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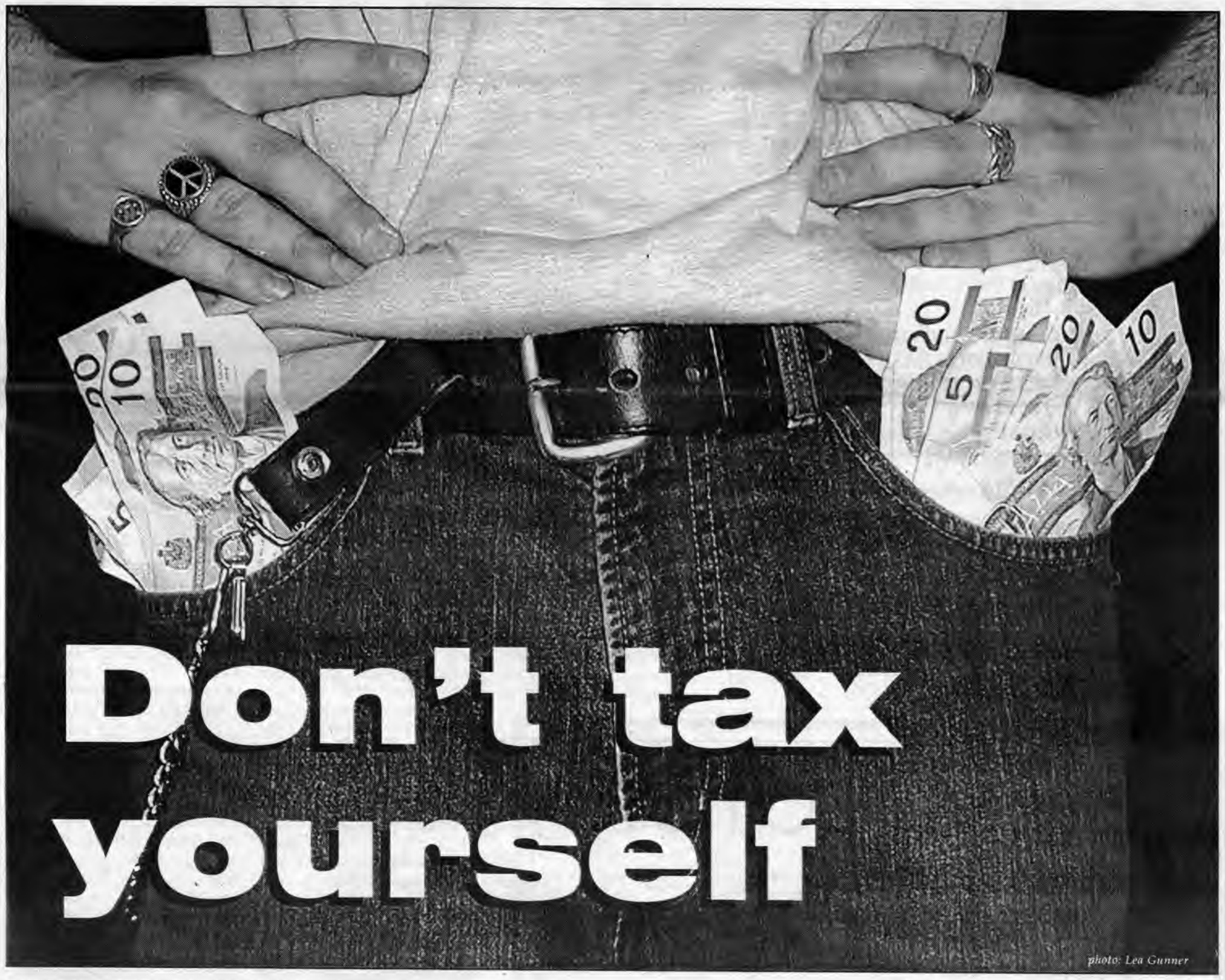
red river college students' association newspaper

february 19, 2001



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RRC radio station raises funds with new DJ auction

By Andrew Buck

photo: Rayna Anderson

Ad Art student Charisse Wendel bought a date with Business Admin student Dema Gailin.

The goods to be sold: CMOR's hottest male and female DJ's.

Red River College's campus radio station was looking for fund-raising ideas. As Valentine's Day drew near, station manager Jarred Nolan decided to hold an auction.

"The idea has been kicking around for a couple of years," Nolan says. "This year I took the bull by the horns."

The result was the Feb. 14 DJ auction held at noon in the Tower Lounge. Five males and five females were auctioned off to fellow RRC students for dates that took place last Saturday. CMOR provided two Cinema City 8 movie passes for the dates.

"The DJs called the dates on Saturday night to avoid any unwanted phoning," Nolan says. "They headed to the theatre, where they met, and watched the movie. Once the movie was over, that was technically the end of what we lobbied for." Nolan says it was then up to the pairs as to whether or not their dates continued.

Nolan says the auction went off without a hitch. The bets started at $1, and went as high as $90 for one eligible bachelor. In total, the auction raised just over $200 for the CMOR DJ club.

"We needed to buy some new supplies, some headphones and a microphone," he said. "That will take up a large chunk of the money."

First year Business Administration student Robin Vines was one of the students auctioned.

She says she signed up for the event to help out CMOR. "I'd do anything to help the DJ's," she says. She was optimistic about her date after the auction. "We'll go to the movies and see what happens," she says.

Clint Raill says he is also pleased with the auction's outcome. He purchased an evening with Vines for $20. "I got into it to have a good time and meet somebody new," says the first year Industry Sales and Marketing student.

Nolan says safeguards were in place to protect the students involved. "The certificates were only good at Cinema City 8 on Saturday night. There's only two theatres in the city, so chances are good students saw someone they knew."

DJ's at CMOR says the event was a rousing success.

"I was really impressed by the turnout. The place was really packed and the crowd got into it," says first year Business Administration student and CMOR DJ Peter Phillips.

Nolan says he was also impressed by the success of the auction.

"The biggest priority for the station is to get our name out amongst the campus. With all the part-time students it's tough to organize an event. To pull off something that has been in the can for years is encouraging."

Nolan says he wants the event to continue in the future.

"I hope this will become a Valentine's Day tradition,"

the PROJECTOR

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Easy money for students

By Cheryl Miki

Get your pencils ready and recharge your calculator battery, because the tax man is calling.

With the end of February comes the annual deluge of T4 slips, T5 slips, and the illustrious T2202 tuition slips. If all these forms scare you into not filing your taxes, you may be missing out on some easy money.

The number one reason for students to do their taxes is to get the refund that is rightfully theirs says H & R Block office supervisor Diane Morabito.

"It's money in their pockets," , says Morabito. Students can claim their tuition, rent, moving expenses, and child care expenses.

For students who turned 19 during the 2000 tax year, they can now apply for the GST credit, which can be anywhere from $45 to $600 per year depending on their situation.

"So all those students who are turning 19 this year should file even if they have no income," says Morabito.

According to the tax guide, for students who worked during the year but made less than $7,000, all the income tax deducted from their paycheques will be refunded.

Morabito warns students against the common belief that if they do not file, the government will not notice. Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (formerly Revenue Canada) receives copies of all slips directly from employers and educational institutions, so they already know about the student's income.

"They're not going to come after you if they owe you money. If you want them to hang onto your money, they'll keep it, no problem," says Morabito.

"But if based on the slip they've received, if you owe them money, they'll find you."

Advertising Art student Otis Anderson says CCRA treats him fairly well.

"I always get money back so they're nice to me at this point," says Anderson.

Students must decide what to do with their tuition and education credits if they have no income.

"If you're paying tuition, you can carry the credit forward to a future year," says Morabito. In other words, students can save their credits for years, until they have a high enough income to use them.

But, Morabito says, to do this, they must not transfer their credits to a parent or grandparent. Transferring the unused portion of the tuition and education credits benefits the parent, but the student loses the chance to save that credit for future years, and also loses the learning tax credit refund which is seven per cent of the total tuition and education amounts.

The second decision students must make is who will claim rent credit. The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency will process one rent claim per address.

If students are sharing an apartment, they must decide who will claim the rent credit, and then split the money when it is refunded. Letting the person with the lowest income claim the credit will maximize the amount refunded.

Second year Business Administration student Crystal Spence leaves her taxes to the professionals.

"I don't fully know how or don't fully understand it," she says.

Morabito says she understands some students' reluctancy to fill out those tax forms.

"Take your time and follow the forms step by step," she advises. "If you have questions, call an income tax professional. Their telephone answers are at no cost to you."

On Feb. 13 Red River College Council approved three motions passed by the RRC Students' Association that allow the SA to begin developing an online course evaluation system for the college.

"We're going to design the system in cooperation with the college," says SA president Ian Scott. "Which means they're going to have input into the design stage. Essentially, we're going to duplicate the system that's in place now, and then look at developing it further in the future." The system will be designed by third year Computer Analyst Programming student David Armstrong, who will be assisted by instructors.

Once the system is designed, the SA will hand it over to the college, who will administer it, with input from the SA.

-Kelly Stifora

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RED RIVER COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

CREATING A VISION

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Duties of the Vice-President, Student Affairs include taking on student complaints and working as an advocate in both academic and disciplinary appeals. As advocate you help to advise students on their rights in the appeal system. Appeals is the biggest job duty to this position, and requirs the biggest time commitment.

Vice-President, Student Affairs is the Students' Associations link to the students. This position designs and coordinates the Class Rep System, and maintains the system through the school year. The Vice-President of Student Affairs also coordinates and organizes many of the volunteer duties when students are looking for ways to get involved.

This position works hard to coordinate many special events throghout the year. One of the biggest events is being the head of the elections committee, which organizes and coordinates all election dealings. One of the other campaigns is the No Means No anti-violence campaign. Towards the end of the school year the Vice-President Student Affairs concentrates on the Teaching Awards of Excellence.

It's important that any person in this job position have high organizational skills. Because the job allows for a lot of flexibility, creativity is needed in all of these situations.

Vice-President Student Affairs is a rewarding and demanding job. The requirements include being available a minimum of 20 hours a week, and in order to run in the election you must be a student of Red River College. Another job qualification is that you must be a student for the full one year term in office. This means being a registered student in any program, but it's strongly recommended that you take a reduced course load.

Some of the benefits of the job include a salary of $12, 000 a year, and tuition your tuition is covered.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, contact the Students' Association office in room DM-20. We would love to see you, and the current Vice-President can offer you any additional info that you would need.

Election nominations are approaching quickly, so if you like being responsible for internal public relations, you may be suited for this job!

NEWS ON CAMPUS

On February 13, 2001 College Council passed a motion to endorse an initiative of the Students' Association to develop an on-line feedback system.

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Thursday	***11-1***	***SA Office Hall***

CMOR

Red River's Power Station

There's no place like home!

One-stop health shop opening

By Sara Williscroft

A photocopier room? Another info-booth? A canteen? Nope, it's your new Student Benefits Plan Office that's been erected at mall level between buildings E and F.

On Jan. 1, 2001, the RRC Students' Association switched health plan providers. The new health plan is now offered through Gallivan & Associates Student Networks.

Dave Oomah, a Gallivan employee, says the office is necessary to avoid a backlog of phone calls to other SA representatives.

"With the addition of the dental plan in September 2001, there will be more questions and phone calls. The students need somewhere to go,"says Oomah.

During the 1999-2000 school year, students at RRC voted for a dental plan to be offered from the SA. A 75 per cent vote in favour of the plan inspired the SA to look at finding a provider.

"Gallivan acts as an insurance broker, if you will," says Oomah. He says the SA wants to provide both a health and a dental plan to students from the same provider. He says he wants to limit the number of students who are getting lost in the shuffle.

"As a coordinator of the office, I will answer their questions for them. From calling 1-800 numbers to talking to whomever, it will be the students' one-stop shop," he says.

With the grand-opening of the office scheduled for today, Oomah says he is scrambling for employees and in dire need.

"Gallivan will be paying the office employees. We're currently looking for staff members. So far, I'm working all of the shifts."

Business Administration student Carrie Melville says the office is a good idea.

"I would have to say that a Student Benefits Plan office would be a big help. A lot of students get the run-around."

Melville says she has only had to ask questions about her plan once, but even then she was shuffled between two people.

"I went to ask the student services office for help and they told me to see another guy standing outside. I went back and forth a little. I can understand where the complaints come from."

photo: Rayna Anderson

Gallivan employee Dave Oomah says he loves the new digs of the Student Benefits Plan Office.

Oomah hopes the new office will offer a critical connection between the students and the insurance providers.

The Student Benefits Plan Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday beginning Feb. 20.

Staff to take students to the track

By Julie Kentner & Rayna Anderson

A challenge between staff and students may have some running scared, but no one will admit it.

A group of five staff members has challenged five students to a charity run for Alzheimer's on Feb. 24.

"Some staff expressed interest in going to this thing," says Michael Whalen, supervisor of Recreation Services at Red River College. "I thought it would be interesting to have a little competition."

Every team has five members, who must run for at least 800 metres, or four laps around the track, before handing off the baton to the next runner. The team who covers the most distance in two hours is declared the winner.

Whalen approached Ian Scott, president of Red River College Students' Association and asked him if he would be interested in forming a team.

"I know Ian," says Whalen. "And he thought it would be a good idea."

Money for Alzheimer's is raised through registration fees, and no pledges are gathered.

"It's just through entry fees,"says Whalen, "and it's $80 to register a team."

Scott says the competition is a great idea. "He came to me with the idea and the thought of a challenge for a good cause, it was an easy sell."

"I think that youth and stamina will prevail over seasoned veterans," says Scott, "We're going to kick their asses."

Scott admits that while he is looking forward to the race, he is a bit concerned about his own performance.

"Only two of our team members are runners. I've been training for the past three weeks. I'm surprised by the progress I've made."

Scott says that the student team is composed of himself, two student advisory board members and another person. "We ended up having more volunteers than we needed!"

Whalen is confident that the staff will do well.

"We tried to get a team all over 40 to kick the young guy's butts,"says Whalen. However, the last member of the team is slightly under 40, as they had a hard time finding a final member.

The contest will take place at the Max Bell Field House at the University of Manitoba on Saturday Feb 24 from noon until 2 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and cheer on the participants.

Looking for jobs in all the right places

By Gord Blackburde

Red River College students looking for work this summer can rely on the government and the Internet to provide them with career-related experience.

FSWEP, the Federal Student Work Experience Program, is a unique program offered by the Public Service Commission of Canada that aims to provide students with training related to their career goals through an extensive job database.

Rayna Anderson, a first year Creative Communications student says the program is a great experience.

"I worked a lot last summer. I'm bilingual, so the government gave me a job where I could use my skills," she says.

FSWEP applicants must be full-time post-secondary students and must be returning to school in the fall. Those students graduating from their respective programs are not eligible for FSWEP.

Students with disabilities are able to apply for part-time positions.

According to Guylaine Jolicoeur, a human resources assistant at PSC, 10,000 students across Canada were placed with FSWEP jobs last year.

To apply, a prospective applicant must submit an application to PSC. The application enters a national registry, which selects the student on the basis of year and level of education, field of study, and demonstrated skills.

Jolicoeur says government jobs are great for students who need to raise money for tuition payments.

"They can gain work experience and they have something substantial to write on their resume."

Students can also register with the STEP program which is identical to FSWEP but is offered by the provincial government.

The RRC Job Centre has information on many sites and available resources for students looking for work.

Protecting your health.

Barbara Beattie works with her detector dog Rookie and her colleagues at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. They help stop forbidden items from entering Canada that could damage our plants and animals or contaminate our food supply. This is just one of many services aimed at protecting the health of all Canadians.

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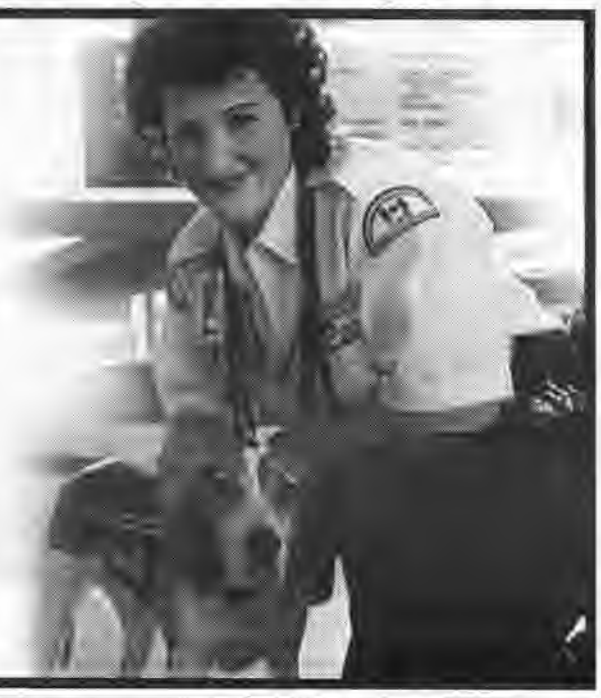

Murals to decorate RRC's Ox

By Andrew Langendorfer

Prepare to be "wowed." The RRC Students' Association has been working closely with all of the second-year ad art students for the past month to design three murals to be put up around the college.

"The murals follow several different themes, like communication, creation, and journeys," says SA president Ian Scott.

"We wanted to make sure that we included images of significance to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit cultures."

"We're really pleased with the work the Ad Art students have done," says Scott. "It's going to be really hard to decide which ones we pick."

Ken Stampnick is the Advertising Art instructor responsible for coordinating the effort.

"The student whose design gets chosen for each of the three murals will select a team of five or six people to help them complete it," says Stampnick.

Brent Mundy, an Ad Art student, spent about three weeks completing the sketch of his mural for the aboriginal centre.

"Basically, it represents the sun as the centre of all living things, and the evolution of animals spread across the country," says Mundy. "There is also some reference to the four seasons, because the mural is kind of split into four sections by the tendrils of the sun."

The murals for The Ox will be selected by the end of March according to store manager Todd Buchanan. "We're taking the designs to the Student Advisory Board to start the selection process," says Buchanan.

"We're just looking for something to spice up the store. The walls are really hum-drum with just the grey and beige that we have right now," says Buchanan.

photo: Leq Gunner

Ad Art students' homework will decorate the halls of RRC.

"What we need is something with a real 'wow factor'. A mural that will help make The Ox a destination for students," says Buchanan.

The SA will pay $500 to each of the three winning designers. The winning team will also be reimbursed for painting the full-sized murals. "We'll give a certain amount of money to the team, and they'll have to split it up between however many people are working on it," says Scott.

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Wellness Committee Event

RRC students win trip to Ottawa

By Andrew Buck

Two Red River College students have been picked by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) to attend this year's International Notebook program. They were the only Manitobans selected.

First year Creative Communications students Ajit Singh and Olga Safroshkina will be heading to Ottawa Mar. 19 to take part in the government-run program. During the week the students will spend there, they will attend seminars and workshops about such topics as environmental issues, strategic communications, and human security.

Singh and Safroshkina learned about the opportunity from Creative Communications instructor Duncan McMonagle, who received an e-mail from DFAIT about the program Jan. 16.

"Originally I had planned on going into DFAIT, so I thought I'd apply for this program," says Singh.

To be considered for the trip the students had to write a memo addressed to DFAIT explaining why they were interested and why they felt they were qualified. A keen interest in foreign affairs and international trade, which both students possess, was also considered in the evaluation.

Safroshkina, who came to Winnipeg from Odessa, Ukraine two years ago, feels her experiences as a TV journalist in the former USSR were a major reason for her selection.

"I can compare the two cultures," she says. Safroshkina spent seven years as a journalist in Ukraine. "I had to learn the language and culture of Canada."

Thirteen other post-secondary journalism students from across the country will join Singh and Safroshkina in Ottawa. McMonagle says he thinks the students' selection is a feather in the college's cap.

"Ajit and Olga's selection for this program is an honour for them and for RRC. It shows the high calibre and diversity of students that Cre Comm attracts."

Subtle stench of influence pervades Ottawa

Like a silent fart inside a car during a long winter road trip, Bill Clinton's presidency continues to linger in the Oval Office.

The latest funk has seen the US Attorney General in New York City investigating Clinton's pardoning of billionaire Marc Rich. Rich fled the US for Switzerland over 17 years ago as he faced 50 criminal charges including racketeering, wire fraud, income tax evasion, and illegally trading oil with Iran. Since then, he has steadily climbed the FBI's 10 most wanted list instead of the Fortune 500.

Apparently living across the ocean did little to limit the influence of Rich's money. Turns out that over the last eight years the Democratic Party and the Clinton Presidential Library were the beneficiaries of hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations from Rich's former wife.

In the most bizarre of coincidences, Clinton used the last hours of his presidency to grant Rich a presidential pardon. The presidential pardon was just one of 177 others issued by Clinton in the final days of his presidency to people who at one point in their lives learned the vital importance of not dropping the soap.

Because of our differing political systems, it's not too often that a Canadian Prime Minister and an American President face the same dilemma. But the pardon problem may soon be coming to Parliament Hill.

On Jan. 18 the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the prison sentence issued to Saskatchewan farmer Robert Latimer. Latimer was convicted of second-degree murder in the 1993 death of his 12-year-old daughter Tracy. He claimed it was an act of mercy towards his severely a disabled daughter and that the life sentence without the possibility of parole for 10 years was cruel and unusual punishment. When the Supreme Court upheld the sentence, the Latimer case seemed to be finally closed. But as the saying goes - it ain't over till it's over.

Latimer supporters are now actively trying to persuade the Prime Minister and the Governor General to grant a pardon. Such pardons have been granted an average of once a year over the last 20 years.

Obviously, there are tremendous differences between the two examples; most importantly there are no implications of influence peddling in the Latimer case. And it's not my place to judge either case.

But the same problem underlies both. Both societies are supposedly built upon the rule of law where everybody is supposed to be considered equal before the law. So where is the justification in the highest political office in the land overruling the due process of the courts?

If these people have been wrongly convicted then the whole judicial system is obviously in dire need of repairs. But these repairs won't happen with arbitrary pardons.

The pardons only serve to cheapen a system, already battered in the eyes of the public.

Politicians should keep their hand off the gavel.

Sean Thiessen

photo: Rayne Anderson

Why can't we be friends

It took billions of dollars, many brilliant people and hours upon hours of scientific testing to figure out that human beings are alike. Duh.

Geneticists announced last week that they finally cracked the human genotype, the holder of every single human trait. But surprise, surprise, it took highly educated scientists to figure out what most of us already knew. Human beings are only fractionally different. Exactly 0.01 per cent different. That means all human beings, no matter what race, are genetically 99.9 per cent the same. That's right. You and that guy with the peculiar odor beside you on the bus are only 0.01 per cent different.

Now, most of us had that figured out. Really, how different can we be genetically? Most of us are born with two legs, arms, eyes, hands, 10 fingers and toes, our hearts beat the same and technically, our brains are supposed to work the same.

But the scientific world is shocked. And shocked is turning into appalled for some. How could a species who has justified the segregation, humiliation, assimilation and annihilation of each other because of an imagined race hierarchy all of a sudden say, "Oops, we were wrong, you're really just like me! Sorry about that whole ethnic cleansing thing."

The real issue of this fantastic scientific discovery is if human beings, no longer able to group themselves into races better than this one or that one, can accept this news. If this discovery was made during the second World War, maybe Hitler wouldn't have declared Germans as the stronger, purer race and killed an unimaginable number of Jews through one of the worst cases of genocide in recorded history.

If this discovery was only made in the late 1980s, maybe the Balkan War would have been a little less atrocious. Serbs and Croatians and Muslims would have still fought over boundaries and deep routed hatred for each other, but maybe the I'm-the-better people attitude would have been non-existent.

As the world absorbs the scientific news that yes, we really are the same, maybe, just maybe, attitudes will change. Maybe our children won't think of themselves as "white" or "black" first. Maybe they'll think of themselves as people first.

Kyla Duncan

E-mail viruses your own fault

Although the recent Anna Kournikova computer virus did little damage, it did prove two things: sex still sells, and there's still a lot of computer illiterates out there.

The alleged creator of the virus didn't know a lot about programming (admitting he downloaded the ready-to-use worm virus program off the Internet), but he did know enough to tie-in the virus with a certain Russian teen tennis star.

The virus' name made headlines around the world, despite its decidedly wimpy nature. Apparently, the virus didn't attack hard drives - it only backed up the e-mail systems of Microsoft Outlook users.

What the hell kind of virus is that? It's almost like a hypochondriac you know who's constantly whining about how he or she is "coming down with something" every time they sneeze. Shut up you idiots, you're fine.

Virus

Shouldn't a program be able to destroy something before we can call it a virus? Oooh, it slows down e-mail systems - scary! So does opening more than one program on any of Red River College's Speak and Spell computers.

Still, many people did end up having Kournikova sent to them. I don't know what's scarier - that virtually anyone can create a virus and quickly spread it worldwide, or that people are still dumb enough to open them.

Hey, here's a tip for computer morons: don't open attachments that have two extensions or end with ".vbs". How hard is that to remember?

Here's another: don't open attachments when the e-mail's text and subject sound like some gibberish a Japanimation character would spout. Kournikova bore the message "Hi: Check this!" Who the hell do you know that would put that in an e-mail?

The same could be said about the subject line of last spring's ILOVEYOU virus. Hello: anyone who sends you e-mails with all-caps and the words running together is either a carrier or an imbecile.

And while we're on the topic of computer imbeciles, I am seriously interested in knowing what percentage of people in the developed world know how to save a file to a floppy disk.

Last year, I took three "alleged" layout and design courses at RRC and by the end of the year, there were still people who didn't know how to save a file to a disk. Come on man— it's the A drive! A drive!

Note: if you're a Mac user, ignore all of the above and revel in your nerdiness for stooping so low as to read about us lowly PC slobs.

As a final note: the next time someone shuts down a computer in the Bit'r End just before I get to it, my mind is going to crash like an old hard drive. It's as if shutting it down erases some magically stored information I'll have to wait 10 minutes to access.

And then the shooting starts.

Adam Clayton

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PROFILE

Propagandhi

Propagandhi still belting out political punk

Winnipeg punks send out a release after a five-year hiatus

By Gordon Blackburde

Propagandhi has spent 12 years cutting its musical teeth on metal, punk, and hardcore music. After a five-year hiatus, their new album, Today's Empires, Tomorrow's Ashes exemplifies the social ethics and determination the Winnipeg power trio take to task.

Many labels are applied to bands; Propagandhi has settled on 'progressive thrash,' for now. Propagandhi's singer-guitarist, Chris Hannah, 30, explains,

"We grew up in the punk and hardcore scenes and before that the metal scene, but I think at our age now . . . most of the contemporary punk rock and hardcore doesn't really resonate with me."

The progressive thrash label encapsulates the band's fast tempo and thick, heavy sound, a condition that Hannah attributes to the addition of bassist, Todd Kowalski. Kowalski took over from John Samson, who incidentally, plays with G7 labelmates The Weakerthans.

One of the first things listeners notice about Propagandhi's songs is the strong narrative quality of the lyrics. Hannah admits that these narratives require a contextual component, a duty well served by his unique vocal delivery. However, Hannah also sees his delivery as a creative necessity,

"Perhaps we're forced to write these, to pack in more words to make it more interesting for ourselves." He stands firm, however, on the importance of relating a story correctly and accurately.

The first song on the album, Mate Ka Moris Ukun Rasik An is evidence of the bands sincere approach.

"The first song is an actual story about a woman named Bella Galhos from East Timor . . . even if someone doesn't like (the lyrics) they're almost necessary because you want to tell the story properly, in two minutes. You gotta' jam all these words and ideas into the song," says Hannah.

Bassist Todd Kowalski from Propagandhi: a "thrash" sound

Also, the liner notes of Today's Empires, Tomorrow's Ashes provide the detail required to relate the messages in the songs. These songs can stand on their own, but the exceptional blend of audio and PDF files, courtesy of CD-ROM technology, makes this unnecessary.

This unique mixture helps to underscore the album's theme of global inequality, increasing disparity, and unchecked power.

"Concentrations of power behave in certain ways to maintain that power," offers Hannah. "How power maintains itself is usually through means that are neither democratic nor humane and that we might be at a point in history where if we don't do something about it, this could be the final stage in human existence."

PDF files contained on the CD, featuring essays by Ward Churchill and William Blum, expand the scope of the grim yet pertinent theme espoused by the band. Because Propagandhi's audio material may be internalized on many levels, from the angst-ridden to the thoughtful, the academic essays help relate fully formed ideas.

"Obviously, these guys (Churchill, Blum) are from an intellectual community like academia and not all of us have the same skills these guys have acquired over the years," says Hannah.

"Their work can help contextualize some of the perhaps more, not infantile, but less academic presentations of our songs."

Hannah admits that the direction of the contemporary music scene raises questions in his mind about Propagandhi's relevancy. However, he describes the new album as a musical reawakening,

"You wonder if you're this old thing that belongs in the dust-bin, but we are so passionate about the kind of music that we like and try to play that it sort of fuels itself," says Hannah .

Hannah qualifies this by acknowledging that there is a level of comfort within the band, but he stresses the need for Propagandhi, as a unit, to improve musically, creatively, and intellectually.

Hannah recognizes that the demise of Rage Against the Machine leaves a void in contemporary music. "Looking back, I thought that's probably the most important band of the last ten years, at least from someone like me who values political messages in music," says Hannah. "They put out all these records over that time and maintained their ideas without compromise and did a lot of good work outside of the band too."

Hannah discards the criticism leveled at major label bands like Rage Against the Machine, as short sighted and reactionary.

Unlike other popular music acts, Hannah sees Propagandhi as existing on the margins of the music industry, a position he feels comfortable with, if not suited for. Unquestionably, there are few bands in the industry willing to distribute a body of work comparable to Propagandhi's latest CD-ROM venture. Although, Hannah remains uneasy about the digital technology that made this possible, "It's probably the same as when radio and TV came along, it was like holy shit here's a new way of communicating with people then all of a sudden corporations see that and go, we want that and we want to have it by ourselves, " explains Hannah. "If that's what's going to happen to the Internet then it's just another shitty situation, but if people exchange ideas it's serving a higher purpose."

The new album borrows its title from the musings of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Jamal, a political prisoner on death row in the US, is known for his eloquence and moving socio-political discourse on a range of topics, from capital punishment to American imperialism.

Hannah believes America, like its imperial predecessors, cannot maintain its oppressive regime. "Like (Jamal) says in the quote, history has shown that all these ridiculous concentrations of power fall apart," says Hannah.

Propagandhi draws inspiration and hope from activists like Jamal and Bella Galhos, a woman they met at a benefit for the East Timor Alert Network. Coincidentally, the benefit was held at the University of Manitoba, the site of their next show on Friday, February 23, in the multi-purpose room. Proceeds will be donated to the Cross Lake First Nation, who are campaigning against Manitoba Hydro over their implementation of the Northern Flood Agreement.

Local Heroes: eat *these* shorts

The best in Canadian short films play Cinematheque Feb 28 - Mar 2

By Rayna Anderson, Tamara King, Andrew Langendorfer, Kelly Stifora

As part of the upcoming Local Heroes Canadian Film Festival, Winnipeg's National Screen Institute will present a four day series that highlights the work of Canadian independent film-makers. The TELAV Showcase of Canadian Short Films runs at 1:30 PM daily from Feb. 28 to Mar. 3. In addition to watching the films, audiences will have a chance to meet the films' writers, directors and producers and participate in discussions about their films.

The Local Heroes Film Festival showcases Canadian Films

Day 1- Tamara King

Creation-- Odd watercolour paintings flash on the screen while a monotone voiceover reads over some sort of story. Pretty, but difficult to understand because it's so monotonous.

Clean Rite Cowboy-- A suburban drama about middle-aged people who have almost forgotten how to live and are too concerned with money and status to remember what living is all about. This film has really interesting camera work, some awesome shots and most of all, it's entertainment.

A Bit Transcendental– A total 1970's acid trip, Two men trip out together trying to relate to each other. You'll feel like it's 1972 while you're watching.

Day 2 - Andrew Lagendorfer

Daisy-- A wonderfully poetic film telling the story of the tragic death of a beautiful young woman.

Shot in gritty black and white, the drowning death of Daisy plays out as beautifully as the song which runs throughout.

Blood River-- Starring Jennifer Podemski (The Rez). Blood River follows the journey of Rose (Podemski) as she searches to reclaim her aboriginal heritage as a young woman after having spent her life as the adoptive daughter of a white mother.

Rose finds out who her birth mother is, only to hear in the same breath that she died two years ago.

She then pays a visit to a good friend of her mother's, who turns out to be a born-again christian -- not exactly the type Rose was looking for to help her reclaim her heritage.

When Rose finds out she also has a brother, Clayton, things really get complicated.

Blood River is shot like an excellent television drama, with some very intense dream sequences thrown in for good measure.

Day 3 - Kelly Stifora

Little Moments-- A poignant 6 minute film that examines the insensitivity of childhood through the eyes of a 7-year-old Chinese Canadian girl. As the young girl's classmates point at that the girl's skin is 'brown', her older alter-ego asks in a voice over "do we always belong if no one tells us we're different?"

Three Lives of Kate-- Narrated by Sandra Oh ("Double Happiness"), this 18 minute short follows the development of one girl's battle with obsessive compulsive disorder from age six to adulthood. Terrific acting and cinematography and a subtle directorial approach allow the audience to discover the girl's problem along with her and then forces them to cope with it.

Cul de Sac-- This film, which follows two young Montreal girls into a life on the street, comes off like an uncensored version of Degrassi Junior High. One turns to prostitution, and the other to heroin, with appropriately tragic results. This shorts heart is in the right place, unfortunately, no new insight is provided.

Someplace Better-- A young Aboriginal man must police his own people once being assigned to the detachment on his reserve. His struggle with morality and the perceived betrayal of his tribe comes to a head when he must investigate the murder of his cousin. Well written, this film could have benefited largely from more careful direction.

Day 4 - Rayna Anderson

Down a Dark Chimney-- You can't go wrong with a stop-motion film about Santa Claus and Rudolph getting shot down by Nazis on Christmas Eve. I was traumatized when I saw poor Rudolph, chopped and thrown into the incinerator. It's obvious how much blood, sweat and tears, pun intended, went into making this 10 minute long film.

Hindsight-- Adapted from a stage play, Hindsight is a surreal but fascinating look at two people's paranoid relationship. Guy likes girl, but girl totally freaks out when people stare at her, and his glass eye doesn't make the situation any better. But she solves that problem in a creative way.

Second Chance-- This french film is set in 2008, when lonely guys can go to booths to date "virtual females", made to their personal preferences. Unfortunately, they can also be dumped if they neglect their cyber lovers. And for a few more credits, you can cry over your beer with a couple of virtual friends.

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This cannibal's lost some bite

Sequel to Silence isn't as easy to sink your teeth into

By Lea Gunner

After ten years of impatient waiting, audiences are finally getting their chance to view Hannibal, the eagerly awaited sequel to the Academy Award winning, Silence of the Lambs. The film is enjoyable, but it doesn't have the same bite as its predecessor.

A decade ago, Silence of the Lambs, thrilled audiences and critics and nabbed awards all around.

In 1991, the box office hit swept the Oscars winning the top five categories: Best Picture, Best Actor (Anthony Hopkins), Best Actress (Jodie Foster), Best Director (Jonathan Demme) and Best Adapted Screenplay (Ted Tally).

Anthony Hopkins sinks his teeth into the role of Dr. Hannibal "the Cannibal" Lecter once again in Hannibal.

Julianne Moore steps into the role of Clarice Starling, originally played by Jodie Foster, and Ridley Scott, (director of Gladiator), takes over for Demme.

Hannibal picks up ten years after Lecter and Starling met in a hospital for the criminally insane, where the agent interviewed the cannibal and got more than she bargained for. Ten years after escaping custody, Lecter is living quietly in Italy as Dr. Fell, a museum curator.

Starling, a student in the first movie, is now an official FBI Agent. Despite the huge distance between the two, Starling and Lecter cannot forget one another.

There's a better way to mask bad breath

And neither can Mason Verger (Gary Oldman). Verger was one of Lecter's victims and the only survivor. Gruesomely disfigured, Verger lives a secluded life in his castle.

Using his family's fortune and connections, Verger plots revenge against Lecter, and he uses Starling as the bait.

Ray Liotta plays Justice Department official Paul Krendler, a co-worker of Starling's, who also has some schemes up his sleeve.

Hopkins easily gets back into the role of the cannibalistic doctor.

Moore has some large shoes to fill replacing Foster, but she steps into the role with ease.

When Lecter and Starling get together, the actors are at their best. Having previously starred together in 1996's Surviving Picasso, Hopkins and Moore have a magnificent connection on screen. While the first movie focused on Starling and her relationship with Lecter, the sequel focuses on Lecter. This means that there are unfortunately few scenes with the lead actors together.

Moore shares much of her time on-screen with Liotta. The wicked Krendler seems more like a schoolboy with a crush on Starling, than the evil schemer he's supposed to be. The script does not adequately evoke feelings of hatred and contempt from the audience when Krendler is on-screen.

Hannibal focuses more on the blood and guts (literally) than the first movie. It lacks the tension and excitement that made Silence of the Lambs an exceptional movie.

With such phrases as "okie-dokie" and "goody-goody," added by Hopkins, the film is even filled with humor at times.

It's hard not to find yourself laughing as Hannibal butchers his victims.

The music of Han Zimmer keeps the audience on the edge of their seats, waiting and knowing that there is always more to come from The Cannibal.

If you were a huge fan of Silence of the Lambs, Hannibal is a treat after the decade of waiting. As a sequel, the film performs its job of continuing the tale between Lecter and Starling, but without the original, the film doesn't have bite.

New MTC play a bit weir-y

Ghost stories and beer aren't as much fun as they were at summer camp

By Andrew Langendorfer

The concept behind The Weir is simple: five characters sit around in a small-town pub in Ireland and tell ghost stories.

As a result, The Weir is basically a collection of five-minute monologues. However, a collection of monologues does not necessarily make a great play, and the The Weir's case, it does not.

However, the Valerie (Ann Baggley), Brendan (Oliver Becker), Finbar (John Jarvis), Jack (Barry MacGregor), and Jim (Robert Persichini) are incredibly believable.

From the first line of Jack's incessant bitching at the fact that the pub has run out of draft and he must resort to (gasp) bottles of his favourite dark beer, we know that we are welcome in this strange-yet-oddly-familiar world.

In fact, the natural banter between the ghost stories is much more entertaining than the stories themselves.

Jack is the epitome rough-around-the-edges wino with a heart of gold. He provides a stark contrast to Finbar, who exudes nothing but cocky attitude as the irritating busybody who leaves town to make a fortune, then returns and expects the red carpet to get rolled out for him wherever he goes.

Persichini is exceptional as the harmless oaf Jim. There is a truly magical, endearing quality as he shuffles around the stage.

In fact, there is something endearing about everybody in the pub that night. The beauty of the characterization exhibited in The Weir is the common human element -- there is something familiar in every character.

It is all the more unfortunate, then, that the beautiful acting talent is overshadowed by possibly the most boring stories ever told in any pub.

It's not just that the stories are flat as heck, but until the final chapter, they aren't chilling in the very least.

Each customer takes a crack at telling the spookiest ghost story he can, in part to scare the bejeezus out of Valerie, who has just moved to town, and into a recently-vacated house with a less-than-perfect history.

Perhaps the most intriguing part of The Weir, besides the natural flair with which the actors tackle their roles, is the set itself.

The audience enters the dark theatre and is immediately sucked right into the teeny pub. The rough wooden beams literally reach into the audience, giving the strong illusion that MTC's maroon flip-up chairs have been transformed into barstools for the length of the 60-minute production.

It's really too bad The Weir couldn't have been more involved in the personal dialogue between the characters instead of the dull ghost stories, because reading between the lines is definitely worth a lot more than the script itself.

The Weir is playing at the Manitoba Theatre Centre until March 3.

Tickets are available at 942-6537.

OUR SINCEREST APOLOGIES: The front-page photo of the February 5 issue was taken by Lea Gunner

Warehouse gets funny

Finally, something decent to do on a Friday night

By Tamara King

In the middle of winter, Winnipeggers can always use some entertainment, anything besides watching Hockey Night In Canada and drinking Kokanee. You'll be well armed against Hockey Night in Canada—except that, well, it's on Friday nights—with the Friday Night Comedy Warehouse series.

While the sketches seen at the Friday Night Comedy Warehouse might be based on improvised sketches, the show is really a variety hour of different mediums: from sketch comedy to folk singing to mini-plays. In the wake of successes like the Comedy channel and shows like "Who's Line Is It Aanyways?, comedy is becoming bigger and bigger within the entertainment community.

The shows variety-hour type nature makes it fall somewhere between improv and sitcom. Scripted, sometimes. Spontaneous, often.

"I've never heard of a show like this," says festival organizer Jason Andrich.

The show is different from much of the comedy found on the Comedy Network and on the Toronto scene.

Andrich says the shows won't contain improv as much as they will comedy.

"Improv as an artform isn't itself a form of comedy," explains Andrich. "We're trying to give exposure to other forms of comedy."

Audiences will see just about anything. At the first show on February 2, the audience was corralled into the theatre by "camp counsellors." There were performances by the Royal Liechtenstein Theatre Company, the Spleen Jockeys, Crumbs Improv, the Leathers Brothers, and the theatre departments of both the University of Winnipeg and Manitoba, among the various performers.

"The actors will fill up about an hour and a half of comedy. "It's up to them to fill the content," says Andrich. "It's a place for actors to try their stuff."

"This is very much a grassroots type of venture," says Andrich. "It's going to be a variety of people."

Andrich says he hopes to promote awareness about comedy community in Winnipeg.

"A lot of people don't take comedy seriously," says Andrich. "They don't realize the hours and hours of work that go into making a sketch."

The actors certainly take their work seriously. And there is a lot of support within the community for the actors.

"We're a pretty small community. If we support each other then the audience is going to grow," says Andrich.

The actors certainly aren't in it for the money (are they ever?).

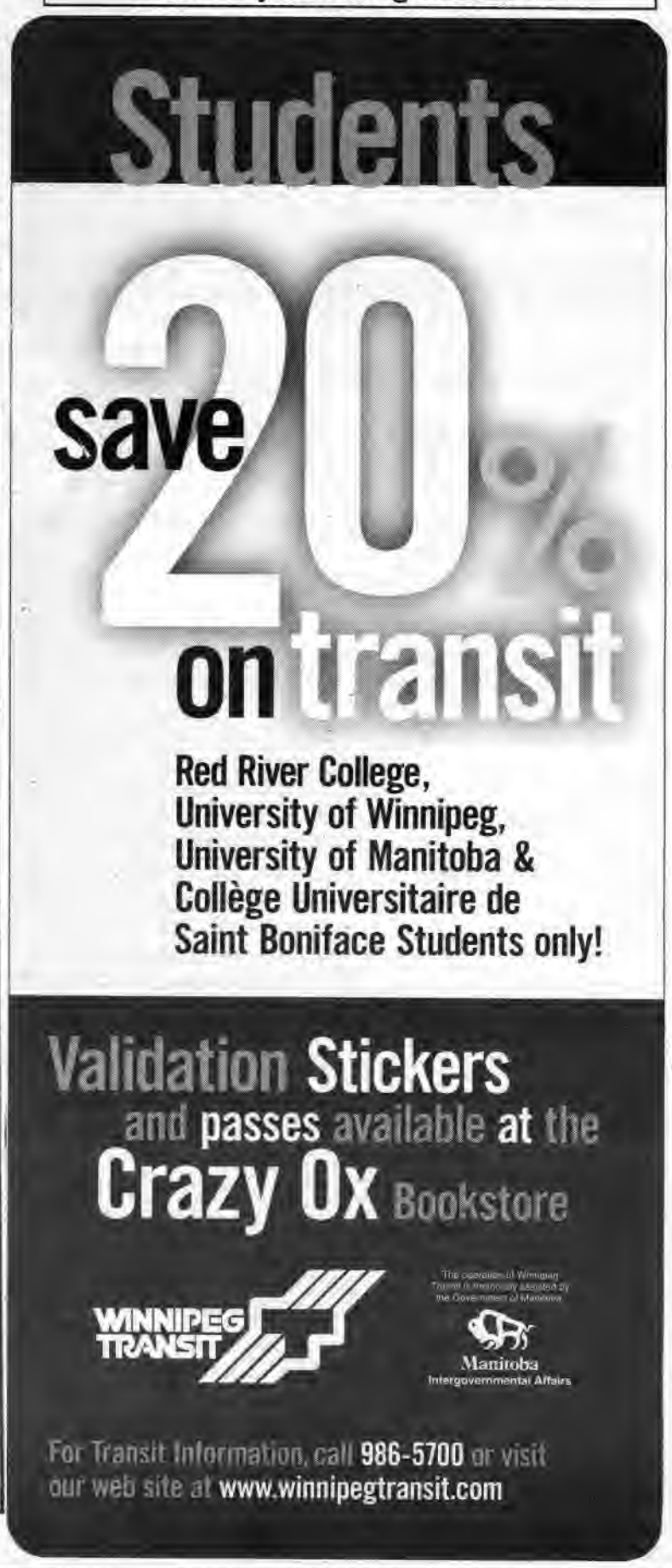
"The first show, all the actors got about $10 each," says Andrich. "No money goes to any one place."

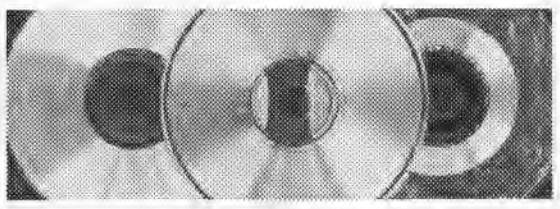
And on the Spleen Jockeys web site (the voice of the Friday Night Comedy Series), there's even a corner devoted to hockey players— the Hockey Legend of the Month. So for the folks out there who do like to watch hockey in the middle of the winter, you can do that on Saturdays. On Fridays, there's comedy.

Tickets cost $4.99 and are available by calling 783-4047, or by checking out spleenjockeys.com.

photo: Rayna Anderson

High-flying wrestling action hit the RRC South Gym during Meltdown





CD Reviews

Dream
It Was All Dream

I wish. This new pebble in the avalanche of prefab pop crap that has spewed forth since the Backstreet Boys hit it big sounds like it was recorded in 1984 - by Paula Abdul. Sean "Puffy" Combs, who co-produced, should be ashamed of himself.

-Kelly Stifora

Rating: 1 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: None

The Mahones
Here Comes Lucky

This disc full of traditionally influenced rock (think Great Big Sea) is long on accordion and short on variety, but a rollicking good time nonetheless. It would fit in perfectly well at an Irish wake, and you know what that means - damn good drinkin music!

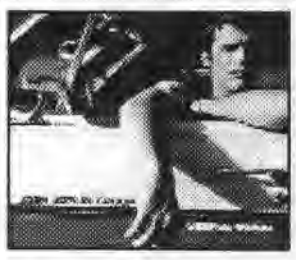
-Kelly Stifora

Rating: 7 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 1,7,10,11

Mudhoney
Here Comes The Sickness

Right up there with Soundgarden and Green River, Mudhoney typifies the hard-edged grunge that exploded out of Seattle in the 80s. Here Comes the Sickness, a compilation of the band's BBC recordings, feature the band at their live and loud best. Check out the fuzz-laden "Touch Me, I'm Sick" for the true self-loathing grunge experience.

-Andrew Buck



Josh Joplin Group
Useful Music

For their debut, Josh Joplin Group have put together a passable set of angst-ridden rock. Although the style is dated (this album picks up where REM's "Automatic for the People" left off - but isn't nearly as good), it makes fine background music while you're studying.

-Kelly Stifora

Rating: 2 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: None

Phe Cullen
Phe Cullen

What do you do when you're too old to listen to hard 70's rock but you love the memories linked to those lyrics? Phe Cullen softens the old favorites like You Can't Always Get What You Want and Ruby Tuesday. Rock should be hard, not jazzy.

-Rayna Anderson

Rating: 4 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 1, 6, 12

Chris Sheppard
Club cuts 404

Another one for the party mix. It is somewhat intolerable though, to hear already overplayed radio songs be spewed out in yet another indistinguishable form. But the CD might be good for hosting a dance party, and so if you happen to be hosting a dance party, this trendy CD would be perfect for you.

- Tamara King

Rating: 4 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 5, 8, 11

Rating: 6 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 1, 11

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8. Nine cases of Spam
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4. A second-hand copy of the Tommy Lee and Pamela Anderson video
3. Venetian blinds for your car
2. Tickets to every Red River social from now until eternity
1. Actually paying $1.65 for the bus instead of throwin in a handful of nickels

- Andrew Langendorfer

Red River College Staff and Students

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Yin & Yang

By Tamara King

There exists, somewhere out there, an idea that movie sequels are by and large, terrible. This simply is not the case.

Hot Shots: Part Deux, Wayne's World Two, Grease Two, Terminator Two; all examples of fine movie sequels.

Take video games, for example. The second and third versions are usually better—new and improved, if you will— with better graphics, improved speeds. Now take this knowledge, and apply it to movies. The second time around, things improve dramatically because there is time to fix up all the little mistakes from the first film.

Terminator Two fits into this category. T2 had better effects (that cool computer-generated melting face thing), a better looking star (Eddie Furlong, teenage heartthrob), and better marketing (Asta la vista, baby. It might have been annoying, but we all remember it).

Think of the Freddy Krueger series, a Nightmare on Elm Street. Although the second film might not be particularily memorable, the rest of the series strike chords in the minds of many horror movie fans.

Bride of Chucky: the sequel debate continues

And on the topic of scary movies, the Bride of Chucky was a long-awaited sequel, much like Hannibal is to the Silence of the Lambs. Bride of Chucky came out several years after Child's Play, and I for one certainly wanted to see what happened to that pathetic little doll. The second one was so much sexier too, I guess because all the brats who liked the movie the first time around in the 1980's were old enough to appreciate sexy in the second.

The movie Scarlett was as good as Gone With the Wind, if not better, because it was longer and soap-opera stories like that need to be really long so that people can get their fill of drama and romance and general sappiness.

It would be a little artificial of me to say that all sequels are good. Just so everyone knows, Home Alone 2 was not what I would consider to be a good sequel. The first one definitely accounted for all the "Kevin" this woman needs to see.

Maybe the best movies can't have a sequel, but that would only be because the first movie was too damn good to be topped. So comparing sequels to the originals is comparing two different artforms. So don't compare them.

So if you enjoy movie sequels, don't think of all the politics and shenanigans. Just let your mind numb into oblivion as you mindlessly shove a handful of really buttery popcorn into your mouth and enjoy the damn movie.

By Andrew Langendorfer

When's the last time you were so excited you heard of anybody that was so excited they got married, so happy with the success of their new partnership, that they went straight to the nearest chapel and got themselves a whole new marriage certificate. Oh sure, the new marriage cost more, it'll be a bit longer and with more topless women, and there's more media attention surrounding it. But will it be as good?

Yeah, yeah, that's a really poor metaphor. But that doesn't change the fact that most movie sequels suck may-ja ass.

Really, need I haul up the carcasses of such suck-fests as Grease 2, Teen Wolf Too, or (vomit) Home Alone 3? Come on. We've all had our fill of this garbage. If somebody doesn't put a stop to this soon, it's only a matter of time before we'll see our video store shelves cluttered with such "soon-to-be-classics" as Beaches 2, or the latest installment (seventeenth? hundredth?) of some National Lampoon Crapfest.

Gimme a break. The greatest movies don't have sequels -- because they simply don't need them. The Usual Suspects 4 isn't coming down the pipes any time soon. Neither is Braveheart 3 or Casablanca Part Deux.

Sequels, in general, are nothing more than an excuse for the already uber-fat Hollywood execs to make a few extra lousy bucks from Joe Consumer, the poor idiot who keeps pissing away his 12 bucks for two hours of digitally-altered drivel.

In all fairness, there have been some great sequels. What kind of barren landscape would the English language be without such linguistic gems as "Luke, I am your father," (The Empire Strikes Back) or "zlvqaoiwelksad," (Ewok gibberish, Return of the Jedi).

But the fact remains that sequels are nothing but a cheap grab for cash. I urge you, fellow movie-goers, fight the power and damn the Hollywood man.

Don't let those white-tuxedoed, Oscar-going, good-for-nothing, expensive-soap-using fat cats rape your wallet by shelling out a clean 12 bucks for some recycled unoriginal tripe written by some minimum-wage backwoods hack.

Two hours at minimum wage, incidentally, is what you would trade for two hours of watching horny teenagers making out at Hannibal.

I don't know about you, but I've got better ways to spend my money.

OUR SINCEREST APOLOGIES: in the February 5, 20001 edition of The Projector, the Expo 2001 article, page 6, was written by Twila Falk!

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Research Study

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a cause of cervical cancer

HPV infects young sexually active females through intimate personal contact but usually causes no symptoms.
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WEEKDAYS 9 am - 4 pm

HEPATITIS C VIRUS

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) hopes to identify more at-risk patients and improve reproductive care for women who have been infected with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), with the release last fall of guidelines that are the first in this area for Canada.
Dr. Marc Boucher, principal author of the guidelines and chair of the SOGC working group that developed them, has pointed out that most Canadians infected with HCV are not aware of it. In fact, only 30% of infected individuals know they carry the virus, which has been identified as a major public health problem worldwide.
The full guidelines document is available online at www.sogc.org; follow "Clinical Guidelines" links to "Obstetrics" and select #96. The guidelines document was published in the October 2000 edition of Journal SOGC.
The SOGC stated in a news release that Canada's HCV infection rate is escalating, particularly among 20-24 year olds, and is more prevalent in urban than rural areas. These women are of prime childbearing age, and there's a risk of transmission from mother to child-which increases from 7.9 to more than 40% if the mother also has HIV.

Among key recommendations is a call for targeted screening for women involved in risky behaviors such as past or present injection drug use, having multiple sex partners and practicing unsafe sex or being hemodialysis patients, blood recipients or children of HCV-infected individuals.
Please visit the Health Centre if you have any questions regarding Hepatitis C.

Source: Canadian Nurse, February 2001, Volume 97, Number 2

The Fake News

Super-villain takes control of RRC

By Greg Burch

Red River College students will be surprised to learn that there was a change at the top this weekend. A charming super-villain known only as "The Senator" has replaced the college's president and board of governors.

The sudden change was announced Saturday morning. No press conference was held, but The Projector was granted an exclusive interview yesterday.

"I am pleased to lead Red River College into a new millennium, a millennium of world domination that only a charming, fantastic super-villain such as myself can provide," says The Senator.

The Senator is keen to take control of the college as soon as possible, and has some big plans ahead, including new faculties of Germ Warfare and Mega-Weapon Development.

He says he has already received funding commitments from the provincial government to allow for the increase in enrollment these new programs will bring.

"Education Minister Drew Caldwell and the rest of the NDP government know what's good for them. Their puny legislative powers are no match for my secret plots and hand-held laser guns," says The Senator.

The new college president has a clear plan for the future.

"I will speed up the transition to Princess Street. Plans are in place to open the new campus next September. This will take a lot of work, but I am confident that my army of indentured slave labourers and C-plus students can meet the new schedule," says The Senator. "This will free up space on the Notre Dame campus, permitting me to move administrative staff out of Building C."

photo: Rayna Anderson

The Senator and his mega-laser

The Senator says he is moving the administration to a brand new, super-secret underground headquarters located somewhere in south-east Manitoba.

Meanwhile, Building C will be converted into a mega-laser cannon that can threaten any city in the world with immediate obliteration.

"My vision for the future, 'Operation Capricorn', will provide Red River College students with many business opportunities, training in the latest technology and world-wide contacts that they can use to develop their future careers.

"It's a win-win plan for all concerned," says The Senator

"It's a win-win plan for all concerned," says The Senator. Student reaction to The Senator's detailed plot for global control is mixed.

"I think it's a great change," says Electrical Engineering student Scott Sheppard.

"That mega-laser will provide me with a great opportunity to hone my skills in a practical environment," says Sheppard.

Nursing student Betty Johnson is not so sure. "I think world domination is interesting, and this Senator guy is really cute and stuff, but is this mega-laser thingy going to help with the parking?" says Johnson.

The Fake News is a work of fiction and is entirely satirical in nature. It should in no way be construed as fact. The views expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of the Projector's editors or the Red River College Students' Association.

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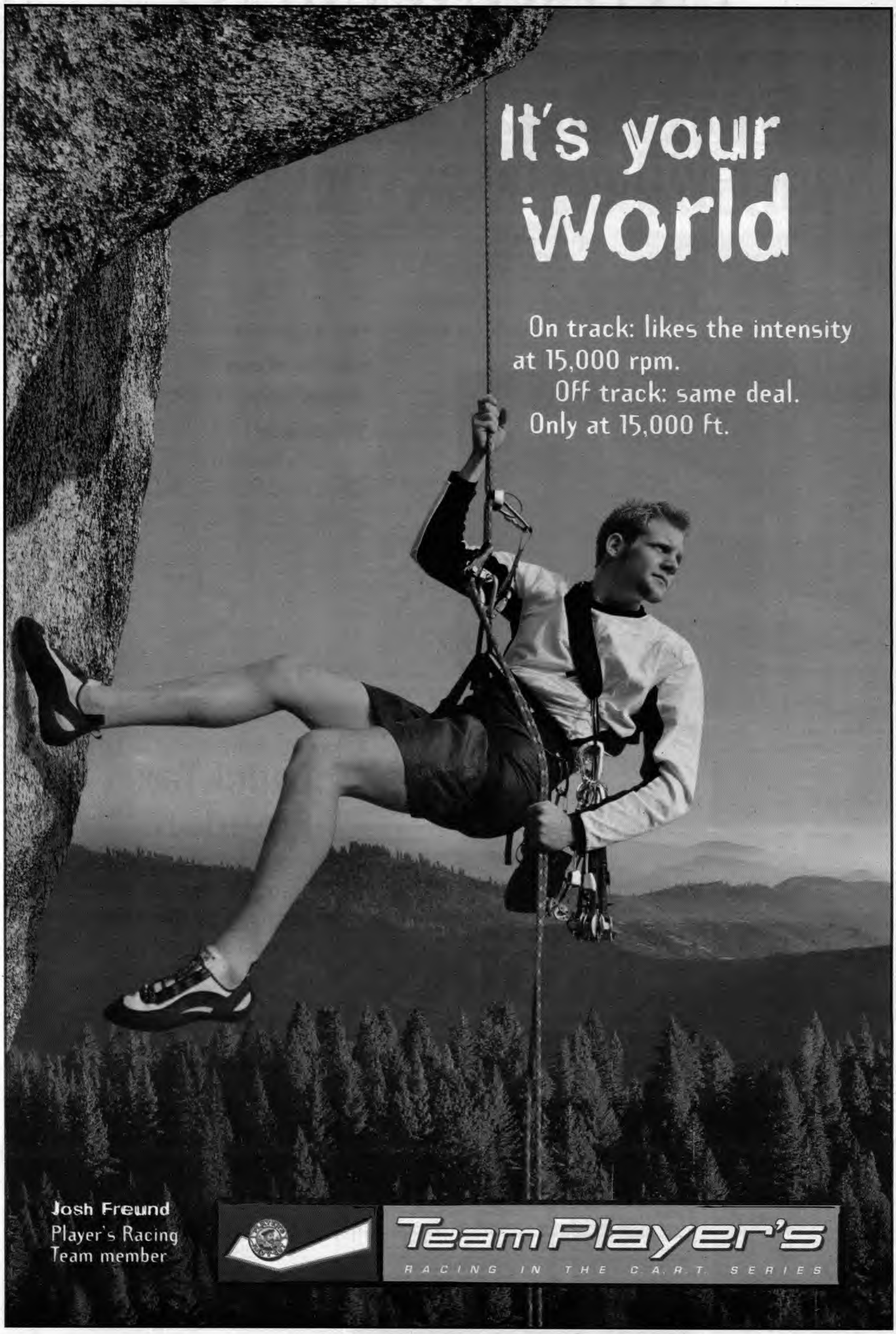
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