

# Le Gra Faoi

Happy-Go-Jacky News  
from the Class of '03 -  
Foreign Edition

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## A New Love Below

Greetings, '03ers. Welcome to the re-vamped format of your favorite alumni publication. And don't say you like The Voice better - at least here you have a decent shot at getting a shout-out.

Why the change? Well, the purpose of The Love Below is to highlight the lives and interests of our fellow classmates. The previous issues achieved that goal, but not to the extent desired. Instead of allowing members of the class a field to share their post-collegiate experiences, it focused more on random stories and only showcased a small group of alums. Although we tried to provide opportunities through email updates and shameless contests, we never received a wide variety of responses or news. As a result, things have been switched up so more voices can be heard.

From this day forward, each issue will have a theme, and will include representative blurbs from classmates. For instance, this being the "Foreign Edition," all articles are written by '03ers who have spent their post-Carleton time abroad. Thus, there will be a

shift to hearing directly from fellow alums as to what is new in their lives, instead of your Class Officers giving you scoops. Fear not, though, Luke Hasskamp's Townie Corner will remain.

So, keep your eyes open next time you check your inbox, as you never know when you might qualify for our next theme. And, as always, if you have an idea for our next issue, write to us at [carletonnews03@yahoo.com](mailto:carletonnews03@yahoo.com).

Finally, taking care of some old business, congratulations are needed for Ben Ho and Ann Deming. Ben correctly solved last issue's crossword puzzle, although was originally disqualified as we thought he had also won the previous edition's photo contest. However, although the picture was of Ben, the photo credit should have gone to Ann.

## Townie Corner Luke Hasskamp

Well, I believe the Chapati saga has finally reached a peaceful resolution. Just recently, the Archer House awarded Chapati a ten-year lease so it will remain for future generations. They even acquired additional space, so the size of Chapati will nearly double when renovations are completed. Excellent, although I suppose this means that Chapati will continue to jack up its prices, but hey, they're probably just keeping up with inflation. This proves my theory: Chapati is better than no Chapati.

It is Spring Break right now, so there are not many students around, but there is still plenty

## Alumni Annual Fund

Worried that it's too late to make your yearly contribution to the AAF? Fear not, Carleton's fiscal year does not end until June 30, 2005. So far the Class of '03 is only half-way towards meeting its fundraising goals, so we have some work to do! Go on-line today to make your gift: [www.carleton.edu/alumni/aaf](http://www.carleton.edu/alumni/aaf)

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# Slovakia

Hans Wietzke

I've been teaching English at a high school in Kosice, Slovakia for the past two years or so. Despite the fact that Bush isn't very popular here, as I found out when I led a group of students to hear him speak in Bratislava, being a young American in Eastern Europe hasn't brought any difficulties other than linguistic ones. It's hard to pronounce a word with ten consecutive consonants and not sound like a jack-ass.

My students don't care all that much about politics, though, and they are even charmed by my feeble attempts to speak Slovak. And some are apparently more charmed than others. I suppose it happens to a lot of young teachers, but a few of my students have developed an embarrassingly obvious crush on me. But passions were burning even hotter when a rumor went around that I had a nipple ring (Slovak girls like the "bad boy"). Fifteen-year-old Nika (not her real name) even asked me directly if it was true. I'm not sure how all this started, but it may have something to do with the fact that my last name rhymes with the Slovak word for nipple. Hence, phrases like "Wietzke ma piercing na cicky" ("Wietzke has a piercing on his nipple") are increasingly popular, and may be blurring the edges of Slovak reality.



# Mexico

Carissa Jean Tobin

Being in Mexico City was a lot like being anywhere else: I ate a lot and watched lots of TV. And, it was like I never left Carleton - almost. Maggie Fernandez worked at the same school as me, and even though Violeta Gonzalez was studying in Poland, she did make a surprise visit (!!!!) ... and Maggie and I hung out with her mom - a lot! Will Schierzchaluchala was working in Cuernavaca, just an hour away, and he came to The D.F. (Mexico City, Distrito Federal) quite a bit, and he showed us all the high-school girls he was dating when we went to a Halloween party at the school where he worked. Also, Will, Maggie, and I, along with Todd and Sally Ellwein '92/'94, had a



momentous night with one of their Carleton friends at a wine bar in The D.F. (not expensive at all; we were totally prepared money-wise) and took a side-trip to Puebla to visit Jose Cerna-Bazan's off-campus program. We partied with our newly made Carleton friends all night ... and no one got sick at all, I promise. There was another Carleton gathering at Todd and Sally's house, and that time, no one got sick in the car...

Oh yeah, and when the Puebla group came to tour The D.F., Maggie and I made the most of our alumni status to get free meals, museum tours, and best of all ... transportation around the city on a cushy bus. I should also mention that Avni Madhok came to visit for a week, and Jaime Diaz (Spanish Language Associate '01-'03) came in from Morelia, too. So the moral of my story is that no matter where you are, you might have to count on Carleton friends (or strangers) so that your life doesn't turn into one big Seinfeld marathon (and, no, I am NOT speaking from experience...)

## Germany

Caroline Cylkowski

I've been here since June with my boyfriend Stephan, and I have been teaching English to German business people. We live in the industrial part of Germany (they produce steel, and mine coal, and make everything possible that goes along with coal mining) so I teach people lots of industrial, and especially coal, related vocabulary. For instance, Coal, Mine, Dig, Tunnel...things like that.

Hmmm ... other fun facts ... Some of my students have really funny names (at least to me). I had a class which included students named, Dieter, Wolfgang and Gisbert. Also, the nickname in Germany for Heinrich is Heinie. When you walk around during the day, there are tons of little old ladies that stare at you out their windows (very weird). Germany makes the best damn chocolate and Gummi Bears in the world. And finally, they have Capri Sun here, but it is called Capri Sonne.

## Korea

Anna Duffy

One of the things that struck me most while living in Korea and traveling in SE Asia is how small the world is, or more appropriately, how much the United States has infiltrated other cultures. It seems like every restaurant chain that is failing in the US packed up and headed to Korea to become wildly popular; Benningans, Tony Romas and the Sizzler border on Haute Cuisine. American music is not just played on the radio and at clubs, but also as the ring tone on the cell phones of 50-year old business men. I'm not talking nice, old folk tunes like Norah Jones, but rap from artists like Missy Elliot. Sayings like, "I dropped her like a hot potato" that have long been forgotten in the US, if they were ever used, are being taught to thousands of people at language institutes. In Cambodia, in the middle of a tiny town, young boys can be spotted running around with Britney Spears t-shirts. North Indian men seem to know more than the Cosmopolitan Sex Experts when it comes to the wild sex lives of

## Czech Republic

Tyler Green

This is my second year teaching English in the Czech Republic. I love living here, but one major difficulty for me is the language. About a year ago my main ice-breaker with someone I didn't know translated to: "Hello. I am the Tyler. I see you. You are on chair." I would then stare awkwardly at the person waiting for a response - hopefully a response in English. I've improved a bit since then, but I would still consider myself to be the village idiot.

Luckily I am not the only person here having language problems; my students are also struggling with English. One day I was playing "I've never..." with a class to practice present perfect. Of course one of the students went into the middle of the circle and said, "I've never used of the hard drugs." Everyone uncomfortably stayed in their place except for one sweet, angelic young girl who stepped into the circle, indicating that she had, in fact, used hard drugs. She began to feel defensive as we stared at her in disbelief and said, "I LIKE hot dogs!" It's times like that when I truly know that I am a bad teacher.



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American women. And in Thailand any shirt, skirt or pair of shoes that has graced the shelves of Diesel, Abercrombie, Hollister or even more obscure stores can be found for a fraction of the price on a street stand. At first, comforting, then amusing, the far reaching American influence turned disconcerting after a while. There are definitely some American things that were never meant to leave this country...

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of snow. Northfield got about 16 inches the other day. It was so much that they officially closed the College at noon and sent all non-essential staff home. Sadly, my job as Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs is deemed "non-essential" – a classification I am still fighting – but I did not benefit from this early closing because I was on a work trip in Tucson. Damn! A petition to change my job classification to "essential" is circulating, and I encourage all of you to sign it, if not for me, then for the affairs of alumni which I help direct. Please, won't you help?!?!?!?

Oh, St. Olaf sold their popular radio station (WCAL) which upset a good number of their alumni population, as well as many Northfield residents. Evidently, Olaf was/is in need of some quick cash, so they sold it without communicating with any of their constituents.

Check out this website - [www.savewcal.org](http://www.savewcal.org) - for information on the efforts to save the radio station. Carleton is not planning to sell KRLX. In fact, you can check out [www.krlx.org](http://www.krlx.org) to hear live streaming of student shows. This proves my theory: Carleton is better than Olaf.

A few noteworthy changes did take place at Carleton however. Remember the smoking lounge in upper Sayles – unofficially known as the Peter Tork Memorial Smoking Lounge? Well, it is no longer a smoking lounge, but a computer lab. And the computer lab in the main level of the library is no longer there. That is now a study area. The computers have been moved to the north end of the main level. It's an odd arrangement. I was going to start a petition to save the library, but I ran out of paper.

Did you ever see the movie 'Dances with Wolves'? Neither did I, but that reminds me, I have my wolf-dancing lesson tonight at 7.