the projector

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meeting

the next story meeting for *the projector* is: 12:00 p.m., Friday, Mar. 3, 2006 in W102 Newsroom.

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news briefs

RRC Security- Dealing with road rage

First, pay attention to your driving. This means no talking on your cell phone. Keep to the right when driving at the speed limit or below. Avoid tailgating, flashing your headlights, or cutting other people off and always use your signals and be courteous.

If you become a victim of road rage or if someone is acting aggressively towards you, avoid eye contact. If they approach your vehicle acting aggressively, drive away if you can. Do not leave the relative safety of your vehicle, or issue or respond to visual or verbal taunts. Finally, try to obtain a description of the vehicle and occupants including the license plate number.

New Biotech program

Red River College unveiled its brand new $2 million biotechnology facility late last month.

The state-of-the-facility consists of a five-room complex that has three laboratories, advanced equipment, and two production rooms, one of which is a self-contained solid dosage form manufacturing area.

This facility will be home to an array of new pharmaceutical training programs to be offered at the college's Notre Dame campus.

"These programs are designed to give RRC students valuable hands-on experience, which is not the norm elsewhere," says Dr. Michael West, coordinator of the life sciences and biotechnology training programs at the college. "As well, this is the most complete suite of pharmaceutical training programs in Canada."

The Manitoban government contributed $3.25 million towards the facility and the development of the programs.

Three of these programs launched last fall, and the others are expected to be up and running later on this year.

the projector

Interview skills rusty? Resume need a lift?

CAREER AND EMPOYMENT SERVICES CAN HELP YOU!

Career and Employment Services provides a full range of employment services to students.
Please contact the RRC Employment Centre for assistance with:

- job-seeking skills
- résumés
- cover letters
- interview preparation
- employment application forms
- current labour market information
- any other career/employment-related matter

Employment opportunities directed exclusively at Red River College students are posted on **workopolisCampus.com**, an employment website used by many colleges and universities across Canada. The service allows students and alumni to look for jobs online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Using WorkopolisCampus is absolutely **FREE**!

HOW DO I REGISTER WITH WORKOPOLISCAMPUS?

To register with **WorkopolisCampus** log on at **www.workopolisCampus.com** and simply click on the New Job Seekers Register Here button. Each user will be required to complete a mini registration (personal information and academic data). To view job postings targeting Red River College you will need a password which is **RrCcMb97**.

NOTRE DAME CAMPUS (204) 632 – 2128 ROOM D102

PRINCESS STREET CAMPUS (204) 949 – 8368 ROOM P206

correction notice

RE: 'green party angered at exclusion' (Helen Cholakis, Jan. 23)

Due to an editorial error, the following sentence was printed: "The decision as to who is in the hands of a five-member media consortium composed of representatives from CBC, CTV, Can West Global, Radio-Canada and TVA."

The sentence should have appeared as: "The decision as to who is invited to the leaders' debates is in the hands of a five-member media consortium composed of representatives from CBC, CTV, Can West Global, Radio-Canada and TVA."

news from the

Red River College Students' Association

No Problems Paying for Printing

BY JAMES TURNER

No problem paying for print

If you haven't noticed that you're now being charged for using RRC computer printing services, then you're just like everyone else.

After a shaky beginning that left many students (and staff) in the dark as to how the new Equitrac printing scheme would eventually work, the system has been deployed with very few headaches for all involved.

Matt DiUbaldo, Students' Asscotiations vice president says that the situation has been "surprisingly quiet" since it was put in place by the administration in January.

"There were a couple of courses in which credits weren't issued properly," he said, "but they were fixed quickly."

DiUbaldo credits at least some of the initial success to the cooperation between the RRCSA and the college on the issue. Representatives from the college attended a recent meeting of the Student Advisory Board to present a report on Equitrac's progress.

Another factor that DiUbaldo says is helping the program along is the fact that people can no longer walk in off the street and use the college's printing resources. Now you now need a valid student or staff ID in order to make prints.

Of the ten students randomly surveyed by *the projector*, not one could name any specific problem they had with the new system.

Still, DiUbaldo says that he still wants student input on the issue.

"The more feedback we get, the better service it will be," he said.

Foosball Fraud

The RRCSA has removed the foosball table from the Princess Street campus after students were caught using coffee stir sticks to steal credits from the machines.

The machine, which was owned and maintained by Winnipeg's Premier Amusements, was always a target for thieves, says company spokesman Dennis LaPlume.

"More than once they were caught," he said. "It was fairly common for this to happen. (They) were using straws and doing it constantly."

LaPlume says that he caught wind of the thefts when he would come to the campus and find a dirty play table and little cash in the coin box.

"I'm not there to lose money," he said, adding that students should be more aware that the theft ensures that the RRCSA loses its cut of any profit from the machine as well.

The machine has been replaced at the Notre Dame campus, which, according to LaPlume, will be no bastion of virtue either.

"We had a problem at Notre Dame as well," he said. "We had to put up signs that say 'if you play, you gotta pay."

Students at the Notre Dame campus have been accused in the past of using issues of the projector and other objects to stuff the pool table pockets in order to play for free.

However, unlike at Notre Dame, where students have access to a number of such amusements, the removal of the foosball table leaves Princess Street students with virtually no similar entertainment options.

DiUbaldo, says that the removal of the machine was strictly a business decision by Premiere Amusements, and that the RRCSA is actively looking for alternatives.

"They gave us a couple of weeks notice," he said, "but they said that they weren't in business to lose money...If we can find a glass top foosball table, then we'll put it in."

CanWest Global Donates to College

Jeff Zabudsky couldn't have asked for a better finish to Red River College's Princess Street Campus Capital Campaign.

Zabudsky, who became president of RRC in 2004, was ecstatic when Gail Asper, president of the CanWest Global Foundation, presented him and the Princess Street Campus Campaign Cabinet with a cheque in the amount of $200,000.

"There are many things on the horizon for Red River College," said President Zabudsky. "Today is a spring board for the future."

RRC's Princess Street Campus Capital Campaign, which included many in-kind gifts, ran from November 2003 to November 2005 and generated $5.1 million dollars. The CanWest Global Foundation donation helped the campaign to surpass the original target goal of $5 million dollars.

Asper, who is a supporter of Red River College, says that the college offers a very practical and useable education for its students.

"There are many great projects in the works," said-Asper.

Zabudsky was pleased with the people in attendance at the reception held at the Princess Street campus. The reception was held to honour the many private donors of this particular RRC fundraising campaign.

For RRC, the financial contributions from the business community are helping to not only expand the existing college facilities but are also helping to establish the college as a truly provincial educational institution.

RRC Creative Arts chair, Graham Thomson, says that he has given many tours of the Princess Street campus to business leaders in the community to help encourage and inspire them to donate to the college.

According to the RRC marketing and public relations department this particular fundraising campaign will be used to ensure students are able to succeed via technology upgrading and other enhancements to the Princess Street campus.

Many of the planned improvements include the John and Bonnie Buhler Learning Commons, the Richardson Illustration Studio, the Loewen Atrium, the CanWest Global Television Studio, the Fitness Exchange, and a series of scholarships and bursary endowments.

Rex Masesar, RRCSA president, and Matt DiUbaldo, vice-president Princess Street campus, are pleased with the fact that 97 per cent of graduates from the college continue to live and work in Manitoba.

"It leaves people with a sense of optimism that the college is providing the business community with competitive graduates," said Ubaldo. "We're building a legacy."

PHOTO | BROOK JONES

IS YOUR BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY?

First January-born RRC student to e-mail us wins Taste-the-World "all-you-can-eat" buffet for two ($30 value) plus $25 betting voucher to spend in our Las Vegas-style big-screen horseplaying area at Assiniboia Downs. Five others win $10 betting vouchers. contests@assiniboiadowns.com.
Watch this space each issue for new birthday months

PRAYER ROOM AT NOTRE DAME CAMPUS

We are pleased to announce that the Notre Dame Campus has a new **"PRAYER ROOM"** in Room **A2-33**. This prayer room has been in process for quite some time and is now open and available to both staff and students. It is open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. People of all spiritual paths, cultures and traditions are welcome.

The **PRAYER ROOM** will be used for "silent prayer, meditation and stillness". It is a place of **PEACE AND SERENITY**, amidst the busyness and many activities of college life. Our hope is that all those who enter there will find renewal and tranquility.

A **"Grand Opening"** of the prayer room will be hosted later this fall and will be announced as soon as it is scheduled . . . so be on the lookout for this upcoming event.

Everyone is invited to use the prayer room whenever there is a need for some "quiet time" and we hope you will enjoy this **"OASIS"** that we have been gifted with.

Red River College
Students' Association
Make it Yours!

WWW.RRCSA.COM

Message From The Executive

As the school year is coming to a close and students are currently writing midterms or finishing projects, we want you to know the SA is here to help you out in any way we can. One of the ways we want to help is to give you the opportunity to develop a network for possible future careers. On March 15, the SA will be hosting a Career Fair will be held at Notre Dame Campus. There will be a free hourly shuttle service from Princess Street to Notre Dame and back.

We also recognize the importance of students' needds for time to relax and unwind from all the stress and work that comes from the work needed in school. We need your support in the "Bring Back the Break" initiative so come by the SA offices to pick up petition forms. Our offices are located at CM20 for Notre Dame and P110 for Princess Street. Good luck on your mid-terms!

Rex Masesar, President
Adam Rogocki, VP - Academics
Helena Herrera, VP - Support Services
Matt DiUbaldo, VP - Princess St. Campus

Student Clubs - The Lowdown

The social aspect is an important part of college life. Joining a campus club is just one of the many ways to get involved and meet people who have similar hobbies and interests. Often times classes will start a club in order to fundraise for their own graduation parties. Having club status allows you and your club to access a wealth of fundraising opportunities and even financial assistance to help get your club up and running.

Some clubs that may grabs you interest:

Ad Apt Communications
Biker's 'n' Blues
College Prep for Nursing
Creative Communications Media Awards
ECE Grad Club
Malvoisin Catapult Team
The Destroyers
Alley Cats Club
Child and Youth Care
Community of Culinary Arts Students
DNA Grad Club
ECE Workplace Grad Club
Simple Simon's Solutions
Youth for Christ

For more information on any one of these clubs please visit Helena at the Students' Association offices in CM20, NDC or call 632 2480 to see how you can get involved. What are you waiting for?

RRCSA Elections Schedule

Nominations open:
Monday, February 6th

Nominations close:
Thursday, March 2nd

Campaigning Begins:
Wednesday, March 15th

Advance Polls:
Wednesday, March 22nd

Campaigning ends:
Tuesday, March 28th

Voting:
March 29th and 30th

For more information or to pick up your nomination package, go to the SA offices at CM 20 (ND) or P110 (PS).

RRCSA - MAKE IT YOURS!

CNIB Benefit Auction!!

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, along with Silver Level sponsors, the Red River College Students' Association, will be hosting the 7th annual *Eye On The Arts* Benefit Art Auction on March 21, 2006 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

The event will feature more than 200 works of art from divers local, national and international artists. All proceeds go to supporting the CNIB network of programs and services which are offered to over 5,300 blind and visually impaired Manitobans.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please call the CNIB at 774-5421 or go to
www.cnib-eyeonthearts.com

Safe Walk

Be Smart!! Call us!!

Princess Street Campus
Contact Campus Security
at 949-8305

Notre Dame Campus
Contact Campus Security
at 632-2323

Or use the safewalk phones located on both campuses.

Pizza Days!

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Wednesdays
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Princess St.
Thursdays
Mar 9th & Mar 23rd

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(204)-632-2474

Adam Rogocki
VP Academic
(204)-632-2477

Helena Herrera
VP Support Services
(204)-632-2480

Matt DiUbaldo
VP Princess St
(204)-949-8466

Soul of Steele: student juggles books and sick son

DEREK STEELE PHOTO | TANIA STEELE

BY JILLIAN BROWN

Red River College student Tania Steele has more on her plate than just written assignments or group presentations.

The 36-year-old single mother divides her day between school and the Children's Hospital, where her son Derek, 12, battles a strange illness attacking his central nervous system.

"My life is half hospital, half school," said Tania, a first-year library and information technology student.

In June 2005, Derek returned from a school camping trip with a chronic headache. Other mysterious symptoms surfaced: vomiting, fatigue, weight loss and an undying thirst.

Once deep brain lesions were detected, Tania knew it was more than the insect bite that doctors were suspecting.

In December, six months later, after a series of painful testing and operations—several hundred needles, three brain biopsies, seven spinal column biopsies, two bone marrow aspirations, two blood transfusions, and six brain surgeries—Derek was finally diagnosed with a disease Tania suspected months earlier—blastomycosis, a fungal infection caused by inhaling a fungus found in soil and wood.

For Manitobans, the fungus is commonly contracted while vacationing in the Lake of the Woods area. In 2000, local health officials said up to 12 Manitobans suffer from blastomycosis per year; however there is no standard database for tracking an increase the illness like there is for the West Nile virus.

Blastomycosis is commonly treated by anti-fungal medication, but Derek's case is more severe as it attacked his brain, rather than his lungs.

During her first semester of school, Tania admits that "instead of doing homework, I was doing medical research" on the computer. But, with the support of the college, she still managed to carry the full workload.

"My instructors have been phenomenal, very empathetic and accommodating," said Tania. "I would've dropped out at this point."

Susanne McCrea, an instructor who teaches business communications, says Tania is an "incredibly hard-working student," with whom she relates.

"Tania's story really touched me because I was a single mother, with a son, going to school full-time at Red River College," said McCrea.

She gives Tania extra credit for all the technical communicating she did with doctors in getting her son diagnosed.

Tania says dealing with doctors has left her emotionally, and financially, drained. She's in "survival mode," struggling to maintain her home, her health, and Derek's positive attitude.

"He's had a lot of loss. My main thing is to keep him going, for him to have the comfort he deserves in life," said Tania, referring to the efforts to keep their Transcona home.

She is grateful for the financial support she and Derek have received from the community so far.

At Christmas, classmates and instructors pitched in for a basket of organic foods and gifts.

In mid-January, Derek's school, John W. Gunn, held a carnival fundraiser, raising over $4000 for the Steeles.

Over the past few weeks, advertisements for a "Bud, spud & steak benefit social" were plastered all over the Princess Street campus.

Rashad Kassin, a friend of Tania's at the college, says he sold over 20 tickets to staff, classmates, and random students who wanted to support her cause.

"The college is very open to hearing her story," said Kassin. "It gives her the chance to know that people care."

downtown disturbance raises safety concerns for students

BY JOANNA FULTZ

On Wednesday Feb. 1, staff and patrons at Decanters Restaurant and Wine Bar in the Exchange were served up far more than what was on the menu that evening.

At approximately 8 p.m., a visibly intoxicated man entered the restaurant and attempted to steal bottles of alcohol from behind the bar. Once confronted, he became increasingly violent to staff and customers.

"He was defiantly on something, we just didn't know what," said Ben Cunliffe, supervisor at Decanters. "He fell asleep in our lounge, and threw up all over the floor. Once he woke up, he went absolutely crazy, throwing bottles at staff and shouting threats."

Police were called when the man initially began stealing from behind the bar, but Cunliffe said staff had to detain the man for over an hour and a half. They eventually let the man go when police still had not arrived to deal with the situation. When police did arrive, they worked hard to assist staff any way they could.

"We considered ourselves a priority case as he had caused damage and assault, and the police did all they could the next day to amend the situation," Cunliffe said.

Although the city has made great strides in increasing safety and decreasing crime in the Exchange, incidents of a criminal nature still occur in the area. Not only does crime in the area affect local businesses, but students at RRC are concerned for their safety outside of school.

"I park my car down the street, and I am definitely scared to walk down there at night time," said Lindsay McKechnie, a business administration student. "You see them [suspicious individuals] inside the building, walking up to people asking for money and cigarettes."

Those who step outside regularly for a nicotine break have experienced more regular and aggressive run-ins with individuals in the area.

"Once I was standing outside and a guy came up to ask me for a cigarette. When I denied him one, he started yelling at me," said Sheena Keillor, a Red River College student.

Even inside the atrium at the campus, students have witnessed some unpleasant events.

"A guy came in and he was yelling at the security guards and caused a big scene in the atrium," said Kathryn McBurney, a creative communications student.

Security Services work 24 hours a day to protect students and school property from harm.

Eleven full-time and ten part-time officers make up the staff that patrol and protect the campus. They can be reached at 632-2323 or by using any of the Safewalk phones on campus if students have any questions, comments, concerns to report.

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TAXES DONE YET?

Starting February 20, 2006 we will be in the Atrium at the Princess Campus, Monday - Wednesday - Friday from 12-3 p.m., and at the Notre Dame Campus, Monday through Friday, (Library Hallway) 9 - 3 p.m.

After Hours Please Call 885-5280 for appt.

Basic Student & Staff Return Only

$30.00 Including Taxes

See you soon!!

Diversity & Immigrant Student Support

In our continuing series of advice columns for immigrant/ international students we explore the unwritten rules of Canada– its manners.

In this these bi-weekly columns you will read about the experiences of people like you and find suggestions that may help you. Each begins with a quotation from a newcomer. Then, you will read about a problem that many people face when they are learning to live in a new culture. Please visit Diversity & Immigrant Student Support in D105, Notre Dame Campus, or P210 J at Princess Street Campus for help with any of these issues.

LEARNING THE UNWRITTEN RULES OF CANADIAN MANNERS

"I was so embarrassed. I am blushing now just talking about it. I had never used a knife and fork in my life. In China we use chopsticks for everything. But, on the plane I had to use a knife and fork. I didn't know how. Even now, I am uncomfortable eating with my Canadian friends. I am afraid they will laugh at my table manners." - Zhang, from China

Every culture has rules on manners and good behaviour. Many of these are unwritten, as they are learned at an early age and are taken for granted by everyone. Coming to Canada means learning the Canadian rules about manners and behaviour. You will know when you have broken the rules by people's negative reactions. You may find that your normal behaviour - for example, at meal times - is strange to Canadians. Or it could be the other way around. You may find that certain things that Canadians say and do are very rude!

Unwritten rules affect everything, including friendships, dating and dealing with co-workers and managers. When you come to Canada, there are few books you can turn to for help - you have to learn the Canadian rules through experience. This can add to your stress and confusion.

Wagner, a newcomer from Argentina, noticed these unwritten rules: "You can never be late, you must always be on time. You must always look at your manager when you are talking to him. If you avoid his eyes he will think something is wrong. You must call an adult female a 'woman.' If you call her a 'girl' she may think you are insulting her."

When you feel that you have broken an unwritten rule, the first thing to do is to recognize that you have done so. Rather than feel angry or embarrassed, ask the person about that rule and what he or she was expecting from you. It may help to laugh at yourself and the situation. This will reduce the tension. It is one more thing to learn as you adjust to life here.

EXCERCISE NEW!!

This exercise may help you to identify some unwritten rules. If you would like to discuss these issues, bring your answers to the new Monday Global Friendship Circle at the Notre Dame Campus, Room FM31, from 12:00 - 1:00 pm to share your experiences with other immigrants/newcomers and Canadian-born students.

List three situations where you felt you had broken an unwritten Canadian rule. For each one, write what happened, how you felt and how you dealt with it.

Situation 1: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Situation 2: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Situation 3: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

And for any other information on the unwritten rules of Canadian culture, please visit: Diversity & Immigrant Student Support in Building D, Room 105, Notre Dame Campus and Room P210J at the Princess Street Campus.

You can also call **632-2404** or email Lauren Phillips at **lmphillips@rrc.mb.ca**

This column has been extracted from: Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Alone in Canada: 21 ways to make it better. Toronto: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2001.

RED RIVER COLLEGE
OF APPLIED ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE GREAT speakout!

By Brook Jones

Unlike the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg whose students receive five days for reading week, Red River College students only get two days off or a "mini spring break."

So, *the projector* asks, "What are your thoughts about having three days less for your spring break compared to universities in Manitoba and across Canada?"

Amy Wiens, 21,
culinary arts

"We need a longer break, especially since we just wrote our mid term exams. It's kind of unfair just because we're in college and not university."

Jesse Plamondo, 19,
culinary arts

"I basically feel the same way as Amy. I have friends at U of M and it's unfair because I can't hang out with them because we are still in school at the same time of their reading week."

Trish Vergel, 20,
business administration

"It sucks big time because we don't have much time to get our minds off of are studies. We need sometime off to free our minds from the things that we have just learned so that we can have the opportunity to learn more things."

Rebecca VanBeberen, 18,
digital multimedia technology

"I don't think it's fair, we deserve a break as much as they do."

Willie Fast, 19,
business administration

"It sucks. Why don't we have a full week off?"

Justin Krah, 19, graphic design

"For the amount of work that we do it would be nice to have a full week off. Especially just after we have finished what is called 'Hell Week.'"

SPRING BREAK DEBATE

sa circulates mini break petition

BY JILLIAN BROWN

Reading week petitions are floating around both RRC campuses, as SA execs handed out the should-be illustrious forms at the class rep meeting earlier this month.

As any returning student to the college knows, the same petition circulated last year, trying to gather student signatures to prove to the college execs that a weeklong break, as opposed to a four-day mini break, is high in demand.

According to Matt DiUbaldo, the vice-president at the Princess campus, the mere 600 signatures collected last year weren't enough to make the college stand up and listen.

Rex Maesesar, SA president, adds that the majority of the names were only students from the applied business programs.

This year, the SA would like to see 25 per cent of the student population on the forms. That's about 1, 500 names, and they must be representative of the whole college.

DiUbaldo is hopeful the SA can reach their goal.

"It's a matter of standing up in front of the class and saying, "Do you want a break?" he told the few Princess Street class reps in attendance at the lunch-hour discussion.

He adds the SA is in pursuit for a longer break, so students can catch up on their studies, not take a vacation. He says studies have shown that incidences of student suicide increase when recouping time is not allowed.

The petition, regardless of the number of signatures, will not change the situation for the 2005-06 school year, and the SA feels the greatest challenge is convincing graduating students to sign for future generations of students.

Maesesar says college execs are working cooperatively with the SA on the issue. In 2003-04, a reading-week committee was formed with student reps, staff and the college to monitor how student grades, health and attendance are affected by the college's crunched schedule.

The committee will access the situation for three years, meaning by the end of the 2006-07 school year, the mini-break could be fleshed out three days to a full week.

DiUbaldo says having petitions, with the right numbers of signatures, could "make it very hard for the college to say no" in 2007.

As *the projector* reported last month, the college's main argument for not granting the weeklong break is that it affects some students' classroom hours for getting job accreditation.

The SA wants to find a workable solution for the cut classroom hours that a weeklong break may create, such as adding a few days of school in the first semester or tacking on an extra hour to some classes.

Petitions forms are available for all registered students to sign (one time only) in the SA offices. Students are encouraged to ask their class reps for petition information also.

your health matters

signing away student suicide

LAURA RUDDOCK,
COLUMNIST

Have you ever overheard a fellow student say, "School is killing me!"?

Have you said something like this yourself?

There's a good chance you and your classmates only use this statement to express the frustration many students feel. But for some, this expression isn't a joke.

According to a 1997 report released by the National Mental Health Association, 7.5 per cent of Canadian college students (1 in 12) will contemplate taking their own lives, and 1.5 per cent will attempt suicide.

"While we tend to look upon the college years as a time for growth and opportunity, these years are also replete with the stress that so often accompanies such a major developmental milestone," said the NMHA. "There may be academic stress, social stress, financial stress, all of which may be exacerbated by lack of sleep and inadequate or improper diet."

Red River College has already fulfilled many of the NMHA's recommendations for reducing depression and suicide rates on campus, such as, making available counseling services, a school nurse, and many student groups to offer support and medical help. However, RRC is lacking in other areas.

While University students enjoy a full week of vacation in the spring, RRC students get a mini-break, or long weekend. Many students, like, the SA vice-president Princess Matt DiUbaldo, argues that this doesn't give them enough time to do their homework, study for exams and unwind from classes.

"The college is pushing students to do the same amount of work previously distributed with a ten month trimester system in a two term eight month semester system. Students are doing more work in less time to get their accreditation," said DiUbaldo.

"RRC students need a break, and most of the students that come to the SA say four days is not enough time off, especially when it's wrapped around a weekend. Many students already work weekends or have children at home, and cannot afford to take a mini-break from their families or jobs just to catch up on homework."

When students aren't able to take a real break in the spring, academic pressures, combined with everyday stress, can become too much for some to handle.

"If a student considers suicide as an escape to school-related stress, then it's a serious issue. Our hope is to do as much as possible to address this issue before someone takes this step," said DiUbaldo.

Right now the SA is circulating petitions, asking for student essays, and preparing proposals, to present to the college. They're working hard to show RRC how important a reading week is for student health and well-being.

"I must acknowledge RRC senior administration has been more than willing to help us, share information with us and maintain open communication with the SA. Without their support we'd be at square one right now," said DiUbaldo.

If you think a real reading week would help save your sanity, let the college know, petitions are available at the SA office or through your class reps.

face off

gimme a break?

BY KRISTA SIMONSON

There is a camp of students who would be satisfied just to see the mini-break respected. Many feel the instructors don't regard this extended weekend as a break, but instead pile on additional work to make up for lost classes. If students truly felt they were receiving four days of recovery, it might just quell their growing dissention.

Most students put the necessity for a full reading week on stress, and say they'd use the time to sleep and catch up on homework. For others, a week off is the chance to grab a few more shifts and pay the heating bill. Sure, the partiers want to pinch their pennies and head to the slopes or the sands, but they are a dwindling number, thanks to rising student costs.

The die-hards, bless 'em, insist it's reading week or bust. Led by our Students' Association, a petition has started circulating demanding a full week. The college has agreed to discuss the matter only if 25 per cent of the student population (about 1, 500) shows their concern, so find your class rep and sign your John Hancock.

Throughout history, it is the youth who flex their brawny muscles and demand to be heard. In our society of self-absorption and indulgence, it often seems there's nothing for which students are ready to fight.

Maybe if they follow the democratic process and meet the demands of the college, their wishes should be granted.

Don't we want them to see that a strong, collective voice can win?

Aren't we here to learn?

BY MIKE UHRICH

Let me tell everyone that just because it's called spring break doesn't mean anything. It's not even in the spring. I mean, sure, the idea of a break in the middle of spring seems nice, but a break in the middle of February is anything less than appealing.

After all, most of us can't afford to take a trip down south to hear the nauseating sounds of kettle drums while girls dance for dollar bills with a blood alcohol level that could put down a horse.

I mean those girls who go wild look appealing on TV, but in real life the closest that I'm getting to them is when I fall asleep on the couch and wake up at 3 a.m. to the deal where I can get two DVD's for the price of one. Then I can audition more DVD's for low, low prices.

Let's face it. The whole reason spring break was created was to give students a chance to study or catch up on their school work. Something very few students actually do.

For me, Spring Break has always been a time to get in some extra hours at work, although I am excessively lazy and working makes me depressed. Therefore, Spring Break ends up being me doing nothing for nine days in a row and being bored out of my mind after the first day and a half.

A long weekend seems short on paper, but once it's over you can appreciate that it was long enough. Students at RRC need to stop finding random things to complain about and stop comparing themselves to University students.

Either that or get ready to shell out the extra $2000 a year tuition.

Amnesty International speaks out on today's torture

BY AMIE LESYK

Amnesty International supporters met on Feb. 9 to discuss how the use of torture in modern day society has taken a taken a drastic step backwards.

The ample turn-out for the Torture: Post 9/11 meeting surprised organizers. David Matas, a Winnipeg human rights lawyer was expected to speak but had been called away to monitor the elections in Haiti. Rod Ledwich and Sheila Bogoch, both long time Amnesty members, took his place.

Ledwich touched on the definition of torture and its pervasiveness in ancient Chinese architecture and paintings, ancient Rome's statutes, and medieval Europe as a means of execution and interrogation.

He further explained that torture eventually became illegal in the whole of Europe and was thought of as repugnant by society with the help of humanists, like writer Thomas Paine in the late 1700s.

"This attitude persisted until the end of the nineteenth century," said Ledwich. At this time came the bloody battles of the Russian Revolution of 1917, Nazi concentration camps and Japan's attacks on China during the Second World War.

After these horrific attacks, torture and such inhumane behaviour was once again deemed atrocious by the world's dominating governments.

However, after the Sept. 11 attacks, the U.S. led a United Nations sanctioned invasion of Afghanistan with the stated goal of capturing Osama Bin Laden, which they never reached. They went on to wage an unsanctioned war on Iraq. Both these movements have caused thousands of civilian deaths.

Incommunicado detention, a practice deemed inhumane by Amnesty, is surfacing more and more within the U.S.'s crackdown on suspected terrorists. Incommunicado detention is when a person is taken into custody without being allowed any contact with anyone, or having their families informed of their whereabouts.

"The situation where torture is unthinkable is breaking up."

ROD LEDWICH

"In some cases, Canadian citizens are being sent to other countries," said Bogoch who is afraid of the treatment these citizens face.

"The situation where torture is unthinkable is breaking up," said Ledwich. He says that the definition is being changed into a more desensitized version, not torture but something necessary to be done if things get bad, to get information.

"We've gone back 250 years," said Ledwich.

Two examples of growing support of modernized torture brought up at the meeting were Ontario Liberal MP Michael Ignatieff, who has made several statements in Canadian media supporting U.S. war tactics, and Dr. Tom Velk, who has recently written for the CBC, both citing the hypothetical ticking time bomb theory.

The theory justifies the use of torture in order to find out where a yet-to-explode, publicly planted bomb is located.

Bogoch is also concerned for prisoners of the Iraq prison, Abu Ghraib, which is being run by the former commander of the detention and interrogation centre at Guantuanamo Bay, Major General Geoffrey Miller.

Abu Ghraib is the prison featured in photographs depicting the degradation of detainees by U.S. soldiers in 2003.

Bogoch also stresses that toture can be found in our own backyards with the ill treatment of Aboriginals in Canada.

A specific example being the freezing death of Neil Stonechild in 2003, when former Saskatoon Police Chief Russell Sabo admitted police involvement in dropping Native Americans off in freezing weather, outside of the city.

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local activists prepare for North America summit

BY CARIE WILLSON

Winnipeg will host leaders from Canada, the USA, and Mexico on May 31- June 2 for the Hemispheria 2006 summit.

This annual event is in its second year and will build on the success of last year's summit by focusing on security, prosperity and quality of life for North Americans.

But, not everyone will be welcoming the delegates.

The Hemispheria Action Group (HAG) was created in the summer of 2005 in response to the summit. Comprised of a group of local citizens, the group is concerned with the direction of NAFTA and the Hemispheria summit.

"Hemispheria Action Group was formed by a number of concerned people in Winnipeg. It's different people who had known each other before and felt that this was something that was really important – that needed a response to," said David Camfield, a HAG member.

HAG feels the population is not being told the true purpose of Hemispheria, which they say has a hidden agenda.

"I think HAG's goals are really about trying to raise awareness about what this is really about. What the Hemispheria agenda is, what it's a part of and build public visible protest," said Camfield.

"The agenda is a corporate agenda and an agenda to further privatize things, deepen integration and further free trade and erode the common good," said Shelagh Pizey-Allen.

While their size fluctuates, HAG has already held a number of events, including discussion and planning sessions and film screenings.

On Feb. 8, the group held a screening at the University of Winnipeg for the documentary, *The Bottom Line*, a documentary about how the business community sees the world as a commodity. The screening drew just 20 people.

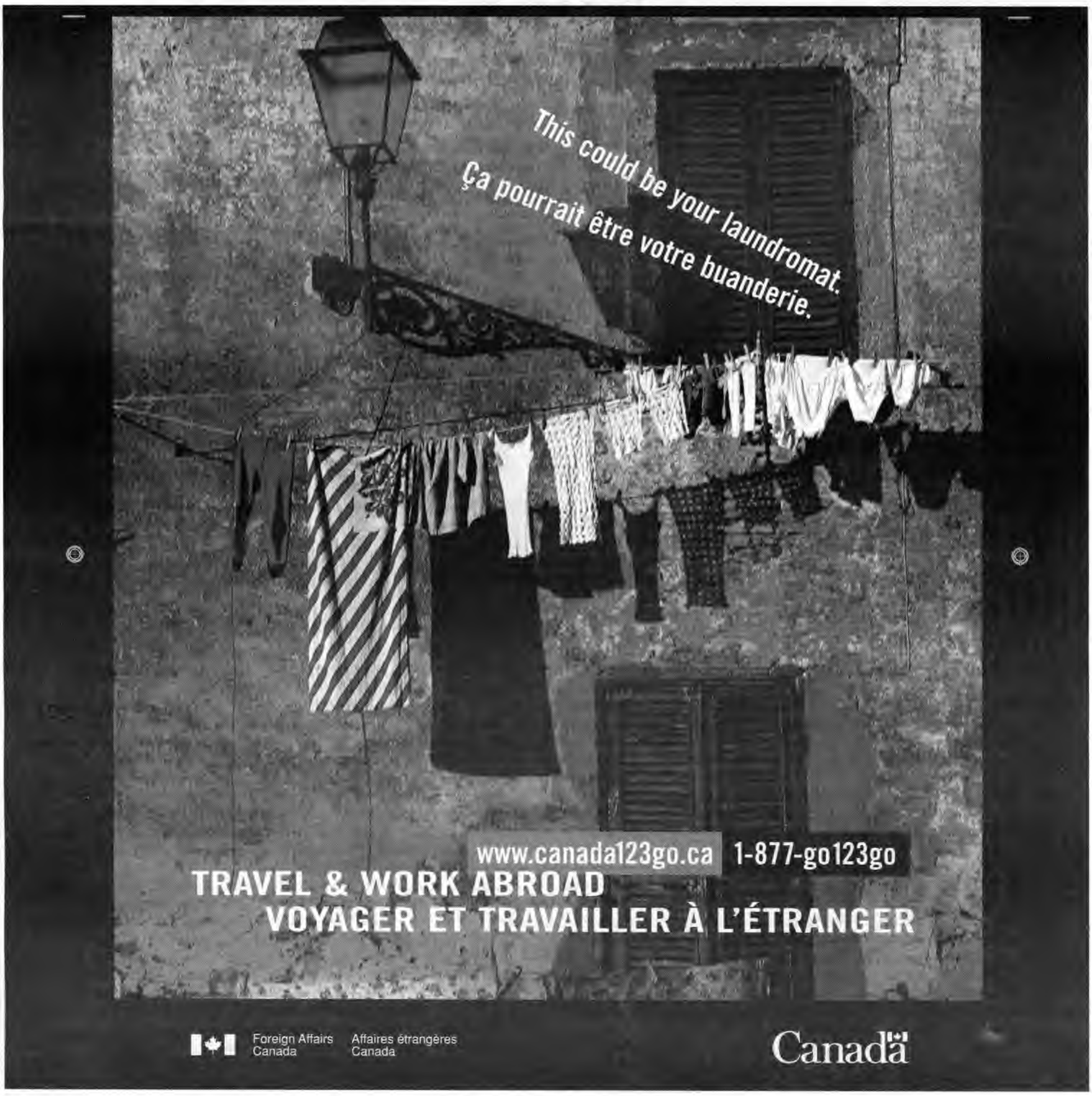
HAG has created a website, which hosts the group's "Final Statement of Unity" (a mission statement of education and action) and its refutation of the 2005 Hemispheria's ten commitments.

HAG also hopes to hold a number of events the weekend before the summit.

"We're planning a weekend of workshops and speakers to raise awareness about the Hemispheria summit and also to educate people about how they can take action," said Pizey-Allen.

While planning is underway fo the weekend before the summit, HAG is still unsure what will happen during the summit itself. HAG hopes to work in cooperation with other groups to further awareness on the issues.

"We haven't yet determined that, but there's the general sense that we're going to have some kind of demonstration," said Camfield.



obesity filling out in province

BY JOANNA FULTZ

A recent study conducted by the Conference Board of Canada ranked Manitoba's health care system last in the country. Wait times are long, patience is short, and this is not the only study questioning health issues in the province.

Manitoba weighed in as one of four provinces with the highest overweight/obesity rates in the 2004 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS).

According to the CCHS, obesity rates in Canada have increased across the board over the past 25 years. In 1978/79, childhood obesity rates between the ages of 2-17 sat at three per cent, and the 2004 survey documented childhood obesity rates at eight per cent. This growing problem was more prevalent in adults, at 14 per cent in 1978-79 rising to a hefty 23 per cent in 2004.

Paul Fieldhouse, a nutrition policy and research analyst for Manitoba Health and Healthy Living says that it is difficult to measure obesity in children due to the fact that they are still growing, and in the CCHS, the childhood obesity age bracket is quite broad leaving a 15 year gap between the ages.

"Activity rates have been going down and this is linked to an increase in sedentary activity in children, like watching television or playing computer games," said Fieldhouse. "Every time we see an increase in technology it affects us a little. Things that our society does for convenience takes away our physical activity."

A delicate balance seems to have surfaced in society today, between those obsessed with controlling their weight and those who let the increase in their weight get out of control.

"Things that our society does for convenience takes away our physical activity."

PAUL FIELDHOUSE

Addressing the problem of obesity teeters in the middle of the scale.

"We try to do a bit of a balancing act," said Fieldhouse.

"We want to promote healthy eating and activity, we don't want an adverse reaction to show up in an increase in eating disorders."

Phyllis Lightfoot, president of the Eating Disorders Association of Manitoba says the fast-paced, time-constrained lives that most Canadians live makes it difficult to always take the time to maintain a healthy routine.

"I don't believe we live in an obese society; we are an inactive society. With our food industry, everything is a quick fix and you need to be balanced in all aspects to be healthy," she said.

During the 2004 CCHS, Manitoba researchers collected more data than most provinces. It is expected that our province will have much more information about obesity in the next few months once the findings are analyzed, helping to understand this serious problem better.

"Until we figure out exactly what is causing this problem, we can't figure out how to remedy it," said Fieldhouse.

left swing, right swing: the swing club debate

BY ROB MARRIOTT

Pierre Elliot Trudeau once said, "The state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation."

This was said while Trudeau was campaigning to make Canada a just society. Now Canada is one of only three progressive nations in the world to legalize gay marriage. But where did the bedrooms go?

On Dec. 21, 2005 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled 7-2 that clubs allowing group sex and partner swapping do no harm to Canada as a society and should therefore not be considered criminal.

In an article published Jan. 8, 2006, Harold Jantz came up with the usual arguments supplied by conservative political/religious groups against acts of supposedly atypical sexual expression: that this kind of sexual degradation harms children.

"Studies show that children of divorce and separation are more likely to experience emotional, behavioral and social problems," says Jantz. "These are harms that all of us pay for."

Jantz goes on to say that swinging is at odds with healthy sexuality and expresses regret that the courts don't protect "sound marriages."

Some Winnipeggers disagree with Jantz's stance.

"At least if people are open about it, it won't come out in strange ways," said waitress Leah Moore.

Moore's friend, Meredith Mitchel said, "I really don't care. Each to their own."

This last statement mirrors the findings of Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin.

"Consensual conduct behind code-locked doors can hardly be supposed to jeopardize a society as vigorous and tolerant as Canadian society," said McLachlin.

It's this kind of tolerance that Jantz criticizes, saying it is meaningless without moral conviction. However, in a tolerant Canada each individual gets to choose his or her own convictions as long as they are not harmful.

When asked, the owners of StepNStone Social Club, Winnipeg's own swingers group, maintain the conviction that swinging is liberating.

"We choose to be apart of the culture because we love the openness that it allows for those who are not of 'Barbie and Ken' figures. We like being with others who are not a perfect weight and are real people."

Swingers are a tolerant group.

"We have all sorts of people, ages, sizes, races, in our club, and everyone is welcome to express their own interests."

S&M (whose real name is protected) relates how she instructs new members on the rules.

"All new members are coached by me to be ready to have advances and to say 'no' if they are not comfortable. There is a Board at our events, just in case someone doesn't take no for an answer."

So where did the bedrooms go?

They went to the Supreme Court of Canada and to the swingers. And although they may not exemplify the moral code Jantz is looking for, looking closely they have a tolerant conviction all their own.

two red sense

Recipe for simple scholarship applications

RENATA MARSDAN, COLUMNIST

Recently, I bumped into a fellow student and we got talking about a common student theme, being broke.

"The story of my life," I told him. He agreed and we had a good laugh. Later on I seriously thought about it and came to the conclusion that the life of a student is pretty well...poor. Well, for the majority of us that is.

With the intense programs at Red River, getting in a lot of hours at a part-time job is not good on the grades or the mind, especially with children or other responsibilities. I know, I did it and toned down the hours after the first year. I had to set my priorities and focus on school and the related work to the field I'm studying in.

I looked at other alternatives that could help me along the way, and scholarships were what really helped.

Now I won't go into detail about my scholarship pursuit, but I will say that getting a couple of them helped me pay down debts and get school supplies (books, pencils, coffee). I wouldn't say that I was sitting pretty, but they definitely took some stress off my shoulders so I could concentrate on my education.

And if you look into applying for a couple, the odds of getting one are really good considering only a handful of the student population applies. (Actually, scholarship applicants are on the rise, so get on the bandwagon).

One place that hooks me up with the scholarship listings is my friendly neighborhood student services center. I check out RRC's booklet on scholarships and then look for ones that I'm eligible for.

Now for the recipe.

Spending some time getting together what you will need to apply is good so future applications won't seem as tedious. Some time and paper work for a couple hundred dollars, or a couple thousand, is pretty good in my books. Here is what you'll need:

A transcript.

A well-in-advance and politely requested reference letter from an instructor or employer.

A one-page autobiography and a paragraph summary for shorter applications (email it to yourself for future use).

Wait for the scholarships that you are eligible to apply for and fire them out. Wait a few months, and see if you're accepted. And voila! Your student dept could be little less to pay back after graduation.

Here is some scholarship websites to check out:

www.scholarshipcanada.com, www.ammsa.com

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back 2 bakx

CALLING ALL RON BURGANDYS

KYLE BAKX, COLUMNIST

Behind the scenes, the person could be addicted to booze, drugs, sex, and gambling. But when the cameras, lights and microphone turn on, a news anchor can hide everything.

The viewing audience is completely blind to an anchor's lifestyle, but would notice a stray hair from an almost perfectly groomed anchor or a tie that isn't 100 per cent straight.

Not all anchors live bad lifestyles, but this is the industry of constant deadlines, evolving stories, and lackluster job security. As ratings go, anchors go.

Appearance is everything from suits, hair, and make-up to tone of voice, body signals, and hand gestures. Long time CNN news anchor Jonathan Mann knows how quickly people can judge.

"Whatever preparation you bring to your work, people make judgments about your work very quickly and very superficially," he said on salary.com.

Anchors usually have their appearance down pat. They didn't get to where they are over night. Ask anyone in the industry: the way to becoming an anchor is simple.

First, go to a small television market. Hug your family and friends good-bye and back the car for Brandon, Lethbridge, Prince George, or Lloydminster. These are the places where you can become a full-time reporter ASAP. After a while, an anchoring job will come knocking, although that doesn't usually result in much of a wage increase.

Second, move back to a big market and repeat step one. Some reporters will get experience in a small market then move to a big market before they get any anchoring experience in the small market. Not a good move. It's better to have all the screw-ups shown to 40,000 Prince Albert residents than to over a million Edmonton viewers.

Mann's responsibilities at CNN extend beyond being a news anchor to hosting, Insight, a 30-minute show that circles around a singular news topic of the day.

Interviewing powerful figures including Ronald Reagan and Nelson Mandela, Mann loves his job at CNN because he's also able to travel to where news is happening, including to Russia and the Middle East.

"It's both a wonderfully engaging desk job, and a job that's great if you want to get off the desk and go to places where things are happening," he said. "The best jobs in journalism are among the best jobs in the world. I may not have one of the best jobs in journalism, but I do have a pretty darn good one."

The salary for a top news anchor in a big market is nothing to be ashamed of. The University of Missouri-Columbia ran a survey of all news directors in the U.S. to find out just how much news anchors bring home.

In the 1994 survey, three news directors said their highest paid anchors made more than $1-million US. That may mean around $2-million US in New York or Los Angeles.

That survey was taken over ten years ago. With inflation and an ever-competitive market, just think of what salaries are today.

Comments? Email backtobakx@theprojector.ca

making manitoba proud in turin

BY ERIN CARTER

Every year Manitoban farmers harvest golden wheat, but it's only every four years that Manitoban athletes have the chance to harvest golden medals at the Olympic Winter Games.

The five Manitoban athletes competing in the Turin Olympics are one of the most powerful teams Manitoba has ever sent to an Olympics.

The most medals Manitoba has ever won in the Games was four in 2002, according to Lisa-Marie Buccini of the Canadian Sport Centre Manitoba. Buccini predicts a higher medal count in Turin, hoping for as many as nine medals.

"We make up 3 per cent of the Turin team and if we get somewhere in the neighbourhood of seven medals, that makes up almost 30 per cent of the predicted 25 medals," said Buccini, "and that says something."

Manitoba's medal contenders are women's hockey player Jennifer Botterill, and a host of speed skaters that include Cindy Klassen, Clara Hughes, Shannon Rempel, and Mike Ireland.

Buccini, who has been the communications and marketing manager for over two years, helps to accommodate the needs of the athletes – especially leading up to the Olympics.

"None of the athletes going to Turin train in Manitoba so it's a little more difficult than if they were here," said Buccini, "but they all qualify for Manitoba funding and when they are home they have everything available to them."

Each of the athletes going to Turin qualify for funding from the Manitoba National Athlete Centre Fund, the Athlete in Turino Fund and Sport Manitoba.

Buccini says after it's all added up, "it's in the thousands."

Despite golden expectations for Manitoba, Buccini feels that the Canadian Olympic Association's prediction of 25 medals for Canada is lofty.

"You don't want to show a low number because then that shows a lack of support."

Kari Schneider, the strength and conditioning manager of the Canadian Sport Centre of Manitoba commented on the challenging competitive schedules leading up to the Olympics.

Schneider feels the pre-qualifying events hamper peak performances and medal opportunities.

"The qualifications are often too close to the Olympics," said Schneider, who is doing her masters in exercise science at the University of Manitoba and is a certified athletic therapist. "By the time they get there they aren't in the position of breaking records because they've already peaked."

Schneider has first hand experience with all that goes into a medal winning performance. She has trained athletes from the men's and women's national volleyball teams, national swim team, national triathlon team, and local Olympians Rhiannon Leier and Dominique Bosshart.

"The Olympics can be difficult with new time zones, environments, accommodations and scheduling," said Schneider. "With all the different sports going on, those who finish early can celebrate while those who don't compete until later have to remain focused."

Recently, Schneider felt frustrated by Don Cherry's comments reprimanding both Hughes and Klassen for turning down the opportunity to carry the flag in the opening ceremonies.

"It was said out of ignorance, it shows how far removed he is from knowing what it takes to be at your best and the sacrifices one has to make for a difference of one hundreth of a second."

an interview with TSN's funny-man jay onrait

BY AMIT SHILTON

TORONTO (CUP) -- For most of us, watching sports is a way to relax, have fun, and cheer on the home team. For Jay Onrait, it's all in a day's work.

Onrait, a 1998 Radio and Television Arts graduate from Ryerson University, is the late-night host of SportsCentre, a nationally broadcast sports news show on TSN.

"I won't lie to you, it's a pretty good gig," Onrait said. "I go in, I watch sports, I go on air for an hour and talk about sports, and I go home."

A night owl by trade, Onrait routinely wakes up in the early afternoon after taping the live show at 2 a.m.

"I even like the hours. I'm a night person, I wouldn't want to be a 9-5 kind of guy," Onrait said.

Kicking back at the Imperial Pub, just steps away from the Ryerson campus in downton Toronto, Onrait polished off a pint while reminiscing on his time as a student and his early aspirations of becoming a sportscaster.

"By the time I got (to Ryerson) I was like, 'All right I'm going to be a sportscaster on TSN and this is just a means to make that happen'," he said.

After spending two years at the University of Alberta, Onrait moved to Toronto and it wasn't long before he found his place, a city he now calls home.

"The concept of going to school in Toronto or being a journalist was totally foreign," Onrait said. "I remember getting here and it was just like, 'Oh yeah, this is where I'm supposed to be.' It was instant."

Earning credits during his two years at the University of Alberta allowed Onrait to not only focus on his program, but to also start working part-time as an intern at TSN in his second year.

"I think I was an all right student. I think I did pretty well," Onrait said. "I ended up spending more time in TSN in my third and fourth years than I did at Ryerson."

Once a graduate, Onrait worked as a sports director in Saskatoon and as a morning show host in Winnipeg. Soon he was back in the TSN newsroom, headlining with a new wave of sportscasters. "I think we all realize that we're pretty lucky to have the jobs we have so maybe we should just shut up and enjoy it," Onrait said.

At TSN, Onrait joined a network filled with Ryerson graduates such as veterans Michael Landsberg, Bob McKenzie and Dave Randorf.

"There's a healthy Ryerson contingent," Onrait said. "I think that half the people working at that network must be Ryerson grads.

"(Ryerson) taught me quite a bit, but I think the thing it does more is steer you in the right direction as opposed to giving you the answers," Onrait said. "But really what I think the school does best is open doors for you to meet people that might advance what you're doing."

He also had some advice to pass on to budding students who look to follow in his footsteps. "If you admire someone, call them up and take them out for coffee. Maybe they'll have an internship for you."

Onrait's wit and addictive humour have helped make him a fan favourite on the show, earning him the opportunity to cover the 2006 NBA Finals.

"It's supposed to be fun. It's not supposed to be work," Onrait said. "Otherwise we would have all gone and become accountants."

gretzky's gambling guilt

BY AVI SAPER

At most Winter Olympics, the title of "Most Uncomfortable Person" belongs to the poor guy who draws the short straw and ends up on the bottom of the two-man luge team. But this year in Turin, that crown belongs to the greatest hockey player of all time—Wayne Gretzky.

As I write this column on the eve of the Canadian hockey team's opening game against Italy, The Great One has taken his week-old routine of stonewalling the media with him from North America to Europe.

Consider that Gretzky's good friend and Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach, Rick Tocchet, has been charged with being an illegal bookie for the past five years. Now consider that Gretzky's wife, Janet, hasn't denied reports that she made $500,000 in wagers over a 40-day period. (She did deny that any of the bets were placed on her husband's behalf.) Throw in the bet made on the Super Bowl by Coyotes general manager Mike Barnett, who somehow managed to find out that Tocchet was taking action on the game.

Given these facts, isn't it reasonable to question whether Wayne had any knowledge of the gambling ring before police questioned Janet?

I know it's hard for most Canadians to imagine their national hero doing anything wrong, but forgive me for being a little skeptical about the ignorance that Gretzky has been pleading.

It's almost impossible to imagine a scenario in which Gretzky was completely oblivious to the fact that his assistant coach was moonlighting as a bookmaker all these years, with his own wife being a major client.

Almost as puzzling to me as people's blind loyalty to Gretzky, as if he delivered a heartfelt toast at their wedding, is the standard line used to minimize the whole mess: "It's no big deal, no one bet on hockey."

Authorities have alleged that the gambling ring was tied to an organized crime family in Philadelphia, and that at least six current NHL players placed bets. If this is true, Gary Bettman's nagging headache will quickly turn into a migraine.

When you go to the betting window at the sportsbook at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, you can bet massive amounts of money on sporting events—as long as you put the cash on the counter. When you place a wager with the Bruno-Scalfo crime family, you're more than welcome to apply for credit.

If you lose a couple bets, you may raise your wager to try to get out of the hole. If that doesn't work, you'll find yourself having a conversation with someone who's far more dangerous than Gretzky's old pal Marty McSorley (who was convicted of assault with a weapon) or his Team Canada power-forward Todd Bertuzzi (who plead guilty to assault).

If your debt is more than you can pay—and even millionaires have limits—the only way out is to give your creditor something else of value. That could mean anything from providing inside injury information to actually throwing a game.

A hockey player doesn't need to actually bet on a hockey game for the sport's integrity to be called into question.

It's happened before, and it will happen again.

I'm not saying Gretzky ever placed $100 on a football game, let alone engineered a game-fixing scheme.

But way too many people are betting that the man who had a "sixth sense" on the ice couldn't smell an enormous rat in his own locker room and his own bedroom.

drafting an nhl all-star team

BY KYLE BAKX

There is no NHL All-Star game this year because of the Olympics in Turin, however, hypothetically, this is how the starting lineups should look. For starters, the goalies for both sides are locks. With all the new rules, this was supposed to be the year where younger players excelled, but that isn't the case in regards to the All-Star starters. Ottawa also sports three All-Stars despite their inconsistent play recently.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

FORWARDS

1. Joe Thornton, SAN – Since making the switch over to the West coast, Thornton has racked up 31 points in 23 games. More importantly, the Sharks are revitalized having captured 40 points in 34 match-ups. San Jose will be relying heavily on Thornton to continue his MVP season if they hope to slip into the eighth and final playoff spot.
2. Pavol Demitra, LA – Leads the overachieving Kings with 57 points and more importantly, has been a two-way player boasting a +22 rating. Los Angeles was supposed to miss the playoffs, not be challenging Dallas for tops in the Pacific.
3. Alex Tanguay, COL – Is second in scoring in the West playing on Colorado's top line. But, coach Joel Quenneville needs to tell him to shoot more. His shooting percentage is second in the league, but he has only taken 102 shots.

DEFENCE

1. Mathieu Schneider, DET – He's turning 37 this summer, but is completely dominating the Red Wings blue line behind Nicklas Lidstrom. He clearly is out shining fellow-countryman Chris Chelios with 43 points and a +15 rating.
2. Scott Niedermayer, ANA – Playing for an awful Duck team and with a knee injury, Niedermayer has brought stability to a team that has never had a reliable two-way defenceman. Too bad deciding to have surgery puts him on IR for the rest of the season.

GOALTENDER

Miikka Kiprusoff, CAL – He simply is the number one goalie in the league and his numbers are sparkling white. While Finland's Olympic medal hopes are now completely destroyed, having opted out of making the trip to Turin will make him 100 per cent for Calgary's cup run.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

FORWARDS

1. Jaromir Jagr, NYR – He is carrying the Rangers single handedly. Thanks to Jagr, the team is actually overachieving instead of underachieving this season. I guess there was no one else to point the blame at if the team bombed once again this year.
2. Daniel Alfredsson, OTT – If you want to know how important he is to Ottawa, watch the Sens when he is out the line-up. The team struggles beyond belief, especially in January when the team went 1-3 in his absence being outscored 17-9. Heading into the Olympic break, Alfredsson has 21 more points than games played. Not bad at all.
3. Eric Staal, CAR – It's too bad there is no all-star game or that Staal most likely won't be dressing for the Olympics because everyone in Canada needs to watch this player play. His fast start wasn't a fluke, he's still right up there in the scoring race with 75 points.

DEFENCE

1. Bryan McCabe, TOR – McCabe and defence partner Kaberle have been the best Leafs this season, ranked first and third in team scoring, respectively. But how good are they apart? Hopefully the Leafs wont be forced to find that out.
2. Wade Redden, OTT – Honourable mention to Zdeno Chara who has been shutting down opposition teams all season. Redden has been a constant offensive threat for the Sens, registering almost a point a game. His +31 rating is a reflection of his solid game and because of the name below.

GOALTENDER

Dominik Hasek, OTT – Along with Thomas Vokoun, they are the sole reason the Czech Republic are the favourites heading to Turin. Although Hasek suffered an apparent leg injury in the first game of the Olympics, the 41-year-old is second in the league in goals against average, bending over backwards every night for Ottawa. Too bad Kipper will steal the Vezina.

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This week on Feb. 22 the boys welcome Manitoba Moose play-by-play announcer Kelly Moore to the Kick-FM studio.

conservative MPs unimpressed by emerson

BY NADYA BELL

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Conservative MPs who oppose David Emerson's choice to cross the floor are feeling pressure from their party.

But MP Garth Turner said he has not changed his mind. He will press for a new bill that would force federal politicians to run for re-election if they want to change parties.

After elected as the Liberal representative for Vancouver-Kingsway, David Emerson was appointed Minister of International Trade in Stephen Harper's Conservative Cabinet. Since then, calls for Emerson's resignation have come from voters and all sides of parliament.

The Vancouver-Kingsway Liberal association has asked Emerson in an open letter to pay back their campaign funding of approximately $97,000. The Globe and Mail reported that over 700 people gathered to protest his move on Feb. 11 in Vancouver.

The NDP have requested that Ethics Commissioner Bernard Shapiro look into the situation, and Shapiro's decision is expected sometime this week.

Conservative MPs Garth Turner and Myron Thompson have publicly said they would like Emerson to resign. But Turner said his position has been very unpopular with his party.

"I definitely have been under pressure," said Turner. "My comments have not been deemed helpful to the party or the prime minister, and so understandably there is pressure being exerted upon me."

But Turner has not changed his opinion. He said Emerson's move was "thoroughly anti-democratic" and "very concerning".

"I cannot stand and support something in Ottawa that I would not in a Town Hall meeting in North Oakville," Turner said.

"He is basically not going to be accountable, brought into the government as a member of the government and not accountable to the electorate in his riding," Turner said.

He said the Conservative party's offer to David Emerson is no different than Belinda Stronach's move to the Liberal party last year. He said it was inconsistent of the party of condemn Stronach's actions, yet accept Emerson as a minister.

In the upcoming session of parliament Turner said he will introduce a private members bill to prevent MPs from crossing the floor. A similar bill was before the House last session, however it is uncommon for private member's bills to pass.

Speaking on Vancouver's CKNW radio on Feb. 13, Emerson said he may support such a bill, but would not resign because it is not yet law.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter McKay and Gary Lunn, Minister of natural resources have both defended Emerson's appointment.

With Emerson's defection, the conservatives have 125 seats, the Liberals 102, Bloc Quebecois 51, NDP 29 and one independent. To form a majority in the house a bill must receive 155 votes.

prophet cartoons: the danish view

BY ALISON NORTHCOTT

COPENHAGEN DK. (CUP) -- Just after an argument with a Danish television news reporter, Ahmed Akkari is clearly agitated. He has just walked away from the interview, refusing to answer further questions about the controversy over caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed printed in a Danish newspaper last fall.

Akkari represents 27 Muslim organizations that are angered by the drawings, one of which depicted the prophet with a bomb hidden in his turban.

"We have a problem with several media taking only a part of the reality and not the whole picture," Akkari says, referring to the female reporter and her camera person who remain within earshot a few feet away at the International Press Centre in downtown Copenhagen.

"Some media in the world are more critical towards what's happening than others. It depends on the journalist, it depends how much information they have about the case and which perspective they are asking you from. All of these things can play a role."

Media responsibility is one issue in the global debate that began when Denmark's largest newspaper, Jyllands-Posten, printed 12 drawings. Many Muslims throughout the world deemed disrespectful and blasphemous.

In December, after failed attempts to meet with Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen to discuss his groups' concerns, Akkari took the 12 drawings, along with other drawings that have surfaced, to the Middle East.

His intention was to garner support from Muslims outside of Denmark, where they make up less than five per cent of the population.

The support has come in the form of protests and demonstrations. Some have escalated and turned violent, leading to the deaths of a dozen protesters in Afghanistan.

Pakistani security guards shot dead two protestors in Lahore on Tuesday. Hospital officials say 36 others were injured.

Akkari says this is not the kind of action he was calling for.

"We condemn it. Of course we are not happy with the situation," he says.

European Commission vice-president Franco Frattini denied last Thursday media reports he wanted to implement a voluntary code of conduct for media outlets to follow when reporting on Islam and other religions.

"It is up to the media themselves to self-regulate or not, and it is up to the media to formulate such a voluntary code of conduct," he said. "Freedom of speech is one of the European Union's pillars, and will remain to be one of its pillars."

Flemming Ytzen is the deputy foreign news editor at Politiken, Jyllands-Posten's sister newspaper in Denmark. The papers are owned by the same company, JP/Politken, but are managed by different editorial boards.

As an editor, Ytzen says he supports the notion of free speech but he thinks Jyllands-Posten has gone too far.

"In my view, the cartoons were a piece of blasphemy. There is no doubt in my mind," Ytzen says. "We profess freedom of the press and freedom of the media. But there is some responsibility to that freedom. Editors are editors because they have to manage that freedom."

Akkari, who is still awaiting an apology from Jyllands-Posten, says the media has a crucial role in this debate. Like Ytzen, he emphasizes responsibility.

"It's through media you communicate and it is the media that gives the picture to the world," he says. "It is very difficult because there is violence going on and (protesters) are burning embassies and... media people can link things together if they would like to. They have a great responsibility to the world."

In her office at the International Press Centre in Copenhagen, Lisbet Metcalfe lights another cigarette. She is visibly frazzled and tired from weeks of juggling calls from hundreds of international journalists. She has never witnessed a story of this scope in Denmark.

"It's a very sad story because it just started out as being an international, Danish, small story and it's now a scenery of nightmare, which I've never experienced in my 27 years in the foreign office," she says.

There are normally 135 accredited journalists working out of Copenhagen. In recent weeks, however, media activity in Denmark has been anything but normal. Metcalfe says the number of journalists in Copenhagen has doubled as large-scale media outlets send reporters and stringers to the one-time fairytale city where this controversy was born.

"This is the epicentre of global news right now," says Charles Ferro, an American freelance writer who has worked in Denmark for 27 years. "I think I'd dare say nothing like this has ever happened in the history of the world, where a newspaper in one country just creates such a situation around the globe."

The events that have transpired in recent weeks, Ferro says, will have a lasting impact on the media worldwide.

"I think this case is definitely going to set a precedent for editors around the world," he says. "(Editors) will definitely think twice about doing anything potentially offensive."

Ytzen calls the controversy "unprecedented."

"This is by far the largest international crisis that Denmark has been involved in since World War II," Ytzen says. "This... will impact not only Danish foreign policy and European policy, but international relations as a whole."

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notes

how the junos failed canada

JEN ZORATTI,
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

You'd think that for a year that brought you new (and awesome) work from Broken Social Scene, Metric, New Pornographers, The Trews, Wolf Parade and most notably, The Arcade Fire, that the Juno's would be worth making the trek out Eastwards for this year. Or, at the very least, walking across the living room to tune in on your TV.

Sadly, they are neither.

The list of the 2006 Juno nominees came out last week, and considering that Canada was one of the biggest exporters of some of the best indie music in years, it was a much anticipated event. Breakthrough albums such as The Arcade Fire's *Funeral* and Broken Social Scene's *Windsurfing Nation* earned critical acclaim at home, but they also made fans south of the border perk up with interest. *SPIN* magazine featured Arcade Fire as one of the bands of the year, and even Wolf Parade, who is obscure *and* Canadian, got some press in the Yankee music rag.

So then someone explain to me why the hell Nickelback leads the pack with six nominations?

The Alberta cock-rockers are up for Fan Choice, Single of the Year, Album of the Year, Rock Album of the Year, Group of the Year and Producer of the Year, when in reality, the only title they deserve to have is Canada's Biggest Embarrassment Since Celine Dion (who, by the way, is also in the running for Fan Choice).

I'm not sure which disappoints me more. The fact that Nickelback's *All the Right Reasons* actually made money or the fact that every year, the Junos tries harder and harder to be the Grammys. And for an award show that touts itself on being distinctly Canadian, I'm finding that that is getting increasingly hard to say.

The Junos, like the Grammys, hands out glass objects to people who have made a lot of money this year. It's not about who made a great album, who played a great tour or who helped re-invent the definition of Canuck music.

There was a time (like, the '90s) where people (like, Americans) though that Canadian music consisted of Celine Dion, Bryan Adams and the Barenaked Ladies. That was what was socially accepted as 'Canadian music.' Now, its bands like Our Lady Peace and Nickelback that are defining our musical heritage. That keeps me up at night.

But kind of like how we know we don't actually say "a-boot," we Canadians also know that the likes of Bryan Adams no longer define what Canadian music is.

From Hot Hot Heat and the New Pornographers in the West, to Stars and Broken Social Scene in the East, we boast a music scene that should be revered worldwide. And it's starting to. People are hearing the noise coming from Canada's underground. It's just a shame that the same sound falls on the deaf ears of the panelists of our own music awards. The Arcade Fire, Metric, New Pornographers, Broken Social Scene, Hot Hot Heat and Tegan and Sara are all forced to vie for the same award—Alternative Album of the Year.

It's one thing for a band as influential as the Arcade Fire to be snubbed at the Grammys. But when Canada's biggest band is snubbed at a Canadian awards show, it somehow seems much less funny when an American makes a Celine Dion joke. Maybe we're not as evolved as we thought.

around the town

COMPILED BY AMIE LESYK

Once again, my precious *projector* readers, I am here to guide you along through the Winnipeg entertainment scene with some events happening over the next two weeks. So if you're feeling bland as this stagnant stretch of winter perpetuates your existence, here are some options to help conquer your pre-spring lull.

MUSIC

You Say Party! We Say Die!, known for their energetic live show and danceable yet punk rock tracks, is in town from Vancouver. They're playing The Royal Albert with guests DADADA:LAZERS on Feb. 23.

Mung is having a CD release party on Feb. 25 at The Collective Cabaret.

A **Johnny Cash Birthday Bash** is taking place at Times Changed on Feb. 25. It features the likes of Righteous Ike, The Jakebrakes and Andrew Neville.

Nearing the end of their North American tour, Toronto new wavers **controller.controller**, stop in Winnipeg at the West End Cultural Centre on Feb. 27.

DJ Coop and **DJ Hunnicut** are hosting a **roller skating party** at Galaxy Skateland on Mar 4 starting at 10 p.m.

Metal gods, **Opeth**, are coming to play to a slew of thrilled fans on Mar. 5. This is the first time the Swedish metal group has played Winnipeg. They will be playing at the The Venue.

FILM

MMPIA Blizzard Awards Advance Screenings are taking place at Park Theatre from Feb. 22-23.

Check out the films that made the cut. **NSI National Exposure Short Film Contest Finals** takes place at the Globe Cinema on Mar 4.

ART

Meera Singh has an amazing display of digital photography at the Platform Gallery which is at 121-100 Arthur Street. ***You're All That I Ever Think About*** runs until Feb. 24, but she also has a few pieces at the *Supernovas* exhibit at the WAG.

CULTURE

McNally Robinson Grant Park is raising awareness on banned and challenged books by holding the **Quest 24 Hour Freedom to Read Marathon** on Sat Feb. 25 starting at 10 am. More info is available online or by calling the store.

If salsa, samba or swing dance lessons are something you've been thinking about, now is the time to try it. Your first time is free and you're dancing among amateurs so there is no need to fret. **Patricia's Dance Studio** is located at 20 – 2025 Corydon and has a website with its lesson schedules.

soulful hoe records live at the park

A J.P. Hoe and the Truly Richards
Live Recordings
The Park Theatre

BY CARA LYTWYN

J.P. Hoe and the Truly Richards played their two part live recording concert at the charming Park Theatre; an intimate venue with inviting acoustics, creative design and saturated humbleness, much like Hoe himself.

Hoe was welcomed by a euphoric crowd as he opened with his latest single, Always. He bounced across the stage into every girl's heart and if he wanted, pants.

He led into the hypnotic Sing Me a Song, which was carried by the pure tenor of his voice.

Hoe switched up guitars, announcing that it wasn't actually his own.

"It belongs to a friend, Fred Penner. You may have seen it on *World Vision* and maybe it will inspire me."

The hauntingly romantic, Lady Bliss, received a roar of cheers as Hoe danced all over the stage beneath his puppy dog eyes and brown, cotton blazer. It's difficult to grasp how his self-effacing and affable character can change into one that is powerful and authentically demanding on stage.

When introducing the Truly Richards, Hoe elaborated on their dashing handsomeness.

"I was fortunate to hook up with three male models," said Hoe.

Winnipeg guitar legend, Rob Pachol, joined Hoe on stage as the pair played soothing versions of Rise, the Nicest, and Stop, a song about a girl who cried rape.

Dream On, the opening track for his EP release, *The Here in Review*, held even more credibility as Hoe revealed the song was actually about how his grandparents met on a beach boardwalk.

His newest mantra is entitled, All of a Sudden, a song about becoming too arrogant and forgetting what you have.

A thick soulful voice and irrefutable guitar talents helped smear the memorable, Fine, all over mainstream radio.

"I heard it come on following a Mariah Carey song, and I thought, 'Oh no,' "said Hoe.

Before closing with a cover of David Bowie's, All the Young Dudes, Hoe gave his gracious appreciations.

"I could not be more thrilled or for lack of a cheesy word, touched by all the work that went into this," said Hoe.

Hoe found the overall experience to be unique and challenging.

"It was far more stressful than just going into the studio, but whatever comes out of it, we're pretty happy," said Hoe. "We think it's a really neat experience, and it brings something different for Winnipeg."

The night was opened with vocal styling from Hayley Gene and Jodi King. Gene gave a quirky acoustic set, with a sound parallel to Aimee Mann. King's intimate and soulful piano collection had the passion and heartache of Fiona Apple--minus the scary feminist rage.

Hoe's studio album will be available near the end of this year and the live CD is expected out in late March 2006.

awesome time for touring band

BY AMIE LESYK

No, they haven't wanted to kill each other yet. They haven't had a chance to angrily throw things across the tour bus at one another. If The Awesome Team has any hope for a reality TV contract in the future, they have a ways to go before becoming primetime-worthy jaded rock stars.

This month a new band based out of Toronto, enthusiastically named The Awesome Team, set out on their first ever tour which included a stop in Winnipeg on Feb. 13. The band has been playing together for two years, and lead singer Joey Clement is pumped about finally hitting the road.

"It's gonna tighten our set," says Clement. "This whole tour is like getting our act together." Clement hopes this month's grueling schedule of 14 shows in less than a month will sharpen their sound for a gig at Toronto's New Music Week, during the beginning of March.

The Awesome Team will be playing three dates as the opening act for Halifax rockers, The Trews. For the rest of the tour that will take them across Canada, The Awesome Team will be the headlining act. But playing with a heavy-weight band has its advantages.

"At least with The Trews you know there will be a crowd," says Clement.

The Awesome Team currently has an independent self-titled release, but is working on new songs and is hoping to produce a full-length album in the next year. Their sound has been described as "melodic, guitar driven, heavy pop/rock" and Clement feels that they are sincere in their quest to create great music.

The band made a video for their single, The Last of my World, which has been playing on MuchMusic for the past 10 weeks.

"It's ridiculous," says Clement of seeing his band on the popular channel.

During the video, which Clement claims was "one of the best experiences ever," the band burnt down a barn and is seen playing their instruments in front of the flaming inferno.

Our backs were scorching," says Clement. "Remember that when you watch the video."

Although grateful for the chance to tour, Clement says that The Awesome Team hasn't quite hit the big time yet. But back at the day job he left behind to go on tour, Clement says his co-workers are quite excited.

"They don't get it. It's like they think it's the '80s and we're Motley Crue. One lady told me to bring condoms."

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flashback

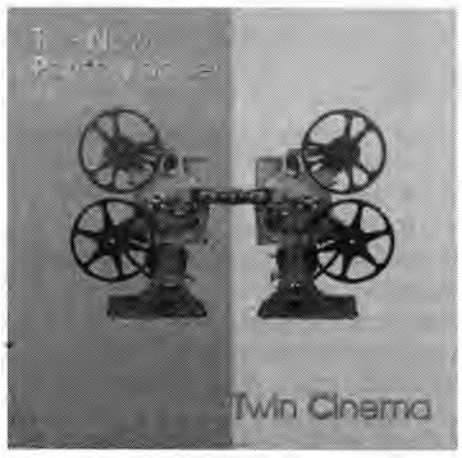
By Jennifer Jularbal

the Perpetrators
"blues album of the year" juno nominees

@ the Woodbine

January 7, 2006

cd reviews



A+

The New Pornographers
Twin Cinema
Miny Records

A road trippin', dance around in your underwear, definitely buy tickets to their show kind of album that makes you so proud to have such amazing talents growing in your country, Vancouver's best export, The New Pornographers, have outdone themselves with this one.

With incredible musicians like A.C. Newman and the lyrical stylings of one Neko Case, this indie inspiration is a must have in your musical repertoire.

Threads from their old albums are entwined in Twin Cinema, keeping a familiar sound, but a whole new beast roams throughout the disc. An army of distinctive voices, guitars, organ, piano, and drums combine to make songs with captivating catchiness and powerful, creative lyrics that overlap tall tiers of beats. With a sound that comes off as pretty damn original this band is a true breath of -50 C air.

Songs like Use It and The Jessica Numbers are ridiculously good, the type that you can just play over and over, first for the catchiness, then for that cool beat, and finally to hear that brilliant line one more time.

-JOANNA FULTZ

C-

Retrograde
This Frequency We Share
SoCan/BMI

This Frequency We Share, the sophomore effort by Vancouver's Retrograde, leaves no lasting impressions on the listener.

After giving the disc a few spins, I find myself unsure as to which track I am on; it seems to me I keep hearing the same song repeatedly.

If I'm going to dish out moolah for music, it had better keep me enthralled for more than a song or two. The band's creativity packed its bags, accompanying many other bands as they embarked on the max exodus and abandoned MusicLand years ago.

The monotony reigns supreme in *Headphones* and *Looking Into You*, while the remake of Peter Gabriel's *Digging in the Dirt* fails to impress, despite the heavy, guitar-laden rythyms.

Vocalist Toby Hulse sounds just like any other modern rock-singer these days: angry voice accompanying progressive rock chords and blistering drums.

There is potential here. The title track and the hit *Letting Go* do have moments, but as the album progresses, the listener can't differentiate between what's just been heard and what's now being listened to.

- RUDY ZACHARIAS

bang a gong at the park theatre

PHOTO CREDIT | BROOK JONES

BY ALAN MACKENZIE

To be a filmmaker takes a certain amount of talent and vision. To have a film screened at an upcoming event at the Park Theatre and Movie Café takes a thick skin.

On Feb. 27 the Park is holding its first-ever Gong Show, an evening based on the '70s television variety show that owner Erick Casselman has been planning since the movie house re-opened last fall.

The original Gong Show, which ran on syndicated television from 1976 to 1980, allowed amateur performers of varying styles and abilities a chance to compete for $516.32, the minimum amount paid to performers with speaking roles on television at the time. The "talent" would perform in front of a panel of celebrity judges who could humiliate them by hitting a gong in the middle of the act, stopping it immediately.

Casselman says his Gong Show will have a panel of one—a volunteer audience member who will gauge reactions from the rest of the crowd and decide when to bang the on-stage gong. At the end of the night the least gong-worthy piece will win a $100 prize. Originally intended to be a film-only event, Casselman says the show is now open to comedy, dance and music acts as well.

"We didn't get as many applicants as we expected," Casselman says. "I guess people are a little scared by the idea. Maybe they want to check it out first."

Casselman adds that you don't have to be a professional director to get involved.

"We'll show video of your baby crawling on the floor, if you are willing to subject it to our audience," he says.

Not everyone is intimidated by the thought of having their work booed off the screen, however. Local part-time filmmaking duo Willis Petti and Keith Strong are submitting two short movies (roughly five minutes each) —*Dude* and the follow-up *Dude vs. Dude* which deals with two adult men who haven't learned to how to share.

Petti, a stay-at-home dad, says he isn't too concerned about his films being booed. He says *Dude*, which screened at the 2004 Winnipeg Aboriginal Film & Video Festival and *Dude vs. Dude*, which played the same venue in 2005, have both been received well.

"I'm not too worried about it," he says, "but if it happens, it happens."

He notes that both films are comedies, which he feels are safe as long as they get a few laughs.

Local actor/comedian Ron Moore, who hosts Jack 'Um and Attack 'Em Improv at the Park every Tuesday, will be debuting his film *5 Seconds*.

"It'll probably get booed," Moore says. "It'll be an interesting night. With technology these days anyone can make a film. Maybe someone will just show video of a wall—it worked for Andy Warhol."

Deadline for submissions is Friday February 24. Call 478-7275 if you're brave enough to take part.

from the cutting room floor

"fun with trailer formulas"

ALAN MACKENZIE, COLUMNIST

Sometimes you just have to love the Internet.

In my previous column, I ranted a bit about my distaste for the modern movie trailer and how too many of them give away too many details. Something I didn't get to discuss, however, is just how formulaic most previews are. If you don't believe me, go online and search 'recut movie trailers' and you'll see what I mean.

A friend recently pointed me in the direction of youtube.com, a site which allows users to broadcast their own films and videos on the web. After searching through independent shorts, weird commercials and TV clips, I was then pointed in the direction of *Brokeback to the Future*. Using the same music and set up as the Brokeback Mountain trailer combined with footage from the *Back to the Future* movies, it tells of the forbidden love of Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd) and Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox). We always knew it was true.

The weird thing is this actually works. A little bit of careful editing and the right music is all it takes to set the right mood. You could even make *The Shining* look like a romantic comedy, or at least a heart-warming dramedy. *The Shining Recut* uses Peter Gabriel's Solsbury Hill as background to the story of the friendship between a struggling writer and a young boy. Like *Brokeback to the Future*, it uses only the trailer formula (think *Spanglish*) and actual clips. I've heard the Gabriel song in a few movie trailers in the last few years, always to evoke positive, heartfelt emotions. The song has been forever ruined by bringing to mind images of Nicholas Cage hugging children.

Of course if *The Shining* can be recut as a lighthearted family movie, then *Sleepless in Seattle* can be turned into a horror movie, right? Definitely check this out. All it takes is ominous music and a few jump cuts added to the rainy gloominess of the West coast to make this look like one of the scariest movies ever made.

While it's definitely fun to watch *Fight Club* as a comedy, *Swingers* as a horror and *I am Sam* as the story of a creepy pedophile, the real beauty of watching these clips is learning just how well the Hollywood studios can manipulate us. How many times have you seen a trailer and thought "this movie looks incredible" – only to find out the actual film is nothing like what you were expecting.

Of course this extends into films as well. Lighting, sound, music, and editing are always combined to create a mood, but when this is done as art rather than a sales piece, it seems more worthwhile.

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kid book flick leaves audience curious for more

A- *Curious George*
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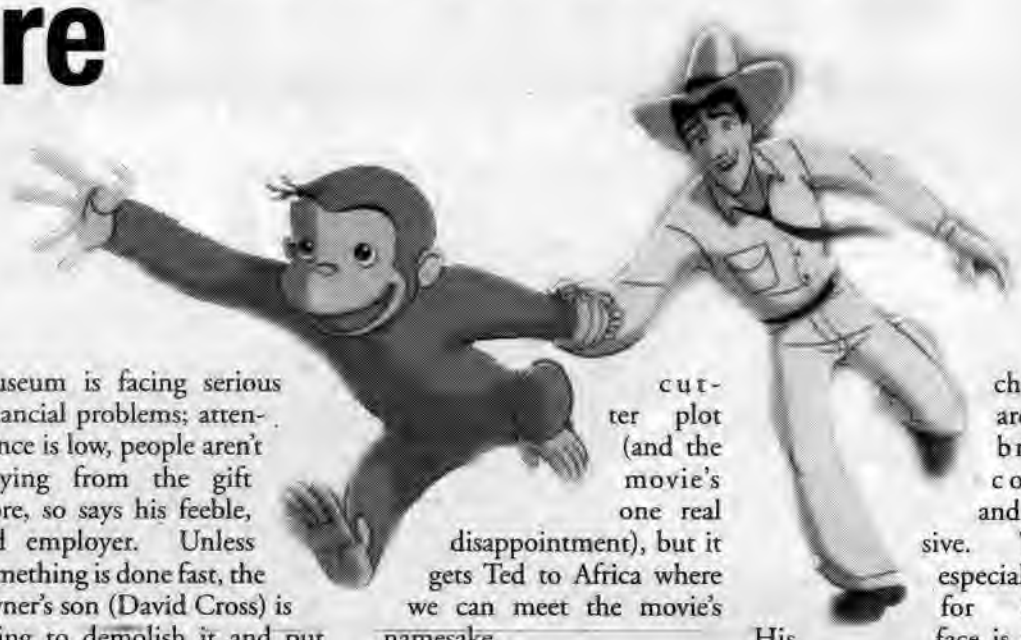

BY DARREN RIDGLEY

In a world of CGI films that put more focus on pop-culture riffs and state-of-the-art effects than on telling a decent children's story, it's refreshing to see a film like *Curious George*--a beautifully animated film that captures a feeling of childlike innocence without trying very hard to do so.

The film is a little deceptive, admittedly. Though George, the curious little monkey from the beloved children's books, gets into all kinds of trouble, this story seems to be more about Ted (Will Ferrell), the Man in the Yellow Hat. Ted's museum is facing serious financial problems; attendance is low, people aren't buying from the gift store, so says his feeble, old employer. Unless something is done fast, the owner's son (David Cross) is going to demolish it and put up a parking lot. It's a cookie-cutter plot (and the movie's one real disappointment), but it gets Ted to Africa where we can meet the movie's namesake.

George and Ted run into each other for the first time during Ted's journey through the African jungle, and George later stows away on the boat back to America. After that, Ted's life seems to unravel thanks to the innocent little monkey that can't seem to stay out of trouble. His attempts to control the little guy take him all over the city, from one disaster to the next, as George explores his new surroundings.

People have complained about Ted's talkativeness, saying that it doesn't fit with the calm, more mild-mannered Man in the Yellow Hat of the books. They aren't entirely wrong, Ferrell talks a lot over the course of this film. However, this isn't a short book and it's a 90-minute film that follows a monkey and a man most of the time. One of them has to carry the conversation and keep things lively, and it certainly won't be the chimp.

The animation in the film is wonderfully executed. There are certainly elements of CGI work in there--characters are lively, brightly colored and expressive. This is especially true for George. His face is so well-drawn and animated, his expressions so distinct, that he almost comes off as more human than the children he plays alongside during the film.

If there is one thing that could stand to be removed from this film, it's the romantic subplot, if it can even be called that. Throughout the film, Ted is obviously catching the attention of an elementary school teacher, and his dialogue with her is confusing. You can't be sure if he's oblivious to her affections or not, but you still know how that part of the story is going to end.

As vivid as the city Ted lives in is visually, I could never place the era this is all supposed to take place in. It seems like a cross between a 1950s metropolis with a little bit of steam-punk science fiction for spice, but Ted owns a cellular camera-phone that is on par with Nokia's latest catalog.

But this is a movie for children and their parents. And while this doesn't strike me as a future classic in the vein of the *Lion King*, this delightful kid's movie is more than worth checking out.

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CONTEST OPEN TO ALL RRC STUDENTS

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO:
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28/06

Diversity & Immigrant Student Support

For more information or to pick up your entry form contact:
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Building D, Room 105 (Notre Dame Campus) or
P210J, 2nd Floor (Princess Street Campus)
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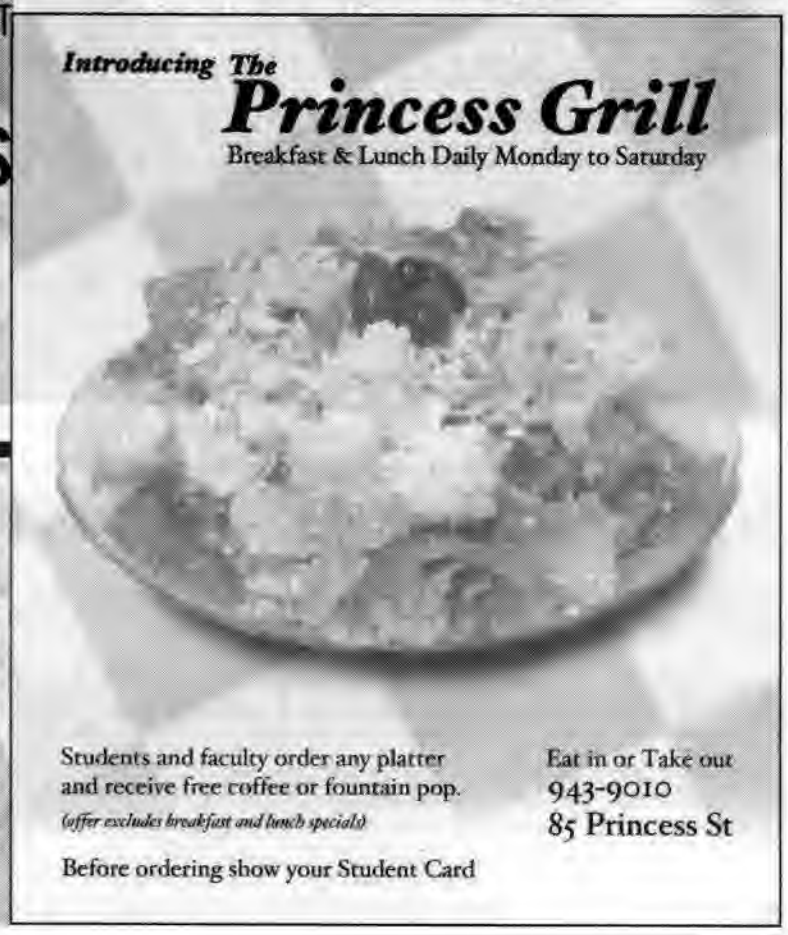

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- Monday, Feb 20

Princess Street Campus
P110 (Atrium)
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- Tuesday, Feb 21

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supernovas burn up the WAG

B+

Supernovas
Winnipeg Art Gallery
January 28 - May 14

BY CARA LYTWYN

In a world invaded by wasteful consumption, advertisement rape, celebrity fixation, and plentiful pornography, young adults have a lot to deal with--but artists have a lot to work with.

The Supernovas exhibition premieres 29 fresh and innovative Winnipeg talents through photography, sculpture, oil, vinyl, collage, and installation conceptions. Every piece contains significant expression, vivid details, and intellectual themes which demand viewers to ask questions.

Meera Margaret Singh's chromomeric prints leave a feeling of uneasiness in the way love can make anyone completely vulnerable. Her use of vintage clothing and furniture inside houses of dirty floors and cheap paint create the alternative milieu she looks to achieve.

A strange sensibility arises as a life-sized bronze dog, featuring a motorized fan on its chest, sporadically starts on and off. This piece by Chris Cooper is entitled Purifier representing the way that dogs remain oblivious to pollution caused by a technologically advancing civilization.

Deliberate white-out marks, cut words and other repetitious editing create a selection of mixed media on paper from Shawna McLeod. The work is parallel to thoughtful high school doodling inside a tattoo parlour.

Adam Brooks draws in his audience through thick, lush oil on canvas. His contemporary views of cultural alienation are captivating as he examines the twisted relationships society develops with garish images of guns, Oprah, Katie Holmes, and Tom Cruise. Brooks defines seclusion in a world of constant television and internet access.

"My audience can mediate their own isolation, the beauty and sadness of living in a compartmentalized society," wrote Brooks on his art plaque.

Stark white eyes and teeth are arresting against dark metal faces in Fred Thomas' Blemish, a series of painted found objects.

"I am drawn to the natural beauty that occurs on industrial surfaces from time, weather and neglect," wrote Thomas.

An invasive series of paintings, drawings, and collages from Ian August challenge the forbidden activity many of us have experienced as children: scribbling on books. August designs on old book covers not only for the colours and textures, but for the attached nostalgia.

Headroom is a pulsing display of light and sound from brainwave frequencies.

Creator, Mike Germain, described it as, "a contrast to the invisible interference or static that surrounds us in the age of all things digital."

An intrusive and bold collection is presented through vinyl paint on a vinyl canvas from Liz Garlicki. The provocative female nudes have been reinvented from men's magazines to 1000 per cent scaled increase. Garlicki scrutinizes the cultural phenomenon of pornography and the identification of sexiness.

"The reconstituted images quickly expose how little a centrefold has to offer, while simultaneously turning the table on the expected power dynamics between seductive model and viewer," wrote Garlicki.

Heidi Phillips signifies human struggle and determination in her videotape, Why Are You So Sad? The distilled lights and heart beat thump create a mournful digital collage.

Eric Lesage formed six woven pieces entitled, Redefinition, from a Webster's dictionary, cotton thread, and sinew. Intricately sliced definitions were woven to appear as large sheets of birch bark.

"It won't be finished until every page of the dictionary is cut and woven," wrote Lesage.

Supernovas is being displayed at the Winnipeg Art Gallery until May 14. On March 1, an exhibition tour will be held with curators Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan.

a view from the ridge

"the art and science of selling out"

DARREN RIDGLEY, COLUMNIST

In the last half of the 20th century, popular culture saw the birth of a phrase that would begin as a very serious accusation: selling out. In our society- and most of all, in show business- selling out has consistently been the accusation du jour, hurled with great conviction by parties unhappy with the course of a beloved individual or group.

But, what the hell does it even mean anymore?

The spirit of the expression is simple. To "sell-out" supposedly means that a gift (i.e. money) has changed hands, and now a man/woman/band is acting as a puppet for some ominous, self-serving entity. Now, the phrase has been abused, overused, and diluted to the point where doing practically anything that dissents from your social group makes you a sell-out. Cutting your hair to something conservative and manageable means you've sold out. Wearing jeans that aren't torn makes you a sell out. Listening to Top 40 songs means you've sold out. God help you if you voted for the Tories.

The phrase is dead. Gone are the days where it implied a lack of moral standards in a certain party when faced with the big payoff. Now, it exists solely for use by insufferable hipsters who apply it to their unorthodox code of 'cool' whenever they feel betrayed by a formerly respected artist.

As I said earlier, this applies more commonly to show business and the famous. Celebrities are accused of selling out all the time, and the reasons for the accusations are largely unknown. People accuse Gwen Stefani of being a sell-out. People accuse 50 Cent of selling out. But those celebrities are not sell-outs.

They aren't selling out, they're just *selling*. These are stars that are well aware that they are hot properties. 50 Cent isn't out there shilling for Country Time Lemonade, he's selling things with his name on them. G-Unit clothing, Formula 50 water, the video games, the movies...they all have *his* name on them, and you can't sell out to yourself.

Heaven forbid that the people who worked to become famous make sound business decisions in order to stay on top. I mean, they can't all go the honourable route, blowing their earnings on heroin and fur coats before dying of overdose in a dingy motel. The fact is, these celebrities generally have enough money to shill for whoever they want, and really, who are we to judge them for that? If The Arcade Fire did a Pepsi commercial, would *Funeral* sound different to you?

And you know what? I personally can't wait to "sell out." The first chance I get, I'll take that giant novelty cheque and you can eat your lunch out of a Darren Ridgley lunchbox, wearing a hundred-dollar "DR" tracksuit while my debut pop single plays on Hot 103. I'll sit at home, laughing it up in my mansion while grimy, anti-establishment hordes tell me I'm making a big mistake for it.

MTC farce tests our sense of humour

B+

The Innocent Eye Test
Manitoba Theatre Centre
February 9th - March 4th

BY JILLIAN BROWN

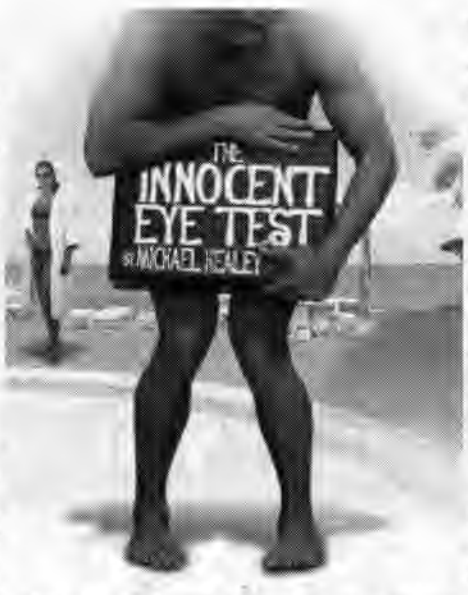
Only a Canadian would write such a charmingly self-deprecating play.

Michael Healey's *The Innocent Eye Test*, which runs at MTC until March 9, is a cross-cultural farce intermingling an uncouth Ukrainian plutonium dealer, a crass American capitalist, an international spy duo, a clairvoyant casino performer, and a dithering Canadian art dealer, who innocently gets stuck in the middle.

The characters converge at a Tuscan resort where Sam Kneck (Canuck?) arrives to sell a famous painting named *The Innocent Eye Test* to Darryl Plate (Tom McCamus), a big-talking American who only wants the art because it matches the carpet in his casino.

A case of mistaken identity, a typical farcical gimmick just like swapped briefcases, gets Kneck (Kevin Bundy) mixed up with an Irish 'terrorist' named Colleen (Tanja Jacobs) and her debaucherious 'husband' James (C. David Johnson), who use the nice Canadian to spy on each other.

Throw into the circus a moody, plutonium-toting Ukrainian named Uri (Gord Rand) on a supposed undercover operation to sell the nuclear weapon to Colleen, and a sexy psychic, Moui Lamaz (Lisa Norton) who really has no point other than to act as a deus ex machina of sorts, solving problems by reading minds.



The farce is amazingly fast-paced, with witty banter and physical humour (including a crowd-gasping full frontal) unlike any show I've seen on the Mainstage. Also, the set includes MTC's first on-stage pool, with characters in bathing suits (or, in Uri's case, underwear) taking a plunge.

Kneck, who is called Canada by the others, and thus our country, bare the brunt of the jokes throughout the 150-minute play. But the audience doesn't get offended; they essentially do what Canadians can do best—laugh at themselves.

"Canada is to the USA like my grandmother is to Pamela Anderson," said the greasy Plate, power-tripping over his non-aggressive cohort.

"I don't know. I don't got an opinion about nothing. I'm from Canada," mocked Uri (with an unfaltering accent by Rand) when Kneck fails get the mack on with Moui.

Healey clearly uses his play to comment on Canadians' pacifist nature and Canada's weak role in international relations, but he also takes stabs at American and European cultures. Nothing demonstrates the stereotypes better than the way the three men order at beer while at the Italian resort—Kneck politely thinks to himself (in a voice-over) that he wants a drink; Uri screams for someone get him a brewsky; and Plate ignorantly orders in Spanish.

The script tries to show maturity at points by questioning the art of viewing art and by comparing racism to a big fart ball in one's gut, but ultimately themes are left lingering.

SUPERNOVAS

After 5
Wednesday, March 1

5pm Music by **Jodie Borlie,** drinks and café menu by Brio
6pm Join **Shawna Dempsey** and **Lorri Millan,** Adjunct Curators of Contemporary Art, for a tour of this exhibition of work by 29 emerging Winnipeg artists who are making waves internationally.
Included with Gallery admission; refreshments extra.
More **supernovas** programming at www.wag.mb.ca

Shaun Morin, UNTITLED, 2004-2005. From a series of 13 works on paper (pen and ink, collage and/or acrylic), 16.5 x 12.7 each. Collection of the artist.

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Not sure how to address that touchy situation? Maybe a PC response is just what you need.

E-MAIL: carlyandpaul@theprojector.ca

Dear Carly and Paul,

I have started dating this girl and things are going really great between us. The problem is that my mom doesn't like her and has told me a bunch of times that she's not good enough. I have gotten into some huge fights with my mom over this but I live at home and it's tough. What should I do?

Mama's Boy

Paul Says:

Your name says it all. Cut that umbilical cord and pull what passes for your manhood from wherever your mother has hidden it...check behind the cookie jar.

You are dating someone and it's too bad if your mom doesn't like her, but she's not the one doing the dating of your girlfriend. That would be a disturbing question for another column or possibly, an episode of *Jerry Springer.*

Carly Says:

Mommy knows best... unless Mommy is a controlling bitch who doesn't know how to let her baby boy out of her clutches. Examine the reasons your Mom doesn't like her. If these reasons include anything to do with looks, amount of money she makes, or a very random detail of her personality, then you should really tell mama to back off and get off her high horse. If the reasons include lack of class, manners, kindness or the way she treats you, perhaps you should give mom's criticisms a listen—her advice has gotten you this far.

Dear Carly and Paul,

I think I love my boyfriend, but I don't really miss him when he's not around. We've been together for five years, and he's still very into me, and is always around to satisfy my every request. I don't even really want to kiss him or anything anymore. Am I just being too picky, and would breaking up with him be a big mistake?

Frustrated

Paul Says:

You think you love your boyfriend? Frustrated, to paraphrase wise Jedi master Yoda, "In love, either you do or you do not - there is no think."

But as for your description of the relationship in question, I used to be in one like that, too. She was loyal, kind, understanding, and was always around to satisfy my every request...like fetch, roll over, beg. And I never once wanted to kiss her.

The best dog I ever owned.

Sounds like that's what you have, a golden retriever. Unless you are into that sort of thing, maybe you should focus on getting yourself a boyfriend.

Carly Says

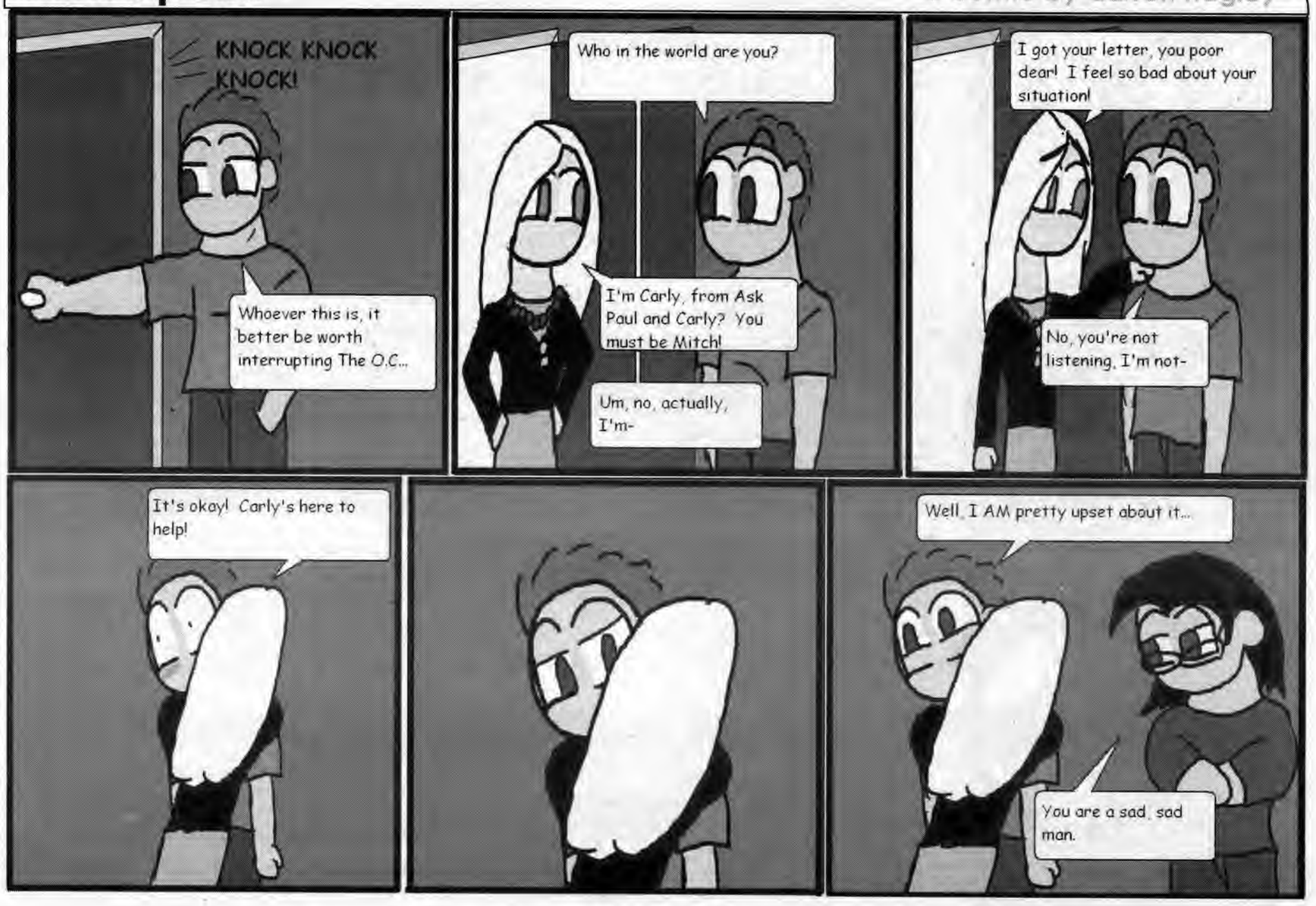
Breaking up with him is only a mistake if you are such a spoiled brat that you would rather have a servant that you pay with fake affection than a real relationship. If you are young, maybe that's all it takes.

Once you play "grow up" then I'm sure you'll find that you are looking for a whole lot more. On a more sensitive note, it is hard to push someone out of your life who has been around for five years.

My advice is to take a completely-no-communication break for a couple of months before you try and be friends. Just remember that when you are "just friends" that he will not be obligated to be at your beck and call.

bonus point

a comic by darren ridgley



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Diversity events

Diversity & Immigrant Student Support

Celebrating Black History Month

SPEAKER SERIES

VIDEO SERIES

WORKSHOPS

ENTERTAINMENT

CULTURAL DISPLAY

February 2006

Black History Month Events

AFRICA'S FORGOTTEN WAR

Serge Kaptegaine, a Congolese refugee and founder of Hand in Hand for Peace in the Congo, will shed light on the current conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo - one of Africa's most protracted conflicts, which has claimed close to 4 million lives.

Hospitality & Tourism Management
February 21st, 9:00 am (Closed Session)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION!

Join in on the fun with Cuban dancing by Azucar Cubana and the reggae music of Glen Williams and hip hop group Much More Fam.

February 23rd, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
The Cave, Notre Dame Campus

HAND IN HAND FOR PEACE IN THE CONGO:

An evening of live music and dance with guest speakers including Global Television journalist Jamie Doll. Experience the culture that keeps hope alive in the Democratic Republic of Congo and learn about one of Africa's most protracted conflicts, which has claimed close to 4 million lives.

February 28th, 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Multi-Purpose Room, Princess Street Campus

LANGUAGE @ LUNCH: FREE LANGUAGE WORKSHOPS

This month... sample the languages of Africa. FREE & FUN, Bring Your Lunch!

Swahili Workshop, February 22nd • 12 - 1:00 pm
Room P310, Princess St. Campus

Mende Workshop, February 28th • 12 - 1:00 pm
Building D - Room 111, Notre Dame Campus

All students & staff are welcome to sign up by contacting Alix Reynolds by phone: **949-8393** or by email: **areynolds@rrc.mb.ca**

DIVERSITY DISPLAY: BLACK HISTORY IN CANADA

Check out this display highlighting the history and contributions of the Black Community in Canada, and enter the free draw for **GREAT PRIZES!**

Dates and Locations TBA

ALSO... THE DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR THE STEP-OUT-OF-YOUR-BOX DIVERSITY CHALLENGE!

$500, $300, & $200 Awards!

Experience a different cultural, religious, or ethnic tradition or maybe spend a day with someone who is new to Canada. This essay contest challenges you to step out of your cultural box and open yourself up to the diversity in your community. Then create a project (it doesn't have to be an essay!) that expresses what this experience taught you and what diversity means to you.

NEW DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28th, 2006

For more info or to pick up your entry form contact:
Diversity & Immigrant Student Support
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Room P-210J, Princess Street Campus
Phone: **949-8393** • Email: **areynolds@rrc.mb.ca**

Staff & Students: If you would like a speaker or workshop specific to your program area, please contact Alix Reynolds at areynolds@rrc.mb.ca or by phone at 949-8393.

The Diversity Events are coordinated by:
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