

# Stark Raving Sane: On Being The Dynamic One

By Catherine SWEET

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be a truly dynamic person? I was struck with that idea this week and, like all other questions that mysteriously appear in my subconscious, I immediately began to take some personal stock.

I was taken with the fear that I am not dynamic in the least. Dynamic people have many interests. Not just interests, but *interesting* interests.

*I have to build the layers. I have to learn to surf. I have to learn to play the banjo. I have to drive a stick and build a fire with one match.*

They are well-versed, articulate, and entertaining. They will surprise you with stories of trips to exotic places, or being asked backstage, or suddenly knowing how to order food in another language. They have dinner parties and serve artichoke hearts and jackfruit fritters.

I, on the other hand, dig movies.

Somehow, I feel like I've got some catching up to do.

Then again, I'm probably more dynamic than others. I'm constantly trying new things. I like to learn to appreciate stuff I don't particularly care for. Except

reality TV. I refuse to give that a chance. It's exploitative and cheap and sad.

But who the hell am I trying to impress? Shouldn't I leave being interesting to those who are naturally dynamic? Maybe it's not something that can be taught or learned. Henry Higgins made Eliza Dolittle into a lady, but that was fiction. Besides, we all know that the rain in Spain falls all over the place.

That kind of fundamental shift isn't what I'm looking for, though. Being dynamic is being multi-faceted, not newly-faceted. I have to build the layers. I have to learn to surf. I have to learn to play the banjo. I have to drive a stick and build a fire with one match.

Isn't that why we're at University? Yeah, to get a job, to get a job, to get a job. Screw that job stuff. I don't think we can even begin to appreciate how much we're getting from our education. Yeah, you hated that semester you took a philosophy elective. You didn't get *nothing* from it. Look at it this way: you now know some famous names that will at least help out the next time you're watching "Monty Python's Flying Circus."

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But the dynamic people don't quote Rene Descartes to you, though, do they? They whip out a banjo and tear into "Foggy Mountain Breakdown." The bank of knowledge is there, but you're not earning a lot of interest. I like knowing why Rozencrantz and Guildenstern are dead, I like knowing the Five Pillars of Islam, and I like knowing what "causeway" is in French, but when you slip something like that into a conversation, you run the risk of sounding like a pedantic jerk.

I do know there is no formula for it. It's so different for everyone. I know that dynamic people do tend to watch "Monty Python's Flying Circus." No one will ever claim to be dynamic because they didn't miss one episode of "Joe Millionaire."

# Music Department Presents Student Recitals

By Brodie MacRAE

Don't miss this week's student recitals! Don't!

On March 6 and 8 in the Dr. Steel Recital Hall, the UPEI Department of Music Recital Series will present two student recitals. On the sixth at 8:00, bass-baritone Brodie MacRae will perform his Senior Recital and on the eighth, also at 8:00, Scott Robinson, bass-trombonist will present his Senior Recital. These recitals are presented in partial fulfilment of Music 432 and best of all, admission is free. Everyone is welcome.

Brodie MacRae is in his fourth year at UPEI, studying voice under the direction of Prof. Sung-Ha Shin Bouey as a bass-baritone. Brodie has long been a chorister and occasional soloist with the UPEI Chorus and Chamber Singers and has been actively involved in Island community theatre for several years. He performed the role of "Pooh-bah" in ACT's production of "The Mikado" in 2001 on the Confederation Centre of the Arts' main stage and the Jubilee Theatre and appeared in the UPEI Music Department and Dance

Umbrella's production of Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas." He was a member of the National Youth Choir in 2002 and the Indian River Festival Chorus in 2001. In his Senior Recital, Brodie will be assisted by Jolene Willis and Jacqueline Sorensen, piano and by Shirley Wright, cello. He will be singing works by Mozart, Schubert, Ravel, Wolf, Copland and more.

Scott Robinson will be completing his fourth and final year of music studies this May, having studied the bass-trombone under the tutelage of Dale Sorenson and Dr. Gregory Irvine. He is currently in the process of preparing auditions for graduate work in the fall. Scott has had a variety of performance opportunities during his residency at UPEI and has performed with such ensembles as the UPEI Wind Symphony, the National Youth Band of Canada, the Band of the Ceremonial Guard, the PEI Symphony and the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. Scott's program includes works by White, Spillman, and Tomasi; he will be assisted by Frances McBurnie and the UPEI Trombone Quartet.

Hope to see you there!

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