

Phoque Off

By Brad DEIGHAN

During the fifteenth century in Western Europe, traditional ways of life began to break down due to new industries that were taking a predominant role over agriculture, and this created a social not-so-pleasant peasant upheaval. The Catholic Church, in an attempt to gain a monopoly over the people's spiritual belief, created a scape-goat to blame these problems on, and pronounced a solution; they began to label people of different spiritual beliefs as witches, and enjoyed burning them at the stake.

The people of Europe believed what the church was telling them, and so they went along with it all, oddly enough... Thank God the church has lost the immense power that in history it previously held.

Today we have a new problem to deal with, and a new scape-goat to direct the blame towards - or perhaps we should instead say, *re-direct* the blame. The cod fishing industry has been broken and breaking down for a long while now, and

each winter the Canadian government sends out troops of men armed with extreme bravery, clubs, guns, and sharpened steel hooks.

These brave knights protect our fisheries from the vicious flippers of the harp-seals. With fangs the size of large fingernails, the terrible, horrible seals swim angrily around in



the cold water without looking where they're going, spitting all over the clean ocean floor, and eating mainly the fish that prey upon the depleted cod stocks. When they finish, they lay vicious-

ly on the ice-floes and bark like monstrous little water-puppies, as the majority of them are only babies and are not yet fully grown. Just as the Church put the blame on "heretics", our new-age church - the government - has put the blame for the depleted cod-stocks on the seals, even though there is not enough information about seal diet (the cod-fish however, makes up only 1.3%), environmental change, cod

migration, or the marine ecosystem in general, to lay blame on the seals for the cod shortage.

On the other hand, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans has stumbled and crashed into a wall of over-

fishing with the use of gill-nets, and the cod has been found to be suffering as a result. Gill-nets are nets which are anchored to the sea bed and used to rake in various types of fish in very large quantities at one time.

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Asia has been importing many of the seals penises to be used as aphrodisiacs, but with the invention of Viagra the seal cocks are in less demand. Also, both Europe and the US have refused to purchase any "seal goods" from Canada, and any such purchases are considered illegal. One of the nicest things about the hunt is that seals often escape injured, or are left for a time on the ice in a violent spasm after being shot, clubbed, or hooked. Video surveillance has caught such acts on tape, and even evidence of seals being skinned alive.

UPEI STUDENT UNION COUNCIL NOMINATIONS 2003/2004

Nominations for the 2003/2004 Student Union Council OPEN at 9:00am, Monday Feb. 10. Nomination Forms can be picked up @ SU office Monday to Friday 9-4. All completed forms must be passed in by Friday, Feb. 14 at 1:00pm.

For more info check out www.upeisu.com

- 1 President
- 1 Executive Vice-President
- 1 VP Activities
- 4 Senate Representatives
- 4 Arts Representative
- 3 Business Representatives
- 4 Science Representatives
- 1 Nursing Representatives
- 1 Veterinary Medicine
- 1 Board of Governors
- 1 Ombudsman

All full time students are eligible to run for Student Union Council positions.

Get involved in Campus Life and make the most of your time at UPEI!

Election Dates:
March 10-13

Gilbert & Sullivan's
The Gondoliers

Confederation Centre, Charlottetown
February 20, 21 & 22, 2003 8:00 pm

Jubilee Theatre, Summerside
February 28, March 1, 2003 8:00 pm

Tickets \$16 and \$14
Box Offices: 866-1267 or 888-2500

Confederation Centre of the Arts Centre des arts de la Confédération An ACT (a community theatre) production Jubilee Theatre

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