

Website review

www.TrentDating.com

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At first glance, Trentdating.com has the appearance of a sleek, somewhat professional-looking website. The overall layout is clear, sleek, and uncluttered—much easier on the eyes than trentu.ca. The images and textboxes are judiciously placed in a manner that lends the site an air of balance and clarity.

The site features images of smiling straight couples that look like something out of Dawson's Creek, and an eye-catching red and white colour scheme—like a heterosexual Kentucky Friend Chicken bucket. This website may be ill-thought out at a university like Trent.

Navigating this site is about as easy as finding your way through Peterborough on the city busses after six—it's bloody complicated! The only places you want to go are rendered inaccessible by poor planning and design. While this is a dating site, the only place one can view the links to the profiles are on the main page. There is a main toolbar on every page that has links to various sections of the site, but not to the personal ad section. The links to the personal ads are almost hidden at the bottom of the main page.

Personal ads are divided into four sections: man seeking woman, woman seeking man, man seeking man, and woman seeking woman. In keeping with the overtly heterosexist nature of the website, the "Man seeking man" and "Woman seeking woman" icons are placed below their heterosexual counterparts and the lettering is in smaller text.

The biggest drawback to TrentDating.com is that it requires all users to "enter a contest" from their

sponsor. "Users who do not do this will have their account terminated without notice. You must do this now." When you click on the link, you are taken to some nauseating spam website that asks for your name, email address, home address, and phone number.

Despite this, Trentdating.com prohibits members from posting any junk mail or spam of their own. TrentDating.com insists that your email address will be kept private, despite the fact that they require members to share their personal information with some sketchy spam website. The site also prohibits members from posting their email address or personal home-page in their profile.

The profile options limit the selection of body type to slim, petite, average, muscular, and athletic. There is no space for other categories such as large. There are two categories to place your personal under: dating and relationship. That might be all well and good for some people but I think it is rather limiting.

What if you are just looking for friends, or friends with benefits, or a scrabble partner? With all its limitations and inconsistencies it is no wonder that many people do not take this site seriously. There's a notice on the front page that reads, "many accounts have been deleted and will continue being deleted due to the immature content being posted."

Although it is visually appealing I really am turned off by TrentDating.com's heterosexist overtones. This site might appeal to you if you if you are a thin heterosexual with perfect teeth but for the rest of us there is always the Only.

Student journalists unite!

Arthur attends the Canadian University Press conference



photo by Nathaniel Christopher

Penar Musaraj & Nathaniel Christopher

Why is university journalism so important? Well, it's a rather honest, frank approach to the industry. Student Journalists enjoy a level of freedom and independence that is almost unheard of in mainstream papers. While being very critical of mainstream media, student journalists are also connected to it, since they increasingly see themselves as embodying the future of the industry.

In an effort to make the most of our time in student journalism, we took part in the 66th annual Canadian University Press (CUP) Conference in St John's, Newfoundland. Over a six-day period, we networked with university newspapers from across Canada, participated in workshops and seminars, and attended speeches from notable journalists.

University newspapers are lodestones of communication on campus, and a good paper fosters good communication. This conference provided us with a rare opportunity to speak with the staff of papers from every province. Papers ranged from small-scale publications, such as Arthur, to veritable giants such as the University of Alberta's Gateway, and the University of Toronto's Varsity.

From Margaret Wentte to Jonathan Kay, the speeches were the most memorable feature of the conference. Margaret Wentte spoke about the value of writing from your heart, Jonathan Kay emphasized the importance of considering the logic of other peoples' beliefs and opinions, and Neil Macdonald gave a very candid, realistic talk about journalism as a profession.

Wentte, a Globe and Mail reporter, gave a challenging speech centering on the recent events in Iraq. Wentte's travels in Iraq and first-hand experience led her to draw several conclusions about the situation. She offered insight into an issue that she claimed has been bogged down by so many reports, books, facts, figures and news conferences. Through an emotional account of the personal experiences of the Iraqis, Wentte argued that the American Intervention was justified, since it ended a horrible regime.

Yet Wentte's claim to have "seen Iraq" remained fundamentally problematic; she saw it from the eyes of a foreigner, a Westerner, a blonde woman that spoke English and used a translator. Her "truth" about Iraq is no better than the "truth" we all see on television; as someone who stayed

in Iraq for about two weeks, her "real experience" is as real as that of an American tourist in Communist China.

Jonathan Kay, arguably the most right-wing speaker of the conference, attempted to explain the major historical events of the last 15 years that led to the particular political situation before, during and after the war on Iraq. Kay argued that the end of the Cold War triggered massive regroupings within the Left and the Right, but the major blow of the collapse of communism was directed towards the Left, since it lost its claim to a successful economic alternative.

According to Kay, the Right split as well, but September 11 was the event that brought it together, united, arguably a lot more than the war on Iraq mobilized the Left. Despite being clearly a defendant of the Right and Bush's rationale for the war, Kay's analysis was a sound and courageous attempt to understand the war in Iraq within its broader political context.

Another speaker was Chart Magazine editor Aaron Brophy who started his career at Chart as an intern. During his six-year tenure, his magazine has moved from an independent publication to a popular mainstream magazine. He took a rather pragmatic approach to journalism, stating that one had to follow the market in order to succeed. Whereas most of the speakers were guarded in their comments, Brophy was straightforward and realistic.

CBC foreign correspondent Neil MacDonald was the most interesting and accomplished of the speakers. His enthralling speech highlighted his 28-year career in journalism. He spoke candidly about the restrictions of freedom in the media and society, particularly since September 11.

One of the biggest threats to journalistic integrity, he argued, is the diminishing independence of the media. MacDonald is troubled by the recent trend in the American media of journalists "cozying up" to public officials. "It's our job to question the officials" he asserted.

Many well-intentioned student journalists believe that we have a role to play in speaking out against injustice. MacDonald laments that when this ideal is exercised in professional journalism, it can leave the journalist in a precarious position. Like any other career, journalism is a way to put food on the table.

Welcome to TrentDating.com!

TrentDating.com is a unique dating service because it is catered *only* to Trent University students. Unlike other dating sites, we bring about connections between students in a closely knitted community.

After registering for an account with TrentDating.com, you will be given access to the members' area where you may view other member pics & profiles and contact them right on the site! Have more questions? Read our Help and FAQ. Ready to register? **Register now for free!**



•American Splendor

The illustrious life of comic book writer, Harvey Pekar.

•A Decade Under The Influence

Docu on 70's filmmaking.

•Takashi Miike Collection

Three more films from Japan's master of the bizarre.

•Thirteen

Gritty coming of age film co-written by it's 13 year old star.

•The Blues

Seven feature films produced by Martin Scorsese.

•David Cross

Stand-Up escapades from the former *Mr. Show*.

•The Kingdom II

More episodes from Lars Von Triers' hilarious, haunted hospital.

•Spike Jones

Videos and rarities by the director of *Being John Malkovich* and *Adaptation*.

•The Sopranos

Yes... we finally have all four seasons of Tony & The Crew... (plus more Sex & The City!).

750-0770 Noon-11pm Daily 'Under The Clock' On George St. PTBO