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red river college students' association newspaper
february 5, 2001

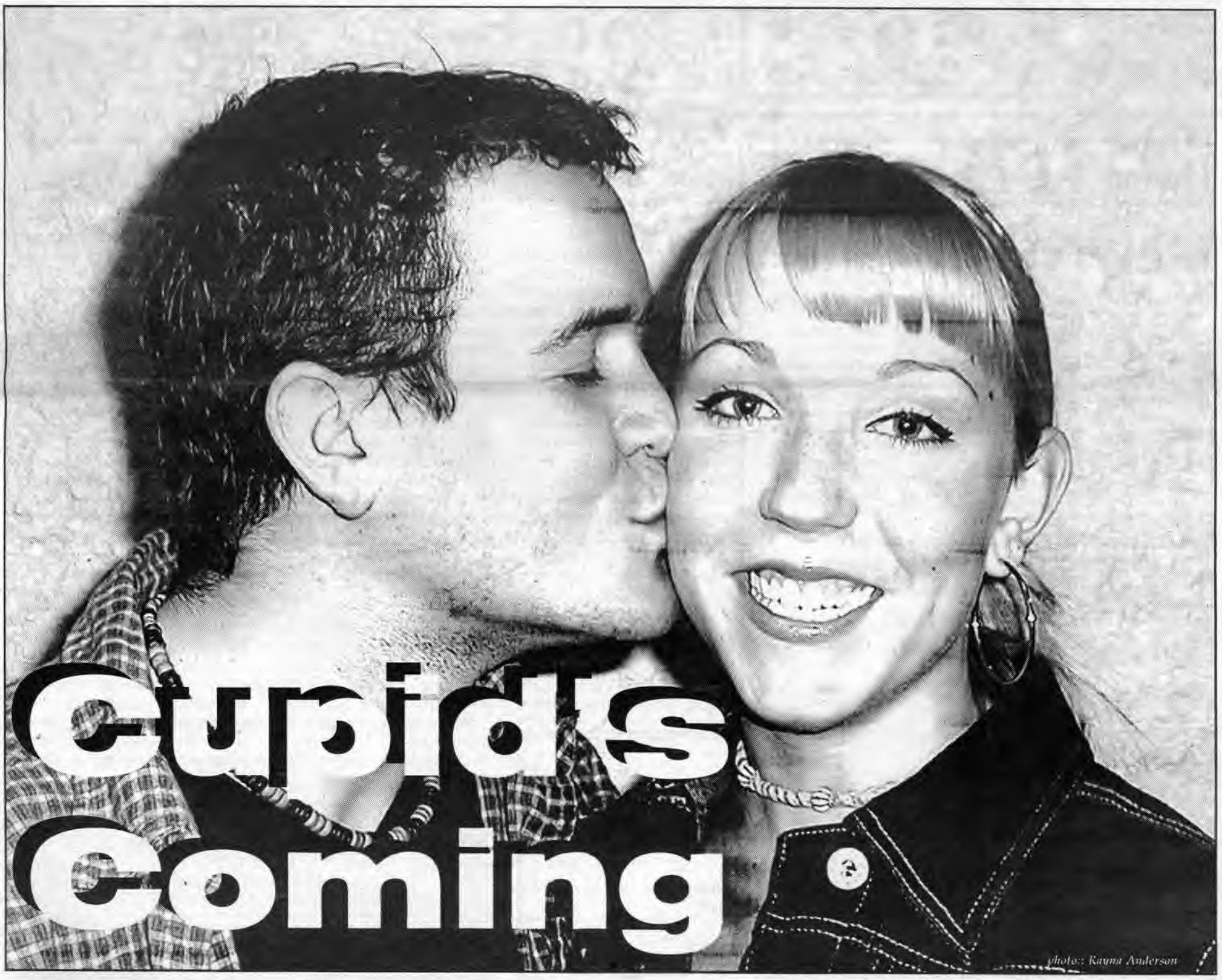

photo: Rayna Anderson

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All the individuals mentioned in the *"Revealing Insights"* ads are CMAs.

For more "Revealing Insights" go to the CMA Information Day on Tuesday, February 13th, in Room D103, anytime between 10 am to 2 pm.

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"You're not just another Social Insurance Number!"

RRC hosts international training program

Microsoft Mentor program workshop makes the grade

By Andrew Buck

Software giant, Microsoft Corp. chose Red River College as the host institution for its Mentor Program, a two-day international workshop that teaches instructors about applications like Excel and PowerPoint.

"We felt good that Microsoft would consider us as being worthy to host," says Peter Komarnicki, acting dean of Business and Applied Arts.

"We had to prove we had the technology to hold this event, and we're only the second school in Canada to host the Microsoft Mentor Program."

Requirements

Requirements for the seminar included a networked computer lab and state-of-the art computers. Being chosen indicates the college's computer programs are leading edge, says Komarnicki.

"This shows Red River is a high tech school," Komarnicki says.

"We became aware of the program last spring," says Komarnicki.

Komarnicki was representing RRC at a Microsoft higher education summit in Redmond, Washington, when he heard about the Mentor Program.

RRC applied to be a host institution for an upcoming workshop, and was selected from a group of post-secondary institutions from across the country.

Five others

Five other post-secondary institutions, including the University of Minnesota, sent instructors to attend the workshop.

Microsoft provided a trainer and an administrator, both from Raleigh N.C., to run the event. They passed on information about Microsoft software to instructors in attendance, who will in turn train others at their respective schools.

Twenty-three people attended the workshop, including seven RRC instructors. Komarnicki says the information picked up by instructors at the workshop will affect the entire College.

Benefit

"Everyone will benefit from the workshop. The people who were there will use this in their faculties," he said, adding that several different faculties were represented.

Instructors from the Computer Analysis Programmer, Information Systems Technician, and Accounting programs were in attendance.

The workshop was hosted by RRC's Accounting and Computer Education Department.

"Microsoft has a lot of programs geared towards education," says Komarnicki. "These workshops are a chance to give schools a heads-up of what's coming down the pipe."

Teaching Learning Technology Centre instructor Gordon McBean says he will use the information he learned at the workshop to help students connect with software.

McBean received a binder of Microsoft program specs, as well as software.

But the workshop was more than just learning about computers.

Communication

"We're not just using software, we're incorporating the software into our communication with students." McBean says the workshop was a valuable experience.

"It's taking software to the next level."

Microsoft does not run its Mentor Program on a regularly scheduled basis.

Instead, the company asks an institution to host a workshop whenever it feels the current level of its software has evolved to the point where it requires additional training.

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Princess: It's not ours yet

photo: Rayna Anderson

The city wants the province to waive any Princess St. property inquiries

By Sara Williscroft

Winnipeg city councilors passed a by-law to proceed with the expropriation of property on Princess Street for development of the downtown Red River College campus, at their January 31st meeting.

According to a representative at the City Clerk's Department, the properties in question are presently owned by Canadian Pacific Railway, Cosman Realty, the City of Winnipeg, and a family business owned by Leonard and Eleane Baranyk.

"During expropriation, the owners are offered compensation for their property," says the clerk.

City hits snag

Without officially contacting all of the property owners in the Princess Street district, the city has already hit a snag in its expropriation proceedings.

"We're waiting to hear from them," says Leonard Baranyk. Baranyk also states that the city has yet to offer a formal proposal.

"The last we heard from them was in December. They haven't approached me recently."

The city of Winnipeg approached Cosman Realty and found a large amount of resistance, they now fear opposition from other owners of the Princess street properties.

Negotiations

Under the by-law passed in council, the city will formally ask the province to waive Cosman Realty's right to an inquiry, thus avoiding a possible speed bump in the construction of the downtown campus.

When asked about the amount of money the city is prepared to bring to the negotiation table, Mayor Glen Murray says, "We don't just talk about how much money it would be, because it would be difficult to negotiate with. I hope as little as possible."

According to a government spokesperson the province's Intergovernmental Affairs Department received a letter from the city on Jan. 26, but it has not been assessed by officials as of yet.

Health and Information Technology student Candice Smerchansky thinks Cosman is holding out for more money.

"It's a shitty area and the guy can't be doing good business." Smerchansky says she thinks having the college downtown will give great economic growth to the Exchange District.

Benefits

"There's the economic aspect, plus it would bring life to downtown."

Murray says being downtown has many benefits for the Princess Street location,

"Having the campus downtown will bring over 2000 students downtown to the historic centre of the city."

The new college campus is still slated to open Sept. 1, 2002. Construction is set to begin sometime in April, according to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

NDP splits its education portfolio

By Greg Burch

NDP Premier Gary Doer announced the first large-scale cabinet shuffle of his administration on Jan. 17.

Lord Roberts MLA Diane McGifford was appointed as the Minister of Advanced Education, a government department that oversees the operation of Manitoba's post-secondary educational institutions - including Red River College.

While the Advanced Education department has been in existence for many years, it had always been under the same political roof as the department of Education, which oversees the K-12 school system in the province. Both departments, and the diverse issues that accompanied them, had to compete for the attention of a single government minister.

McGifford, who taught at the post-secondary level for 15 years prior to her election as the MLA for Osborne in 1995, believes the change is necessary to reflect today's realities.

"Several other jurisdictions in Canada have already made this change," McGifford said in an interview last week. "This will allow a minister to focus on the issues and make the system more responsive, both to the needs of students and the demands of the new economy."

Feeling the impact

These changes are far removed from the everyday lives of average RRC students, but McGifford hopes they will still feel a positive impact in the long term.

"I see it as a strong commitment to post-secondary education, and I hope that students will feel that way too," says McGifford.

She says that her new portfolio will give her a chance to communicate directly with university and college students.

"I see that as one of my responsibilities, and I look forward to meeting with them as often as possible," she says.

McGifford brings experience as both a student and a professor to her new role.

"I was a single mother when I went to university to get my BA, so I think I can relate to students who have to squeeze every penny, and not always by their own choice."

It will not be long until McGifford is confronted with major issues facing post-secondary education today, many of which involve RRC. These issues include the NDP's 1999 election commitment to increase community college enrollment, possible delays to RRC's Princess Street relocation due to municipal expropriation issues, and continued controversy surrounding the 10 per cent tuition fee cut that was implemented in the first year of the NDP administration.

Tory platform

Tory MLA Len Derkach, the post-secondary education critic for the official Opposition, supports the notion of splitting the education portfolio, noting this was part of the Tories' 1999 election platform.

"Obviously, the NDP have seen the weaknesses of Drew Caldwell when it comes to post-secondary education. However, I'm not sure that a new minister will address the real issue, which is the need for a more sustainable approach to funding for our universities and community colleges," says Derkach.

McGifford will be visiting RRC today.

Protecting our natural heritage

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Canada

Elections Are Coming.....

No no no, not federal or municipal elections, <u>school</u> elections!

That's right, the time is approaching when you, the students, will elect your next SA executive. Who knows, you may even want to run for one of them. If that's the case, we at the Students' Association want to make your decision a little easier. For the next three issues of the Projector, we will be outlining each of the executive positions, so you can decide whether you want to run, or who you think would be the best for the job.

Let us start with the position of Vice President of Financial and Support Services.

We'll start with something that a lot of people don't seem to know; this (and the other positions) are paid positions. The VP Finance receives a $12000 annual salary plus tuition.

Now that we've got your attention, you'll probably want to know what the job entails.

The duties of the VP Finance are relatively straight-forward. Working with all of the campus clubs, this VP handles the club bank account, organizes fund-raisers, like Pizza Wednesdays, and so on. In addition, the VP Finance signs all cheques that clear the SA account; this includes used books cheques, payments to companies, paycheques to students who have worked for the SA, expense cheques for events, and much more. The VP Finance also coordinates the Housing Directory, takes minutes for the Student Advisory Board and Executive Committee meetings, and various other tasks.

If you're a hard-working student with an interest in finances, and you want a job that will help you learn more about an office environment, then you should look into becoming the VP Finance for the SA.

Read the next issue of the Projector for more elections info..

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Advertising Art student wins big

By Cheryl Miki

How much is your homework worth? For Peter Kienetz, a second year Red River College Advertising Art student, the answer is $1000.

Kienetz's illustration class was assigned to produce a painting for submission to the Festival du Voyageur's eighth annual Spirit of the Nor'Wester art contest. His illustration, which depicts five people dancing and playing music in a canoe while their reflections show voyageurs paddling, beat out 74 other student and professional artists.

His design will appear on the festival's T-shirts which will be given to all festival volunteers and corporate sponsors.

Kienetz was pleased to receive the prize money, but laughs when he says it is already spent.

"I should probably say I used it for school, but I took a trip to Edmonton and spent it all there," he says.

Ken Stampnick, Rendering for Illustration instructor and freelance artist, says he was not surprised that Kienetz's design was chosen.

"He really deserved it. He is one of the hardest working students in the class in terms of work ethic," says Stampnick, who assigned the class project as a vehicle for exploring certain illustration processes within the confines of a client's requirements.

High mark

When asked if winning would have an impact on Kienetz's mark for the project, Stampnick replied, "Oh sure! How can I deny the fact that he won? But his work would have received a high mark anyway. He's a bright kid who always goes beyond the call of duty. I wish all students had his work ethic."

All entries for the contest had to meet the festival's theme of music in the fur trade period of the North West Company, from 1779-1821. The pieces had to reflect the importance of music in the daily lives of the many different ethnic groups of the time and how their traditional rhythms and instruments were integral to their successes.

The constraints of the time period posed some concern for Kienetz.

"I had to change the guitar to a mandolin because there weren't any guitars then," he says.

"Peter's design really depicted it quite well," says Pauline Boucher, marketing assistant for the Festival du Voyageur. "The main scene in the canoe captured the essence of the theme."

The art was judged by a panel comprised of the festival's historian, marketing personnel, and the festival's corporate sponsor, A Point Promotions.

The 32nd Festival du Voyageur is Western Canada's largest winter festival and runs for 10 days, Feb. 9 - 18, 2001.

photo: Rayna Anderson

Peter Kienetz says he has already spent the $1000 prize he picked up from the Festival du Voyageur.

Don't be a victim of date rape drugs

By Sara Williscroft

Date rape happens. It happens in Manitoba. On Jan. 23 Red River College students and staff were presented with an informative lunch-hour seminar on date rape drugs and how to recognize the effect of them.

Shirley Treacy, forensic toxicologist for the RCMP, visited RRC's White Lecture theatre to show students the warning signs of certain types of drugs.

"The fact that you know a girl's drunk doesn't give you privilege. It is still considered rape."

"Historically, ethyl alcohol has been the most commonly used date rape drug."

"In the '90s, we find that new date rape drugs act faster and are harder to detect in the body."

Treacy says new date rape drugs are felt about 15-20 minutes after ingestion, dissipate rapidly in the body and require a smaller dosage to produce the desired effect.

Of these new '90s drugs, the most commonly found in Canada are Flunitrazepam, Triozolam, and GHB, all of which are not recognizable if added to beverages.

Treacy describes Flunitrazepam, or "Roofies," as a small white tablet not detectable by smell, sight, or taste.

"Although Flunitrazepam is not legal in Canada, the RCMP still find it. A single tablet goes for around two to three dollars on the street," she says.

Treacy also mentions that Roofies can only be detected for up to 18 hours after consumption.

Because of pressure from the media, makers of Flunitrazepam have added a blue dye that emerges once the pill is added to a drink. This increases awareness, says Treacy.

"There has only been one successful conviction (for using this drug) in Canada. In Alberta a husband used it to rape his wife."

Triazolam, in contrast, can be detected for up to six hours in blood and up to 24 hours in urine, says Treacy. Nicknamed "Halicon", Triazolam is available in violet, white or blue tablets, depending on strength. Treacy says, "When Triazolam is mixed with alcohol, it produces retrograde amnesia. The victim does not remember what has happened."

Availability

Treacy mentions the next drug with references to its availability.

"There are recipes for GHB out there, from readily available outlets." Nicknamed "liquid ecstasy", GHB is an odorless, salty tasting liquid that releases inhibitions and is said to increase libido.

Treacy says GHB is very dangerous, as it can be hidden in popular mixed drinks like margaritas and long island iced teas.

Popular among ravers, Treacy warns that GHB is cheap to make and although the drug is illegal in Canada, its ingredients are available from the corner store.

"It's like drinking Draino. If mixed improperly, it eats away at your throat."

Business Administration student Misty Shura says you can't be too careful at parties.

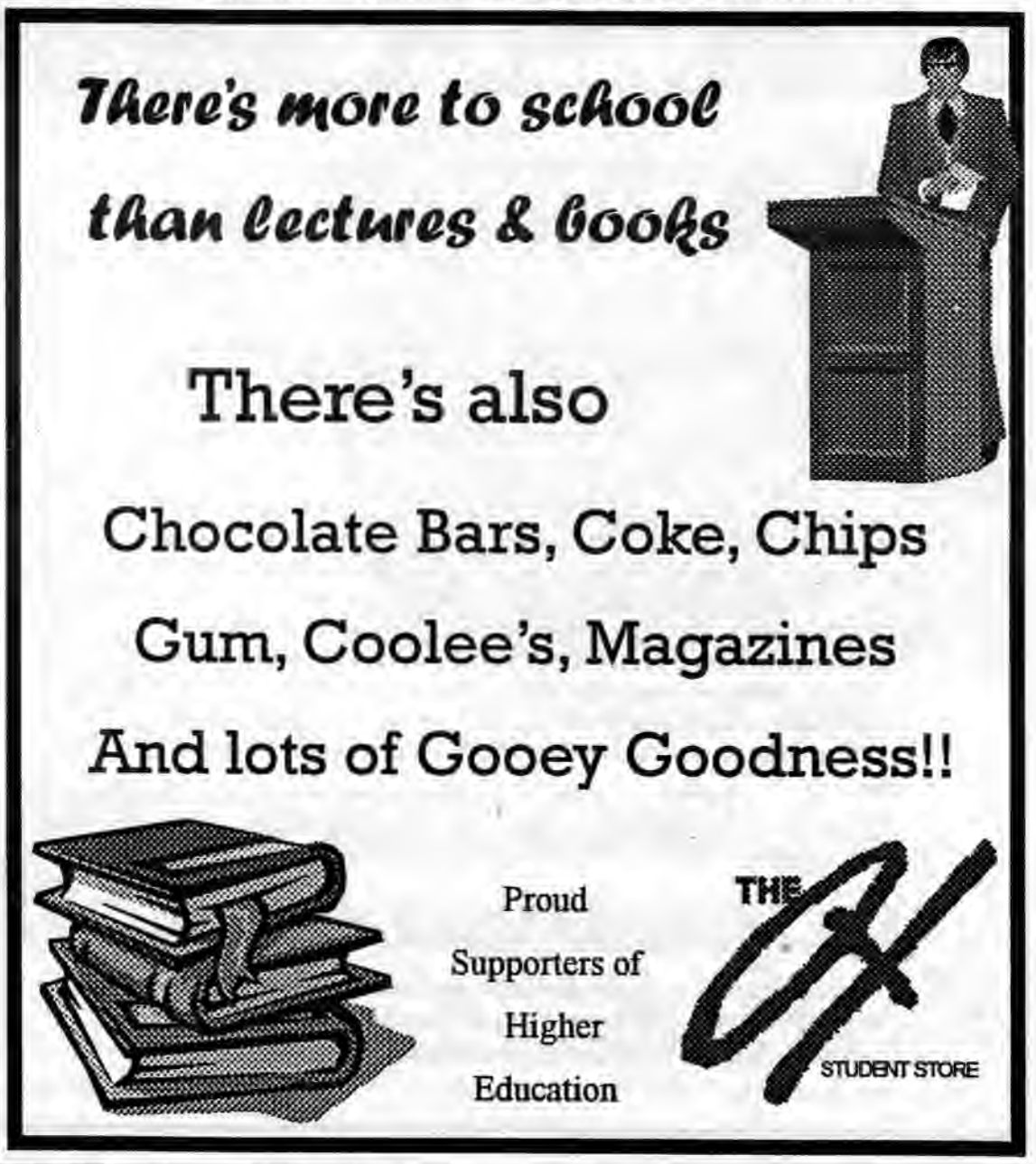
"I never leave my drink lying around. There's some people I just don't trust." When asked if date rape happens at parties in Manitoba, Shura replies, "You never know, stuff could happen."

To arm yourself against date rape drugs, Treacy recommends keeping your drinks close at hand.

"If you're going to go dance, get your friends to watch it for you. Don't accept mixed drinks from strangers and don't accept open container drinks at parties."

If you suspect a date rape drug has been given to you or to one of your friends, go directly to the hospital and inform the doctors exactly what happened. Call the police immediately.

For more information, please contact the Student Health Centre.



Return of paid towel service?

RRC Gym considering annual user fees

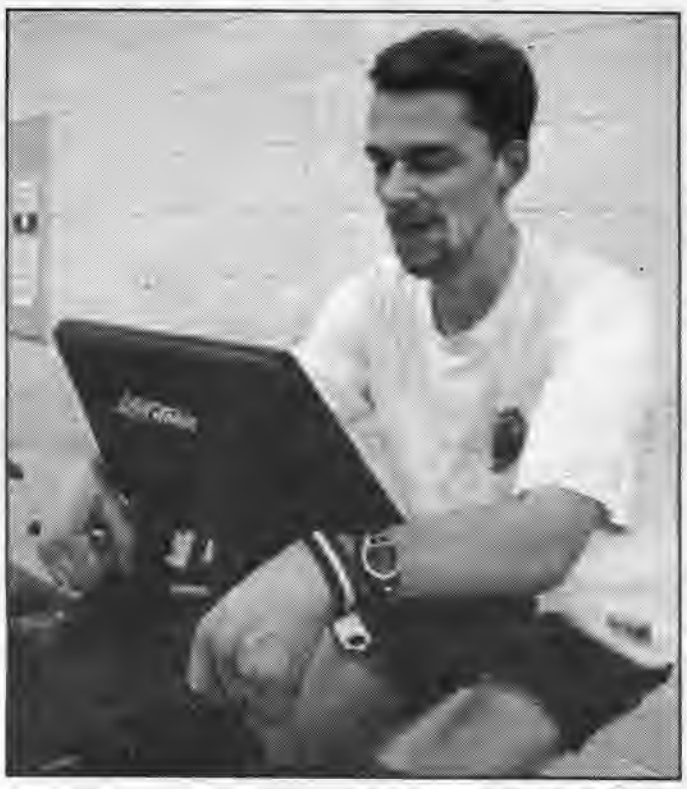


photo: Rayna Anderson

Randy Dunnick, of the Apprentice Cabinet Making Program says he would pay the fee

By Cheryl Miki

Free gym service at Red River College may be on the way out.

RRC's Recreation Services department is surveying gym users to determine whether or not to bring in annual user fees. In return for a proposed $35.00 fee, students and staff would receive towel service and locker rental for a year.

"Thirty-five dollars, what's that? A case of beer?" asks Michael Whalen, RRC Health and Wellness instructor.

On a more serious note, he says he hopes users will take more responsibility for the facility if they have to pay to use it. He also hopes the fees will help motivate users.

He says, "they tend to have more commitment to their routines.

They think: I paid for it, I'm going to use it."

Towel service was free to students last year but was eliminated due to budget cuts, says Whalen. "I don't think it will come back unless there is a fee for it."

An average of 132 people use the weight room every day. Last year, says Whalen, Recreation Services spent a lot of time and money doing laundry.

"We'd do laundry three times a day. The machines were old and needed service. It was a few hundred dollars each time they broke down."

Whalen adds that towel theft was a problem as well. "We didn't have a good tracking system so some were walking away."

Whalen says the fees will also help pay for new lockers to replace some of the current lockers which are too small and in poor condition from over use.

RRC Plumbing student Scott Ribble had not heard about the survey even though he is a regular at the North Gym, but he is open to the idea of user fees.

"I see a fee as acceptable, but $35 is a little much for towels and locker improvements," says Ribble. "I could see paying $20 a year. For the number of people in here, it should be enough to upgrade things."

Rui Melo, an international student from Portugal enrolled in the Adult 12 academic development program, disagrees.

"If it is a service to the school, I don't think that they should charge because students have already paid their tuition fees," says Melo. "Especially because I'm paying a lot as an international student."

Recreation services hopes to have the results of 250 surveys tabulated by Feb. 9, in time for the user fees to be included in next year's budget planning process later this month. Results from the surveys will be posted in the North Gym by the end of the month.

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Expo: here we go

By Cheryl Miki

Expo 2001, Red River College's third annual open house event, kicks off on February 14.

"Expo's purpose is to bring in new students and to help existing students find work placement," says coordinator Diane Monkman.

Monkman and fellow Expo 2001 coordinator, Randy Rummery are preparing for the event, which includes interactive exhibits, tours, information sessions, and an Employer Expo. Exhibits in the main campus, classrooms, labs and training areas will be open to the public, with information being provided by staff and student ambassadors.

"We represent the college to the public. We give tours and we register participants," says student ambassador Julie Kentner.

"Each program is going to plan an exhibit the public will visit during the day. We want them to make it as interactive as possible," Rummery says. "In order to achieve this goal, students will be putting on demonstrations and participants will have an opportunity to use the equipment."

"Expo's purpose is to bring in new students and help existing students find work placement," Diane Monkman

"We always do a display of art work drawings, a multi-media display, and graphic design work. Multimedia includes animations and web sites," says Advertising Art coordinator, Brian Fawkes about his program's annual exhibit, which will be set up near the first year Advertising Art area.

"A certain number of programs are going to offer information sessions," adds Rummery. These sessions, called "The Real Life Lectures," are similar to introductory lectures presented by a variety of RRC programs. They will be held throughout the day. Animal Health Technology, Business Administration, Computer Accounting, Nursing, and Wood Products Manufacturing are among the topics confirmed for lectures.

Rummery believes students will be most interested in the Employer Expo, where employers from all segments of business and industry gather in RRCs North Gym to recruit students.

"Last year we had more of an emphasis on companies involved in trade and business. This year we have a better cross-section," Rummery says. Delta Winnipeg, Bird Construction, Manitoba Public Insurance, MTS Communications, and Great-West Life are only a few of the 40 organizations booked to attend.

Manitoba

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER - BILINGUAL — AO2, Establishment of an eligibility list, Manitoba Education, Training and Youth, Assessment and Evaluation Branch, Winnipeg. Advertisement No.: 4223. Salary: $37,902 to $45,429. Closing Date: February 12, 2001.

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Employment Equity is a factor in selection. Applicants are requested to indicate in their covering letter or resume if they are from any of the following groups: women, aboriginal people, visible minorities and persons with disabilities.

Wombs 'R' Us coming up

The body is a temple. So it says in the Bible and is a shared belief among every religious and non-religious group in the world. But the federal government is toying with the idea of paying women to use their bodies as incubators.

No, it is not a new concept. Some selfless women lend their bodies to couples who cannot have their own babies, housing fertilized eggs the whole nine months, then giving up babies which grow inside them. It is a beautiful gift for a couple who have exhausted all hopes of having their own children.

But what the government is proposing in their discussion paper is absolutely disgusting. It's a perverse form of prostitution. And what's worse, is a woman who gave herself to the life-altering event of childbirth would only get the equivalent of unemployment insurance benefits during her pregnancy.

Who would go through something this traumatic for a piddly $350 a month? The poor. The ones who have no other way of making money. And the ones desperate to connect to anyone and anything, even if it is a baby they will never hold. And will they connect to a baby they will never hold? Of course they will. How can you not love something that your body has nourished for almost a year?

Argument

The Liberal's argument in the discussion paper is that these women would be doing a great justice to those who cannot have children. What kind of society are we trying to build here? The Republic of Gilead?

Our government fancying the idea is repulsive, insulting and dangerous. Are we really going for Brave New World here, because that is the way it has been looking for the past year. First, genetic codes are unravelled and cloning is possible. Sure, only sheep and small animals have been cloned, but it is just a matter of time. Human beings are too ambitious, now it is rent-a-womb.

Soon the government will be mailing order forms to couples. What colour would you like your child's eyes to be? Their intelligence level? Would you like them to be a great baseball or basketball player? When will the government start deciding who will be a blue collar worker and who will be the corporate boss?

What happened to the age old belief that the body is a temple? A temple to take precious care of. Not to rent out for $350 a month. A message for those who think science is a toy in their box: Back off. Human life is not to be played with and the body is not to be rented, not even for life.

-Kyla Duncan

photo: Rayna Anderson

Immunity, or sanctioned murder?

It might not have been the 1972 Summit Series, but the grisly death of Catherine MacLean on an Ottawa street last month nearly had Canada and Russia pitted against one another as in times of old.

Police say MacLean was killed when a car driven by a Russian diplomat jumped a curb, mowing her down and seriously injuring her friend, Catherine Dore. Andrei Knyazev, the Russian embassy's first counsellor for political affairs, was later charged with drunk driving causing death but was exempted from prosecution when Russia refused to waive his diplomatic immunity and had him flown back to Moscow a few days later.

Many Canadians were shocked by the sudden and gruesome tragedy, but what is truly reprehensible, although far from surprising, is how the federal government handled the situation. Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley did ask Russia's Foreign Ministry to allow Knyazev to be tried in Canada. However, Manley, as well as everyone else involved in this unfortunate episode, knew from the beginning that Russia would almost certainly refuse his request, as would most countries.

The request, then, was more about appearances than anything else.

Demanded

If the government had actually given a damn about MacLean's death, they would have demanded, rather than asked, that Knyazev be prosecuted here. Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin has promised that the matter will be investigated now that Knyazev is back home, but will not guarantee that Knyazev will be prosecuted.

Once again, Canada stands meekly by and allows another nation to thumb its nose in our face. Even in these exceptional circumstances, the timid Canada is reluctant to confront a belligerent bully of a nation and instead sits on its hands while one of its citizens is crushed to death and her accused killer is allowed to skip town.

What exactly is the purpose, in this day and age, of civilized nations allowing mid-level embassy workers to do as they please while abroad?

Perhaps the United Nations should form a special committee to find out whether there is even a single recorded instance where the Vienna Convention, the birthplace of diplomatic immunity, has been used to help, rather than hurt, people.

When the hell did we start caring more about the Vienna Convention than the Geneva Convention, exactly? Canada was shut out in this Summit Series, when we could have scored a goal for common decency and taken a serious shot at pointless bureaucracy.

In the future, perhaps Manley should worry more about drunk drivers here in Canada and less about inaugural meetings with drunk-driving presidents south of the 49th parallel.

-Adam Clayton

Canada playing pigskin politics

Coaches from the National Football League and political strategists from Canada's political parties must have attended the same training camp last summer.

The result was a record setting Baltimore Ravens defence exemplified by their 34-7 Super Bowl romp over the New York Giants and a third straight electoral romp for Jean Chretien's Liberals capped by the speech from the throne.

How would you describe these two victories? In a word: boring.

What other word could you use to describe a Super Bowl which set the record for most punts and whose MVP's biggest claim was being acquitted of murder charges? What other word could you use to describe a political vision which consisted of reheated leftovers from Red Book III and addressed gripping issues like child poverty and smog - again.

End result

Perhaps the end result was the same because the conditions facing both NFL coaches and Canadian politicians were similar heading into this past season/election.

League expansion over the years has unquestionably diluted the talent pool as the number of teams has increased. Football fans are left asking where is the next Steve Young, Joe Montana or any other dynasty builder?

With five Canadian parties crowding the political ballot, Canadians are left to ask: Where are the leaders with vision? Where is the next Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Lester Pearson, John Deifenbaker or Tommy Douglas?

Sure we sometimes get flashes in the pan like Rams' quarterback Kurt Warner and Alliance leader Stockwell Day but often we have to rely on veterans like Cowboys' quarterback Troy Aikman and PC leader Joe Clark. Players and politicians past their prime, inching towards the pasture and sometimes back from it.

Superstars

Even if we had these superstars, today's climate wouldn't allow them to show their gifts - they're too dangerous.

Everybody in football and politics is terrified of the ever looming knockout punch. It is the fear of dropping your guard to strike out at your opponent only to have him take advantage of the lapse and put you down for the count.

Legitimate stars

The lack of legitimate stars elevates more ordinary people to superstar status. Flash and pizzazz stands in place of genuine talent as a Ray Lewis becomes a MVP in the Super Bowl and a Brian Tobin becomes a prime minister hopeful.

These conditions produce ho-hum victories and stifle most innovations. This year nobody won it uglier than Baltimore's defence or Chretien's Liberals.

For now, football fans continue to tune in while Canadian voters continue to tune out.

Bored football fans and angry voters are clawing for alternatives.

Frustrated pigskin enthusiasts are anticipating Extreme Football League action this weekend after past flirtations with arena football and Canadian football.

Alberta voters are now looking towards separation from Canada after attempts with Reform and the Canadian Alliance failed to soothe their continued frustration with our Parliament.

A problem often produces its own solutions.

- Sean Thiessen

photo: Rayna Anderson

RRC student Charlton Magri thinks students should get the same deal as MPI employees.

Big business equals better bus passes

By Tyler Walsh

Winnipeg Transit's new rebate program has some post-secondary students in the city wondering why their monthly bus passes aren't being discounted further.

Manitoba Public Insurance, who recently signed a six month trial deal with Winnipeg Transit, is offering their employees half-price discounts on bus passes. Employees will only pay $30.80 for the passes, regularly priced at $61.80. MPI will pay $22.14, while Winnipeg Transit will pay $6.16 as part of the deal.

Students currently pay $49.30 per month for bus passes.

Rebate

"For every five per cent an employer pays for bus passes, Winnipeg Transit will offer a rebate of one per cent," says Transit spokesman Nick Iafolla.

While public and private sector businesses have the option to cash in on this deal, Iafolla says no new plan is currently in place to offer post-secondary institutions something similar.

"If the people in charge at the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg and Red River College want to take part in this to offer students and staff discounts that's great," he says, "but I don't think their going to do it because of the costs involved."

Special benefits

RRC student Charlton Magri disagrees with special benefits for MPI.

"It should work on the same lines as us," he said.

Iafolla says that this program is to be initiated by businesses as a means of demonstrating commitment to their employees.

"It will reduce parking congestion and offer environmental protection." That's something a lot of groups have been asking for, he says.

He goes on to say the fact that employees at these companies will be getting bus passes cheaper than post-secondary students is beside the point.

"It's like comparing apples to oranges."

In an attempt to increase ridership among students, Winnipeg Transit offered a 20 per cent discount off the regular cost of a monthly pass to those attending one of Winnipeg's three major post-secondary institutions.

Iafolla says that in the very near future Winnipeg Transit will be assessing their student discount program to see if ridership has increased.

"The student discount is the maximum deal we could ever give anyone," he says, "essentially we're giving up 20 per cent of our revenue," says Iafolla.

If it has not had a positive affect on student ridership, there is a chance the program could be eliminated.

The rebate program has drawn some fire from the public, resulting in a review by minister of justice Gord Mackintosh, who is responsible for MPI.

Review

"The minister has stated he will review the process," says MPI communications officer Brian Smiley. The rebate is a pilot program, he says.

"We asked for six months, but due to public concerns about the program it may not continue for that period," Smiley says.

Winnipeg Transit statistics indicate that our city has the lowest bus rates in the country and the student discount program offers post-secondary enrollees an even better deal.

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PROFILE

scott taylor

From freethrows to frequent flights

Head jock at the Winnipeg Free Press knows basketball and bad bosses

By Andrew Langendorfer

Some may think Scott Taylor is from Toronto the way he flouts his opinions, but he's been a proud 'pegger for some time.

"I was born in Toronto, but I lived in Toronto long enough for my dad to pack up the car and leave," says Taylor with his trademark chuckle.

"I grew up in Sarnia (Ontario). It's a great spot to grow old in, just not a great spot to grow up in," says Taylor.

Growing up in a small town meant that Taylor had to occupy himself in lieu of big-city attractions and amenities. His pastimes influenced his future employment perhaps a bit more than anyone could have imagined at the time. "I played hockey and basketball and football, because that's what you did in Sarnia," says Taylor.

After finishing high school, Taylor went whole-hog after a future as an athlete.

"First I went to a junior college in the states for two years on a golf scholarship. I really wanted to play basketball, and this school had a great basketball team, but I just wasn't big enough. I think their smallest guard was six-foot-three," says Taylor, who is five feet, ten inches tall.

After two years of heavy golf and heavy study in the USA, Taylor was ready for a change of sport and nationality.

"I really wanted to go back to Canada, and there had been some interest shown from the guarding coach at Guelph, so I took the opportunity and left. I spent four wonderful years at the University of Guelph, and won a national championship," says Taylor.

"I always say I got my BFA, bachelor of fine arts, or, bachelor of f**k-all," kids Taylor.

Taylor didn't spend all of his time shooting hoops, despite what the popular stereotype of college athletes might be.

During his four-year tenure at the University of Guelph, Taylor mainly studied film, graphic design, and sociology.

"I always say I got my BFA, bachelor of fine arts, or bachelor of fuck-all," kids Taylor.

A common sentiment among arts students, Taylor claims he has never once used any of his expensive university education in the workplace.

"I learned by doing," says Taylor.

One of the first jobs Taylor learned to do was right here in Winnipeg.

"When I graduated, I got a job up here at the basketball association for the Manitoba Sports Federation," says Taylor.

"Me and this french guy, Bernard, were the first two guys hired by the Manitoba Sports Federation. That was back in '76," says Taylor.

"I did that for three years and then I went to work for the Bombers," says Taylor.

When Taylor moved to the Bombers, his fuse was quickly lit.

"I went over the desk at my boss one day, and I got fired for it," says Taylor

"I think my title was administrative assistant. But my job was basically do everything my boss didn't want to do, because I was a lesser," scoffs Taylor.

"It was the worst nine months of my life. It was the worst experience I have ever had in my life," says Taylor.

"I would just prefer not to talk about it any further," says Taylor, before adding "I went over the desk at my boss one day, and I got fired for it."

"He was nasty. Just nasty," says Taylor of his former boss at the Bombers.

"But then in the end it turned out not bad. It was funny, but the old sports editor at the Free Press liked my press releases and gave me a job freelancing when the Bombers fired me," says Taylor.

"That was also strange, because the U of W and the Free Press offered me full-time jobs on the same day. So I accepted them both," says Taylor.

"I would work from seven in the morning until four in the afternoon at the University of Winnipeg, and then from six at night until two in the morning at the Winnipeg Free Press," says Taylor. "That lasted for about a year."

In 1981-82, the union that Free Press employees belong to negotiated to have a substantial wage increase, so Taylor could afford to keep only one job, at the Free Press, where he has been ever since.

Taylor has born witness to a few major changes in his time behind the sports desk.

"I started in the eighties, and I started like everybody else, doing the rewrites, making the phone calls and running around and all that," recalls Taylor.

"It was a lot different when I started, because the Sun was just starting out. The (Winnipeg) Tribune had just gone down," says Taylor.

"One of the reasons the Trib went down was because they were having a war with the Free Press, and so two huge owners that were having another war in Ottawa decided that to end this war, one guy takes Ottawa and the other guy takes Winnipeg, and that's basically what happened," says Taylor.

A big part of Taylor's work for the Winnipeg Free Press as well as 92 CITI FM is travelling to different sporting events-- and he travels a lot.

"It's funny the way things happened when the Jets left. The paper still needed somebody basically to cover the NHL, but with no team I had to travel a lot more," says Taylor.

"When I travel, I am the typical tourist. I see all the sights and enjoy myself," says Taylor

Taylor says that while traveling sometimes keeps him away from his family a little more than he would like, they understand that frequent flyer points are a part of his job.

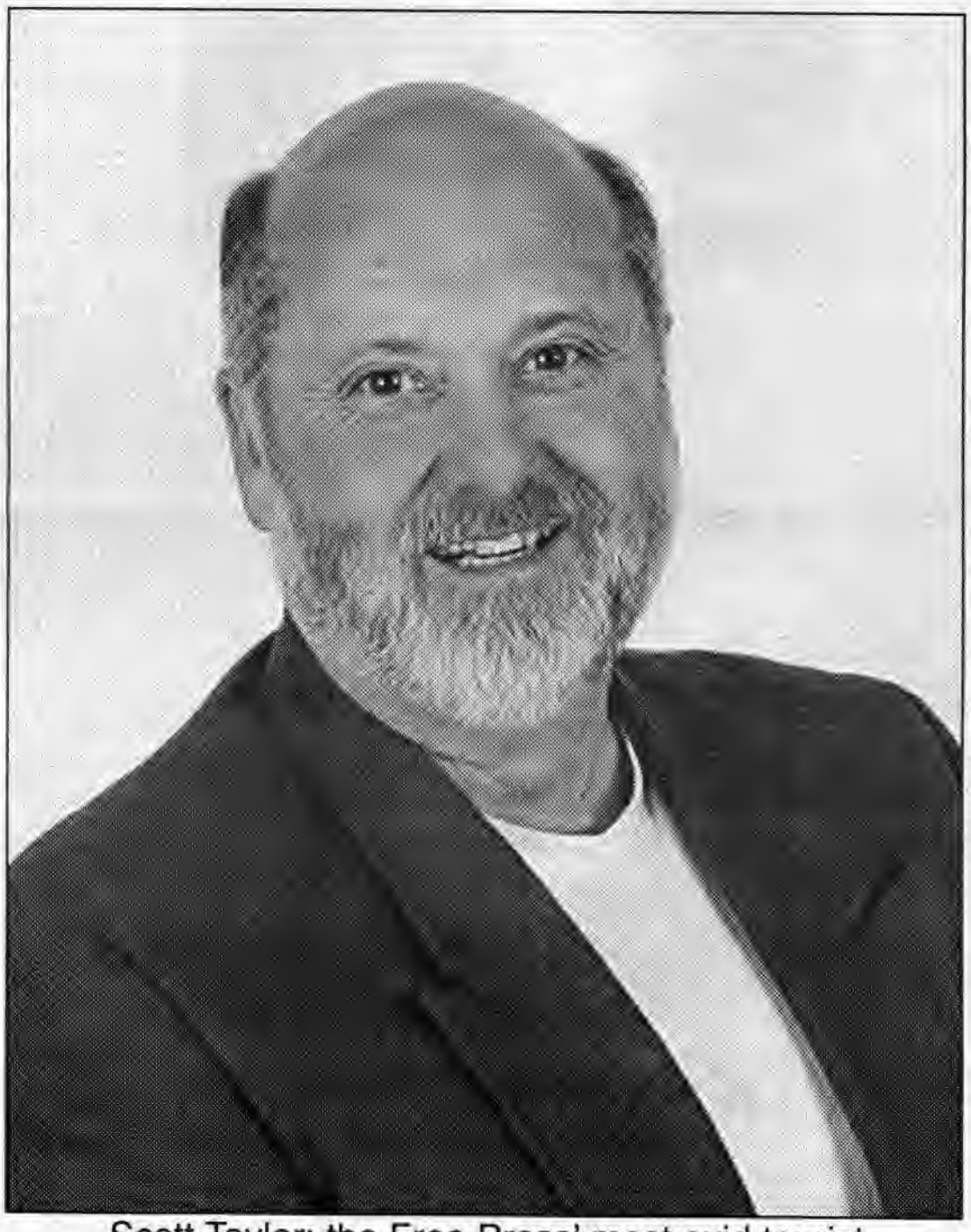
"We try to take the trips together whenever possible," says Taylor.

"One of the first editors I ever had encouraged all of his reporters to really see the places they are visiting, not just get the story and get out. Now when I travel I am the typical tourist. I see all the sights and enjoy myself," says Taylor.

Taylor has a son, Jessie, who is in his second year of theatre production at the University of Winnipeg, and a daughter, Betsy, who attends Glenlawn Collegiate Institute.

Taylor's wife, Sally, works as the storytime and crafts director at the St. Vital location of Chapters.

"Sometimes I feel like the luckiest guy in the world for having the job that I do," says Taylor. "I'll be doing it for a long time to come."



Scott Taylor: the Free Press' most avid tourist

Think you can't buy me love?

With our spicy and nice Valentine's Day guide, maybe you can!

By Rayna Anderson and Tamara King

Valentine's Day has little to do with love these days. Just like Christmas, it's all about commercialism; just ask the folks at Hallmark. Here is a student's guide to sucking up to your sweetheart on a shoestring budget.

You're semi-committed:

Mini beaded curtains

These psychedelic love beads are cut short to fit into your shaggin'-wagon window. How very 1969 for $11.99.

Flavoured whipped cream

This tasty treat comes in a variety of flavours, pina colada, peach, cherry, strawberry. And for $11.99, you can taste all the flavours of the rainbow.

Decorate

Sneak into your Valentine's bedroom and make it into an explosion of love. Get creative with balloons, cardboard cutouts and candles. Decorate with fabrics that are satin-like and lacy.

Grand Marnier body paint

Does it come in bulk? (La Senza, $7.95)

You're single and proud:

Singles who want to party

Spend Valentine's Day in the lap of luxury with several of your closest friends. Do the celebrity thing and have a limousine waiting to whisk you away after school. Make faces at the envious pedestrians through the dark tinted windows. Limousines are fairly cheap: about $50 an hour for one that seats six, or $75 an hour for one that seats eight. Dress up in your best duds and act like movie stars. Take action shots with a Funsaver camera to remember the night forever. Don't forget a bottle of Baby Duck champagne.

Photo: Lee Gunner

Cute cutouts make sweet valentines.

Friendship bracelets

Best friends make great Valentines, so let them know you care by giving them a friendship bracelet, just like in third grade. If you are crafty, you can make one. Or, you could go to Claire's and check out the selection. Most of them cost about $5.00.

Pity party

This can be anything your hearts desire, from watching a sappy movie (try Heathers, it's about freaky boyfriends who try to blow things up, enough to make anybody celibate forever). Treat yourselves like princesses with some cheap tiaras (Claire's, $4.99, not that you aren't worth more, but hey, we're students). Go sing karaoke at your favorite pub, especially sappy love songs and send them out to your best friends.

Edible chocolate box

Anything from the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, actually, would be a great token of affection. Crunch on red candy apples, eat an entire box of chocolates, eat everything in sight. You can even go watch them make fudge right before your eyes.

You're practically married:

A pager

So you can always get a hold of your Valentine. And always find your Valentine.

Tickets to PTE

All the productions relate to love this year, so it would be the perfect way to rekindle your romance even after Valentine's Day is long over. You can choose from Gap by Ian Ross or Side by Side (it's a musical). If you go about an hour before the show, tickets are only $10 for students. In advance, tickets are $19.50.

French maid service

What could be greater gift than giving your significant other a break from doing the household chores? Don't get us wrong; we don't think you should do them either. Hire a maid service for a day. Most services offer a free in-home estimate, but for an average single floor home the cost is around $60. It will take a team of three people about an hour for a typical home cleaning. It's a great gift for both of you!

Love songs

Want to serenade your sweetie but your rendition of I Will Always Love You sounds like a cat being swung buy its tail? Bring in the professionals. The Winnipeg Barbershop Harmony Society will deliver singing valentines anywhere in Winnipeg on the 14th. For $40 your sweetie will get two songs, a rose, a chocolate heart, a Valentine's card and a Polaroid of the magic moment.

Say "I Love You"

To the people you love, remember, hugs and kisses are free. **And** feel free to hug and kiss people you have yet to meet. Especially if you'd like to meet them. Spread the cheer. Share the love. Spend your money. Say "I love you!"And have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Espace-Silence: An explosion of colour

By Cheryl Miki

Former Red River College Advertising Art student Brigitte Dion is celebrating this week after the opening of her largest art show to date Espace-Silence: A Reflection on Winter at the Centre culturel franco-manitobain.

The show features 13 wall-sized abstract paintings that reflect the many shades of winter, from warm pockets in the snow to isolation and flights of fancy.

Dion's work demonstrates the striking contrast found within the season. Her acrylic on canvas Reve Volant/Flying Dream portrays the whimsy and helplessness of snow in flight, while her piece Cathedral captures the majesty of bare tree trunks caught between the stillness of the forest floor and the urgency of dawn.

Dion was commissioned last November by the CCFM to create a show around the theme of winter to run in conjunction with the Festival du Voyageur, says guest curator Denise Prefontaine.

But Dion was busy with her last show Quinqunx which ran in December and was unable to begin work on the project until after it closed.

"I had some ideas brewing in mid November, but I worked intensely for two weeks after the last show. But I don't want to give you the impression it was easy," Dion says.

This was her first time working with an imposed theme.

"I didn't mind, it gave me some parameters and guidelines for a more cohesive show," she says.

Also featured in the show is the poetry of Louise Fiset, author of two books of poetry: 404 BCA-Driver tout l'ete and Soul pleurer. She also wrote the play Letinsky Cafe which was produced by Cercle Moliere in 1987.

Although produced independently, the words and visuals work remarkably well together, each drawing out the beauty of the other.

Dion says she and Fiset established a good working relationship even though they only met a couple of times to discuss the show. She says she was amazed at the cohesiveness of the pieces.

"It's uncanny. Can you imagine what we would come up with if we were working in the same studio?" Dion says.

Dion, who also holds a degree in fine arts from the University of Manitoba. Dion chuckles, "Ad Art served me well. It gave me the fundamentals of graphic design and composition. But my work was more along the lines of fine arts, less noose around the neck, a little more free."

The show runs until March 4, 2001.

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Don't be mine, Valentine!

Cupid's arrow misses the mark on Hollywood's latest teen slasher movie

By Adam Clayton

Only two minutes into the horror flick Valentine and I'm already praying for Cupid to shoot me with an arrow— through the brain.

A Valentine's Day-themed teen slasher flick of the I Know What You Did Last Summer and Urban Legend variety, Valentine is being billed as David Boreanaz's (TV's Angel, Buffy the Vampire Slayer) big-screen debut.

God help us all if that's the best marketing gimmick Warner Bros. could develop for this film.

By this point, everyone has undoubtedly seen the commercials for Valentine, featuring a psycho in a Cupid cherub mask slitting throats, slashing guts, and taking aim with a bow and arrow.

If you've already noticed from the commercials that a Cupid mask isn't a particularly frightening image, you definitely won't be able to stand this movie— not that any sentient being could.

Valentine begins with a pre-teen boy asking girls to dance at some sort of weird American Grade 6 prom, in a pitiful attempt to recreate the horror and teen angst of Carrie. Yadda yadda yadda, this nerd gets rejected and bullied until we jump to the present, where some nut starts slicing and dicing all the girls who once mocked the geeky kid.

Oh valentine: Shelton and Richards

Why the boys who stripped the kid naked and beat the snot out of him on the dance floor aren't also targeted is never explained. Then again, little is in this movie— trying to figure out where the story is supposed to take place and what the hell these characters do all day is probably the most entertaining thing about Valentine.

What passes for the remainder of the plot involves Kate (Marley Shelton), Paige (Denise Richards), and their two decidedly obnoxious and unattractive friends trying to elude the revenge-fueled killer while curiously neglecting to search for his identity.

Where does one even begin criticizing this movie?

The cast is awful— Denise Richards is the only legit Hollywood star among the cast, and even her career is seriously borderline after this atrocity.

The acting— terrible. The direction— well, Jamie Blanks (Urban Legend) was at the helm of this production, so you figure it out.

Valentine is the worst major motion picture to hit screens in some time. If you are dumb enough to take your sweetheart to see it, they will not only refuse to be your valentine, they will hate you forever.

Like Valentine's Day itself, this movie will leave you feeling miserable, but without the chocolates.

Oh, Valentine. My crappy, crappy Valentine.

A Chorus Line: A singular "Sensation"

Rainbow Stage's winter musical a dancing delight

By Kimberly Ireton

In its original 1975 playbill, A Chorus Line was dedicated to 'anyone who has ever danced in a chorus or marched in step...anywhere.' It's a fitting credo since the musical focuses on the lives of the unsung heroes of musical theatre, the chorus dancers.

In its second consecutive year of staging a winter show, Rainbow Stage opened its run of A Chorus Line on Feb. 1. The high-spirited show did keep the audience's feet tapping to familiar tunes like 'One' and 'I Can Do That'; however it also could not help but drag occasionally because its staging presents little opportunity to be visually diverting.

Instead of staging a conventional plot, A Chorus Line, conceived by Michael Bennett, has what might be called a staging scheme.

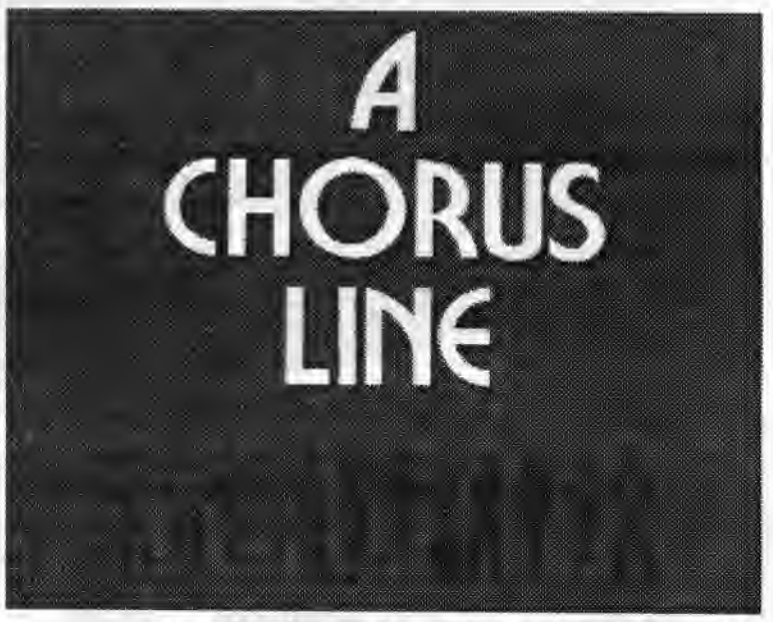
The lights come up to a bare stage, revealing an audition in progress. The director Zach and his assistant are attempting to cast a 'line'. Instead of just singing and dancing, however, Zach asks each person to talk about their personal lives. Seventeen dancers each take their turn to talk and sing about what's "not on their resumes."

While watching this process it becomes obvious that the dancing is the strongest aspect of Rainbow Stage's production. Bill Robertson's choreography is outstanding and each cast member kicks up their heels to the challenge. Different levels of vocal talent are obvious, however. Also, as with most musicals, the acting is not always up to the level of the dancing. This is, in fact, what causes some moments to drag since everything takes place, for the most part, on an empty stage.

This is not to say that the performances were not memorable. Scott Peter's Mike and Brenda Gorlick's Sheila were particularly worthy of note, and every other member of the line had a chance to shine at one moment or another.

If there was one weak performance overall it would have to be Stephan Beckon's Zach. As the director winnowing out the choices he was often hard to believe with his bland delivery.

A Chorus Line is not standard musical theatre fare (it's not often you hear four letter words in musicals). Since the costumes are not extravagant and the set consists merely of a black mesh backdrop and a wall of mirrors the onus is very much on the performers to make their roles and the show memorable. Despite minor glitches, Rainbow Stage lived up to that challenge.



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Hey happy heroes!

Local filmakers to be featured in Winnipeg film festival

By Kelly Stifora

The National Screen Institute's (NSI) Local Heroes Film Festival, Feb. 25 to Mar. 2, offers Winnipeggers a rare opportunity to see locally produced, feature length films.

"We're the only all-Canadian film festival in existence right now," says NSI publicist James Borsa. "Not only that, but four of the six features that we're presenting were shot in Winnipeg by Winnipeg filmmakers."

These include Hey Happy!, a film by local director Noam Gonick. Hey Happy! recently premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and will be making its Canadian debut during the Local Heroes festival.

Also on the roster are The Law of Enclosures, Desire, and Kanadiana, all shot in Manitoba, as well as Violet and Ginger Snaps, which were produced in Newfoundland and Ontario, respectively.

This is Winnipeg's third Local Heroes festival. The first followed the opening of the NSI's Winnipeg offices in 1998, when the company expanded from Edmonton. NSI still runs offices there and holds an annual international film festival.

"Our first year in Winnipeg we held an international festival, but with so much going on in the Canadian industry, we thought it was time start an entirely Canadian one," says Borsa. "We're proud that two thirds of the features being presented this year are locally produced."

Other events in the festival line-up include: Spend the Morning With, a series of seminars that will allow aspiring local filmmakers the opportunity to seek advice and insight from writers, directors and producers already well established in the Canadian film industry. The Local Exposure Amateur Film Festival is a contest that will see 30 locally produced short films and videos vying for awards and attention.

Violet, being shown in this year's festival was one of the first films to be developed through the Features First program. The program provides advanced skills and project development support, the goal being to get the film completed and distributed.

Two other films, Poor Superman and Inertia, will begin production in Manitoba shortly after the festival.

"Things are going well for NSI in Winnipeg," says Borsa "people are starting to realize that we're here, and what we're here for."

In addition to holding the annual Local Heroes festivals, the non-profit NSI provides training for writers, producers, directors and other film content developers year round using what they call a 'virtual education' model of training.

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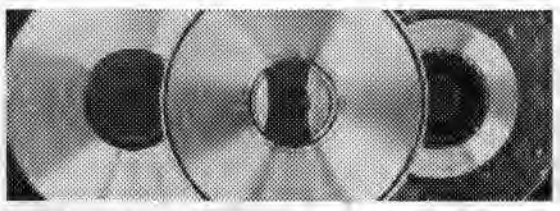

Reviews

Various Artists
The Best of Ken Burns Jazz

This soundtrack is an overview of the music heard in the ten-part documentary Jazz, and it's a gem from start to finish. For fans who know little about jazz, this album introduces us to some greats like Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, and the masters be-bop Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie "Bird" Parker.

- Sean Allum

Rating: 8 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 11, 13, 14, 16, 18

Various Artists
O Brother, Where Art Thou? Soundtrack

O Lord, give me strength: that would've been a better title for this compilation of yee-haws and country twang. Any disc that has several songs performed by The Soggy Bottom Boys is for die-hard fans only. Stay clear and you'll stay dry.

- Brandon Boone

Rating: 2 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 3, 5, 9

O-Town
O-Town

O-Town's debut effort is so sweet it makes my teeth hurt. Despite a song titled "Liquid Dreams", the big O fails to deliver. When the band was put together on ABC's Making the Band show, the boys all claimed to hail from different music backgrounds. That's funny, 'cause they all sound the same to me.

- Andrew Buck

Rating: 2 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: None

DIFFUSER
injury loves melody

From the pictures of the band, I thought I was going to hear a rip-off of Blink 182, who I personally don't care for. Then I heard the CD and was shocked. These guys suck even more. Every song sounds the same. They look like Blink 182, but sound like Bush x with a bad case of diarrhea.

- Sean Allum

Rating: 4 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 4

Various Artists
Snatch Soundtrack

This is one flat-out kick-butt album. All the frenetic energy of the Guy Ritchie film it was created for, rounded out with some ultra-mellow groovin' goodness thrown in for good measure. One of the rare soundtracks that gets away from the usual mainstream garbage Hollywood produces. Excellent music from 10CC, The Herbaliser, Klint, and The Specials.

- Andrew Langendorfer

Rating: 9.5 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 2, 4, 5, 14, 16

Oh Susanna
Sleepy Little Sailor

Oh Susanna, won't you cry for me . . . And she certainly seems to cry. Lots of acoustic guitar, soft drums and pianos make this album moody and mellow. Think poppy-folk a la Jewel. A nice listen for a quiet night, alone in your room.

- Tamara King

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

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EXPO 2001

Yin & Yang

By Tamara King

I have mixed emotions about Valentine's Day. The single girl in me wants to do the stereotypical single girl let's-eat-a-big-fat-chocolate-sundae routine. The romantic in me wants to decorate myself in roses and sit in a room with little tea lights playing soft jazz plays in the background.

The very least I can hope for is a trip to the bar and a chance to buy a beer for the boy I love (lust after, look at, whatever).

There's no use trying to figure out any deeper meaning behind Valentine's Day. Like the overly commercialized holiday it is, Valentine's Day is about cheesy red roses and barfy cinnamon hearts. Like lyrics to an redundant pop song, Valentine's Day is about fleeting, trivial gifts that'll only last a moment—edible chocolate boxes and flowers that die in a day. Lyrics that are basically forgotten until their bloody remains appear in a drunken haze at some bar somewhere (like old boyfriends who start to look attractive after a few beers).

If you have no valentine, have no shame. You can pretend. Send yourself a dozen roses, leave the card unsigned and the whole setup will look romantically mysterious. No one will ever know the difference.

I guess the tradition of Valentine's Day is supposed to be about romance. About love, about togetherness, about you and him(or her) being a part of one another.

But you can show love to anyone. Go out with all your girlfriends (or male friends), listen to cheesy love songs and drink some red red wine in celebration of the most over-commercialized holiday known to humankind.

So worry not all you loveless people, have fun with your friends, do whatever you want for Valentine's Day and some day your prince (or princess) will come.

Then you can proudly display your roses on your desk and kiss in public and eat one dessert with one fork for two people. Or wear tacky pink plastic heart shaped earrings while you and your date act cute for one evening of bliss. And then you'll phone your mother, letting her know that someone else in the world who cares for you as much as she does. And after that you'll phone your best friend, telling her all about your evening pre-planned passion.

Alone on February 14? Buy yourself a chocolate sundae, and smile.

By Andrew Langendorfer

Somebody pass me a barf bag and a change of clothes, 'cause Valentine's Day makes me wanna puke all over myself. There. It's been said quite bluntly: I hate Valentine's Day.

Maybe it's because I'm a bit of a dork, which doesn't exactly score me points with the ladies. Maybe it's because I don't have a single good memory of February 14. But maybe, just maybe, it's because Valentine's Day consistently manages to produce more romantic BS than any other day of the year, even (gasp) St. Patrick's Day.

The last thing starry-eyed new lovers need is a little help from Hallmark to make their special time even sappier. Do we really need to have a day officially marked on all of our calendars for hordes of horny juveniles to bump up the frequency and severity of their PDAs (Public Displays of Affection)?

Don't try to tell me that Valentine's Day is a romantic opportunity for a couple to really connect.

What's romantic are all of the little things you do for each other throughout the year; the things you do for no other reason than to say "I love you."

A wake-up massage. A surprise visit at sundown to give a surprise bouquet of daisies. A painstakingly-crafted mix tape of those "special songs." Corny, yes. Meaningful, also yes.

Not a dozen roses from freakin' Safeway. Not a pre-fab, uninspired card from a multi-national faceless corporation like Hallmark. Not a poem written by an underpaid copywriter. Cliche, yes. Unappreciated, also yes.

Valentine's Day is a big part of the reason true romance has been dying a slow death over the past 40 years or so. It's a cop-out for otherwise unloving partners to "really express their emotions."

Ever think about this? If your partner really loved you, she or he would do romantic things for you every day without even trying. Which means?

About 90 per cent of people aren't truly loved, no matter what we think. Kinda sucks.

Buy yourself a bottle of Johnny Walker Red Label, and cry yourself to sleep, loser.

Important Notice

Regarding Your

STUDENT HEALTH PLAN

Effective January 1, 2001, your Health Plan coverage has switched from Manitoba Blue Cross to **Canada Life Assurance Company**. As a result, all students currently on the plan will require a new policy number as well as a new **Pay-Direct Drug Card**. New cards are now available at our distribution table situated in front of the SA office or at other locations around campus during the month of January. Visit the SA office for more information – Room DM20.

SPECIAL NOTE: Blue Cross will pay claims incurred prior to January 1, 2001 provided claims are received no later than **February 14, 2001**.

Don't wait and be disappointed.
Get your 2000 insurance claims in today!

Look for the soon to be opened
Student Benefits Plan Office
(Junction of Bldgs E & F)

The Fake News

High times at RRC

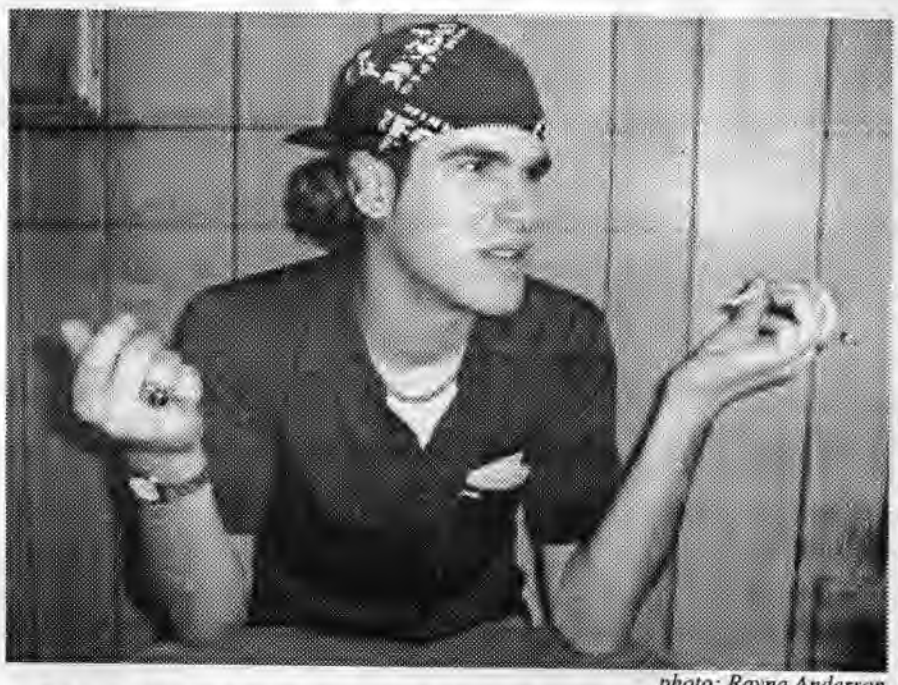

photo: Rayna Anderson

Cal Bongdenstein lights up an RRC spliff

By Andrew Langendorfer

Students struggling with high tuition fees will soon be breathing easier.

Red River College recently announced plans to expand their existing Greenspace Management program to include the care of a new cash crop by the name of Mary Jane.

"It's gonna rock," says John Puffin, new chair of Greenspace Management.

"I mean, there's gonna be so much f**king weed around here, it'll be unbelievable," says Puffin.

The college plans to start work on the new project as soon as the snow melts.

"Basically, we're gonna rip out all the trees from the courtyard, and put in a greenhouse roof attached to the walls of buildings D, E, and F," says Puffin. "As soon as that's done, we hook up the lights and we're good to go."

"Most of the money will go towards bursaries and lowered tuition," says Puffin. "But we gotta realize that a large part of our capital is earmarked for nachos and crap."

He is quick to point out that the grow-op is no small undertaking. "A couple of us are gonna have to drive all the way to frickin' BC to pick up all the stuff we need. And we're probably gonna have to take my Acadian. That's a small car, man," says Puffin.

The college decided to start the garden in part to finance moving the Creative Arts department to the new downtown campus.

"Yeah, we could really use the extra cash," says Steffani Clutch, RRC's newly-appointed Dean of Narcotics.

"I mean, we're chargin' what, at least a coupla hundred bucks tuition at Red River," says Clutch.

"It's not easy for students to pay their way through college and keep up a steady pot habit, so we figured we'd give 'em a little break," says Clutch. Finding enough buyers is not a concern according to Clutch. "We've already got a lot of joint programs with the U Dub, so that's gonna be pretty much our main market," says Clutch.

"You should see how much those hippies can suck back. Damn. So, it's good for students, plus I get a little score off the top, y'know?" says Clutch.

Clutch admits that at first, the new program didn't quite roll up as neatly as she had hoped. "Yeah, there were a couple of tight-asses that were all crying about how 'Ooh, drugs are bad, m'kay?'" says Clutch.

"But then we just all got together, sparked a few bowls, watched Zeppelin on DVD with massive surround sound, and it was all good," says Clutch.

The news of the grow-op has spread like grassfire throughout the campus, and most students seem to be pleased with RRC's proactive paradigm synergy.

"That just plain rules," says Advertising Art student Cal Bongdenstein.

"They might as well cash in on it. My only concern is for one of my instructors, 'cause I score most my stuff off him," says Bongdenstein.

"I just hope this doesn't put him out of business."

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

TOP TEN

TOP TEN THINGS NOT TO BUY THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE ON VALENTINE'S DAY

10. Econo-sized vat of KY Jelly
9. Stained cotton undergarments
8. Nosehair clippers
7. Jars of pickled anything
6. A bowling ball with your name engraved on it
5. Solid Gold Accordion Love Songs CD
4. Vomit-In-A-Can
3. Heart-shaped beef jerky
2. That babushka you found on the floor of the McLaren
1. Naked videos of your summer vacation (grandpa's in them too, remember?)

- Andrew Langendorfer

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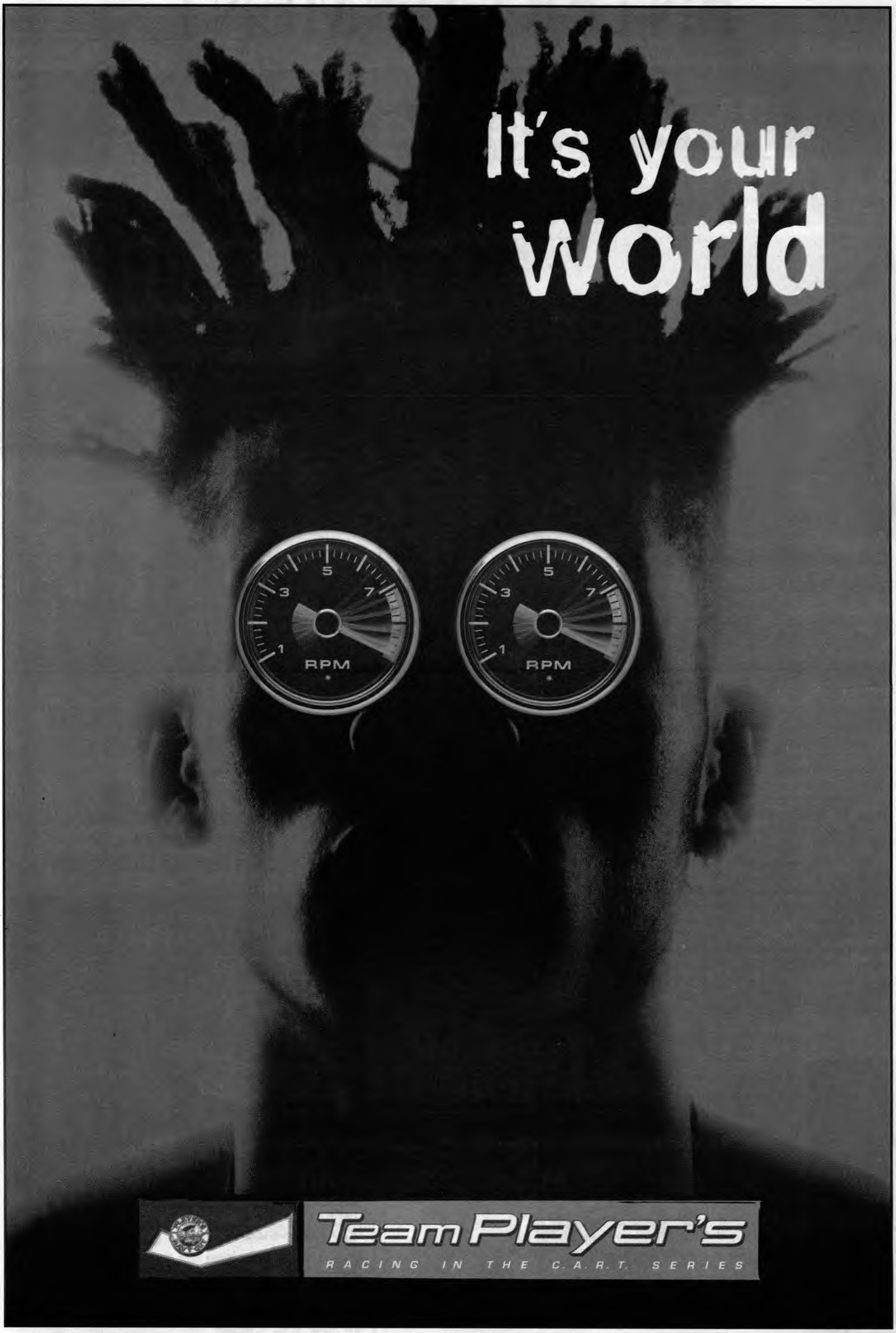
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RPM
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RACING IN THE C.A.R.T. SERIES