

Alexander Keith's

India Pale Ale

Reality bites and I bite back

Part two of Nick's Australian adventure

Nick Logan

The Brunswickan

Well, a lot can happen in a week, especially in Sydney. Of course, when you're spending all of your time looking for a job and finding a place to live, it all goes on without you (save a few exceptions of course). Sydney is fairly vast and when you are hunting for a job - as a good percentage of all backpackers are - there are a lot of resources you can tap into. Or so one may think.

There are numerous employment agencies, a couple specifically for backpackers. For a nominal fee you can select a job posting and have said agency forward your resume and set up an interview. Could be a pretty good deal if it wasn't for the \$30 membership fee, minimal amounts of job postings for shit jobs, and the fact that 200 other people saw the exact same posting you did that same day. Luckily, for me, I didn't waste my money on a membership - thanks for letting me scam yours Adele - but most of the people I know that did are relatively pissed off with it all.

My solution: do it all on your own. Not only is it more satisfying, you have the security of knowing what you're getting yourself into. A better phrasing could be that you'll have no one to blame but yourself. Take for instance the job with the advertising company I got. It sucked, but it was my fault for letting myself get wooed at the promise of \$160 - \$300 a day.

It turned out to be door-to-door sales on a commission-only basis, selling deals that nobody wanted and/or needed. If you've seen the movie *Boiler Room*, you'll sort of know how I felt. I'd rather hand scrub the floors of the backrooms at Stripperama than do that crap. Never fear, I got my ass out of that quick. It was good motivation, however; it got my ass in gear to get a decent job. It wasn't long before my hunt led me to a funky, fancy-schmancy Italian restaurant in the Rocks called Amoroma. Lots of backpackers to work with, mediocre wages, but a job nonetheless. Downside this time: the management bites and they have the personality of a bag of fingernail clippings. No worries, though, because jobs numbers three and four are already in the works and this time they actually look to be enjoyable establishments.

Despite the stress, it's been a great experience (yeah, that's it). I've gotten to know the true feeling of being a backpacker on edge. It's one of those situations where everything seems to fall into place at precisely the right moment.

In other news: I'm still white. I seem to be one of those people that has to be one extreme or the other: it's either pasty or pre-melenoma, no nice tanned surfer look for me, yet. The longer I'm here, the more diverse the people I meet, of course, but I still amazes me. Aside from all the Canucks, Kiwis, and Pommies, I've met people from literally all corners of the world: Mongolia, Argentina, and (most exotic) North Carolina, to name a few. Unsurprisingly, the latter of the three was an opportunity to be subjected to one of those oh so annoying Canadian stereotypes which we all joke about, but never expect to have happen to us. I actually had this American girl say to me, "Oh my God! You just said 'about.' You say 'oot' and 'about' don't you?" I reserved my urge to smack as I could tell that she just didn't know any better. Moments earlier she uttered the words, "Oh, I like George 'Dubya' Bush." Need I say more?

With meeting all of these new people comes the addition of a social life and a chance to paint the town red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple; it is the early days of the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, which is taking over this quiet little town. My attempts to get to the Mardi Gras kickoff failed miserably. Thousands of people gather together on the steps of the Opera House for the event that gets all involved into the spirit of the event.

I got there just in drag act and realize that easy to find my massive crowd. It because I decided to capture the essence of it all - just to share with all of you - I'd hit a party or two down on Oxford Street. Definitely the right place to go - duh, it is the epicentre of the Mardi Gras - with the busiest place being The Stonewall Hotel. This is a three level club - not a rarity here - with a little bit of everything for everybody; including plenty of self-consciousness when you find yourself standing in the middle of a room full of gym queens and podium bunnies. But, hey, how often do you get to watch a seven-foot tall drag queen named Miss Hilary lip sync to remixed disco anthems? Well, I suppose, if you're in Sydney around this time, that could be virtually any night of the week, but it is always the first time which you remember the most (a real Wonder Years moment, no?).

Aside from this I have hit a few pubs and backpacker bars, but I'll indulge you a bit on those once I've gotten a few more under my belt and can give an indepth review.

Fortunately, the one thing I had been planning on for weeks went off without a single hitch. I got to see Margret Cho's *I'm The One That I Want* at the Mardi Gras Film Festival with my friend Lori. I travel to the other side of the world and the first friendship I form is with someone from Halifax.

Margret Cho is one of the best comedians of the last ten years and easily my all-time favorite. Some of you may remember her short-lived, early nineties sitcom, "All American Girl." This is the filmed version of her highly successful one-woman show and it's two hours of absolute hilarity. The Korean-American, self-proclaimed "loud-mouth, fag-hag, shit-disturber" provides some of the best laughs I've ever had, joking about everything from her upbringing, the racism she's faced, and her downward spiral into drugs and booze. It's out on video in North America and I'm pretty sure that Blockbuster has it in stock, so if any of you are in need of some huge laughs, I highly suggest this.

I also want to send a shout out about *Requiem For a Dream*. This tremendous and mesmerizing film stars Ellen Burstyn (whose nominated for Best Actress for this performance), Jared Leto, Jennifer Connelly, and Marlon Wayans and depicts an innovative insight on drug abuse. It's directed by Darren Aronofsky, who directed *Pi*, the both of which I reference on a weekly basis, so I'm sure at least half of you know what I'm talking about. This film is a total trip.

And I do have to mention Hannibal, because I promised to do a full review of it, but due to Hotmail difficulties that erased this article once already finished, I can't submit it. I've heard a lot of mixed reviews on it, but I honestly liked it a lot. Anthony Hopkins and Julianne Moore are impeccable - do they ever do wrong? No! A lot of people were skeptical about not having Jodie Foster return to her role as Clarice Starling, but shit happens and quite frankly Moore made the part her own, when all is said and done. I felt the movie a bit eccentric at first, but it all came together and became a fantastic film. It also stars Ray Liotta, Zeljko Ivanek, and an unrecognizable Gary Oldman. And it was so brilliantly gory, which I loved, even if I was on a date when I saw it. A romantic afternoon topped off with dinner at Hungry Jacks (Burger King). A warning: if you ever order an Aussie Burger here, don't be surprised when you find beets, fried egg, and ham in it on top of the traditional lettuce, pickle, and tomato.

Well folks, that's all for this week. It's 4 am and I've already written way too much. I just want to say this city and this country just keep getting better and better; and seemingly warmer and warmer compared to the Maritimes right now. I do miss a few things, such as high pressure showers and hair products that haven't melted. And of course I miss my friends: Monica, Rachel, Chandler, and Phoebe, even Ross and Joey. Yes, I know that was totally ridiculous, but it is 4 am and I felt like being a smartass. Well, ciao for now mates.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

Stefan Robak

The Brunswickan

After a long delay, possibly the most talked-about movie of the year finally made it to Fredericton.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon begins when Li Mu Bai, a great warrior, decides to give up avenging his master, who was killed by a martial artist named Jade Fox. He gives his prized sword, Green Destiny, to his love Shu Lien to be delivered to a man named Sir Te. But as soon as Sir Te has Green Destiny in his possession, it is stolen by a mysterious woman. Several new characters come into play, adding many dimensions to the storyline.

There are so many things that make this film incredible. The most obvious are the battle sequences. Warriors flying and battling through beautiful backgrounds sets one's imagination soaring. The first battle is worth the ticket price alone, let alone the second battle between Jen and Shu. The fights show so much ingenuity, talent, and energy that it's hard not to get excited by it all.

But while the battle scenes may be what brings in the audiences,

the characters are what really make this movie spark. Every character is complex and their motives are understandable. One, Jen, wants a life of adventure and fighting which she finds is not always as wonderful as it seems, while Li Mu Nai wants to train Jen to be a better and well-disciplined fighter so she will not be corrupt.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon is definitely a film one should put on their must see list. From the plot and characters to the incredible fight scenes and beautiful settings, it is a powerful and captivating film. It's nice to see an action film that isn't part of the usual Hollywood cookie cutter formula and gives us something intelligent and enjoyable.



tappin' good time, be there!

Gallery 78 - February is for lovers at Gallery 78 with two exhibitions devoted to the themes of romance in honour of the month of love. Gallery hours: Mon. to Fri., 10:00-5:30, Sat. 1:00-5:00, Sun. 1:00-4:00.

Mama's Pub at 245 Main Street has one of its most popular party bands back again, tomorrow night (Saturday the 24th) - Hard Drive. Treat yourself to a night out! Don't forget, on Thursday nights, Karaoke is back by popular request!

Memorial Hall is Symphony NB's venue to present Mozart with Irish Interludes, Feb. 27th. Show begins at 8:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Tickets: \$19/adult; \$18/senior; \$10 or \$5 stand-by/student. For info call 452-0982.

Memorial Hall - The UNB Centre for Musical Arts presents a concert featuring piano duets. Musician-in-Residence, Richard Raymond, will be joined by pianist Francoise Papillon-Ferland on March 2nd. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. For further information call 453-4697 or e-mail dbrown1@unb.ca.

Mexicala Rosa's, on King Street, has live entertainment every Margarita Monday!

Moe's Garage (formerly The Dock) has a well-kept secret. A terrific duo plays there every Friday evening from 5:00 to around 8:00 for your early evening listening pleasure. Jon Weaver, keyboard and backup vocals and Jacqueline Valencourt, vocals, will delight you with a variety of musical genres. Many of you will remember Jon from the highly regarded trio, Modabo. Do yourself a favour and catch these two. They're not only good musical entertainment, they're fun!

The NB Crafts Council exhibition runs until the 28th of February, and features handcrafted items that make reference to things associated with love, affection and romance at the NB Fine Crafts Centre, 87 Regent Street.

The *Upper Deck* presents the great John Campbelljohn, award winning blues artist, with his band both Friday and Saturday nights. You have got to go and hear John - he's gerrrrraate!



Mark McGinnis/The Brunswickan

These guys certainly got into the spirit of the metal and hardcore bands last Saturday at the Battle of the Bands; never before has this reporter seen so much head banging and air guitar playing

Inertia

Music, not drugs, at CHSR party

Peter Fotheringham

The Brunswickan

This Saturday CHSR is throwing their Inertia party!

Partiers rejoice! House, jungle and all sorts of mad beats will rock the Capital Exhibition Centre for twelve solid hours from 9PM to 9AM.

This party is more than just a fund-raiser for CHSR, it's also sending a message to the community: techno and drugs are not synonymous. The CHSR party might sound to some like a rave, but our community radio station is determined to escape the "all-night-drug-fair" stereo type. Inertia (like Battle of the Bands) is a time to showcase amazing local talent, while fighting negative stereotypes. The party or "rave" scene started out all about the music, the DJ's talents for spinning progressive electronica was the momentum - CHSR is bringing that attitude to Fredericton.

Allow me to spell it out: Raves are not an opportunity to take ecstasy, they're about having fun dancing to the best techno around. Security will be at the door; pockets and bags will be checked. CHSR has the right to refuse anyone at the door. Inertia is shaping up to be the best party in years. An expected crowd over 600 strong will be dancing to the hard hitting line-up of Maritime DJ's. Ming the Merciless and Sammi D have some amazing jungle in store, I guarantee it. House will permeate the party with Bob Bagnell (now in Halifax) and Fredericton's own, amazing Sound Syster ripping the hottest grooves.

Organizer Melissa Kaestner reminded me that the DJ's performing at the party "live, eat and sleep music. It's their livelihood. Their bread and butter. They're on the stage showcasing their life's work." It will be an event not to be missed.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door available at CHSR, Purple Haze and The G-Spot. Check the web for more info: <http://go.to/progressive> or call 454-2940.

Inertia

Saturday, Feb. 24
Capital Exhibit Centre

a benefit for CHSR FunDrive 2001

Imaging  Services

UNB
GRAPHICS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Graphic Services is changing its name to Imaging Services. This name change is a better reflection of the services we offer such as printing, photocopying, creating images and scanning photos in both black and white and professional colour. We also produce custom course packs, photo id's, tee shirts, mouse pads and offer a full range of bookbindings. Whether you supply us a hard copy original, disk or file over the net, Imaging Services is your solution to no hassle printing first time... ..everytime!

Three Locations on Campus to serve your needs.

E10A Head Hall
458-7908

109 Carleton Hall
458-7907

106 Eaton Multimedia
Centre
453-4843



Those who like it,
like it a lot.
The Favourite Beer of UNB & STU

