



This Week: Pat  
and Willy's

BY SHANNON YOUNKER

Pat and Willy's Bar and Grill opened a couple of years ago in the Royal Trust Tower on Kent Street and now appears to be one of Charlottetown's most popular restaurants. Pat and Willy's serves a large, varied menu, mostly with a Mexican theme. The decor also has a decidedly Tex-Mex aura, down to sombreros on the wall and Mexican beer bottles full of salt for your tequilas on the tables. Prices are reasonable. For example, the fajitas make an excellent supper for two for about

twelve dollars. I would recommend budgeting for dessert, too. The chocolate raspberry bash is to kill or die for and the waitress got me a free slice on my birthday. There is also a good selection of bar food if you are not in the mood for a free meal. The waiters are friendly and service has always been good, even when they are busy. At night, Pat and Willy's closes to anyone under 19 and gets even more crowded as people check out Margaritaville. I rate Pat and Willy's Bar and Grill a full 5 out of 5 cookies.

## The Future so bright... The death-knell of materialism

Alex Keaveny

I KNOW I SHOULD BE STUDYING now, but I'll X-Press my thoughts on an issue of certain relevance first.

I was preparing supper for myself this evening when Cross Canada Check-up came on the radio. The topic being discussed was the upcoming federal budget. People from across Canada were calling in and talking with federal finance minister Paul Martin. The particular aspect of the budget being discussed was that of how to deal with our country's deficit and debt. Everyone seemed to agree (as I do) that we are living beyond our means as a country and must re-organize funding to federal programs. The question being asked by the minister was where did the callers think we should look in doing this?

As the conversations began, all of the early callers seemed to know of several programs that they did not feel deserved to be funded; however, for each program that one caller felt unnecessary, the next would say no, I think someone else should be cut. The finance minister seemed all too familiar with this scenario and so he began to ask the callers what things in their own lives they would be willing to sacrifice.

And so I began to ask myself this question. What would I give up? I tried to look at first the short term and then the long term. In doing this it was necessary for me to look at where I am now, my current lifestyle, and look for ways to live more within my means. As a student, my yearly income is very small. I have very little expenses and few possessions. Besides basic living expenses (rent, food, tuition) my extra expenses are: I go out for coffee every day, I go to the movies once a week on average, I attend a dance class once a week, I go out most weekends and I buy a book (used) or c.d. on occasion. I have chosen the things that I feel are most important to me and as a result there are many things that I do not have: for example, a car, a VCR/Cable, nor can I afford to smoke or drink. The

more I looked at my own situation, the more I realized that I already have accepted that I have to live within my means. It seems like we as a generation have already realized this. We all accept the reality that we cannot afford everything (could anyone ever?) We have all been told time and time again that our generation will not have as much as our parents. The days of having everything are gone. Ours will not be a generation of two cars in the two-car garage with the summer home, four t.v.s, 10/42, Etc.. Our parents once thought that they could afford such extremely lavish lifestyles, and spent the country's money building them. We all now realize that this notion was wrong and will learn a hard lesson from their mistake, whether we want to or not.

We are, and will be, a generation that makes choices. We will choose to live in the country if we want the benefits of country life, or live in the city if we want the benefits of city life, we know we won't be able to afford both.

We will likely choose the services we like most and get rid of the rest, choose the roads we need and leave the rest, we will eliminate many current programs and use the revenue saved to pay for our past mistakes, maybe we could even make small improvements to the things we choose to keep, as long as they are within our means.

We were raised in a world where people tried to pretend that we could afford it all, and now the same people are realizing, and telling us, that we won't be able to. I could easily go on for hours blaming the boomers for squandering the country's fortunes chasing rainbows, but we already know that, so I won't waste your valuable time.

We will still have nice things, we may likely have nicer things than our parents, we just won't have as many. And that's fine with me.





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