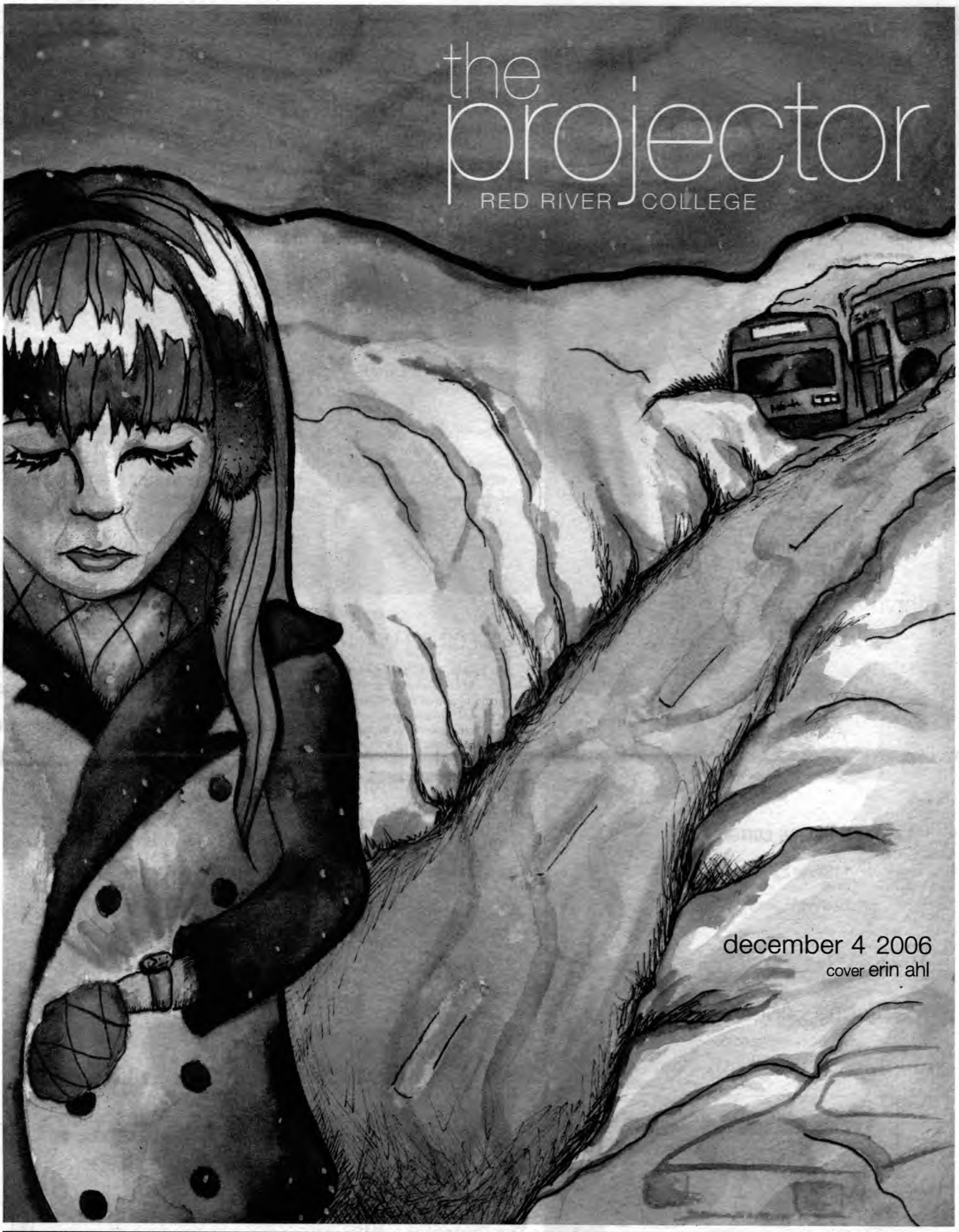
the projector

RED RIVER COLLEGE



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BriefNews

These people have no idea what's in store for them...

The Interns of Projector 2006-07

Stephanie Scherbain
LAYOUT

Doug McArthur
LAYOUT

Chris Webb
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nisha Tuli
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Aaron Zeghers
NEWS

Allie Walld
NEWS

Andrea Danyluk
HEALTH

Derek Jory
HEALTH

Shawn Houde
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Sara Atkinov
ARTS & CULTURE

PROJECTOR WANTS YOU!

The Projector is looking for writers from all ends of our college. Every program, from each campus is eligible to express themselves in this paper – it is your voice. We welcome any willing participants to join us at our next story meeting on Friday, Dec.1, in room W102 (the newsroom) at the Princess Street campus.

Bring some good ideas for what you'd like to write about, or listen to some of ours. If you have an idea and just can't wait, email us!

DISCOUNT MANITOBA MOOSE TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Attention all Red River hockey fans: for just $13, a night of puck passing and hot dog eating at the MTS Centre could be yours. Discounted Manitoba Moose tickets will be available at The Ox Store or the Mercantile Store until Wednesday, Dec.6. Hockey fans unite!

FREE BRAIN FOOD FOR STUDYING STUDENTS

If anything can quell the exam time blues, it's free coffee and donuts. Red River College will be providing its students with some food for thought from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the following dates:

Notre Dame Campus – Mon., Dec.11, Library Hallway

Princess St. Campus – Tues., Dec.12, Atrium (in front of P110)

The Projector

c/o Red River College Students' Association
P110 -160 Princess Street Winnipeg, MB R3B 1K9
Phone: 204.947.0013
Fax: 204.949.9150

ContributingWriters

Casey Gibb
Brent J. Neill
Chris Madden
Michael Niziol
Matt Wright
Daniel Bouthillette
Dan Verville
Billy Elias
Raymond Brickwood
Rhiannon Maskiw-Connelly
Marc Guzzi
Meghan Delorme
Brant Batters
Shannah-Lee Vidal
Daniel Paspaporn
Jack Rach
Erin Bend

AworD

"Journalism justifies its own existence by the great Darwinian principle of the survival of the vulgarist."

- Oscar Wilde

Students Promised 60 Percent Tuition Rebate

By Michael Niziolmichaelniziol@gmail.com

Manitoba students will be receiving a 60 per cent rebate on their tuition fees, if they stay and work in Manitoba. In what is likely to be his last speech from the throne before a possible spring election, Premier Gary Doer has promised a smorgasbord of tax cuts, incentives and new spending.

In reading the speech on Nov. 15, which commenced the fifth session of the 38th legislature, Lt-Gov. John Harvard said, "For the first time in Manitoba history, all post-secondary students who stay and work in the province will receive a 60 per cent tax rebate on their tuition fees."

Though the details of the rebate have yet to be announced, Harvard said that it will begin in 2007, and that the tax rebate will be issued over a six-year period. This announcement is meant to reduce the brain-drain in the province and keep students living and working in Manitoba.

Russell Ketcheson, a second year mechanical engineering technology student at Red River College's Notre Dame campus, likes the idea of a rebate to help graduates deal with their student debt.

"The rebate would be good…but I don't know if it would keep young people here. I think it's a good way to help graduates deal with their debt while they start their career," said Ketcheson.

Ketcheson believes that Manitoba needs to attract new industry and should help businesses get started and expand, so they can offer better jobs to more graduates.

"Graduates will go where the jobs are, whether that's here or somewhere else," said Ketcheson.

Jeffrey Taniguchi, a third-year graphic design student at the Princess Street campus, believes that once students graduate, their concern isn't the tuition they've paid but finding a good job to start their careers.

"I'm not sure if it will really be effective in keeping students here," Taniguchi said. "If I were to leave the province, it would be for employment."

Dana Giesbrecht, a student at the Princess Street campus believes that if students want to leave Manitoba, there's not much the government can do to keep them here.

"I think it's an interesting approach, but I don't think it'll be effective in the long run." Giesbrecht said.

The rebate program will also offer incentives for students to continue their schooling into graduate studies and professional programs.

"While we have made progress in keeping our young people, more work is needed," said Harvard. "We will continue with policies that provide affordable, accessible education opportunities and hope for the future."

U of W Uses Menstrual Fluid To Remember Montreal Massacre

By Nisha Tulisendnishamail@gmail.ca

On Dec. 6, 1989, Marc Lepine entered Montreal's École Polytechnique and opened fire on 14 female engineering students, killing them all. Before gunning the women down, he screamed, "I hate feminists!" This event has come to mark a day of tragedy for 14 young women, but has also become a day of mourning for violence against women across Canada.

This year, on the 17th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, seven University of Winnipeg (UW) students are using art and their own menstrual fluid to bring attention to the continued violence against women happening around the world everyday.

"We wanted to ask people – you think this is disgusting? How about what happened in Montreal, and what continues to happen to women all the time?" says Kelly Ross, the UW Womyn's Center co-ordinator. Ross is referring to 14 patches of fabric that have been decorated by members of the Womyn's Center with their own menstrual fluid. The 8"x11" pieces have been framed under glass and will be displayed at the UW for about a month.

The display is meant to both surprise and alarm people.

"We are doing it to be shocking," says Ross. "We really want people to get the message, really understand what's going on the world."

The women decorated the fabric pieces by collecting menstrual fluid in Diva Cups (a reusable cup that is inserted in the woman's vagina), or by wearing the fabric in their underwear during their periods.

"Some people have told us it's gross," continues Ross, "but some have told us it's a really cool idea."

The original plan had been to sew the pieces together into a quilt, but the group decided to go with individually framed pieces instead.

"The quilt seemed a little too shocking," admits Ross. "We didn't want it to be so much that people would only focus on the fact that we had used menstrual fluid to decorate it, rather than hear the message we are trying to spread."

> "We wanted to ask people – you think this is disgusting?.. We are doing it to be shocking."

But one UW student isn't sure that the Womyn's Center's methods will be effective.

"They're just trying to bring attention to themselves," says Kasia Dolna. "Of course it's awful that those women were killed, and attention should be brought to it, but this is only going to be about them using their own menstrual fluid, not about those women."

However, not everyone outside of the Womyn's center agrees.

"Okay, it's a little gross," says Sara Waters, a UW student. "But I get what they're trying to say. I think it could be really effective in spreading a positive message about violence against women. Good for them for trying something bold."

Will It Be Cold This Winter?
Depends Who You Ask

By Daniel Bouthillettedbouthillette@gmail.com

With daytime highs below the freezing mark, a cold snap in October and snow on the ground, Winnipeggers can look to both Environment Canada (EC) and the Canadian Farmers' Almanac (CFA), for their winter weather predictions. However, there are mixed feelings on which forecast is more accurate.

According to a story on CBC's website (www.cbc.ca), EC says we can expect warmer temperatures this year. "A broad swath of the country from the St. Lawrence River extending north and west to the Yukon is expected to experience temperatures that are warmer than normal,"

They credit the predicted mild winter to a strengthening El Nino- a warming of the tropical Pacific Ocean sea surface.

Winnipeggers should also expect more snow this year. EC's prediction calls for "more precipitation than normal" for a large portion of Manitoba.

Brad Friesen, a technical communicator for Emerging Information Systems Inc., would like to see EC's prediction come true.

"I hope they are right. I would rather have a mild winter with a lot of snow than a cold winter with many weeks of temperatures reaching minus 40," says Friesen. "It's fun to play in. I can go snowboarding, four-by-four riding, snowmobiling - whatever."

However, not everyone agrees with EC's winter forecast. According to the CFA, temperatures in Manitoba could get colder. "[Temperatures] could average as much as 10 C below seasonal normals, or nearly 20 C colder than last winter."

Environment Canada does not release specific temperature and precipitation estimates with its' forecasts.

Amir Shabbar, an EC meteorologist, says that the CFA's predictions are the very opposite of what Environment Canada is forecasting.

"[The CFA's prediction] is a contradiction with what we're saying. I can't comment on their forecasts. They're pretty secretive about it," says Shabbar.

According to the CFA release, it's forecasts are based "on a top secret mathematical and astronomical formula. Many who follow its predictions say they are 80 to 85 per cent accurate."

G. A. Marshall, a technician at the University of Winnipeg, does not believe in the validity of the CFA forecast. "I put my trust in trained scientific professionals any day over pedlars of folklore."

According to EC's statistics, the normal daytime highs for Winnipeg are -9.7 C in December, -12.7 C in January, -8.5 C in February, and -1.1 C in March.

Winnipeg also sees 19.8 cm of snow in December, 23.1 cm in January, 14.2 cm in February, and 15.8 cm in March. These statistics are based on observations taken over a period from 1971 to 2000.

Red River College

Students' Association

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Feel Free to contact us at:

Rex Masesar

President

(204) 632-2474

Michael Cochrane

Vice President Academic

(204) 632-2477

Helena Morales

VP Support Services

(204) 632-2480

Jesse Bush

Vice President Princess Street

(204) 949-8466

Message from the executive

The SA Executive would like to say that we had a lot of fun meeting many of you at the keggers that were held at Notre Dame and Princess Street. It is always good to kick back and relax with the students we work for. Remember to come by the SA office's to learn more about the "Christmas at the Mansion" costume social that the SA will be hosting at the Tijuana Yacht Club on Friday December 15th.

We would like to wish you all good luck on your final exams. We hope everyone has a safe Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. See everyone back on Tuesday January 2nd 2007.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year
from your Students' Association

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- Room CM20 or P1-10

CRAM NITE
(Free Coffee &Donuts)
- Dec 11 6 - 8 PM
Library Hallway
- Dec 12 6 - 8 PM
Atrium

CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION (COSTUME PARTY)
- December 15th
- TYC
- Tickets available at The OX & The Mercantile

Join the SA Events Email List.
saevents@rrc.mb.ca

Christmas at the Mansion

(Playboy/Christmas Theme)

- December 15th
- Tijuana Yacht Club

It will be a merry fun time

Advance tickets available at the Ox & Mercantile for $5

RRC Food Bank
Annual Christmas Hamper Campaign

The Food Bank is asking staff and students to help in preparing special Christmas hampers for those students in need.

Our last food bank day of the semester will be December 15, 2006. Those needing a hamper must have their request forms submitted by December 12, 2006. Forms are available at either of the SA offices—CM20 at Notre Dame, or P110 at the Princess Street campus.

Another RRC Students' Association Initiative

CHECK OUT THE SA WEBSITE @ WWW.RRCSA.COM

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Princess Street Campus
P110-160 Princess Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
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The Hill Has Eyes

Even children in Quebec are not immune to politics.

I remember the day I walked to school and first noticed that every stop sign on my way had been spray painted over with the word 'arrêt'. This was before Bill-101, a provincial charter that made French the official language of the province.

After Rene Levesque was successful in enacting the bill, helpful citizens took it upon themselves to precipitate the language change. Other vandalism appeared around my neighbourhood, a mostly anglophone area known as the West Island, on stores and street signs.

My parents had two friends that were cops who would come over, and I'd overhear them talking about shifting crime patterns that were reminiscent of October 1970. On more than one occasion, during a hockey game, I remember hearing an excited parent screaming at his son on the ice to "hit that Anglo".

In grade three I happened to have a girlfriend who the school bully also had a crush on. He was francophone, and the fact that I wasn't fuelled his hate towards me even further. For a year I endured, let's say, a lot of duress from this boy. In grade four I shoved him down a flight of stairs and he never approached me again. I know it was wrong, but when push came to shove, I shoved. I have periodically wondered where he is today.

I'd like to think he's serving five to ten in Joliette Institution.

Bill-101 made Anglo-Quebecers feel unwelcome and uncomfortable, and led to an exodus of anglophones from Quebec, mostly to Ontario. I was one of them.

The Parti Quebecois forgot to tell Quebeckers about the looming economic downturn that would last almost 20 years because of it. The minority anglophones would pull out and take their money elsewhere - the same money that the province was built and run on.

Ironically, I moved back there in 1990 and again left after the second referendum in 1995, tired and bored of the same-old pull at your heartstrings, tired of the illogical move to succeed from Canada. Then, as before, I experienced the anger and frustration of a new generation of separatists, lulled by the nationalistic call of a free Quebec. One night I was followed by two drunks who stalked me until I got home, because they heard me talking to my dog in English. I suppose they didn't know I understood everything they were saying. Then on another occasion, I got into a fistfight at a bar with two young separatists for no reason.

Separate nation within Canada, separate nation outside of Canada. It's still a mute debate. Neither side will ever be satisfied. Just ask the children of Quebec.

EDITOR'S DESK

I Love Christmas

Nisha Tuliisendnishamail@gmail.com

I love the mall at Christmas. For most people, shopping malls in December conjure up images of long lines, pushy crowds and associations with personal bankruptcy. But for me, the Christmas season hasn't really begun until the tree is up, and I've made my first trip to the mall.

Some of my first memories of Christmas are of visiting Santa at the mall, and even now when I walk past the Santa's workshop, I get an overwhelming sense of nostalgia. It's the lights, decorations and tinkling music playing everywhere that get me into the merry Christmas spirit. Shopping malls are like cozy protected cocoons of glowing, sparkling festiveness.

I suppose I maintain a sense of childish naiveté about the idea of buying gifts for people at this time of year. A gift for my mom and dad is a small token of gratitude for all the years they spent raising me; a treat for my friend is a chance to recognize how glad I am to have them in my life. I do it because I want to, not because I have to.

I don't believe in spending so much on gifts that I'm still paying for them in July, and that could be one reason the mall doesn't represent some kind of trap for me. I buy what I can afford. As for the crowds – I feel like there is a sort of collective togetherness among Christmas shoppers at the mall. We're like a team all working together towards a similar goal.

I've never been one to get stressed about this holiday; I've never seen the point. Christmas isn't a chore, and I think that's why I can enjoy the mall at this time of year. My attitude towards shopping for Christmas is the same one I have towards the entire holiday. It's a time of year that I get some time off work or school, see my family, eat a lot of good food, give and receive presents and just enjoy.

EDITOR'S DESK

I Hate Christmas

By Christopher Webbchristopherswebb@yahoo.ca

You are a commodity, you are traded, investigated, sold, segmented, researched, you are loyal, analysed, invested, objectified, you are a 25 year-old-student-living-alone-you-enjoy-new-music-you-watch-TV-for-3-hours-a-day-and-subscribe-to-a-newspaper. You can be persuaded to buy, and you can be bought.

Mark Twain said, "It was a narrow escape. If the sheep had been created first, man would have been a plagiarism." As the shopping days wind down, and a paranoid state of rabid, dogmatic consumer aggression springs to life throughout this city. The miracle of the free market leaves us empowered, content, and satisfied with bags full of holiday spirit, and I find myself agreeing with Mr. Twain more and more.

Consumer dopes wandering around shopping malls gaping at plastic trees, awed by twinkling lights, jingling bells and robotic elves are complacent and feel fulfilled in a world full of stuff (sorry, I meant gifts which really express your love). They are no threat to any establishment, and this zombie-like behaviour equals big bucks.

You see, the lie of the mall at Christmas is that it is a friendly place for families to spend quality time together, and engage meaningfully in a season of supposed giving and sharing. Nay fellow consumer, the mall is a place of strict uniform codes of behaviour and subtle violence. I urge you to please leave your children within the safe confines of your home during this time.

Local groups that oppose the waste and destructive nature of over-consumption have gone into shopping malls to make them more lively and fun places to be. They have engaged shoppers about the effects of their purchases and encouraged them to look for more meaningful gift ideas. They have offered free hugs, sung anti-shopping carols, handed out Buy-Nothing fliers and consoled stressed shoppers. They have been met by threats from store owners and security, who shepherd them out of the mall. This sort of activity does not fit into the guidelines of zombie-shopping-related activity; it threatens why malls exist and how people should behave in them.

Don't allow yourself to be herded and stressed by the mall this season. Real democracy allows us to have some say in the way our society functions. Do you WANT to be a part of environmentally destructive and soul crushing consumerism? Then DON'T go to the mall this Christmas season.

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Having a Festive Buy Nothing Day

By Christopher Webbchristopherswebb@yahoo.ca Lower Photo by David P. Ball

It's a simple idea: choosing not to shop for one day of the year. It's a fast from the consumer shopping frenzy, an island of stress and debt free calm at the beginning of the Christmas consumer binge. This is the message of Buy Nothing Day (BND).

On Friday, Nov. 24, a group of fun-loving anti-consumers gathered at the University of Winnipeg to mark this special day. Equipped with a scavenger hunt list, the activists hit Portage Place Mall for an evening of awareness, consumer sympathy and joyful rebellion. Teams were committed to making the atmosphere of the shopping mall uplifting as they engaged consumers and store owners in constructive dialogue about the products they purchase and sell.

One team made a sign offering free hugs to shoppers, and surprisingly, they gave out quite a few. Another group asked stores where their products were made and whether they had overseas labour policies.

In an amusing twist of environmental law enforcement, one group made up fake $17,000 parking tickets and planted them on gas-guzzling SUVs surrounding the mall.

There was only one brief confrontation with security, in which one group was asked to leave a store for disrupting shopping.

Valerie Cobb-Friesen, an activist who participated in BND activities, stood beside the Santa Claus display in the mall and offered free hugs to weary looking shoppers.

"I think this is a great, fun way to bring attention to this issue," she says. "It's future sustainability that I'm worried about, and that in the future our children will have an environment which we haven't completely destroyed today."

Another activist, Hanna Kim, asked shoppers to fill out a 'consumption reduction pledge form'.

"I think this is a very good day, we have to tell people that buying things is not the most important thing. For Christmas, all I really want is to see my family," she says.

Buy Nothing Day is an initiative which grew out of the anti-consumer movement, but the day itself was made into an international and annual event by the Adbusters Media Foundation.

Kalle Lasn, co-founder of Adbusters says, "Driving hybrid cars and limiting industrial emissions is great, but they are band-aid solutions if we don't address the core problem: we have to consume less. This is the message of Buy Nothing Day."

Some may question the effectiveness of one day of refraining from shopping. The huge environmental destruction caused by rampant over-consumption, a culture focused on materialism and increasing influence of multinational corporations surely requires more than one day to bring awareness of the ramifications of 'First World' consumption.

Aiden Enns, a former member of Adbusters and current publisher of Geez magazine, agrees.

"I was working at Adbusters in 2001 and was excited about the high level of participation in Buy Nothing Day; I thought we should roll out this campaign over the whole Christmas season. I associate shopping with death. I know I feel more dead every time I enter a mall or warehouse store. That can't be right."

From this conviction Enns organized a campaign called a Buy Nothing Christmas, which follows the lines of BND, but emphasizes alternate gift ideas which don't require spending large amounts of money on products we ultimately don't need.

Enns emphasizes the lie of our consumer age; a concept which he believes is alienating and crushing to the spirit.

"I just think it's weird that we go on a consumer binge at the time of the year when, supposedly, we are to celebrate the joy of life," he says.

This year, Enns and his entourage plan to have a portable inter-faith chaplaincy that travels to shopping malls across Winnipeg and offers care to wounded consumer souls languishing in the aisles.

Another activity which some activists participated in on BND was quizzing shoppers how much they spent over the Christmas season.

Some shoppers were hesitant to share this information, but some with rolling eyes and deep sighs proclaimed, "A lot, too much!"

One shopper said she spent over $2000 on gifts alone, and another said he usually budgeted around $1500.

This is the sort of information that concerns the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). In October of this year, the WWF released a study entitled The Living Planet, warning that the world's population will be using twice as many resources as the planet can produce within 50 years.

In the study, WWF director general James Leape says, "We are in serious ecological overshoot, consuming resources faster than the earth can replace them; the consequences of this are predictable and dire."

Each person occupies an "ecological footprint" equivalent to 2.2 hectares (5.4 acres) in terms of their capacity to pollute or consume energy and other resources, including food. The planet, however, can only offer them 1.8 hectares each, says the report.

The BND and Buy Nothing Christmas initiatives are fun and constructive ways to educate ourselves and others about the wider global impacts of over consumption. They also help to remind us that sometimes the best things in life really are free.

If you are interested in taking this ethical stand and reducing your consumption this shopping season, visit www.buynothing-christmas.org, or see Nisha Tuli's helpful article on alternative gift ideas.

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Government Targets Drug-Impaired Drivers

By Allie Walldstarless_18@hotmail.com

On Nov. 10, Vic Toews, the federal justice minister, proposed Bill C-16, an amendment to the Criminal Code targeting drug-impaired drivers. It is supposed to make drug-impaired driving as unacceptable as drunk driving, but some are saying that it will not be passed.

Chris Mason, 21, whose car was hit last winter by a drunk driver, thinks the bill is a good idea. The accident caused $4,000 in damage to Mason's car, but luckily he was not hurt.

"[Alcohol and drugs] impair your driving. They make your body unfit to drive," says Mason.

He thinks the bill can make a positive difference.

"It can make roads safer. After there's been a few examples…people being caught high and arrests, stuff like that."

Rod Sudbury, president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Winnipeg and former impaired-driver co-ordinator for the Winnipeg Police Service, also believes if the bill is passed, it will help police officers detect people who are driving while high.

"I think it's great. It's a step in the right direction. It will improve the safety of our roads," says Sudbury.

MADD recently recognized Manitoba as the best province in Canada for its initiatives to deal with drunk driving.

"One of the main reasons is the provision for zero blood alcohol for novice drivers for the first five years," Sudbury says, crediting our graduated licensing system.

Sudbury believes the proposed bill will assist in making Manitoba's roads even safer.

"It'll allow police the ability to do the type of screening that can detect drug-impaired driving. There are a lot of people, cops, employees of the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba or Driver and Vehicle Licensing, who suspect people are driving drug-impaired, but [right now] police have no means for detecting that," says Sudbury.

Without legislation regarding drug-impaired drivers, it is easier to prove someone is driving drunk than it is to prove they are driving high. In the case of drunk driving, police can execute alcohol-screening with breathalysers, but there is no equipment presently available for drug-screening.

Ken McDonald, a constable with the Winnipeg Police Service, thinks the bill has the potential to be useful.

"If they properly train the people who are supposed to enforce the laws, and if there's a viable way of testing [for drug-impaired drivers], then it would take a lot more people off the road," says McDonald, adding that there are, "not enough [cops] trained to do the roadside alert for the liquor tests."

While McDonald believes Bill C-16 could be a good idea, he has doubts it will be passed.

"I bet [the bill] gets thrown out. It's just an opinion, and opinions get thrown out in court."

Doer Woos Voters In Fort Rouge

By Brent J. Neillbrentneill@hotmail.com

Premier Gary Doer was in full campaign mode for the expected spring election at the NDP Fort Rouge nomination meeting held on Nov. 22 at the Broadway Disciples Church.

Two hundred and fifty party members, along with volunteers, observers and the media, filled the church basement to capacity. Doer paid tribute to retiring MLA Tim Sale, and got his supporters fired up as he tries to become the first NDP premier in Manitoba history to win a third consecutive mandate.

Jennifer Howard, the executive director of the Women's Health Clinic, was elected to carry the NDP colours in Fort Rouge by a slim margin over James Allum, the president of the provincial party. Shane Nestruck, a party dissident, ran a distant third.

"Since 1999 we have worked and succeeded in accomplishing our goals for this province, but we still have a great deal to do and will soon be asking for the opportunity to continue that good work which we have started," said Doer.

He used his speech to attack provincial Tory leader Hugh McFadyen, characterizing him as a "neo-conservative, Mike Harris clone", who if elected would "turn back the clock in Manitoba," and engage in "a reckless pursuit to privatize Manitoba Hydro and reward his friends."

Doer outlined his promises from the recent throne speech, including a moratorium on hog barn expansion, a plan to clean up Lake Winnipeg, targeted tax relief, and a plan to offer Manitoba post-secondary graduates economic incentives to stay in the province after completing their education.

Doer's speech was marked by a brief downtown power outage that left the church basement in the dark and forced the premier to read his notes by candlelight. In good humour, Doer used the outage to joke that this was the reason he was pushing ahead with his government's $5-billion plan to build the massive Conawapa hydroelectric dam in northern Manitoba.

With the Fort Rouge riding comprising areas rich in student populations such as the downtown Broadway area, Osborne Village and Corydon's Little Italy, all three candidates used their speeches to highlight their plans for education in the province.

Howard and Allum both praised the Doer government's tuition-freeze and his plan for student tuition rebates, with Howard promising that she would be a voice in caucus for universal free tuition, and Allum stating that, "We need to look beyond just tuition and start making progress with the other barriers that Manitobans face when they want to access education and training programs."

Nestruck used his speech to attack the Doer government for abandoning the NDP's socialist roots and urged the young people and students in the room to vote for him in order to send Doer a message that the NDP cannot take their support for granted.

With Fort Rouge considered one of the NDP's safest seats in the province, the nomination meeting was expected to be Howard's toughest challenge in getting to the legislature. The Liberal Party and Progressive Conservatives have yet to nominate Howard's opponents.

The Trouble With Youth Crime

By Casey Gibbcasey_gibb@hotmail.com

This October, Winnipeg saw a rash of violent crimes committed by youths, leaving parents and members at all levels of government wondering what needs to be done to remedy the situation before it gets worse.

On Oct.14, a group of kids locked Brian McKay, a 14-year-old boy with a disability, in a shed that they then set on fire. All of the suspects were under 10-years-old.

In the early morning hours of Oct. 21, a group of youths (some younger than ten) randomly beat 34-year-old Audrey Daphne Cooper to death in the north end. A few hours later, a 12-year-old girl was stabbed in the back at a party nearby.

Recently, while visiting Winnipeg, federal Justice Minister Vic Toews suggested that the youth criminal code be changed so children under 12 could be convicted of crimes. He said this would hold kids accountable and act as a deterrent.

A group of parents at the Riverview Community Club had a lot to say about the youth crime wave and whether or not they approved of Toews's plan.

Rob Townsend, a father of two young children, thought the government should deal with what he saw as the root of the problem: the parents.

"Punishing an eight year old isn't going to get you anywhere; these kids have no parents - no one looking after them. It's the parents that should be going to jail, not the young kids."

Karen Bach, who used to be a teacher in the United States, agreed.

"By putting a troubled kid in jail you're taking him out of one bad situation and putting him in another. The kid needs to get the love and guidance they're not getting at home."

Linda Arniel, however, thought Toews's plan was good, but that it wouldn't solve the problem.

"The kids need more than a slap on the wrist…but they also need more to do in schools or sports so they're not just wandering."

Whether it's tough-love, after school programs, or holding parents accountable, all of the interviewees agreed something had to be done, and fast.

"It's awful, and it makes us look bad to the rest of the country." said Townsend, "Hearing stuff like that makes me scared to send my kids out into the world."

Remembering Why It's Important To Laugh

By Chris Maddenthechrister@hotmail.com

For the past two years in a row, the Just for Laughs comedy festival has landed in Winnipeg on Nov. 11. Remembrance Day is a sacred day reserved for solemn reflection. Schools and government offices are closed, store hours are limited, and it is the only day of the year in which real-estate agents are legally not allowed to work. So is a comedy festival appropriate?

Leisa Lee, director of public relations for Just for Laughs, points out that organizers treated the Winnipeg show date as a delicate situation.

"It's certainly not something we intended. This is a 24-city tour across the country – everything has to fit in," she says.

Lee asserts that it's pure coincidence the show has landed in Winnipeg on Nov.11 two years in a row.

"It wasn't done as a sign of disrespect. We would never book something that was disrespectful," she says.

Lee says Just for Laughs doesn't do anything different for Remembrance Day, and that there is no official protocol on the matter. However, each individual performer has the choice to say something to commemorate the day, and most usually do.

Officer Cadet Donna Riguidel of 38 Canadian Brigade Group attended Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Valour Road Commemorative Plaza. After the ceremony, she was careful with her words when discussing the comedy festival playing that evening.

"Remembrance Day is sacred, but it's crucially important for people to be able to laugh and enjoy their freedoms," she says.

Riguidel is of the opinion that if we pay our respects to those who serve and appreciate the lives we live because of others' sacrifices, then we should celebrate the freedoms they fought for us to have.

"It's not just any other day," says Riguidel. "At the same time, should we spend the entire day in sadness and in mourning? No. Life is for living."

Chris Watson, a political studies student at the University of Manitoba, acknowledges that a comedy festival on Remembrance Day could be considered a touchy subject, but he agrees with Riguidel.

"The comedy show represents the type of free thought and freedom of activity that was the ideal behind our troops going off and fighting wars in the first place."

RRC KEGGER

PHOTOS BY JAMES TURNER

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CHOMSKY

"Your Own Terrorism Is Terrorism"

By Saad Sayeed Excalibur (York University)

TORONTO (CUP) - Known in academic circles for his contribution to the field of linguistics, MIT professor Noam Chomsky is widely recognized as one of the most influential political dissidents of our time. In this interview, Chomsky talks about the roots of terrorism and the role of the intellectual in society.

Excalibur (E): **How important is an understanding of the role of states such as the U.S. and the U.K. when examining the question of terrorism?**

Chomsky (C): It depends on whether we want to be honest and truthful, or whether we want to just serve state power. We should look at all forms of terrorism. I have been writing on terrorism for 25 years, ever since the Reagan administration came in 1981 and declared that the leading focus of its foreign policy was going to be a war on terror. A war against state-directed terrorism; which they (the Reagan Administration) called the plague of the modern world, because of their barbarism. That was the centre of their foreign policy, and ever since I have been writing about terrorism.

But what I write causes extreme anger for the very simple reason that I use the U.S. government's official definition of terrorism from the official U.S. code of laws. If you use that definition, it follows very quickly that the U.S. is the leading terrorist state and a major sponsor of terrorism. Since that conclusion is unacceptable, it arouses furious anger. But the problem lies in the unwillingness to recognize that your own terrorism is terrorism. This is not just true of the United States, it's true quite generally. Terrorism is something that they do to us. In both cases, it's terrorism and we have to get over that if we're serious about the question.

E **In 1979, Russia invades Afghanistan. The U.S. uses the Ziaul Haq regime in Pakistan to fund the rise of militancy. This gives Ziaul a green light to fund cross-border terrorism in Kashmir. Now we allegedly have some of those elements setting off bombs in Mumbai. Clearly, these groups are no longer controlled by any government.**

C The jihad movements in their modern form go back before Afghanistan. They were formed primarily in Egypt in the 1970s. Those are the roots of the jihad movement, the intellectual roots, the activist roots, and the terrorism too.

But when the Russians invaded Afghanistan, the Regan administration saw it as an opportunity to pursue their Cold War aims. So they did with the intense co-operation of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and others. The Reagan administration organized the most radical Islamic extremists it could find anywhere in the world, and brought them to Afghanistan to train and arm them. Meanwhile, the U.S. supported Ziaul Haq as he was turning Pakistan into a country full of madrassahs and fundamentalists. The Reagan administration kept certifying to Congress that Pakistan was not developing nuclear weapons, which of course they were; so that U.S. aid to Pakistan could continue.

The end result of these U.S. programs was to seriously harm Pakistan, and also to create the international jihad movement of which Osama bin Laden is a product. The jihad movement then spread-- they may not like it much but they created it. And now, as you say, it's in Kashmir.

Kashmir though, is a much more complex story. There are plenty of problems in Kashmir and they go way back, but the major current conflicts come from the 1980s. In 1986, when India blocked the election, it actually stole the election, and that led to an uprising of terrorist violence and atrocities; including atrocities committed by the Indian army.

E **The colonial legacy is generally dismissed by the media. What role does this legacy play in the emergence of home-grown terrorists in countries such as the U.S., the U.K. and Canada as well as to the creation of terrorism as a whole?**

C It's not brought up in the West because it's inconvenient to think about your own crimes. Just look at the major conflicts going on around the world today: in Africa, in the Middle East, in South Asia, most of them are residues of colonial systems.

Colonial systems imposed and created artificial states that had nothing to do with the needs, concerns and relations of the populations involved. They were created in the interests of colonial powers, and as old-fashioned colonialism turned into modern neo-colonialism a lot of these conflicts erupted into violence, and those are a lot of the atrocities happening in the world today. How can anyone say colonialism isn't relevant? Of course it is and it's even more directly relevant.

Take the London bombing in 2005. British Prime Minister Tony Blair tried to pretend that it had nothing to do with Britain's participation in the invasion of Iraq. That's completely ridiculous. The British intelligence and the reports of the people connected in the bombing, they said that the British participation in the invasion and resulting horrors in Iraq inflamed them and they wanted to do something in reaction.

E **What is the role of the intellectual when dealing with imperialism, and are the intellectuals doing their job?**

C Unfortunately, intellectuals are doing their historic job. The historic role of intellectuals if you look; unfortunately, as far back as you go, has been to support power systems and to justify their atrocities.

If you go back to the Bible, there's a category of people who were called prophets, a translation of an obscure word, they were intellectuals. They were what we would call dissident intellectuals; criticizing the evil king, giving geopolitical analysis, calling for the moral treatment of orphans, decent behaviour. Were they treated well? They were imprisoned and driven into the desert and so on, they were the fringe. The people who were treated well were the ones who centuries later, like in the gospel, were called false prophets. So it goes through history. The actual role of the intellectual has been supportive of power.

Should they do that? Of course not, they should be searching for truth, they should be honest, they should be supporting freedom and justice and there are some who do it. There is a fringe who do it, but they're not treated well. They are performing the task that intellectuals ought to perform.

E **And what keeps you motivated?**

C I'll just tell you a brief story. I was in Beirut a couple of months ago giving talks at the American university in the city. After a talk, people came up and they wanted to talk privately or have books signed.

Here I was giving a talk in a downtown theatre, a large group of people were around and a young woman came up to me, in her mid-20s, and just said this sentence: "I am Kinda," and practically collapsed. You wouldn't know who Kinda is, but that's because we live in societies where the truth is kept hidden. I knew who she was. She had a book of mine open to a page on which I had quoted a letter of hers that she wrote when she was seven years old.

It was right after the U.S. bombing of Libya, her family was then living in Libya, and she wrote a letter which was found by a journalist friend of mine who tried to get it published in the United States but couldn't because no one would publish it. He then gave it to me, I published it. The letter said something like this:

"Dear Mr. Reagan, I am seven years old. I want to know why you killed my little sister and my friend and my rag doll. Is it because we are Palestinians? Kinda".

That's one of the most moving letters I have ever seen and when she walked up to me and said I am Kinda, and, like I say, actually fell over; not only because of the event but because of what it means.

Here's the United States with no pretext at all, bombing another country, killing and destroying, and nobody wants to know what a little seven-year-old girl wrote about the atrocities. That's the kind of thing that keeps me motivated and ought to keep everybody motivated. And you can multiply that by 10,000.

A FUSION OF SOUND

THE ELEMENT SIRCUS, FEATURING FUBUKI DAIKO

December 22

The Pyramid Cabaret

By Shannah-Lee Vidal shannahvidal@hotmail.com

Passersby have gotten used to the thundering sounds coming from St. Luke's church in Osborne Village. For the past 10 years, this has been the unofficial homestead of local Taiko drumming sensation Fubuki Daiko. Lately, they have moved their rehearsals from the basement daycare into the upstairs auditorium, as they practice for a unique, upcoming show.

On Dec. 22, Fubuki Daiko will bring their Japanese-fuelled sound to the Pyramid Cabaret, as part of The Element Sircus. The event, which happens twice a year on each solstice, is organized by avant-garde instrumental band the Absent Sound.

"We wanted to create an event to draw in a lot of different kinds of people, as opposed to one crowd or scene," says Absent Sound guitarist, David Fort. "That includes age and race."

Both artists are signed to local music label No List Records. Although Fubuki Daiko's, Zanshin - Leaving the Heart Behind, and Absent Sound's, Its All True, are on opposite ends of the musical spectrum, they have come together to create some dynamic and eclectic music, which they will unveil at The Element Sircus.

"It's kind of different, and that makes it interesting and challenging," says Hiroshi Koshiyama, 41, of Fubuki Daiko. Bandmate and wife, Naomi Guilbert, 38, agrees,

"I'm surprised myself how well it's working, because so many times collaborations, especially cross cultures, end up having a cheesy feel to them," she says. "From the very first time we got together really, we just started to play together and it started to sound pretty good."

With their matching costumes and enormous drums, Fubuki Daiko thrives on a live performance.

"A lot of times we're lucky because what we do is so unusual and so visual that it's an instant attention-getter," says Guilbert. "I always find that whenever we're playing in front of kids, that's sort of the ultimate test. If it's something that will keep 60 or 100 or 200 little kids' attention then it's probably working," she says. "They're very honest, and if something's not interesting, they're going to go walk away or talk to the kid beside them."

Koshiyama believes the appeal is universal. "The drums are like the heartbeat, and so it really reaches out to everybody and through all walks of life, all backgrounds," he says. Fans of the band range from small children to senior citizens. "I think since we've been around for such a long time, we've kind of built up a pretty strong fan base," he says. "We've never gotten anyone to leave or to tell us to be quiet or anything."

When Guilbert composes a piece, she thinks of the theatrical component first. "The visual, like the movement, what's happening with the bodies on the stage is one of the most important elements. And I'll fit the music into what's possible with the body," she says. "In a way [you] lose yourself and at the same time connect universally to the audience and to the air, the ground, and to everything around you."

Koshiyama and band mate Bruce Robertson do the opposite. "They'll think of the rhythm of the music and come up with a movement to fit it later on," Guilbert says. "We end up creating different kinds of music."

For Koshiyama, it's all about precision. "Not only do you have to think about hitting the drums properly, but you also have to make sure that your angle is correct," he says, "we don't have anyone sitting down writing the score."

Fubuki Daiko has been together for roughly 11 years. Koshiyama and Guilbert have been there from the start, with ex-San Franciscan Robertson and Guilbert's sister, Kimi, signing on slightly later. Koshiyama first met Guilbert when she did Taiko training in San Francisco.

"It's been really easy working with Naomi," he says. "You get a few arguments here and there, but rarely do we ever argue much."

Guilbert says that, "this is the ultimate group project because you can't drum alone." Although she feels that having family members in the band has made it easier, she says "like in any band, our relationships have been smooth and rocky." However, things always get resolved in the end. "We're all very diplomatic people for the most part," she says.

The Element Sircus will also feature Mahogany Frog, Sortie, Ham, plus a few others yet to be announced. The evening is all about stepping outside of oneself and letting go, which is why Absent Sound has declared the show to be a costumed event.

If you have no costume, and no time to make one, Ragpickers Antifashion Emporium & Books is offering 50 per cent off costume rentals with the purchase of a ticket. Advance tickets are $10 and can also be picked up from Into the Music. Bear in mind that you'll have to pay $12 if you show up at the door without a costume.

Sexsmith Returns In Good Time

By Doug McArthurdougmcarthur0@gmail.com

There are literally hundreds of songs about life on the road and all the trials and tribulations that go along with it. And right now, as troubadour Ron Sexsmith sits in his Toronto home, recharging his batteries after a challenging overseas tour, he can relate. Heck! He might even write a road song of his own.

Sexsmith and his band are returning to Canada after two testing months of shows across Australia and Europe in support of his tenth studio album: *Time Being*. He's an old hat in the touring game, having been around the world many times since his first album was released in 1995. What made this one different was a streak of bad luck.

"It was a good tour, but a really strange one, I had some bad luck. I had my computer and my bag with all my documents in it stolen from me in Amsterdam. And when you're in Amsterdam, the last place you want to be is going to the embassy," says Sexsmith. "It was kind of scary at times, but every night we would get on stage and the fear would kind of disappear."

Losing his computer also made it hard for Sexsmith to keep in touch with his fans. He often posts on his website's message board, allowing fans to request songs for upcoming shows and comment on the good, the bad and the otherwise about recent shows.

"The fans have been really supportive this tour. There are those who will point out that a show was disappointing to them because they didn't hear their favourite song. I appreciate that just as much as the positive comments," says Sexsmith.

He notes that writing up the set list before a show each night was a challenging task. "The first bunch of shows we were trying to find our feet, finding the right bunch of songs. You look at the venue you are playing. If you are playing a theatre, you don't want to come out with a rocker," says Sexsmith.

"You just hope that people who pay to come see you get their money's worth and hear their favourite song. I write a lot of short songs, so I can do 25 to 30 songs in a 90 minute show. I'm always going to play songs like Secret Heart, Strawberry Blonde, and Gold in Them Hills. Not necessarily singles, but songs I am best known for. And in some countries, some records are more popular than others.

For some reason, in Germany they would be happy if I did nothing but play songs from Retriever all night."

Sexsmith made note of stellar shows, like those in London, Dublin and Oslo. But after being robbed in

Amsterdam, having trouble with sound in Munich, and going to some places that Sexsmith says he never wants to play again, the 42-year-old songwriter and his band were ecstatic to return to Canada.

"We practically kissed the ground when we came back home. It was such a rough ride that Canada could only get smoother. There is a weird sense of pride that we'd done all that, and it was relatively successful," says Sexsmith.

Sexsmith has also recently been penning new songs for his next release, focusing on piano-based pieces instead of writing on guitar. "I've written a lot of new songs on the piano. I'm not very good on it, but I would like to try it out. I'd like to do something a little simpler. The last bunch of records have a lot of production on them, and I'm looking for a bit more stripped down sound this time," says Sexsmith. "I have a piano in my house, so I usually sit down there before I pick up a guitar because I'm trying to get better on the thing."

To match the stripped-down sound of the new album, Sexsmith is also entertaining the notion of a solo tour. "Touring with the band is expensive, so I thought it would be cool to do a bunch of solo shows in theatres and just play piano and guitar." It would also give him the flexibility he's looking for with his set lists. "If it were up to me, I wouldn't have a set list; I would just come out and start playing. But with a band, you have to make sure the songs are tight. Sometimes the songs I write down aren't the ones I want to play."

For the time being, Sexsmith will complete the Canadian leg of the tour supporting his latest effort, *Time Being*, ending here in Winnipeg Dec. 9. He hinted at what fans can expect from the upcoming show.

"We're playing seven songs from the new record, five from Retriever, and recently we've been playing a lot from the first record. You build the set around your new album, and you try to pick songs that fit around that. On *Time Being* there are a lot of stories, like Snow Angel, so I try to pick songs from previous records that also tell stories," says Sexsmith.

Sexsmith says he is excited to come back. "I'm mostly excited about playing the Burton Cummings Theatre, because all the past shows have been at the West End Cultural Centre. I love the West End but the theatre will be nice. I hope we get a big turnout, and put on a good show."

Tune in for the holidays – XMAS SHOWS

By Daniel Paspaporn ltsjsutmedaniel@msn.com

It's a complaint you hear from young Winnipeggers around the city all the time:

"There's nothing to do in Winnipeg!" says Samantha Misurka, 19, a University of Winnipeg student. But is there really nothing to do, or are they just not looking hard enough?

Well, with Christmas break coming quickly upon us, we here at the Projector have taken the initiative- rolled up our red and green sleeves, and found three great shows that should please you all. Whether you prefer folk, hip-hop, or rock, Winnipeg's got it on cue and at ridiculously reasonable rates.

Folk/Roots artist Ron Sexsmith will be at the Burton Cummings Theatre on Dec. 9. The Winnipeg show will be the last show of Sexsmith's cross country tour in support of *Time Being*, his tenth full release, and follow up to 2004's Retriever. You can expect soulful melodies and intelligent lyrics from the 2004 Juno songwriter of the year. Tickets are $27.50, and the show starts at 8 p.m.

If dancing and hip-hop are more your thing, then head down to The Vibe Nightclub on Dec. 15 at 10 p.m. One of Canada's most experienced and well-respected DJs, DJ Baby Yu, will be taking to the turntables. DJ Baby Yu has performed with huge rap acts such as Snoop Dogg, The Game, and Juelz Santana, and will be in Winnipeg after making his way through a European tour. Bring $10 with you to the door.

For the rockers out there, who prefer a good mosh pit to a raised dance floor, Winnipeg's own Sick City will be headlining Sideline Productions' second anniversary bash at the West End Cultural Centre.

"It's going to be a party and we're gonna go off. You can expect some melodic music that would normally be found in the punk section at the record store, but is still something everyone can enjoy," says Sick City front man Josh Youngson.

Dubbed "a formidable force" by Uptown Magazine's John Kendle, Sick City was recently signed to New Jersey based label Trustkill Records and will soon be heading to Atlanta to record their first full length studio album. Expect some new songs at the Dec. 15 show, and make sure to get there early to check out opening acts, The Knockarounds, Subcity Dwellers, and Port Amoral. The show starts at 8 p.m, and tickets are $8 at SK8, Into the Music, and Salon Venator.

SHOWS GOING ON FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

DECEMBER 21
- Academy Bar & Eatery - Alex McCowan, Katie Murphy
- West End Cultural Centre - Blue Sky Addicts + 2 more TBA
- The Zoo - The Populars + Guests TBA

DECEMBER 22
- The Collective – X-mas Spectacular w/ The Revolts, The Crackdown, The Fabulous Kildonans, The Farrell Bros., & The Savants
- King's Head Pub - The Perpetrators
- The Pyramid Cabaret - The Element Solstice Sircus
- West End Cultural Centre - A Very Merry Quinzmas w/ Quinzy, House of Doc
- The Zoo - The Maroons + Guests TBA

DECEMBER 23
- King's Head Pub – Rubbersoul
- The Royal Albert - Xmas Metal Bash w/ Port Amoral, Damascus, Dia Dolor

DECEMBER 29
- The Cavern - Rock with a capital OCK!!!! w/ American Flamewhip, Hot Live Guys
- King's Head Pub - Mr. Pine CD Release w/Guests TBA

DECEMBER 31
- Dylan O'Connors - Ten Too Many, Dust Rhinos
- Dylan O'Connors Pembina Location - American Flamewhip, Hot Live Guys, Fabulous Kildonans + 2 More TBA
- King's Head Pub - JFK & the Conspirators, The Tarbenders
- Shannon's Irish Pub - Subcity Dwellers, The Afterbeat
- Times Change(d) - Andrew Neville & the Poor Choices + Guests TBA

YouTube: Your Handy Pocket Procrastination Companion

By Ryan Hardy and Jackie Linton and Jackie Linton, The Strand (Victoria College, University of Toronto)

TORONTO (CUP) - It's that time of year: you've got assignments, and of course you don't want to do them. Well frankly, neither do we.
A great way to avoid the inevitable is to spend countless hours on YouTube (www.youtube.com), reliving your teens watching music videos instead of doing your homework. This was our exact approach to this article, and we had little time to commit to much else. So allow us to guide your procrastination with a careful selection of some of our favourite music videos. While some choices may seem more obvious than others, we still got a huge kick out of seeing some of these for the first time in awhile. We hope you'll feel the same way.

Alcazar - "Crying at the Discotheque"
Nobody will ever watch hockey with me again after this. This video is 'gay' in all the right senses of that word. It's fun, fresh, campy, stylish and exciting. Mercifully, for me at least, the two girls are also babes so "it's OK for me to enjoy this." But as much as I like the Swedish girls, I also like the dancers with animal heads, the tortured romantic subplot, and the cameo by gay Zoroastrian Swedish pop legend Alexander Bard.

Three 6 Mafia - "I Gotta Stay Fly"
You should try to live like this: Problems with your girl? Walk out on her! Old white people in your hotel hallway? Scare 'em! Smoke all night, drink all day, wear sunglasses inside the club, etc. Most rap videos are basically aspirational, but nobody has done it this opulently since the glory days of Biggie, Puff and a seemingly endless number of boat-themed music videos. No boats in this one, but they managed to work it pretty much everything else . . . except their Oscar.

David Bowie - "Let's Dance"
A lot of people really hate this video, but I think it's great. Even though this was the most commercial phase of his career, Bowie still has the panache and wit to set this video in the Australian outback (as opposed to a nightclub or something), and to use it as a forum for calling attention to the plight of the Australian Aborigines-- one of the first music videos to be political without being obvious about it.

Missy Elliot - "Gossip Folks"
When I'm older, I hope I have three daughters like the three girls in the video; they're the cutest things ever. The video as a whole was an important step in Missy's weirdness and funkiness driven rise to rap mega-stardom. It also includes one of the best of Ludacris's many excellent guest spots.

Blur - "Coffee and TV"
Picking this is kind of hard for me. First, because I guess I sort of look like Graham Coxon, and most Coxon-looking guys (read: geeks) would pick it. Second, when I was like 13 it made me cry. Call me a wuss if you want, but I say this video dramatizes man's alienation from his fellow human beings and the doomed search for love and companionship. Yeah . . . I'm a wuss.

Beyoncé - "Naughty Girl"
There are better Beyoncé songs, but no better videos. Like Madonna in "Material Girl," this is Beyoncé growing into her role as a sex symbol, and then totally owning it. One of the best things is how she turns the whole "video chick" idea on its head by putting Usher in the video as little more than eye candy and then more or less jerking him around. All the people who worked on this video, especially hair, make-up and the D.O.P., deserve awards.

Lillix - "Sweet Temptation"
Don't call it a comeback. Actually, do. Lillix weren't much their first time out, but their reincarnation as moody dance-punk auteurs is amazing. In this video Lillix are the ultimate girl group, with each member representing a different archetype and each being given equal billing (like the Donnas, but, you know, babes). I also like the contrast between their detached coolness and the idiotic dancing of the hipster rent-a-crowd, and the way the crowd's enthusiasm eventually wins Lillix over.

Bruce Springsteen - "Dancing in the Dark"
This video is often criticized by diehard Bruce fans for being too slick (it was directed by Brian DePalma). In fact, it is a really slick video, but what saves it from being too Hollywood is Bruce himself. Springsteen sells this song here, with a passionate, fun performance that may not entirely fit the song but which successfully reproduces the power and magnetism of his live act. The video offers viewers a young Courtney Cox and a close-up of Bruce at his most iconic and charismatic.

David Banner - "Play"
I hope my mom doesn't read this. "Play" stands, along with that one Nelly video where they swipe the credit card through the girl's ass, as pretty much the filthiest rap video ever. At the same time, before anyone calls this video sexist (which that Nelly video obviously is) we should remember that, for David Banner, it's really all about the girl. Sensitive dude, David Banner.

The Replacements - "Bastards of Young"
Most of us are too young to remember, but from what I've read there was a time when people were really against music videos. For diehard independent musicians like the Replacements, the music video was synonymous with everything they hated about the recording industry. This bleak video was the band's characteristically ambiguous concession to that industry; one of many concessions that eventually tore them apart. A Pretty amazing video though.

Bjork - "Bachelorette"
Life can be complicated. I can't tell you how many times I've found myself looking back on the past, reliving it over and over in my mind as the future just gets crazier and crazier. I start looking at myself looking back at myself, and then outside of that I begin to look at my act of retrospection. . . . It gets really self-reflexive. It's easy to get caught up in that kind of shit. I'm glad that directors like Michel Gondry really "get" that part of me.

Aaliyah - "Rock the Boat"
Not only is this the best Hype Williams video to date, it's the best "gone Caribbean" video still standing. As with any Aaliyah video, the clothing, choreography and setting were totally unique to her, even now at a time when fresh young and hot R&B chicks are totally commonplace. Considering that the editing here deliberately reinforces the fact that we lost an icon in the making of this video, I honestly can't watch it without getting the chills.

Jamelia - "Something about you (Mr. Oizo Remix)"
I wish this was the original video for this track, but as a remixed version, I'm surprised to see it better than the first. If I saw some new talent pop off with this glitched-out, washed-out version of what seems to be reminiscent of a Vogue fashion centerfold, I'd be floored. But I'm still pretty into Jamelia as a new artist, and honourable mention to Mr. Oizo for having probably the cutest video of all time with that little yellow puppet in his single for "Flat Beat".

S.I.M.I.A.N vs. Justice- "We Are Your Friends"
We don't even find this video that great. We just like how Justice/S.I.M.I.A.N beat out Kanye West at the 2006 MTV Europe awards for best video; prompting his intense onstage sore-losering. Sure this video didn't cost a million dollars, and it doesn't have Pamela Anderson in it, but it was still the hottest dance track of the year. Hats off, guys.

The Misfits - "Hybrid Moments"
Some might argue that Halloween is one night a year, but that's bullshit. Halloween is all year round, and it lives within our hearts and in this band. I could have picked any of their videos, but this one is cute for its stock footage addressing things you may have been afraid of as a child, like Frankenstein or that shower scene in "Psycho", but reminding you that there's nothing to be scared of – it's just punk.

Ghostface Killah - "Cherchez La Ghost"
Considering most videos among the Wu-tang Clan, this video has definitely aged well. Just as flashy and frivolous as any rap video you see today and probably a lot better than most hotel videos I've seen recently. I also have yet to see any rap apparel that has come close to the over-the-top factor of the Americana duvet/housecoat that G. sports here nonchalantly as he gets out of bed.

Daft Punk - "Burnin"
This is probably Daft Punk's most overlooked video, because the others off this record were pretty amazing before they went on to go anime. Despite this, this video is appropriate for taking how hot this track is and making it literal. The reason you never hear this song when you're out at some shitty party is probably because they're worried that it might cause too much fire. It just goes to show that you can always have more fun at home.

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Kives Calculates Success

By Erin Benderinbend@hotmail.com

In Winnipeg, selling 3,000 local travel books in six months is an impressive feat, and journalist Bartley Kives's first book, A Daytripper's Guide to Manitoba: Exploring Canada's Undiscovered Province, has just gone done that.

The first run of Kives's book, having nearly sold out, has gone into a second reprint, and for Kives, it was a calculated success.

"I'm a mercenary journalist, if I write something I want it to be purchased, I want people to read it," Kives says.

At a promotional signing at the Grant Park McNally Robinson on Nov. 22, Kives chatted amicably with passersby and autographed copies of his full colour guidebook.

According to Krista Strang, an event host at McNally Robinson, the store has sold 766 copies of the book since it came out on June 2 of this year.

"The book has been very popular, and we are looking forward to further success in the upcoming holiday season," Strang says.

Kives is well known in Winnipeg for his years spent reviewing music for the Winnipeg Free Press. Currently he reports on City Hall and writes a Saturday column on outdoor adventure.

The idea for the book came from the publisher Great Plains Publications who approached Kives. He quickly hopped on board.

"I realized there wasn't a comprehensive travel guidebook in Manitoba for the entire province," Kives explains.

On his way to a poetry reading in the store, CBC Radio's weekend morning show host, Ron Robinson, stopped by the table to congratulate Kives on the reprint.

"You really beat the odds," Robinson praises.

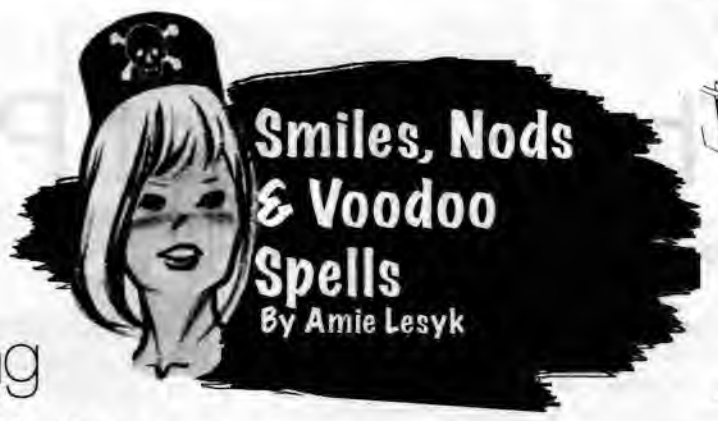
Modestly, Kives replies, "I knew there was a hole in the market. If this book was terrible it still would have sold."

Shoppers were continuously stopping to compliment Kives on his writing. Something he claims was not a common occurrence when he was a music reviewer. "I'd get more hate mail than anything, so whenever I get somebody actually giving me positive praise I am very pleased," he says.

This success doesn't mean his by-line will vanish from the paper. At this point Kives has no plans to ditch the journalism career that has been his bread and butter.

As far as his future as an author goes, Kives isn't short of ideas and strategies to implement them.

"I have an idea for a fiction book, but not until I get a bigger name for myself. Nobody really cares about fiction from somebody who's not a fiction writer."



Buying Into Christmas

I started writing this column a while ago, but of course I can't find it now. At that time I had been gung ho about Christmas, claiming that instead of trying to fight it like I usually do, I was going to embrace it. My reasoning had been that I'm a bit stressed right now, and it would give me something to look forward to. It would be a midpoint in the midst of a cold, cruel winter, which I think might be reasoning for a lot of people in colder climates to go nuts over this holiday.

Normally I declare an anti-Christmas stance mostly due to the barrage of advertisement and the placement of value on love and caring during the holiday season. I don't mind the drinks, the friends, the family and the food. I just hate the expectations of having to spend so much to have a good holiday and prove that you care by wasting __ amount of hours in a mall.

My enthusiasm that I had sported two weeks ago has since started to fade. I made great plans for a girly Christmas party and a neon pink Christmas tree, but I am procrastinating both. I am feeling broke and a little busted but I hope my holiday pizzazz kicks in soon. My artsy Christmas tree won't cost me much and drinks with friends should never be procrastinated.

Maybe I need to kick my own ass and get on with it - head to the Sally Ann and buy my fakey, used tree and some neon, non-flammable spray paint and get this show on the road. Maybe once I do that, my enthusiasm will return.

But this enthusiasm, I remind you, will not be accompanied by a trip to the mall.

I get panic attacks in malls on a regular basis, never mind the holiday season. The BUY, BUY, BUY sense of anxiety and consumerism is much too overwhelming. And generally, malls to me, are reminders of how we have gone wrong in our development as a human race in North America. But then again if I had my way we'd all be living in mountain villages in houses carved out of stone. Or something like that. There are so many things you don't need in a mall.

The snow has fallen and the holiday break is almost here. I am sure I'll feel pumped up again sometime really soon. But remember, there is no point in sending me that detailed list of what you want, what colour you want it in and where I can buy it, because if you're getting anything from me - it's my charm and possibly a sample of my stellar holiday hosting skills.

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Happy Holidays from our Staff

The Sport of Poker

By Raymond Brickwoodraysass@hotmail.com

The beer is chilled; the nachos and salsa are waiting on the table. Someone turns on a hockey game and mutes the sound. Someone else loads a stack of CDs into the stereo and hits shuffle. People chat and drink while waiting for the guy with the metal briefcase full of shiny playing cards and plastic multi-coloured chips to arrive. Then the game will begin…

Over the past decade poker's popularity has exploded. Emerging from the back rooms of Las Vegas casinos and bachelor pad basements, it has now gained widespread popularity and gets extensive coverage on major sports networks. Events like the World Series of Poker generate massive interest, and some professional players, like Toronto's Daniel Negreanu, have achieved superstar status.

While poker can be played at local casinos and several Winnipeg nightclubs, many people are happy to just gather together with friends, coworkers or classmates for a casual home game.

Sean Minter, blessed with a large house and a good beer fridge, often hosts poker nights. "It's just a great way to socialize with your buddies," he says, "there's no high stakes. We might get competitive and get right into the betting, but mostly we're just joking around and talking."

Tonight, the group plays Texas Hold'em. Dubbed the "Cadillac" of poker, Texas Hold'em is currently the most popular variation of the game.

Minter deals out two cards to each player around the table. In poker lingo these are called the "pocket cards". The two players to his left put in "blind" bets; a mandatory predetermined amount of money to get the pot started before everyone gets a chance to look at their

hand. There is a round of betting (starting with the guy to the left of the two who posted the blinds), before three communal cards, the "flop", are laid out on the table. Anyone can use "the flop" in combination with their own two cards to form a five card poker hand.

There's another round of betting before a fourth communal card called "the turn" is dealt. Again, there is more betting. Then, after the final communal card, "the river", is dealt. There is now one last opportunity to bet, before players (those who haven't folded) show their cards.

Many players in the group quickly fold with crappy hands. They wait for the round to finish, grabbing more beer, snacking on chicken wings and playing video games. No one is concerned about losing a couple of dollars.

"It doesn't matter if I walk away with any money," says poker player Garth Erikkson, "If I lose twenty or thirty bucks, well, I've had a good time. It's worth it."

Back at the table, there are only two players left. Minter is trying to stare down Andrea Rhynard.

In the past, poker has been associated with Hollywood masculinity. Groups of cigar-chomping men would bitch about their wives as they gambled away their meagre assets. But times have changed; tonight there is an even split between men and women in the room.

"It's fun," says Rhynard, "but I get really competitive when I play. I like to win."

As she faces her opponent, Rhynard flips her hair. Does this mean she has a good hand or a bad hand? Part of the thrill of poker comes from trying to get into the minds of other players. Great players are great observers, who look for slight changes in behaviour that may give them insight into the mind of their rivals. They are like human lie detectors that can see through even the sternest poker face.

Fortunately for Rhynard, Minter can't decipher what her action means. Minter bets high and loses big. The chips are swept up by the victor, the cards are collected and the patient losers totter back to the table for the next round. This ritual will go on until the beer fridge is dry, and the sleepy, sluggish players start making outrageous bets that quickly bankrupt them. Then the plastic cards and coloured chips will get neatly packed back into the metal briefcase to await the next call that brings a gang of would-be-gamblers together.

Poker Tournament Hits Campus

By Marc Guzzi

On Thursday Nov. 16, cheers and jeers could be heard at the Princess Street Campus, as 79 hopefuls went all-in at the Red River College Students Association's (RRCSA) Texas Hold'em poker tournament.

The event, attended by students from both campuses and outsider guests, was well organized by RRCSA Program Director Michael Blatherwick. Players paid five dollars to enter the tournament, and were all assigned to pre-selected tables. This covered the hot pizza and cold soft drinks that the RRCSA provided for the participants.

Prizes for the tournament included gift certificates, a beer cooler, an Apple iPod Shuffle, Manitoba Moose and Grey Cup tickets.

The format of the tournament was different this year, with each table shrinking into one final table-- unlike previous years, where each of the winners from the ten tables would join into a final table.

"It went better than last year," said Jason Permanand, a second year Creative Communications student and winner of this year's tournament, "I felt satisfied when the last card was turned."

The grand prize was two tickets to the Grey Cup, four tickets to a Manitoba Moose game, some Coke products and various other items.

A casual poker player, who just plays with buddies once in a while, Permanand said, "I'm more excited to win than to get prizes."

The champ of the tournament wasn't the only one who had an enjoyable time. With some people grabbing three or four slices of pizza and a couple of drinks, winning the tournament seemed secondary to supper for many.

Winnipeg Winter Cycling

By Billy Elias

At first glance, winter cycling sounds like a frigid proposition. Why would anyone be inclined to continue riding his or her bicycle after the temperature drops well below freezing? Well, for commuters and bike couriers, their jobs depend on it.

Graeme Nieminen, an insurance adjuster who commutes by bike to his job, says the hardest part is not dealing with the weather, but the road conditions.

"The cold is really secondary to the actual skill of biking on ice. Once you get started, you don't notice the weather. When you get the blood flowing, as long as you're wearing decent clothes you'll be fine," says Nieminen.

For others, like David Geisel, a cyclist for Natural Cycle courier service, the weather isn't an issue, as he notes, "couriers don't really have a choice. They have to cycle all the time no matter what."

Geisel isn't concerned about getting up the courage to venture out in the cold on a bicycle. He compares it to a more widely accepted winter past-time, saying," It's almost like dedicating to a cross country ski trip. You can ski in all sorts of conditions and biking is really no different."

Toby Hughes, another Natural Cycle cyclist, says the key to successful winter cycling is to dress right and have the right bike. Hughes suggests bundling up your face and hands, and also recommends using warming packs for hands and feet.

As for the bike itself, both Hughes and Geisel stress the importance of proper tires.

"I ride really narrow, knobby tires," says Geisel, "Studded tires are really wide and heavy, and the wider tires are going to float in turns. The thinner tire will push down towards where the traction is."

Hughes adds that front and rear fenders are a good idea for slushy days. He also suggests taking the time to keep your bike clean, "The salt and sand that gets in there will mess up your gears and crank."

The benefit of winter cycling, besides the obvious physical exercise, is that when the going gets particularly rough, the bikes keep going.

"I've couriered on days where there was a lot of snow and the cars kept getting stuck," says Geisel, "I did more work that day than any other because I had to cover for the cars that couldn't get around. A bike can go through a lot of unpacked snow."

For more information on winter cycling go to the Manitoba Cycling Association's website at www.cycling.mb.ca or check out Natural Cycle at 91 Albert Street (below the Mondragon).

Naughty or Nice?

Snoopy Dogg is Coming to Town

By Sara Atnikov Satnikov@hotmail.com

Chances are you will always remember the first song you slow danced to. The song that might have been playing as you got intimate with that special (or not so special) someone for the first time. And everyone has their staple track for the dreaded, but very necessary, pity party.

Depending on what was playing at your school dance, you could have had that awkward her-hands-on-his-shoulders, his-hands-on-her-waist first slow dance to Marvin Gaye or All 4 One.

You could have had that nervous first time sex to Barry White or Boys 2 Men. Based on your musical tastes, you might sit and cry alone in the dark to Dashboard Confessional or Peter Gabriel. It's all very subjective.

There is one artist who breaks all musical boundaries; one artist who seems to reveal himself at one time or another in everyone's life, whether they like to admit it or not. Who could this musical maven be? Snoop Dogg, that's who.

With his return to our fair city this January, two people wax nostalgic about the good times had while listening to 'Tha Doggfather'.

So, lay back with some gin and juice because these stories are tha shiznit.

"I think my hearing is permanently damaged from listening to Snoop in the back of a car with giant JBL subs," said Jancy M.

"My best friends were a group of stoner guys who, though being white boys from the country, had an intense dedication to the likes of Snoop, Dre, and Eazy E. We'd do everything stoned and then pile into the car. It was Snoop all the time. We knew all the words and we'd all yell and get excited and sing along. We'd take turns playing Tony Hawk, listening to Snoop, and taking bong hits. Yeah, I was a productive 18 year old," Janey added.

"My friend and I went to see Snoop when he was here in 2003 and it was insane," said Melissa Dziedzic. "I have never seen that much smoke in my life. A person would get stoned just sitting there. People were throwing bags of weed onto the stage, and I'm talking bags. We had the worst seats in the house and you could still see the dope being flung. There was the weed being passed around in the arena. I wasn't even smoking pot at the time, but you just couldn't say no. Joints were being passed from all directions. It was one big party. It was a good time, and I'm pretty sure I was still stoned the next day."

Penny Pinching Present Ideas

By Nisha Tuli Sendnishamail@gmail.com

It's almost Christmas and you're a poor starving student – how are you going to buy presents for everyone on your list? They say that the best gifts come from the heart, and it's probably true, but the cheapest gifts are the ones that you create with your hands.

So this year, instead of succumbing to the humiliation of playing one of Santa's elves at the mall in order to earn a few bucks, conjure up your imagination and undeniable powers of creativity and try these gift ideas for your loved ones.

For Mom:

Head off to the drugstore and put together a mini-pampering pack of bath salts, lotions and bubble baths.

Offer to help with Christmas dinner. Chances are it's mom who's going to be running her feet off with preparations. Why not offer to do the grocery shopping for her. Or better yet, cook dinner for the family this year.

Handmade Christmas ornaments: look online or go to a craft store for ideas on how to make pretty, cheap ornaments.

For Dad:

They say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, so bake dad some cookies or any other treat he loves.

Go to Canadian Tire and put together packages with small items of stuff he enjoys. If he's a car buff, then try some accessories like new windshield wipers, a steering wheel cover or floor mats. If he's a handy man, try packs of nails, a screwdriver or a new hammer. And if he's king of the grill, try BBQ utensils, an apron or an igniter kit.

For your boyfriend or girlfriend:

Put together a mix CD of songs, with your favorite, their favorite, love songs, Christmas songs, etc on it..

Put together something romantic, such as a basket with massage oil, scented candles, bubble bath and maybe some racy underwear.

Write a love poem. Write it out on fancy paper; use construction paper to make a frame. Make it look like something they could hang up on the wall.

Get your camera out, set the automatic timer, and take some Christmas photos of yourself wearing nothing but a Santa hat and a smile.

* * *

There is no limit when it comes to making homemade gifts, only your imagination and creativity. Think of items that you know the person would really love, and you will be sure to please this Christmas.

And for any gift you make – try and make your own wrapping paper, cards, bows and other personal decorative touches; don't buy boring red and green wrapping paper with cheesy Carlton cards. Using a little imagination in the way you package and wrap your gifts, you can make any homemade present look like you bought it at an expensive boutique.

Convocation Ceremony

Wednesday, January 17, 2007
at 7:30 p.m.
in the North Gym
Notre Dame Campus

Convocation Attire must be worn if attending the ceremony.

If you have not received your Convocation information package in the mail, including your gown order form **by December 8th**, contact one of the Student Service Centres
– Notre Dame Campus, D101 or
– Princess Street Campus, P104, or
call 632-2327.

Jonestown Survivors And The People's Temple Cult

By Shawn Houdesrhoude@shaw.ca

On Nov. 18, 1978, Jim Jones orchestrated the largest mass suicide in history, leaving over 900 face-down in the dirt.

These dead people were once part of an organization known as the People's Temple; a brainchild of Jones. Jones coerced and brainwashed his cult followers to systematically end their lives by drinking poisonous Kool-Aid.

Director Stanley Nelson's new documentary, Jonestown: The Life and Death of People's Temple, recreates the events leading up to the horror of 1978 by using never-before-seen footage, photographs, and audio collections of Jones's sermons; including his very last. As well, there are interviews with the survivors and decedents of Jones's People's Church.

The doc begins innocently enough, showing Jones as a child trapped with a drunken father in the poor, oppressive, and conservative state of Indiana. Through his own struggles, Jones gains sympathy for the suppressed African-American culture. Leading to his adult years, when he establishes the Peoples Temple, a religious gathering for all races.

Through the testimonies of former members of the Peoples Temple, the hidden personality of Jones is revealed – a life consumed by paranoia, drug abuse, rape, deception, and a god-like need for total control of his followers.

By the mid '70s, the People's Temple had grown from a few dozen to a few thousand. And through video footage and interviews, Nelson follows the journey that took Jones, a self-proclaimed god at this point in the film, out of Indiana to the flower-powered state of California; as well as the church's eventual relocation to Guyana.

While the interviews are informative, powerful, and adequately describe the events leading up to the mass suicide in Guyana, and the assassination of Congressman Leo Ryan, who was in Guyana to investigate the Peoples Temple. The doc lacks direction. It jumps around chronologically, using recycled footage, and with no narration, the audience is left to fill in the blanks of the missing story.

Significant aspects of Jones's life are rarely mentioned, including his political connections with the mayor of San Francisco, and the Guyana government; leading to questions on how Jones could really build such a successful political, economical, and religious self-contained community in Guyana.

But without narration, Nelson lets the emotionally-scarred survivors tell their own unique experiences in Jonestown. Including one survivor who witnessed the suicide, and goes on to say: "I can't believe in Heaven anymore."

Phil Hall of filmthreat.com, describes the attempt of the documentary to, "shed some much-needed truth on the warped world of Jim Jones…[providing] lethal evidence of what becomes of those who deposit their sincerity into the command of a religious lunatic."

Jonestown is no longer playing at Cinematheque, but can be rented when released on DVD.

American Hardcore

By Shawn Houdesrhoude@shaw.ca

American Hardcore (2006)
Directed by Paul Rachman, based on the book by Steven Blush
Cinematheque December 1 - 7

A subdivision of a subdivision of a subdivision - this is how hardcore punk faded out in the grand scheme of rock and roll. It was loud, it was violent, but it made its mark, and it sure was fun while it lasted. But chances are, you were only diapers when it all went down.

Inspired by Steven Blush's book, American Hardcore: A Tribal History, a new documentary by director Paul Rachman, aptly titled American Hardcore, chronicles the fast-paced years of the underground hardcore punk scene.

Through the late '70s to the "initial flameout in 1986" – as Blush describes in his book - hardcore punk thrived. It infected small pockets of Reagan-raised American youth who collectively attempted to curb-stomp disco, sending first-wave, non-threatening punk bands like The Ramones hiding for cover.

Stephen Holden of the New York Times described the scene that grew from the suburbs of Southern California as "a spontaneous expression of disgust by an alienated fringe with the ascendance of Ronald Reagan, along with all things preppy."

"This underground culture…was more than a new generation's style of hormonal eruption," Holden writes. "Too many of the musicians who fondly remember the wild old days when the bands and their audiences melted into a delirious mass of flailing, diving bodies. It had to mean something more than just letting off steam."

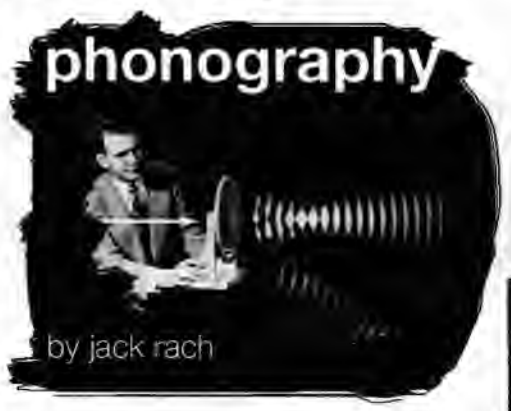
To find meaning, the film chronologically and geographically follows the anthem-movement of hardcore punk throughout the States and Canada, showcasing the dissident legends of hardcore, including bands such as the Circle Jerks, Bad Religion, and Black Flag, led by poster-child and poet Henry Rollins.

"They had a shaved head or a crew cut, a threatening demeanor, and a hatred of the mainstream," Blush writes, "[And] a vague political consciousness and a vigilante-like do-gooder streak."

In the aftermath of the years of cookie-cutter and softcore punk rock substitutes, Rachman catches up with the middle-aged heroes and observers, including testimonies from Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, letting those "of a doomed ideal of middle-class utopia" - Blush writes - tell the tale of when hardcore was king. When the bottom-feeders of the music scene broke free, had their moment in rock history, and when "punk juiced their nihilism."

American Hardcore moshes and stomps its way into Cinematheque and will be playing December 1-7 every night at 9:00 p.m.

A Christmas Story



The strangest Christmas I ever had was spent in Brighton, England. My flatmates had left for the holiday, gone north to see family and such. I remember how much I was looking forward to being alone, a strange Christmas wish for someone with not much more than a backpack full of clothes. Maybe I was instinctively asking for something I was already going to get. The house was mine for a few days. The cold sea weather smothered everything in grey gloom. I liked it.

Christmas Eve, I volunteered to work at this place called the Funky Buddha Lounge – it was a dance club with a capacity of about 150 people – located in the arches along Brighton Beach. If you saw the film Quadrophenia then you might be familiar with the brick arches on the beachfront. The Buddha is small and dark, and its patrons are usually quite classy. On this intimate Wednesday everyone was infectiously merry, but still I embraced solitude as it came to me.

When the dancers left and the club was clean, the few staff that remained started having a few drinks. Ellie, the manager who almost kissed me twice, handed out presents, trinkets and booze. I drank and drank and drank. So did everyone else. In a place so far away from family, so distant from any holiday ritual, I felt at home. I embraced each breath of the stale alcohol filled air, and wanted to grasp it in my hands, stuff it into my pockets and take it back to the flat with me.

I didn't get home and into bed until after 7:00 a.m. on Christmas morning and immediately fell into a heavy drunken slumber. When I woke it was dark. I was confused, lonely, and scared. I had no idea what was going on, or what time it was. I didn't know if I was dreaming or if this was a manipulation of my consciousness. I looked at my phone, it was 5:00 p.m. and there were seven missed calls. My parents and others tried to wish me a merry Christmas. But in some self-fulfilling prophecy, I missed Christmas altogether and spent it alone.

Sitting on the edge of my bed I tried to gather my thoughts, slowly collecting each one as I retraced memories of what happened about 12 hours earlier. Without thinking, I remember grabbing my pillow, clenching it in my fingers, placing it over my face and screaming as loud and long as I could.

TUNES FROM THE TIME:
Mysterymen Electromode
Devo The Day My Baby Gave Me a Surprise
Avenue D Do I Look Like a Slut?

"Works for me"

Now Hiring Research Interviewers

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Salsa Dancing Flourishes in Winnipeg

By Rhiannon Maskiw-Connellyrhiannonmaskiw-connelly@hotmail.com

Sexy outfits, smouldering dance moves, and seductive music are the basis for Winnipeg's relatively new, but increasingly popular pass time; salsa dancing.

When salsa classes were first offered to Winnipeggers through the leisure guide in 1999, very few people jumped at the chance to try something new. But since 2002, the number of people signing up for classes has increased every year.

Natasha Kartika, one of the two salsa instructors at the Ted Motyka dance studio at 460 Main Street, started salsa dancing as a child in Indonesia where she grew up. When she arrived in Winnipeg as a young adult, she took a few classes at the studio and decided she wanted to teach.

"At first there wasn't much interest, but in the past three or four years everyone wants to learn the dance." says Kartika.

Salsa classes are now offered through the leisure guide, or at one of the many dance studios situated around the city. There are now many places to watch salsa dancing and be exposed to this growing trend, such as at the Pony Corral (1700 Pembina Hwy.) on Thursday nights from 9pm-2am. There is even a website, salsaexplosion.ca, which lists available classes, upcoming performances in Winnipeg, and salsa events around the world.

Susan Johnson says she never considered taking salsa classes until she saw the dance appear increasingly in movies such as Shall We Dance, which was filmed here in Winnipeg. She decided to give it a chance, taking her first class through the leisure guide three years ago, and has been salsa dancing ever since.

"It's infectious," she says, "the people and the music. It's way more exciting than going to the gym, and it's quite the workout!"

Kartika agrees that the recent explosion of salsa dancing on television and the movies has really helped boost awareness and inspired people to try it out.

"I've had students that were 10 years old, and students that were 60," says Kartika. She says her main clientele is from ages 20-35: although, Salsa dancing is clearly not just for the younger portion of the population.

"At least a third of my class is over 40 years old," says Johnson, "sometimes they're the best dancers!"

After 94 Years, You'd Think The CFL Could Run A Decent Grey Cup

By Paul Owen, The Gateway (University of Alberta)

EDMONTON (CUP) -- Leave it to Nelly Furtado to ruin a perfectly enjoyable football game. The only entertaining part of the B.C. Lions' 25-14 win over the Montreal Alouettes in the 94th Grey Cup Sunday was listening to my Quebec-born mother rant about how shitty the Als were playing. In fact, a terrible halftime show led by Furtado was simply the icing on the cake of a championship game that displayed many of the CFL's problems.

It's clear that the divisions in the CFL continue to be blatantly unbalanced. Montreal has come out of the East five times in the past seven years, and won only once. While they've had some success, the Als have hardly been a dynasty; rather they've merely been the best of a bad bunch. The East hasn't had a truly dominant team since Doug Flutie left the Argos to be Rob Johnson's backup quarterback in Buffalo eight years ago. This lack of balance is even more evident when watching the interdivisional games. The three playoff teams in the West went a combined 18–6 against the East Division. Only Edmonton didn't have a winning record, going a pathetic 1–7.

The Grey Cup game itself also proved how much better the West is. Unlike last season's double-overtime thriller between Edmonton and the Als -- a game that was only exciting because the Eskimos didn't deserve to be anywhere near it -- this year's game was never really in doubt. The dominance that B.C. displayed on offence, especially in the first half, served to send those without a fiercely loyal French relative searching for their remote.

Of course, the CFL's other major problem is their poor marketing. More than any other major sport in Canada, the CFL relies on die-hard, middle-aged fans. There's a reason Jackie Parker's death warranted such big coverage in Edmonton newspapers: the people who saw him play are the Journal's biggest readers. They are also the people who frequent Commonwealth Stadium. Beyond these folks, the CFL's market is university-aged males; the people the NFL attracts with the Madden video game franchise.

Nelly Furtado is about the second-least likely halftime act to appeal to this demographic (the only worse choice would have been the Black Eyed Peas, last year's halftime performers). Nubile young women won't draw male viewers when those ladies are wearing parkas, toques and mittens. Additionally, rap and R&B music doesn't jive with the CFL's classic rock or country loving audience. The last memorable Grey Cup halftime performance was when the Guess Who's reunion tour made a stop in Calgary for the 2000 game.

Instead of insisting on whatever Canadian act is hottest at the time, the organizers need to stick with a classic rock group that bridges the generational gap, or else embrace the country music scene that dominates the Prairies and bring in a popular country group for a change of pace.

Finally, as if Furtado's style being entirely wrong for the CFL audience wasn't enough, her performance was just bad. Shouting Portuguese into a microphone and screaming, "Who's your MVP?" doesn't count as music, in my opinion. If that weren't enough, the girl from Victoria, B.C. answered her own question, naming Montreal quarterback Anthony Calvillo, despite the fact that the Als were losing 19–3 at the time. I wonder if she even understands football.

Are you a full-time student who is also a parent?

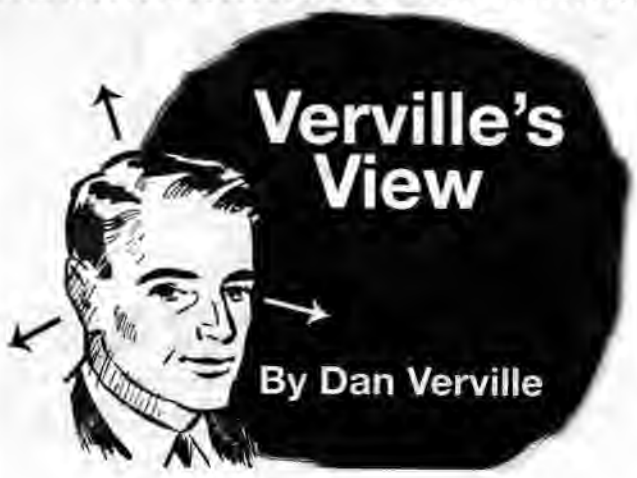
Mommy-Daddy Award

Evan Krahn, who turned six years old last spring decided that, in lieu of birthday presents, he would like to collect donations. He wanted to offer an award to assist a parent who is attending a post-secondary program as a full-time student at Red River College (where his own mommy goes to work every day).

Two awards of $350 are available this year. If you would like to be considered in the selection process, please submit an application form accompanied by a "letter to Evan". This letter should be addressed to Evan and include information regarding your involvement in the community and the message you would like to pass on to Evan and his friends about the importance of education.

Application forms are available from the Red River College website (www.rrc.mb.ca) or from the Student Service Centre, Room D101 at the Notre Dame campus or Room P104 at the Princess Street campus. If you have any further questions, please contact Darlene Funk in the Student Service Centre (phone 632-3979).

The deadline for applications is December 15. Completed applications should be submitted to the Student Service Centre, Room D101 at the Notre Dame campus (fax 697-0584).



An Open Letter To Whoever Picks The Games For Hockey Night In Canada (HNIC)

Dear Sir or madam,

Like many other Canadians, I've grown up on a steady diet of beer, Kraft Dinner, and of course Don Cherry and Ron McLean. HNIC is an integral part of being Canadian. It's been around since 1933, when Foster Hewitt took to the airwaves and captured the nation's love for the game. As far back as I can remember, Saturday nights were the special nights I spent sitting on my dad's lap watching hockey. We all have a place in our hearts for HNIC, and it's not about to go away anytime soon.

Having said all that, I still have a bone to pick with you. Maybe you can help me, or maybe you can't, but I really need to get this off my chest…

Every week we are forced to watch the Toronto Maple Leafs in the first game. Why? Yes, there are only six Canadian teams in NHL. Yes, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver typically play in the later game. But still, show me the Montreal Canadiens, or show me the Ottawa Senators. I need you to spice up my hockey life -- fast.

Here's a scary anecdote to put things in perspective -- every one of my friends, since they were young, has always aligned himself with a certain team. Once a guy does that, it's his job to know that team inside and out. People have different favourite teams, from Montreal to Buffalo to Detroit. But ask any of these people to name half of Toronto's team, and they still can! Because the Leafs are all we ever see.

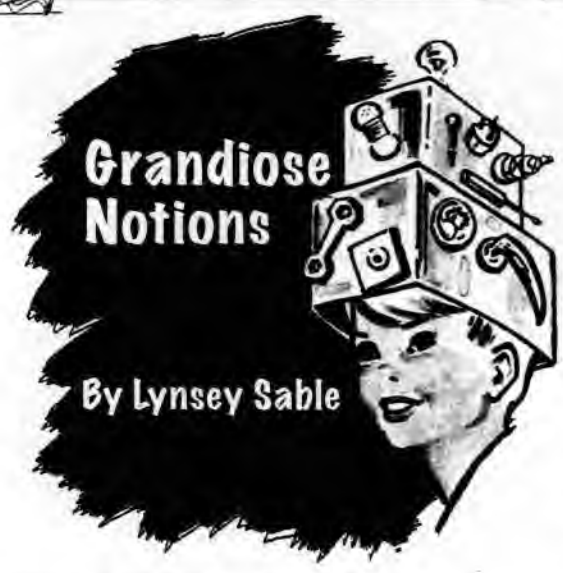
It's not that Boston versus Toronto is always a sleeper. I mean, even sometimes you have some great rivalries; like Toronto versus Montreal. But it appears, (over the last two months anyway) all you have time for is Toronto. It's not Hockey Night in Toronto; it's Hockey Night in Canada! Canada has more to offer than the Air Canada Centre and Sundin.

HNIC is about Coaches' Corner. It's about Bob Cole and Harry Neale. It's about the theme song that gives you goose bumps-- well, me anyway. It's about hockey in Canada. Not just the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Sincerely,

Dan Verville

P.S. I understand this is probably all to do with scheduling and what not. So if you can't fix it, don't worry about it. It's still hockey I guess, and that's better than nothing.



A Christmas Story

"My chief want in life is someone who shall make me do what I can."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Last week an old high school teacher of mine was coming to Winnipeg for a visit. It's been 8 years since I've seen him; since life became real life. He wanted to go for lunch or have a sip of coffee while he was on this side of the country.

For the better part of high school, Rick and I possessed a sacred relationship. The kind that wasn't quite friendship, but wasn't quite parental. He was my mentor. In the sweet, calming and hate-ravaged years that were my teenage existence, Rick broke through the anger and soothed me with respect. He treated me like an adult, and I allowed myself to learn.

He always wore the same corduroy blazer. When I told somebody's mom on the SafeGrad committee to "eat shit," as any good, clean Full House-raised young woman would do in a similar situation, Rick convinced me to apologize.

While I was smart enough to recognize that she was a narrow-minded-bible-thumping-prejudiced cow; Rick was smart enough to point out that I'd meet a thousand more people like her in my lifetime, and inviting every one of them to sit on it and rotate wasn't ever going to go over well. Then, as English teachers in corduroy blazers do, he quoted Leonard Cohen and wandered away.

I've known a few others like Rick. People I idolize, love, imitate and grow by. Words can never express enough gratitude, and I've never stopped wanting to make them proud.

I doubt now that I'll get a chance to catch up with Rick before he returns to Nova Scotia in two days – I'm so afraid I won't. He left a message a week ago, but I've been battling with other things under the theory that I'll make some time later.

He'll understand, I said. It's busy during the last two weeks of school.

If my teenage years were the age of painful awareness, my twenties must be the era of joyful ignorance. Not only am I certain I possess the magical kind of breasts that won't sag, I truly believe I have all the time in the world to thank people like Rick. That I'll have time just as soon as the dishes are done. Maybe next weekend, or next year, or in the summer. When I travel…

So eight years later, I'm smart enough to recognize the value of people like Rick. Apparently, I'm still not smart enough.

For Kristin Butcher, Dawn Bohonas, Rick Wilcosh, Kathleen Venema, Kim Monson and Hugh Grant.

For gifts that go beyond Christmas.

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Free Coffee & Donuts

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6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Library Hallway
Notre Dame Campus

Tuesday, December 12
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
P110 (Atrium)
Princess Street Campus

Present
Christmas at the Mansion

Friday, December 15, 2006

Formal Dress Code: Robes, Bunnies, and Santa's Little Helpers

Tons of Presents and Prizes!

Tickets on sale now, at the front desk of Canad Inns - Polo Park, "The Ox" at Red River College Notre Dame Campus, and "The Mercantile" at Red River College Princess Street Campus.

Advance Tickets are only $5

ST. MATTHEWS AT EMPRESS

It Only Takes 4 Hours to Save a Life

Help fight heart disease and stroke.

Volunteer for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba's Door-to-Door Campaign this February and help save a life.

We are looking for approximately 4000 volunteers to help with our campaign in Winnipeg this February 2007. Help in your neighbourhood by being a Zone Chair, Area Coordinator or door-to-door canvasser. This is a great opportunity to build your resume and get involved in your community. To sign up or for more information please contact Kristin Clapperton, Program Manager at 949-2011.

SAVOUR THIS

Eat, Drink and Make Sure We're All Merry

By Joanna Fultz, News Editor

Since I started school in September, pardon me, late August, time has been going by in a messy blur. Suddenly, the glowing warmth of late summer is extinguished, the crisp array of autumn colours has spun to the ground, and now the bare black spines of pre-winter trees are shivering, encircled in a furious whirl of white flakes.

I was snapped back into this frost-covered reality somewhere between my first near fatal slip n' slide through an icy intersection, and the nightly pipe pangs and sizzling noises escaping from my renaissance-era radiator. School does keep us busy, and I know that even on my best days I may neglect to eat any solid food until after dark – simply no time to invest in its consumption (unless coffee counts). But soon, soon, it will be that time again – time to eat, drink and be merry, and actually be able to appreciate it.

The holiday season is upon us, and with it comes some time away from school and work; replaced by a much needed reconnection with family, friends and good food. This season is the pivotal time for aspiring chefs, dedicated foodies and anyone who likes a good seasonal snack to relish in the making and consuming of home-baked delights and handmade delicacies; putting to use annually dusted-off recipes steeped in family tradition.

Everything from sugar cookies to sour cream slathered potato latkas are part of holiday fare, and many are not only rich in taste, but also family and cultural history.

For example, gingerbread people are a typical Christmas treat-- even if a slightly barbaric one (you've seen the people who bite off their little sugary parts with a little too much enjoyment). These spicy cookies originated in Germany, and were thought to be inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairytale Hansel and Gretel, about a witch with child predator tendencies – doesn't sound too merry to me, but a tradition none the less.

Shredded potato latkas (also known as potato pancakes) are served along with other fried traditional tidbits during Hanukah. The presence of fried foods in such celebratory recipes has been related to oil's ability to provide light in the darkness during the historical eight days.

Perhaps the most crucial convention present during this holiday season, now and throughout history, is the tradition of giving. Regardless of what cultural tradition one is a part of, the holidays bring out something in people that tips their hearts, pouring out the generosity that has been brewing there all year.

Food is an essential part of any celebration, bringing people together to enjoy homespun culinary and familial customs.

The sad reality is that not everyone can afford all the ingredients of a holiday feast, and during this season it is so important that each of us do our part to make sure everyone gets a chance to experience a brimming belly and full heart.

There are many organizations in Winnipeg that accept donations year-round, but especially during this season is when they need your help most. Check out Winnipeg Harvest at 982-3663, and the Christmas Cheer Board at 989-5680 to see how you can easily help someone have a merry holiday season, with plenty of food and drink.

Christmas Dinner in 1685

According to the The Accomplisht Cook, 1685 edition, a Christmas dinner consisted of:

1. A young lamb or kid.
2. Two couple of rabbits, two larded.
3. A pig souc't with tongues.
4. Three ducks, one larded.
5. Three pheasants, 1 larded.
6. A Swan Pye.
7. Three brace of partridge, three larded.
8. Made dish in puff paste.
9. Bolonia sausages, and anchoves, mushrooms, and cavieate, and pickled oysters in a dish.
10. Six teels, three larded,
11. A Gammon of Westphalia Bacon.
12. Ten plovers, five larded.
13. A quince Pye, or warden pye.
14. Six woodcocks, 3 larded.
15. A standing Tart in puff-paste, preserved fruits, Pippins &c.
16. A dish of Larks.
17. Six dried neats tongues.
18. Sturgeon.
19. Powdered Geese, Jellies.

Wow.

Source: www.foodtimeline.org

Hard to Take

with Meghan & Brant

Dear Meghan & Brant:
I'm having the worst problem. I keep having nightmares that my boyfriend is cheating on me. I don't understand why it's happening because I know he's not. I love him very much, but because of the nightmares I haven't been able to have an orgasm in a long time. It was never like this before the nightmares. I've tried everything. You're my last hope.

Frustrated in the Village

Brant:
Hmmm. That's a new one. Not sure if you should try to cure the nightmares or the climaxing first.
Easy one first: Don't eat before bed. That tends to give me all kinds of nightmares.
Onto the hard one: Try getting to the end, without your boyfriend. After so much time, there is a constant pressure on both of you. Perhaps alone, you won't feel the pressure.

Meghan:
From 1 to 10 on the easy scale, this is a about a 4. I feel there is only one simple solution, picture yourself doing it with someone else. Mean? Possibly damaging? Not really. Just don't get caught, and don't use Brant as the substitute, or you'll never get rid of the nightmares.

Dear Meghan & Brant:
I like to stay healthy, but lately I've been finding myself bingeing on fast food. I'm starting to crave it everyday! Is there a good solution to stop eating out?

Not so Healthy in Linden Woods

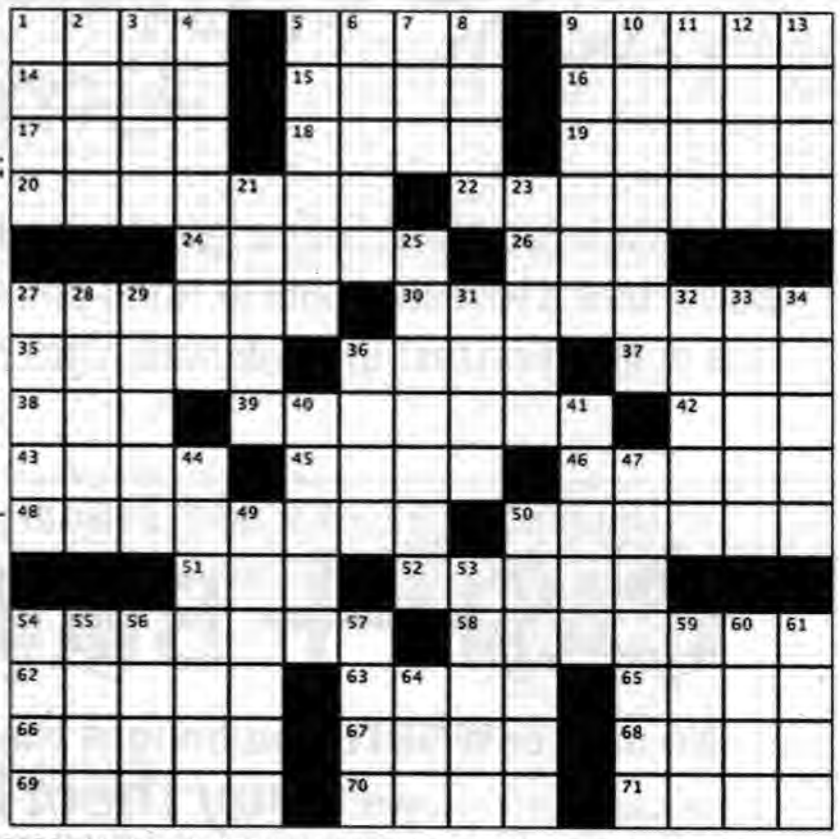
Brant:
The solution is to make a little extra supper the night before. That way you can pack it in a lunch for the next day. Meghan's right about snacking; just bring healthy snacks like carrots and celery. If you can't find time to cut that stuff up, put some nuts or crackers in a bag. Just make time to eat healthy. And stay away from the full meal known as Guinness; at least during school hours. Meghan tends to think it can substitute as a breakfast.

Meghan:
I know what you mean…McDonalds…I'm craving it right now. A seasoned patty, with lettuce, cheese, pickles on a sesame seed bun, so tempting. But really, now that I'm half way through your advice, and you're probably half way through the drive-thru, it's time to get serious. Be reasonable, fast food everyday is not a good diet for anyone. Start bringing healthy snack foods with you wherever you go, and when you feel a craving coming on, snack on that. Save the fast food for a treat.

crossedwords

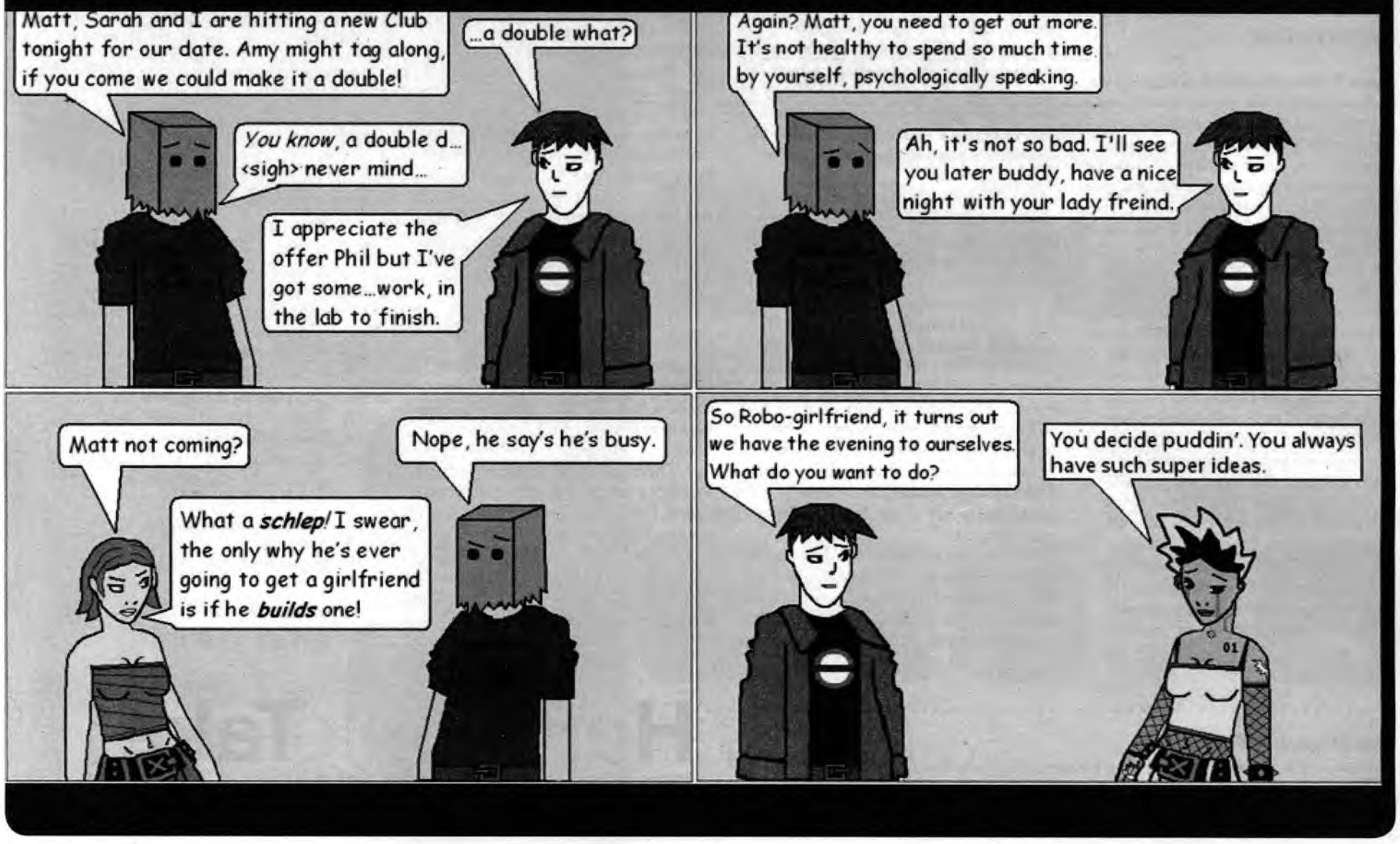
Across
1- Fog; 5- Driving aids; 9- Student; 14- Supporter; 15- Listen attentively; 16- Edict of the czar; 17- Close; 18- Name of Isaac's eldest son in the Bible; 19- North African capital; 20- Uninterrupted space; 22- Lacking oxygen; 24- Metal spikes; 26- Fail to tell the truth; 27- Flora; 30- Careless; 35- Tripoli's country; 36- Chapter of the Koran; 37- Apiece; 38- Opening-day starter; 39- Trellis; 42- Indian holiday resort; 43- Golden; 45- Observed; 46- Large drink container; 48- Infinite time; 50- Harsh; 51- Help; 52- Draw out; 54- Candidate; 58- Beg; 62- Express opinions; 63- A pitcher may take one; 65- Area of 4840 square yards; 66- Hired parker; 67- Japanese rice wine; 68- Lower jaw; 69- Narrow street; 70- Formerly, formerly; 71- Tailless amphibian;

Down
1- Long luxuriant hair; 2- Holly; 3- Smack; 4- Unrestrained exercise of power; 5- Essay; 6- Artist's support; 7- Division of geologic time; 8- Gull-like predatory bird; 9- Rotten; 10- Hawaiian guitar; 11- Window piece; 12- Egyptian goddess of fertility; 13- Not so much; 21- Pertaining to birth; 23- Pertaining to the small intestine; 25- Sleep; 27- Sandy bathing beach; 28- Lawful; 29- White-barked poplar tree; 31- Ireland; 32- Large wave caused by tidal flow; 33- Purge; 34- Disgrace; 36- Keep it, to an editor; 40- Line in a play directed to the audience; 41- Expel; 44- Learner; 47- Perform in an exaggerated manner; 49- Degrees in a right angle; 50- Evening; 53- Student tables; 54- Bright star; 55- Opaque gemstone; 56- Factory; 57- Otherwise; 59- Reverberate; 60- La Scala solo; 61- Propend; 64- Lever for rowing;



TaLkInG hEaDs "Cold Steel Love"

Matt Urban Matt.urban.amy.ravenburg@gmail.com



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