fail and look like an idiot on camera? Watch the video and find out!

5. The Onion
I know what you’re thinking, this isn’t an actual video per say. It is an entire collection of videos. I couldn’t pick only one however so I decided to include them as a whole. These videos feature a news crew that exploit clichés and various other topics in our society.

6. Xbox Girls Get Revenge
Xbox Girls Get Revenge is a video about a group of girls harassing a teenage boy on Xbox Live. This video is funny because usually it is the other way around. Can guys take what they dish out?

7. Double Rainbow Song
This song is a remix of guy who saw a double rainbow. It is extremely well made and funny!

8. California on America
KassemG interviews Americans about, well, America! It’s funny to see how little they know on their own country. Be sure to check out the other “California On’s” as well.

9. Ferrets
Ferrets is a video by Secret Agent Bob, the same individual who gave us the Llamas with Hats videos. One ferret begins to sing a song to cheer the second one up. Although it starts off harmlessly, the song becomes creepy and ends up making the first ferret even sadder.

10. Evolution of Dance
One man alone performs a multitude of dances from different eras of the twentieth century to the twenty-first century.

Europe: One Nation?

By Alexander Loeven

Recently, France and the UK made a historical decision; the two nations will be merging elements of their military resources. Most critics say the purpose of this decision is to cut the military budget, which is probably true considering both nations’ economic positions. However, it only takes a glance at a history book to see how far Europe has come, especially the UK and France.

While it does still exist, the mentality of greed and territorial ownership has been an integral part of European history. In the Middle Ages, noblemen of the same family would own separate kingdoms, which would be divided among different counts and Barons and in some cases. Occasionally, these kingdoms would wage war on each other.

Now what brought Europe to change? It could have been out of realization that they have lived together for centuries, waged numerous wars (not to mention the two world wars) and lived through tough times together. What got it going was probably the cold war, seeing the USSR as a threat, most of Western Europe started the EU in 1956. It looks as if atrocities such as the holocaust are what brought them together.

Now, taking a look at more recent events, the ever-expanding European Union has been working to assist its money-tight members such as Greece and Ireland. More than once however, the European banking crisis has been blamed on the Euro zone itself. In some cases, border stations are no longer in use and people may travel freely between nations such as Hungary and Austria.

Back to France and the UK, these two historical rivals have done something that, little less than a century ago, would have been unthinkable. My question is what’s next? Turkey, a Muslim nation and ancient rival of Greece, is a potential candidate for the EU. Even considering Turkey to join is a historical decision on the part of the EU.

Despite the criticisms about the Euro and how it ruined Greece and Ireland, the EU has achieved incredible historical milestones and has introduced a new level of trust and cooperation between nations. Though it has not yet been achieved, I believe the unification of Europe as one nation is quite possible.

Others have tried to follow the EU’s example (the African and Arab unions being prime examples). Could they also achieve what the EU has?
Historical Christmas Crossword by Matei Cotoros

Clues

Across
2. Saint Nicholas was the Bishop of ____, in modern-day Turkey.
3. _______ established the tradition of decorating Christmas trees.
6. Boxing day, in Catholic countries, celebrates the Feast of Saint _______.
7. The 12th Day of Christmas falls on January 6, which is the Feast of _______.
8. Dutch name for “Santa Claus”.

Down
1. Presents given at Christmas serve to remind us of the gifts the Three Wise Men gave Jesus: Gold, Myrrh, and ________.
4. A plant, native to Mexico, which was believed to be symbolic of the Star of Bethlehem.
5. In recent years, the lighting of the large Christmas tree at ________ Centre is broadcasted on NBC.

Solution on Page 10

Wordsearch

ADVENT
ANGELS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
CAROLS
CHARITY
CHOIR
CHRISTIAN
JESUS
LOYOLA
MASS
PASQUINI
PIANO
PRESENTS
SANTA
SERVICE
SHOPPING
TURKEY

Solution on Page 12
Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

Solution on Page 12
On the Road with Michael Morena: The Aston Martin DBS

By Michael Morena

“Shaken, not stirred.” These famous words have always been spoken by gentlemen of high class. It comes from a man who has impeccable style and is great with ladies. He is quintessentially British and is most of all an alpha-male. He is the type of man every woman dreams of being with and his charm is unsurpassed by any other character to ever come into existence. His name is none other than British Secret Service Agent 007, Bond…James Bond. And what are his preferred wheels of choice, why no other than an Aston Martin of course!

The love affair between James Bond and Aston Martin all started in 1964 with the movie Goldfinger. Today it is considered a classic movie with great lines and great scenes that have transcended into Hollywood up until today. In this movie lies another classic, the 1964 Aston Martin DB5, arguably one of the prettiest cars ever made, and of which only 1000 were built. The car is as stylish as it is elegant and has the grace of a Greek goddess. It one of the most significant cars ever, being starred on the silver screen in the James Bond movie and put Aston Martin on the map forever. An old Aston such as the DB5 can still send shivers down a man’s spine, so can you imagine a new one? That should be a cause for a heart attack if that was the case.

Allow me to introduce the Aston Martin DBS. Aston Martin presents this car as a thoroughbred sports car, capable of out handling and out maneuvering its rivals. That however stirs a debate. You see, a traditional thoroughbred is usually something very flamboyant, usually with its engine in the middle rather than the front and is most likely to be Italian. This is the generalization of the term and has even been described by Jeremy Clarkson while reviewing the DBS. Judging from the layout of this car, it is a Gran Turismo car, or a GT car in abbreviation.

A GT car is usually rear wheel drive, has a massive engine in the front, a big boot in the back, and two rear seats. However, this doesn’t mean it’s a slouch in any way. There’s a reason why James Bond flipped his car 7 times in Casino Royale…other than trying to save a girl and destroying a magnificent piece of machinery. Without a huge amount of power and speed, that massive flip would not have been possible. All this speed is brought to you by a nuclear bomb… a 6 liter, V12 engine capable of 191 MPH (about 307 Km/h) and has enough power to drag Canada across the Atlantic. It does 0-100 Km/h in 4.3 seconds and can pretty much blow your mind with 510 horsepower and 420 Ib-ft of torque.

This is the type of vehicle you dream about taking to the Riviera or Monte Carlo with a beautiful woman beside you and a trunk full of luggage and money. You will need a trunk full of money to afford this car, because it costs a whopping 350,000$! This car really does epitomize the GT lifestyle: filled with wealth, fame and all kinds of swag.

This might be an improved version of the less cool, less powerful DB9, and it might cost 100,000$ more, but look at what you’re getting. Every time you step out of this dream machine, you’ll feel like an international British spy. This is a top cruiser and a dream car. Nothing will make you feel better about yourself when presented with this car. It is just the pinnacle of class.

Puzzle Solutions

Crossword Answers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frankincense</th>
<th>Myra</th>
<th>Martin Luther</th>
<th>Poinsettia</th>
<th>Rockefeller</th>
<th>Stephen</th>
<th>Epiphany</th>
<th>Sinterklaas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Double Puzzle:

CHRIST JESUS
STAR OF BETHLEHEM
ANGELS HEARD ON HIGH
SILENT NIGHT
AMAZING GRACE
WONDER COUNSELOR
COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

“Joy to the World”
Basic Photography

By Andrew Leduc

What is Photography?
Without being to technical pho-
tography is a process and art of
capturing pictures (still or mov-
ing) by preserving light on a light
sensitive object like a film or an
electronic sensor.

Photography can take
two routes one being the art form
of photography or the capturing
the moment form of photogra-
phy. The art form usually means
staging photos and using a much
longer thought process to expose
your photo in a specific way to
ensure a certain mood of the
photo. In the art form of photogra-
phy there are many different tools
you can use to capture the
perfect shot (Later in the article
they will be explained).

The idea of capturing
the moment photography is a less
thoughtful process because you
are not taking into account mood
or any creative aspects. This can
be done by purchasing a cheap
Canon or Kodak camera and
simply pressing one button by
using an automatic mode. The
automatic mode (on digital cam-
eras only) will choose the shutter
speed, aperture, iso, white bal-
ance and flash (these terms will
be explained). Which means you
do not have to worry about prop-
erly exposing your photo.

Choosing your camera
The first type of camera we will
look at is a point and shoot cam-
era which is mainly for quick and
easy use without having to deter-
mine any of the settings except
perhaps whether to use a flash or
not. These can be used for social
events and can take great photos.

These are the cheapest cameras.

The next is the DSLR
(Digital Single Lens Reflex)
which is only useful to you if you
would like to learn how to expose
proper photos yourself. This is a
large waste of money if you plan
on shooting on automatic mode
because these cameras tend to be
more expensive.

The next is SLR
(Single Lens Reflex) this is the
same type of camera except there
will be no automatic mode and
you will be using film. This
means there will be no small
screen on your camera. SLR’s
tend to have light meters which
means it will adjust the shutter
speed on automatic mode base on
the aperture and film speed.
These cameras tend to be less
practical because to see your
photos you must have them de-
developed and printed. Now the
upside is that there are no pixels
on this type of camera which
means that if you blow up your
photo then it will not become
pixelated (the square look).

Now there are other
types of camera such as medium
format cameras which are harder
to find and the cost is signifi-
cantly increased. The most com-
mon form of medium format is
6x6 which means the photos are
square (Used on Mamiya 645,
Yashica-A ect.). A high quality
digital medium format camera
like the Mamiya 645 could sell
for around 10,000$ this is a pro-
fessional grade camera with
around 28 mega pixels (28 mil-
lion pixels this is the area of each
shot in pixels, the lower the
amount the less clear and crisp
the photo will be. A regular
DSLR like the Canon T2i is
around 12 to 16 mega pixels and
will sell for around 1000$) These
would be used for professionals.
This is also an SLR or DSLR but
just a less common type.

Film vs. Digital
First we need to know how each
of these objects work. First film,
film is a light sensitive strip com-
posed of many different things
but the common thing in both
black and white film and color
film is celluloid. The way your
film camera works is when you
are not taking a picture the shut-
ter which has a mirror on it is
reflected into the view finder.
Once you take a photo the shutter
will flick towards the film. The
film has now been exposed so
you must crank the film until
there is a new strip that has not
been exposed. The digital camera
works the same way except the
shutter will point at a light sensor
and record the light onto a mem-
ory chip.

Depending on which
ISO you have chosen on your
film (on film it is predetermined
when you buy it, unlike digital
when you can change it) the film
will have a certain amount of
grain. This means when you blow
up your photo it will get grainier
but never pixelated like a digital
camera. Therefore the image
quality is better with film. How-
ever the digital camera is much
more user friendly because once
you take a photo you can see it
right away and if it isn’t properly
exposed you can retake the photo
with different settings. There is
also no extra charge for develop-
ing and printing.

The best thing to do
would be to start off with a Digita-
lar SLR and learn to properly
expose photos. Then get any type
of SLR and start using film this
will allow you to take a more
artistic approach to the dying art
of film photography. (Vintage
camera’s also look really cool.)

Now let’s get into tak-
ing photos and all components
required to take photos. The three
main components we will look at
are shutter speed, aperture and
ISO or film speed. First we will
explain each component and then
how to make them work together.

Shutter Speed
The shutter speed is the length of
time the shutter is open allowing
light into the camera to expose
the film or to be digitally recorded.
The length that the shutter speed
is open will affect the brightness
of the photo. Depending on if the
target of the photo is moving there
may be motion blur if the shutter
is open too long. A shorter shutter
speed like 1/500th of a second
would be used for sport photo-
graphy. If you were trying to pho-
tograph lightning you could use a
shutter speed of 5 seconds (with a
tripod) to give yourself a longer
time to capture the lightning. That
being said you would need a tripod
to hold the camera so there is no
blur.

Aperture
Aperture is a hole that light travels
through. In the simplest terms the
narrower the hole the higher the
aperture which is also known as f-
stop (f/1.4, f/16). This also means
less light will be let in. The apero-
ture is also know as depth of field
which means it affects the focal
length. The focal length is
the length or depth into the photo
the lens will focus. The higher the
f-stop the larger the focal length.
The lower the focal length the
more blur in the background and
foreground there will be.

Film Speed or ISO
Film Speed is the films sensitivity
to light. On Digital cameras ISO is
the same thing. The lower the ISO
the more exposure is required to
produce the same photo as a more
sensitive film. For example with an
ISO of 100 you will need to extend
the shutter speed so the shutter is
open longer to produce the same
photo on 400 ISO.

The Sunny 16 Rule
Basically the sunny sixteen rule is
used to properly expose photos.
The rule is used in 3 general light
levels and is very approximate.
Basically your ISO and Shutter
Speed will be the same number.
100 ISO 1/100 of a second shutter
speed and aperture at f/16. Then
some things will be changed based
on the light to compensate.
On November 6, all three Loyola volleyball teams were competing in the championship finals. As the saying goes, "Two out of three ain't bad" after the Bantam and Midget teams brought home gold medals.

The Bantam Braves successfully defended their GMAA championship title on Saturday by defeating West Island College. The Braves brought their best and showed great team work as they encouraged each other with every rally. Special thanks to those who have dedicated two years of service to the Bantam team: team captains Deven Gonzalez, Matthew McMillan, Brendyn Harrop, and Anthony Tsoukalas.

The Midget team finished first in their division before adding another championship victory to their repertoire. Special congratulations to Kenny Drummond for being named Most Valuable Player and congratulations to all the members of the team for their dedication and hard work. The Juvenile volleyball team lost a hard fought final versus Royal West. The school is very proud of the exemplary effort exhibited by this team all year.

Below: Midget city championship MVP Kenny Drummond (left) and Bantam city championship MVP Jack Legler.

### Wrestling league standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>PTS</th>
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<td>Selwyn House School</td>
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<td>L.C.C.H.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beurling Academy</td>
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<td>Westwood</td>
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<td>Vincent Massey</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kahnawake Survival School</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeside Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bialik</td>
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</table>
House League Soccer: Spice Boyz upset La Furia in epic final clash

PLAYOFF REPORT

In the first semi-final, the #1 ranked and regular season champion La Furia defeated Louis Onesi’s #4 ranked Soca Warriors by a score of 9-1. In the second semi-final, Frank Racanelli’s #2 ranked Spice Boyz defeated Will Humes’ #3 ranked Super Eagles by a score of 5-0. This set up a #1 vs. #2 final, for Friday October 30th.

After a season of difficult field conditions at the Heston Mud Bowl, the game was played under ideal conditions on the Concordia Stadium turf field. The Spice Boyz saved their best soccer of the season for the final game, and jumped out to a surprising 4-0 lead on a two-goal apiece performances by Chris Di Betta and Daniel Iannarone. The Furia launched a late second half comeback, climbing within two on goals by their star striker Alex Ducic and Captain Vince Mercuri, but Iannarone’s third goal of the game sealed the victory and the upset for the Spice Boyz.

The House Leaguers had a lot of confidence heading into the annual Student-Teacher Game on November 11. The game was a thrill for all participants, as the game was be played indoors at the Concordia Stinger Dome. The final score was 15-15! Congratulations to all 28 players on a great spirited match in honor of our great friend Polo.

By Commissioner Meagher

LEAGUE STANDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>PTS</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 SPICE BOYZ</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 SUPER EAGLES</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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<td>4 SOCA WARRIORS</td>
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TOP 10 SCORERS

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<th>Goals</th>
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<td>ALEX DUCIC, La Furia</td>
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<tr>
<td>THOMAS BOUCHER, La Furia</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANIELE IANNARONE, Spice Boyz</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAVID LOMBARDI, Soca Warriors</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVAN BERNOTAS, Super Eagles</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VINCE MERCURI, La Furia</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL SCARFO, La Furia</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATTHEW SHANAHAN, Spice Boyz</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALEX FULFORD, Spice Boyz</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARLES MARCIL, La Furia</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEAM AWARDS

OFFENSIVE MVP

SPICE BOYZ – Matthew Shanahan, Daniel Iannarone
LA FURIA – Alex Ducic
SUPER EAGLES – Mackenzie Speak

DEFENSIVE MVP

SPICE BOYZ – Ryan Scartozzi
LA FURIA – Charles Marcil
SUPER EAGLES – Will Humes
SOCA WARRIORS – Louis Onesi

LEAGUE AWARD

Pictured at right, clockwise from upper left:

LEAGUE OFFENSIVE MVP

Evan Bernotas, Super Eagles

LEAGUE DEFENSIVE MVP

Sal Porporino, La Furia

GOLDEN BOOT

Alex Ducic, La Furia
Thomas Boucher, La Furia
The Montreal Canadiens: A Reflection

By Leonardo Lucia

Some cars still have their flags up from last year’s playoffs. The excitement of the success of our hockey team was electrifying our city. On the night of Wednesday May 12th, 2010, when the Canadiens beat the Pittsburgh Penguins to advance to the conference finals, our city was in a state of complete ecstacy. I went downtown that night; it was something I will never forget. The fireworks, the helicopters, the flags, the honking, and the chanting showed the world why Canadiens fans are the best fans on Earth. That was months ago, and now it is a new season. Although it was something to never forget, it is time to move on. A new season has begun and there have been many changes.

This past summer on June 18th, I was shocked when I heard the news. Jaroslav Halak, the hero of the playoffs was traded to the St. Louis Blues. The player who gave the Canadiens a chance to win their 25th Stanley Cup was tossed into another team’s roster like he was a nobody. The administration chose Carey Price as their acknowledged number one goalie. Halak’s record last regular season was a staggering 26-13-5, for a goalie who started the season as a back-up. Carey Price record on the other hand was 13-20-5. This administrative move seemed completely absurd at the time.

Carey Price was drafted in 2005, 5th overall. Many NHL Analysts predicted Carey Price to be the next Patrick Roy. I mean, who can blame them. Carey Price won the WHL top goaltender award in 2007, won the CHL top goaltender award in 2007, won the Calder Cup with the Hamilton Bulldogs, was given the title of MVP for this tournament, and you can’t forget his amazing performance in the 2007 World Junior Championships in Sweden. Carey Price led his country and team to victory. He seemed to be worth gold. Carey Price was said to be the hero that we were all waiting for. In the last few seasons, Price was not able to prove that he was worth that 5th overall draft pick. This season on the other hand, is a whole other story. Price is already catching up to his total of 13 wins last season, since he already has 12 wins, as of November 21st. He has recorded half of his total career shutouts, so far this season. He has led the Canadiens into first spot of the North Eastern Division. He is without a doubt stepping up his game. We are starting to see signs of that Patrick Roy quality goaltending. Has he finally matured? Time will tell. Let’s hope that Carey Price continues playing like a quality starter goaltender.

At the beginning of this season, not many people had a good feeling about the Canadiens. Our hero was gone, there seemed to be no hope. The Habs were not predicted to make the playoffs this season. Now that we are about a quarter into this new NHL season, we have a reason to believe that these predictions are incorrect.

Montreal struggled at the beginning of the season with their power play, but this does not seem to be a problem anymore, as the power play goals are now coming in great quantities. This is because the players are now more understanding of their roles and have become a more organized squad. What about the penalty kill? It’s a piece of cake, for the Habs. The Montreal Canadiens have the best penalty kill in the league. This is probably due to Price’s outstanding effort and goaltending, though, you cannot forget about the defence. Montreal has one of the least amount of goals scored against so far this season. Subban and Hamrlik are the two defenders who I would say are responsible for the Canadiens defensive success. Subban is a defensive sensation, not only can he perform impressive dives and poke checks to defend the net, but he is also a powerhouse on offence. Hamrlik is a very experienced defenseman who is still producing for his team after many years in the NHL.

Though, to have a successful team, you obviously need some offence. The Habs offence has been tremendous this season. Plekanec, Kostitsyn, Cammalleri, Gionta and Halpern have been the most productive players since the start of the season. Plekanec who is now considered one of the best centers in the league is averaging at least one point per game. With the way he is playing, 80+ points is not impossible. Jeff Halpern, a new addition to the team, is a special teams expert. Carey Price is playing perfect, as mentioned before. The Habs defensive lines have a good balance of defensive and offensive contributions. The teams’ chemistry is getting better and the players understand their individual roles. These are the values of a successful hockey team, and that is reflected directly on their rank in the standings. They are first in their respective division. With the way the season is going, it does not look like they are going to give up that spot. This means that the Canadiens will most probably make the playoffs. But for now, we can just sit back, watch, and let the Habs work their magic.
With its six great rivers and 400 lakes and streams, Parc national du Mont-Tremblant is a naturalist’s paradise. It’s a rich amalgam of Quebec’s natural and historic heritages, being the largest and oldest park in the network. This wilderness is so vast that it is home to forty mammal species, including the wolf. Parc national du Mont-Tremblant is open year-round and has something for everyone.

As for the Loyola Wilderness Club, the team left Loyola in the early hours of November 20; and, upon arrival at the park, began a twelve kilometer hike to a splendidly peaceful cabin on the shores of Lac Ernie. The group hunkered down for the night, creating scrumptious snacks and dinners, building a fire under the stars and moon and even playing some Briscola before retiring for the evening. The hike out the next day was just over six kilometers, bringing their weekend total to over eighteen.

More information on the club and its activities can be found at news.loyola.ca
By Robert Richardson

On November 20, 2010 the Loyola birders went on a birding trip to the Morgan Arboretum... again. It started off being a nice sunny day. Then came the birder’s worst enemy: strong winds. Birds do not like flying when there is a lot of wind; thus, there wouldn’t be too many birds up in the air.

To make matters worse it also started to rain. The birders decided to stay under the cover of a building until the rain subsided. It passed within a few minutes, though, it was replaced by hail. After a short while, that also passed and the rest of the day was nice and sunny. We were successful when we spotted many black capped chickadees, a downy woodpecker and a white breasted nuthatch by some feeders. The birders then moved deeper into the Morgan Arboretum where they would see many black capped chickadees which landed in the seed filled hands of the birders. In the openings around the main forest, many dark eyed juncos could be seen. When the birders got to a clearing, they managed to see an American crow (the official name to the crows we see every day) and three unidentified birds that were very far away.

Despite some assumptions, Mr. Plimer confirmed they weren’t Canadian geese by the way they flew. We then moved on to a different path which was led on the land owned by McGill. Mr. Plimer obtained the permission to go on it. Once there, the birders spotted some Northern Cardinals and a Blue Jay, there were no birds to be seen. Off the main path, we spotted a murder of approximately 500 crows. The trip was coming to a close and the target bird had still not yet been spotted. Firstly thought to be an unsuccessful birder, Alex Asterino claimed to see a bird that was red and brown. After some nearby searching, our target bird, the Red-Bellied Woodpecker was spotted.

Mr. Plimer then stated “(the) trip was the most difficult due to weather conditions not contusive to bird watching...but the thirtieth and last bird made it worthwhile”. Congratulations to Alex Asterino, who was named the Birder of the Day.

Birds Spotted During the Trip (13 species):
Blue Jay, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Canada Goose, Downy Woodpecker, Dark-Eyed Junco, American Crow (over 500), American Goldfinch, Northern Cardinal, Common Raven, Ring Billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Red-Bellied Woodpecker (pictured at the beginning of this article).

More information on the club and it’s activities can be found at news.loyola.ca.

Below: Birder of the Day Alex Asterino
Catch up on your favorite Loyola sports team

Check the official league team standings for our Loyola winter sports teams below and go online at news.loyola.ca to read more about Loyola’s teams and athletes and to link up to the official Greater Montreal Athletic Association’s (G.M.A.A.) website.

Heading into the Christmas break, the Juvenile Warriors basketball team is well positioned to make the playoffs while all three hockey teams are currently sitting atop their respective divisions. The second half of the season promises to be very exciting indeed on the hard court and on the ice sheets!

**Basketball**

**JUVENILE**

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**Hockey**

**JUVENILE**

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In terms of effect, both light and sound did as intended: provide background and further our understanding of the setting. The use of mourners whose anguish could certainly be felt through their emphatic moans and the solemn playing of the bagpipes were indeed nice additions to the opening funerary scene of “The Darlin’ Hero”. Another innovative and amusing effect was the use of people attired in “morph suits” and various Southern apparel (sombreros and cowboy hats) to arrange and artistic touches of false wrinkles and artificially grayed hair, the makeup was not a necessity for the great majority of the characters. The set, however, for the “Ransom of Red Chief” was simply impeccable. The red school-house was exuberant in its mimicking of the typical one-room folksy Southern architecture. While other sets did well to evoke the mood of the piece, the schoolhouse, with its roof that was accessible to little Johnny Dorset, truly impressed.

than it would have been on the Friday. Despite the reduced audience size, the actors did not hesitate to put on their best performances and to edify the audience with solid portrayals.

On a more technical note, as a result of the natures of the two plays, the costumes were not elaborate as they did not need to be. I believe the same statement would apply for the makeup. While here and there you could see the delicate and

(Continued from page 4)

Overall, the plays were very well performed and as an audience member I was thoroughly entertained. Once again, credit must be given to the director Ms. Cheri Adams, her cast and crew for producing a very enjoyable evening where, interestingly enough, the themes of youth and death were well presented in a comedic manner by means of two plays.