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National Public Speaking Championship



SJR hosted yet another round of the National Public Speaking Championships this year from February 11th- 13th. Yes, that is why there were a bunch of people in suits hanging out in the front hall! Debaters came from across the country to participate in debating, interpretive reading, persuasive speaking and impromptu speaking. In other words: to argue, to read, to persuade, and to talk.

Allow me to elaborate. The debating championships were just like any other in-class debate; the interpretive reading involved choosing a piece to read to an audience and trying to add drama to it; the persuasive speaking championships were prepared speeches on a problem, along with your solution to said problem; and impromptu is pretty self-explanatory: competitors were given topics and had to talk about them with only two minutes of preparation.

The competition was fierce, but entirely good-natured. It was a great group of students who converged on our school. The tour of Winnipeg that we all attended on Saturday was a lot of fun, as was hanging out between rounds.

Overall, our own Ryan Pistorius was the National Champion, with Nic Martin and Ryan Sherbo taking second and third places respectively. Those three are going to travel to Australia over Spring Break to participate in the World Championships.

Thanks again to Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Martin, and all volunteers and competitors for making this tourney so great!

Interested in debating or volunteering with the debate program? Talk to Mrs. Martin and/or check out the debating board near room 104. There are still tournaments this year that will need competitors, speakers, timers, etc. watch the DIS for more info!

Adrienne Tessier

Offbeat Irony

The Nature of the Strange

Has anyone ever tried searching 'weird' on Google? Google is always prone to bring up websites that are inaccurate, badly researched, or even flat out strange, regardless of the topic, but searching for strangeness can be a different experience in itself. For example, if you type in "weird news", there are entire newspapers and blogs dedicated to documenting the bizarre, with anything from spider-silk dresses to discussing video games as a cure for old age. If you ask for "strange science", Google will bring you to sites about the flavors of different elements on the periodic table. If you type in "bizarre foods", pictures of bug delicacies, tuna eyeballs and dried lizards turn up for you to feast your eyes upon. Truth be told, we've got more strange things on our planet (and beyond) than people on earth to appreciate them. And say what you will, but we're fascinated with it.

From Lady Gaga to yak hair shoe brushes, we have a fixation with the strange. Things go from the gross, to the abnormal, to the simply uncanny, and our society can't seem to get enough of it. Pop Culture is just full of it. Especially recently, self proclaimed "performing artists" have become particularly exuberant. Madonna was one of the first artists to really stand out for her choices in clothing. Katy Perry, arguably one of the most famous pop-idols today, has become associated with her candy-coloured clothing in the same way peanut butter goes with jelly. In fact, her clothing (or lack thereof) makes almost as many headlines as her music. But even outside music, who could ever forget Andy Warhol and his crazy hairdos? Or Vincent Van Gogh, who sliced off part of his own ear to give to a love interest that rejected him? Certainly, there must be something that comes with fame, or even just the arts, that makes people prone to bizarreness.

But let's not forget, we're not the only things on this planet. There are enough plants, animals, and living Things to fill a book. Enough to fill multiple books, in fact. Large, encyclopedia like books full to the brim of strange. One animal in particular I chanced upon recently was the Tariser. It's a monkey native to Southeast Asia. Looking like some sort of crossbreed between a hamster, a bat and yoda, its eyes are larger than its brain. What about the blobfish? Living at depths between 600 and 1200 meters below sea level, it is primarily a gelatinous mass that moves not by swimming, but by floating above the sea level.



And of course, how could I forget conspiracy theories? Going from anything from the JFK assassination to the end of the world, people have thought up some crazy stuff. Because, of course, we never landed on the moon. NASA's telling it all wrong. The flag waves, you can't see stars in the universe, and there are multiple sources of light. A sloppy film session, that's what really happened in the space race. Oh yes, and that good old horror fiction author we know and love, Steven King? He killed John Lennon. And we've got quite the arsenal of evidence proving without a shadow of doubt killed the peaceful pop singer and songwriter. And don't even get me started on the lizard people who rule the earth.

Certainly, there are some weird things on and around this planet we call home. With new technology and the Internet, we're literally a click away from something completely bizarre, for the better or the worse. And whether you be a fanatic for the fantastic, or completely normal (which isn't really so normal after all), I'd just like to point out that our world would be a pretty boring place without the strange. It's a part of life, or even just the universe, that changes the gray, institutionalized monotone that we call day-to-day life to something colourful. Whether the colour is royal blue or a putrid green is besides the point, but sometimes, a little strangeness can go a long way. Because after all, to quote Jackie Collins, the truth is far more bizarre.

Stephanie Fennell



Relationships 101

4 Tips on Establishing Boundaries & Handling Rejection

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Be honest and upfront about the feelings you do and do not have.

Consciously stick to a course of action with someone ("just friends," "I want more," "I am not interested," casual, serious, etc.) and make your intentions clear through your words and actions. It is not fair to play games with someone and then get upset when they try to pursue too heavily and are unable to "read your signals." It's up to you to be honest, direct, and clear about the signals you put forth. And if what you have to

say hurts, then that's too bad—there is no way to take the sting out of reality without altering it, and that's not your job. It's more important to be honest than to be nice by sugar-coating the truth.

Trust your own judgement first and ignore outside influences (this includes the opinions of friends and family members).

Everyone else hears your reactions and motivations second-handedly. Don't allow people to goad you into "giving someone a chance" in order to be "nice" or to avoid being seen as critical, conceited, or cold-hearted. It is not nice to pretend to be capable of having feelings for someone when you don't. And it is not nice of people to expect such to be a criterion for being a decent human being. This does not mean you have to ignore their advice or support entirely—just don't let them make your decisions for you. You have the right to be with people you want to be with and not to have to spend the time, effort, or emotional energy on those you don't.

continued over --->

Dealing with feelings of hurt or rejection is the person's own responsibility. Recognize the boundaries in providing comfort for someone you just rejected. It may feel cruel to leave them alone, but your help may only rub salt into the wound. Allow them to seek comfort somewhere else. Your attempts at salvaging a relationship right after rejection not only ignores their right to have a negative reaction, but puts you in the position of confusing clarity by leading them on or making them think there's room for negotiation. Most of all, it may cause you to shirk or avoid the cold hard facts in an attempt to leave the situation "as is". If blunt rejection causes someone to become bitter, angry, depressed, or manipulative—that's on them, not you. It is not your fault and there is nothing you can do to make the situation better for them. Move on. No one feels good after being dumped or rejected. You are not the sole distributor of personal happiness, so get over feeling mean and stop trying to soothe your self-image by making people feel better.

In the long run, being honest with other people is the nicest and most decent thing you can do. If you are unclear from the beginning in the name of being "nice" and then when pressured finally have to crack and be harshly honest, they will be stuck in a false reality where it appeared you wanted them and then suddenly did not. They will blame you for "leading them on" or being "fickle" and find ways of justifying their unattractive behaviour. They will then continue this negative pattern with every single girl/boy they ever approach, and you will feel terribly guilty about it because you can see how they push people away and it isn't really because they are inherently wrong, and you will want to help them by showing acceptance and kindness and possibly comfort, and thus you confuse them all over again. Just be direct.

Disclaimer: The author will not be held accountable for any emotional damages, dejection, existential angst, or world-weariness following the publication of this article. She will, however, suggest consuming copious amounts of Toblerone while listening to the cheerful sounds of Joy Division, Portishead, The Cure, Nick Cave, and The Smiths as an effective home remedy for heartache—not that she would know from personal experience or anything, mind you. She prefers to spend most of her time talking to her cats after a hard day of being forever alone.

Tiffany Humble



Celebrity Word Search



Celebrity Word Search

S G B X F Q H K J T K M N B W R X C
 O M N S E P O A Y W B M H L H B V T
 E V F O Z Y S C H Y L U X A T Z F I
 R O E C Z I J S H S W T F K E B R K
 P A N E L E S Q E E E C V E D Z P A
 M E N T I X R I M H R K I T A F N E
 G G I Q A N N A I H R V N E L V I S
 V N T O A R G P C P O Q C C H L R C
 M F A D N P I M T G X L T N P F Z Y
 F J E R N D V K T Y W J J O I Z K O
 P J C A O S I B A Y R O B Y I H K B
 R G V N D T E Y T H N A Y E P L E H
 P Q P O A U E R L O S J E B I G O T
 Q H I E M I F H B O X K U A A B M W
 U L N L O J A U B S A G P S F L S T
 Q H K T Q N I P L R D A U N M R F X
 A F O B X H M A D G W D X R E S P H
 F H K S H U I S I K B M O U H K J F

KESHA
 RHIANNA
 DRAKE
 JBEIBS
 LEONARDO
 TYRA
 JLO
 BLAKE
 ELVIS
 BEYONCE
 BONO
 CHER
 MADONNA
 PINK
 SHAKIRA
 SELENA

On a Lighter Note

And This Year's Grammy Goes To...



This year's Grammy Awards were amazing and definitely thrilling, I was either on the edge of my seat, my eyes glued to the television, or I was jumping around screaming "Adele! Adele!", while my mother was giving me weird looks. Either way it was, for sure, 'The Thing' to talk about on Monday. But let me just recap some of my favourite moments.

Adele: Rolling in a Pile of Grammys

Who couldn't agree more that Adele was fabulous at the Grammys? We first noticed her on the red carpet in a cute black dress and not to mention she had lighter hair (which was so gorgeous on her)! That girl was ready to receive a lot of awards that night and did she ever get so many trophies. Adele walked away with 6 Grammys that night, and had one of the best performances I have seen in awhile. Adele is sure a keeper, a great singer, and a very inspirational person.

Whitney Houston Tribute

Whitney Houston's death was indeed a tragedy; she only died a few hours before the show began. It was such a shame too, because Houston was supposed to perform this year. Whitney has done three of the best performances at the Grammys in the past 54 years. Instead of Houston's performance, Jennifer Hudson gave a heart wrenching performance of Whitney's song "I Will Always Love You". It was truly a rare and special moment for the Grammys this year.

Look Who's Back!

Let me just say that I am quite the Beatles fan. So when Sir Paul McCartney came on the stage I was more than ecstatic to hear him sing. McCartney is about to turn 70 this June, but let me tell you, he can still sing... really, really well. He is so good that he got to sing, not one, not two, but three songs during the Grammys. He sang, "My Valentine", "Golden Slumbers", and "Carry That Weight". Let me tell you straight up that none of them disappointed anyone. McCartney is definitely a legend in Rock History, and is sure to delight the years to come.

Get your 'Umbrellas' because it's going to be a 'Rainy Day'

Just kidding... how can it be a rainy day when Coldplay had an amazing duet with Rihanna?! Even though Coldplay is a Rock/Alternative band, and Rihanna is a R&B/Pop Queen, that does not mean that they can't duet. Rihanna and Chris Martin (Coldplay Leader) sang their heart out to "We Found Love" and "Princess of China", later followed by Coldplay singing "Paradise". Both their voices are fantastic, and if they sing together... let's just say that fireworks happen.

Let's just say that this year's Grammy was not a disappointment, every year there is always something new and exciting to hear and see... even though it may include your mother in the kitchen asking "What is that noise?!"

Odile Huynh



This Columnist's Manifesto

Youth Parliament Manitoba's 90th Session

So.
 You're a debater.
 You love meeting people.
 You don't like sleeping.
 You should do YPM.
 No, really.

YPM is short for Youth Parliament of Manitoba. Founded in 1922, it's been meeting in Manitoba's Legislature for five days over Winter Break for 90 years. As a mock parliament, we debate bills proposed by cabinet ministers. In the actual chamber. Where real parliamentarians meet. With a Speaker and pages and everything. This year, SJR was represented by five students: Kenji Pliszka, Ryan Sherbo, Satkaran Dhillon, Ryan Pistorius, and I.

Now, I was already a political junkie for life before doing YPM. But I'm officially obsessed now. Actually debating the way that real MLA's or MPs do in the Leg or in Parliament really opened my eyes up to what the job really entails and how parliamentary procedure actually works.

There were a few differences from reality, though. The most prominent one was that there was no government or opposition. We were working as a consensus government, not in an adversarial system. There were a few reasons for this. Number one, when YPM was founded in 1922, the Manitoba Government operated like this. Secondly, this way, everyone feels comfortable hanging out with everyone, right off the bat.

The bills themselves were really interesting. YPM has a history of passing bills before actual parliament does. For instance, there were women in YP before there were female MLAs. Also, we abolished the monarchy last year. The bills this year ranged from dealing with legal rights to cyber protection to youth justice. The most hotly debated one dealt with marriage and marriage rights. The Marriage Arrangement Act proposed a mandatory dating website for all legal Canadian marriages. While it lost in second reading, there was a ton of really fascinating debate on it. When do people sacrifice their individual rights for the betterment of society or their children? When should they? Another interesting one dealt with gender equality. Gender, not sex. Should the government add a third gender as an option for people's official records? Should all facilities be gender-neutral? The U of W does it; why not the rest of Canada? These were only some of the questions that we tackled in our five days in the house.

It wasn't as serious as you might think in the house. For one, the heckling is insane. Now, in normal debating that you do through SJR, heckling is banned outright. In the house, however, it's encouraged. Strongly encouraged. A phrase such as "Mr Speaker, the minister's reprehensible, willy-nilly policy is a clear assault to Human Rights and should they now resign?" would have the house buzzing for a good ten minutes at least.

Youth Parliament was an amazing experience for me-at par with the Forum for Young Canadians. I'm completely hooked on politics now, with no chance of recovery. Some might say that that's a bad thing, but I love it!

Adrienne Tessier

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Editors' Note

Dear the SJR Student body,


We apologize for the delay in getting this issue out to you. However, this delay was largely due to the drought of submissions that we encountered. For our next issue, out in the first week of March, we would love it if we could have a flood of articles. New columnists are always welcome, on any topic: sports, fashion, school life, debating, anything! Send all articles to liveinprint@learners.sjr.mb.ca.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
The Editors of *Live! in Print*

CSJR 88.7 FM Schedule

Day/Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:45	Reggae Nation Mr. Henderson	Sports Mania Alex, David, Hayden, & Evan	Mr. Peelings Hour of Mayhem Mr. Peeling	Jeneration Next Jen Baron	Honky Tonk Hour Mr. Simcoe
1:00-1:45	Covering the Spread Eric, Damon, & Matt	Anything Goes Hour Max & Brett	Mike's Music Michael K.	The Internet Today Sam & Carson	Tech Talk Nav & Arjan
4:00-5:00	Kophie Hour Sophie & Krisi	SJR Human Rights Watch Mr. Henderson's Grade 9 SS Class	The Outdoors Matt Furgale Maria's World Maria	The Hockey Show Alex, David, Hayden, & Evan	Radio Freestyle 

 want your chance to be a radio star? Talk to Mr. Henderson about having your own show!

Editor: Adrienne Tessier, Designer: Kevin Carruthers,

Advisor: Ms.

Lockman,

Printer: Mr.

Berhane