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NEWS

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RED RIVER COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

THE PROJECTOR

January 27, 2003

Notre Dame renovations set in drive

Wheels start to turn on SA Student Street plans

By Kyle Goodridge

The Red River College Students' Association has $1.6 million in a building fund that, after nearly 20 years of collection, they are preparing to spend.

In the past couple of weeks, the SA Student Street proposal has entered the initial stages of major renovations to the Notre Dame campus.

Since 1984, the Red River College Students' Association has been collecting $20 per year from full-time students, with dreams of one day creating a student union building to centralize services provided by the SA.

However, an assessment of the original concept done by Corbett Cibinel Architects in 1998 drew a price tag of over $6 million.

"We recognize that it would cost a lot more money than we've been able to accumulate, and the likelihood of us ever being able to build that building anytime soon is remote," says SA executive director Owen Desnoyers. "Especially given the fact that the province has already spent almost $40 million on Princess Street, we felt this revised concept has more of a chance of being accomplished in the near future, and it's been a long time in development."

The revised concept for the student centre, dubbed "Student Street," involves developing space throughout the mall level of buildings D and E to provide more common space for students.

The preliminary plan, currently entering a consultation phase, lists several renovations that could take place in the next couple of years.

The SA offices are slated to expand into a portion of the area that The Cave now occupies. These renovations will include expanding SA offices, creating a more welcoming reception area, and adding a small boardroom.

Photo by Lynsay Perkins

The Cave is one part of the Student Street plan that is slated for renovation at Notre Dame.

The remaining space in The Cave is scheduled to become an Internet café. The café would serve a number of student needs.

"We have a shortage of places where laptop programs can sit down, plug in, and hook up," says Desnoyers. "We're also looking at having our own high-speed Internet access line so as not to put a burden on the college's already stressed server that is currently serving the academic side of the college. Ours would be for more recreational purposes."

The southernmost locker bay at the corner of buildings D and E would be renovated into a new Tower Lounge, one that would provide almost twice the space offered in the current Tower Lounge.

The Tower Lounge as it now exists would become a quiet study area for students, including computer drops and study carrels.

The other locker bay in building E would replace the function of the existing Cave, providing a games-room-type lounge for students.

Courtyard access along building E is another scheduled improvement, as is an expansion to the student store, The Ox.

One of the largest components of Student Street is the planned renovation of the South Gym. The plan calls for a new wing to accommodate a permanent bar and storage area in the gym. It also includes a new floor and general maintenance to the entire space.

The revised concept for the building fund claims that its major advantage is that "it has the chance of happening at the same time

continued on page 5

Warning: this paper may suck

By Joff Schmidt

Automotive Technician student Jason Lozie, together with some of his classmates, leafs through a copy of the student newspaper, taking a look at each story.

"Stupid," he says of The Projector, referring to a story concerning the lack of clocks at the Princess Street campus.

"We have no clocks either," he says. "Buy a watch."

His disdain for the paper reflects the view of many disenfranchized students who say they've been left without a voice since The Projector began neglecting the Notre Dame campus.

Automotive Technician students, for example, have gone so far as to stop picking up the bundles of Projector issues dropped off in front of their building.

"We decided we didn't care anymore," says Lozie.

He says the consensus in the Auto Tech building was that the paper was irrelevant to the students there. "It had nothing to do with us. If you look at the Projector issues this year, the front page of every Projector has something to do with Princess."

Lozie said he was unaware of any students who had sent letters to The Projector expressing their concerns. "I don't know if anybody would, because there's no letters column."

"We have had a few people write to us," says Projector news editor Scott Prouse .

Prouse says the paper has made efforts to be inclusive, but that because of the reality of the difficulties involved in producing a campus newspaper, that isn't always possible.

"It was a really hard year for the paper, just because of transferring

continued on page 5

Smile, speedy - you're on Candid Cop Camera

By Teresa Falk

So much for speeding to that first class of the day.

Jan. 7 marked the first day of a new Winnipeg Police Service initiative which has placed 12 red light cameras at different intersections throughout the city. The cameras are intended to catch traffic violators in the act.

During the last months of 2002, the city sent warning notices to residents for speeding and running red lights. But with the new year comes a new approach: no more warning notices. No more Mr. Nice Guy. The grace period is officially over. The police service has begun sending out fines through the mail to speeders and red light runners.

The fines are $125 for running a red light and $75 or more, depending on the speed of the vehicle, for speeding through an intersection. Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit in Winnipeg is 50 kilometers per hour.

According to a Winnipeg Free Press report, by the end of 2003, 12 more red light cameras will be installed around the city. At this point, the locations for the additional cameras have not been decided.

The 12 cameras, including the one at Isabel Street and William Avenue, a few blocks from the Princess Street campus, are clearly visible, sitting on tall beige posts.

They can operate at all times. Rain, shine, or blizzard, the cameras will scrutinize your driving habits 24 hours a day.

Devices claiming to foil the cameras, which operate by photographing the licence plate of the offender's vehicle, are currently illegal. The fine for blocking a licence plate is $45.

"The issue is unconstitutional," says Automotive Technician student Glen Henderson, noting that the owner of the car, not necessarily the driver, receives the ticket. However, he points out a ticket issued because of a violation caught by a red light camera doesn't affect your licence.

Automotive Technician student Phongsa Phonexai isn't a fan of the cameras either. "People aren't dumb. There's no point to the cameras."

Other students think the cameras may be a good idea.

"It's no secret where they are," says Computer Analyst/Programmer student Lisa Riediger. "So it's stupid for a person to drive 100 down a street where there's a camera. This will hit them where it hurts."

And the cameras already seem to have made an impact. "I notice myself checking my speed now," says Business Administration student Heather Zolinski. "I think the cameras are a good thing."

Students' Association president David Lyman puts a different spin on the issue. "I think it's a good thing if it will make the streets safer."

He says because the cameras are clearly advertised, the system is pretty fair.

"Hopefully, not too many RRC students will get tickets, putting them further into debt," he says.

More information on the red light cameras can be found at www.safestreets.ca.

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Here's what other RRC students have to say about the new red light cameras:

"I think they would be more effective if they were mobile. But people will be more careful."
- Caitlin Stewart
Business Administration

"I think people will still run reds, just not where the cameras are. (Telling people where the cameras are) defeats the purpose."
- Shauna Sutherland
Computer Analyst/Programmer

"I think the cameras are going to work. Some are a little more discreet than others. People will become more conscious of their speed. It's a win-win situation."
-Schubert Beaubrun
SA vice-president of student affairs

THE PROJECTOR
RED RIVER COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

Red River College's Newspaper for over 30 years.

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Natalie Pona
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Joff Schmidt and Ashleigh Viveiros
News Editor
Scott Prouse
with
Kyle Goodridge and Peter Vesuwalla
Entertainment Editor
Sam Thompson
with
Lauren Phillips and Ruth Shead
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Lynsay Perkins and Jeremy Besyk
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If you have an opinion about something you've read in The Projector, or would like to address an issue concerning Red River College, please write to us.

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Clubs flub on campus

25 of 44 student clubs inactive

By Lindsey Wiebe

Looking for a group to sit down with and discuss what's really going on under Ashley MacIsaac's kilt? How about some friends to share your love of sport parachuting and hang-gliding, or a few peers to help shake your public speaking jitters?

Well, you're out of luck. Twenty-five of Red River College's 44 student clubs, including Newfie Nights, the Red River Aero-Sport Association, and Toastmasters are currently listed as inactive.

The good news is any of the 25 can be revived, provided students show enough interest.

All student clubs are required to fit one of two categories. Special interest clubs are geared towards a specific faculty or course, such as the Culinary Arts Club or the Dental Assistants Club. Social or general interest clubs, such as the Red River Christian Fellowship, are open to any interested students.

The majority of the 19 active clubs fall into the category of special interest. The need to raise money may be a motivating factor behind the large number of such faculty-run groups according to Lars Vik, vice-president of financial and support services.

"Most of them are fundraising clubs," says Vik. "Some of them take trips. Often it's for a grad party."

Despite RRC's student body of 31,000, the number of clubs devoted to issues awareness such as the environment, women's issues, and sexuality is low compared to the University of Winnipeg. The U of W's current enrollment of just under 8,000 students is similar to the 8,461 full-time students at RRC. Such groups would likely qualify as social or general interest at Red River College; however, these clubs are few in number.

Vik says that some social and issues awareness clubs can be found at RRC. "I know we do have a Gay/Straight Alliance Club, but the last record of it was one or two years ago."

One reason for a low number of social and general interest clubs may be a lack of time. Red River College features many accelerated programs, leaving students with few spare hours to spend in social or cause-related groups. This is evident in the fluctuating student interest in clubs, according to Vik.

"It comes in waves," says Vik. "It started off slow, and picked up in October (and) November. Right before Christmas, clubs were coming left, right and centre, when exams were out of the way."

Students looking to revive an inactive club must get approval from the former club president through Student Services. For new clubs, those interested should schedule a meeting with the Student Advisory Board. Based on a five to ten minute presentation by the students, the board then decides whether to give the club a green light.

Whether the purpose of the club is fundraising, increased public awareness or shared interests, the main factor in creating a club is its inclusiveness.

"What we want to do is try to create clubs where everyone feels they can be a part of it," says Vik. "Try to start a club that can incorporate everyone."

RRC guidelines for student clubs

* Clubs must have at least 10 full-time student members.
* Clubs must have an appointed president, vice-president, and treasurer/secretary.
* Clubs must have a clearly written purpose for existing.
* Clubs may not be restrictive on the basis of race, religion, political beliefs, sex, age or sexual orientation, unless provided for elsewhere in the handbook.
* Clubs must permit anyone with a genuine interest in the club's activities the opportunity to participate.

To obtain a copy of the handbook, or to find out more information on club guidelines and requirements, contact:
Red River College Students' Association [RRCSA]
DM20, 2055 Notre Dame Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0J9
Tel: (204) 632-2473
Fax: (204) 632-7896

Students encouraged to tell it like it is

RRCSA promotes new online instructor evaluations

By Brad Cartman

Red River College Business Administration students are being encouraged to critique their instructors, but no one's talking.

The Students' Association will begin revving up promotion efforts next month to encourage Business Admin students to say what's on their minds.

The Online Instructor Evaluation System, implemented two years ago to allow Business Admin students to leave anonymous feedback for their instructors, has so far had little response from students. The evaluations, to be viewed only by the instructor and the dean of the program, are intended to improve the quality of education offered to students.

The Business Admin department made the survey available to its students over the summer and again last November. However, they didn't receive any response from students.

Students' Association president David Lyman is hoping that when students log on to the RRC Web site to access their mark transcripts, they will take the time to provide feedback using the online survey.

"The students want the opportunity to provide feedback, and the instructors want to hear it," says Lyman.

To help facilitate the use of the online survey, three laptops with wireless Internet connections will be available at the Notre Dame campus. Business Admin students will be able to log on to the site using the laptops during the first week of February.

Other ideas suggested for raising awareness of the surveys include adding a floating icon to RRC's student information Web page. Clicking on the icon would lead students to the surveys.

Lyman says he would also like to see reminders from class representatives about the evaluations, and time set aside in classes with computer labs for students to fill out the survey.

However, the fault for the lack of response to the evaluations doesn't lie entirely with the students. Pat Bozyk, dean of student services, acknowledges that there are still some bugs to work out of the program. "Students have had some difficulty implementing the system," she says.

Another problem with an earlier Business Admin survey was that students were given only three days to complete the evaluation.

Bozyk says that the survey questions on the new evaluation will be similar to those previously used in paper surveys. However, enhancements are still being made to the new evaluation system. Graham Thompson, chair of management and marketing, is with the committee working on two policies covering midterm feedback and student evaluations of instructors for all programs at the college.

"Essentially, they will say that all students will have the ability to provide midterm feedback, and a more comprehensive evaluation as well," says Thompson.

Promotions for the online surveys will continue until the week following final exams.

Brrr... It's gittin' cold out there, so put on all yo' clothes...

...and then come and write for The Projector.

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CAREER FAIR 2003

MARCH 26

Projector under fire

continued from page 1

to the new campus," says Prouse. "Originally, we wanted to cover every issue - Notre Dame, Princess Street. It got focused more on Princess Street because we're here," he says of the Projector's editors, who, like most of paper's writers, are Creative Communications students at the new Princess Street campus. "I can only write what I know, and I can only assign stories I know," he adds.

Prouse defends the focus on the new campus by noting that the multimillion dollar project is one of the major news events surrounding Red River College this year. "Because it's the biggest move in Red River's history, I feel it should be documented," he says.

College president Jacqie Thachuk also has concerns about the way the paper presents the college.

"I would hope it's a good communication tool for the college," she says, adding that she also feels that producing a campus newspaper is good experience for the students. "The opportunity for students to produce a paper is a valuable one, and not to be taken lightly. I'm supportive of doing that."

At the same time, Thachuk expressed concerns that the paper has a negative editorial slant. "The initial headline is eye-catching for its negativity," adding that this is not what most readers want to see from the paper. "They want facts, they want accurate reporting, they want real issues."

"I can see that," says Prouse. "She has a good point."

At the same time, he notes that college administration has been less than co-operative with Projector editors and writers. "I haven't had a lot of success with them since day one," he says. "They haven't been very helpful. It makes it hard for me to write a story that is both fair to them and fair to myself - fair, accurate.

"I've tried to make it more entertaining for students to read, and to add a little levity to it."

Thachuk also has concerns about the range of stories the paper runs. She feels The Projector's writers need to do a better job of getting out and finding stories. "I would think there's a lot of stories out there," she says. "My belief was, as a newspaper, you have to go out and find the stories."

Schubert Beaubrun, the Students' Association's vice-president of student affairs, agrees. "They need to reinvent themselves," he says of The Projector. "Go out there and find the stories. Go outside the college."

He agrees that as a campus newspaper, The Projector needs to address the concerns of RRC's staff and students, but says for Projector content, "it should be student concerns, whether it's internal, or other campuses. Go to other post-secondary institutions.

"When we're too internally focused, it looks like we're a bunch of squabbling students."

One problem that Beaubrun notes is that many students feel "shut out" of the campus paper. "Right now, I don't think they know where it's being produced from," he says. Although the student handbook says that "the production offices of The Projector will now be located in the brand-new newsroom at the Princess Street campus," the paper is in fact still produced in "the ramshackle trailer situated north of the Notre Dame campus."

Prouse acknowledges that student alienation is a problem. "I get the impression they think it is a closed forum." He points out that The Projector runs an open call for submissions in each issue, and that all students and staff are welcome to submit stories or story ideas to the paper.

Prouse concludes by pointing out that producing a newspaper every two weeks with limited resources and staffing, combined with the problems associated in Cre Comm's move to the Princess Street campus, is no simple feat. "It's a challenge to put this paper out. It's really hard. It shouldn't be this way."

Student Street planned

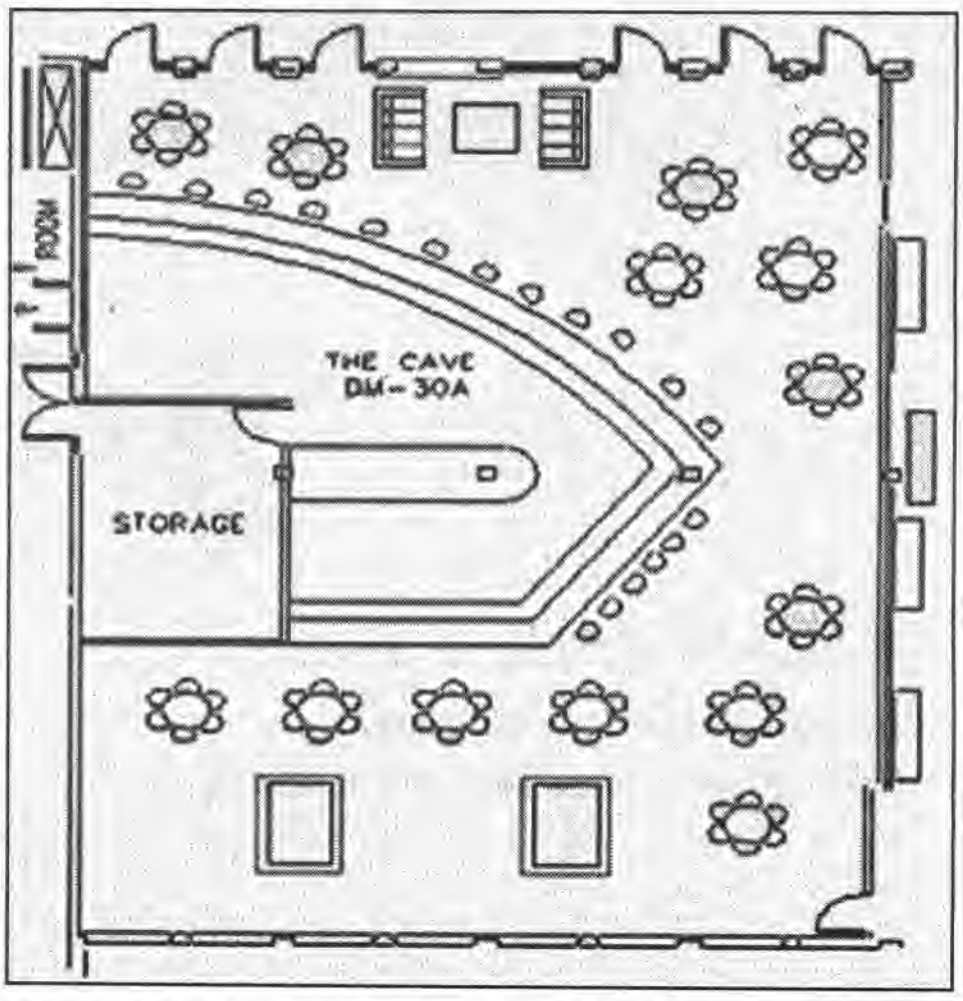
continued from page 1

as the establishment of the downtown campus instead of five to ten years in the future."

"We are presenting the Student Street proposal to as many students and staff as possible to make sure we are going in the right direction and we are meeting the needs of the students," says SA president David Lyman. "We are very satisfied with feedback that we have been getting from students, and I see no reason why we would not be able to start with renovations to The Ox and the South Gym by this summer."

Desnoyers adds one final piece of possible good news for students. "We would be really pleased if we could announce in a year or so that we no longer have to assess this $20 fee for students. You could see an actual reduction of student fees, because the purpose for this money has already been accomplished and there's no need to keep collecting it.

"That's just a possibility," he adds. "I'm not saying that's exactly what's going to happen, but I think that's another good news item on this story."



A dazzling, two-dimensional potential layout for the new Cave.

Dear Red River College,

We miss you so much. Remember all those good times we had? Walking on the beach, rollerskating, frolicking in the park (nudge, nudge, wink, wink).

Write us soon baby. We miss you.

The Projector
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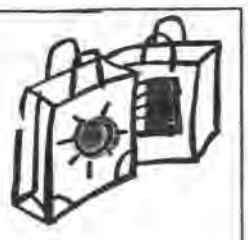
Thrift is Hip



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See you Feb 3rd & 4th, 2003 at Pavilion!!!

Please note: The Student Benefits Plan Office will be closed Feb 3rd & 4th, 2003 to assist at the Pavilion.

Don't give crime an opportunity: RRC security

RRC locker bays on their way out, SA Student Street plans underway

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Notre Dame campus security will breathe a small sigh of relief when the lockers in the mall-level locker bays are taken out and dispersed to other areas of the campus.

The building E locker bays are often considered the places with the most potential for locker break-ins and other forms of vandalism and violence, even if such occurrences are rare.

"We suffer little to no break-ins to lockers," says Bob Lechow, RRC security supervisor. "We've never had anyone assaulted or anything like that, but they're more prone to it. We'd just as soon have them in hallways."

Lechow says that having the lockers spread out in the more heavily travelled and better lit hallways of the upper floors would make them more visible and, ultimately, safer.

"If they're isolated or out of the way they could become more of a target," he says. "If they're out in the open there's less chance of anything happening."

Plans are already underway to use the leftover space for the Students' Association's "Student Street," which will concentrate a number of SA facilities in one area of the campus.

"It'll get rid of the locker bay environment," says Owen Desnoyers, executive director of the SA. "Security and us have always commented that the way it's configured, it's not really a safe place."

Desnoyers says that ideally the locker bays will be gutted this summer, but that realistically he sees it happening sometime within the next two years.

Even if the lockers are moved to more visible areas of the campus, security still urges students to use their heads when using a locker.

"We ask people that do register lockers to make sure they buy a good quality lock," says Lechow. "It reduces the chance of being broken into, it doesn't eliminate the chance.

"A lot of theft taking place is targeted," he adds, referring to students seen leaving laptops and other valuables in their lockers. "Don't leave valuable property in a locker. Don't give crime an opportunity."

Locker bays are soon to be a thing of the past.

CULTURAL INSIGHTS COLUMN

Broke Your New Year's Resolutions Already?

Well Here's Your Second Chance!

Happy New Year! Happy Chinese New Year that is. Even more appropriately, Happy Lunar New Year! The New Moon on February 1st 2003 will mark the year 4700 The Year of the Sheep according to the Lunar Calendar and, like New Year's here in the West, this holiday- swathed in tradition in ritual- will be celebrated with food, family, friends, a whole lotta fun, and of course the deafening bang of exploding firecrackers. Lunar New Year is the single most important holiday in China, however, it is celebrated throughout Asia: in Korea it is called Solnal; in Vietnam Tet Nguyen Dan; and in Thailand they call it Songkran. China rings in the Lunar New Year in a very big way, with the origins of the holiday itself centuries old and, in fact, too ancient to accurately be traced. It is popularly referred to as the Spring Festival and the celebrations last 15 days, ending with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day. The exact date of this holiday will vary from year to year as the Chinese calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. The lunar cycle is about 29.5 days. In order to "catch up" with the solar calendar, the Chinese insert an extra month once every few years (seven years in a 19 year cycle.) This is much the same as adding an extra day on leap year- hence the Lunar New Year will fall on a different date each year.

The Lunar New Year is a time for reconciliation, and a time for forgiving old grudges. It's also a time for thanksgiving, and for showing honour and respect to one's deceased relatives and ancestors. Above all, it is a time for family reunion and for people to be warm and kind towards one another. It is also believed that one's behaviours and actions on New Year's Day will determine the course of the whole year to come.

So here then are some traditional **"Do's"** and **"Don'ts"** for celebrating the Chinese New Year:

Do....

* Set off firecrackers to welcome in the New Year.
* Open all doors and windows on New Year's Eve to let the old year out.
* Clean your entire house, but make sure you do it before New Year's Day for sweeping and dusting should be avoided on this day for fear of sweeping away your good fortune.
* Pay off all your debts (if only because this is a good thing.)
* Wear red- a bright, happy colour sure to bring you a sunny and bright future!
* Be kind to all dogs (not that you weren't before) on February 2nd- considered to be the birthday of all dogs.
* Forgive old grudges.
* Exchange gifts
* Stay at home on the 5th to welcome the God of Wealth
* Eat noodles and raw fish for longevity and success on the 7th- considered the birthday of all human beings

Don't....

* Cry on New Year's Day or you will be crying throughout the whole year.
* Lend money, or you'll be lending all year.
* Use foul language or negative terms which are considered unlucky.
* Mention death or dying, tell ghost stories, or refer to the past as everything should be focused towards the New Year and new beginnings.
* Wash your hair on New Year's Day or you will wash away your good luck.
* Use scissors or knives on New Year's Day or you may risk cutting off your good fortune.
* Eat meat on New Year's Day to ensure a long and happy life.
* Visit family on the 5th- it will bring you all bad luck.

So you might well be wondering- what will this New Year bring? Well, each Chinese year is traditionally represented by a repeated cycle of 12 animals. February 1st, will mark the change-over from the Year of the Horse to the Year of the Sheep or Goat. This year promises to be a time for relaxation and making peace with one's self and others. You may feel more sentimental and emotional, and drawn closer to home and family. The Sheep will make us more liberal with our time and money (Yay to that!) and will bring out the creativeness in our natures. On the world scene things should be tranquil and subdued- so there may be hope for Iraq yet with wars and international conflicts usually ending in the Year of the Sheep. It is a time where moderates and doves will be heard and headed- and of that we can only hope. All in all, it should be a year for peace, goodwill ,and introspection. To find out more about the Lunar New Year, your place in the Chinese Zodiac, or about the history of the Chinese in Canada visit the Diversity Display located in the Library Hallway from January 31st - to February 14th, and be sure to join us for the celebration of the Lantern Festival on the 14th!

For more information, please contact the:
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THE PROJECTOR
OPINION
January 27, 2003

A house divided

After five months or so as a Red River College student, I'm beginning to realize why we're no longer called a "community" college.

There is no sense of community here.

Normally, this would be the part of the editorial where I launch into laying blame for this. Is it the Students' Association's fault? College administration's? The Projector's? Or even, God forbid, the students?

Maybe the fact that I feel compelled to play the blame game is indicative of where the problem really lies. "When we're too internally focused," Students' Association VP Schubert Beaubrun told me in a recent interview, "it looks like we're a bunch of squabbling students."

I couldn't agree with him more. The problem is, we're entirely internally focused. As students, we seem to spend all of our energy finding fault with each other.

Think about it. Princess Street campus students bitch about the building; The Projector puts said bitching into print; the students bitch about the paper; and the paper bitches that the students don't like it.

Or this: the students complain that the Students' Association doesn't show enough leadership. The SA complains that the students don't get involved or voice their concerns enough. Everyone complains to The Projector, which complains in print, and then people complain about that.

Are you sensing a pattern here?

I'm not saying that there's not a lot to complain about here. The Princess Street campus, as swell as it is in many ways, has some pretty serious failings. And The Projector does spend too much time talking about the Princess campus, but when students from that campus are the only ones who submit articles for the paper, it's hardly surprising that we notice the problems in our own backyard first.

The point here is, we could go on forever arguing with each other, but it reminds me of nothing more than a dog chasing its own tail. Maybe it's time we focused on bigger issues, instead of indulging in cannibalistic infighting.

Case in point: we've enjoyed a tuition freeze for the last couple of years. Has anyone heard the province commit to extending that for next year? Maybe the NDP doesn't want to rock the boat too much before a spring election.

Now here's something that we, as a campus, should be united behind. I think we'd all like to see another tuition freeze. But of course, we're not uniting behind it. The students are waiting for the SA to take leadership on the issue, and the SA's waiting for the students to demonstrate that they care about it.

Back to square one.

Well, we've got an opportunity coming up to do something about it. Our evidently more active colleagues at the University of Winnipeg are organizing a student rally on Wednesday, Feb. 5. Students will meet at the U of W at noon, and will march down Portage Avenue, back to Broadway, and on to the legislature, where they will make their demands for a tuition freeze heard.

Will the voices of RRC students be heard there? Or will we all be too busy trying to figure out which group at the college has screwed us over that week?

I, for one, plan to be there. I like the tuition freeze. I'd like other people to know that I like the tuition freeze. And I'd like to know that someone at this college cares.

So there it is. The challenge is issued. I'll be there. Will the SA? Will The Projector?

Will you?

Dividing the house

I don't mean to alienate Notre Dame and other regional readers of the student paper right off the bat, but I'm going to do it anyway.

Princess Street.

I'll bet most people just stopped reading this editorial because they're sick of hearing the words "Princess Street." I don't blame them. Why should students at other campuses - who comprise the vast majority - really give a shit about what goes on at Princess Street?

They shouldn't, and I'm pretty sure they don't.

But as an RRC student, whatever you do, don't envy those of us who are currently attending classes there. As much as Princess Street might be the new baby in the house, it's safe to say that the proverbial Red River College parents (whoever they may be) do not love Princess Street any more than the other campuses.

Sometimes I wonder if they might love Princess Street less. At the risk of offending some, I think that mama might have been drinking a bit when Princess Street was in the womb. Something here is just not right.

Sure, from an educational standpoint, Princess Street is a gem. The building is brand new and quite impressive. The equipment is all state of the art. In the grand scheme of things, money has been well invested in this project. Furthermore, I do not doubt the quality of education that I'm receiving from RRC. The practical, hands-on experience is an invaluable tool that many of us won't fully appreciate until we are in the workforce.

What I currently doubt is the rest of the package: the student experience that exists outside the classroom. Peel a few layers away from Princess Street and things start to get real thin, real fast.

In effect, Princess Street is a no man's land of student activity and services. Notre Dame has the Tower Lounge where students can shut off "school mode" and just relax. Princess Street has two, count them, two futons. And I think the same people sleep on them 24-7.

Although quiet study areas at Notre Dame are somewhat limited, at least they exist. The library at Princess Street has three tables and is separated from the noisy cafeteria by a thin "wall" (I put that in quotation marks because it does not reach the ceiling).

Notre Dame has The Ox, where students can go pick up a paper, magazine, bus tickets, or God forbid, cigarettes. Princess Street, on the other hand, has nothing. I can't even get a pen here.

Another aspect of student life that Princess Street desperately lacks is a social environment from which to build some sort of school spirit. There is no student activity at Princess Street outside of the classroom. I even had dances at my elementary school (at which I still danced like an idiot - although sober). The problem is that there are simply no facilities available at Princess Street for the programming department to plan any events.

Don't forget the complete lack of any workout facilities or intramural activities.

I feel that I, along with the rest of the students at Princess Street, am being deprived of some of the greatest memories that the college experience has to offer.

Maybe all this will change next year, and maybe I'm just trying to make those of you at Notre Dame feel happy about where you are. But somehow, I feel that I'm not getting what I paid for. After all, the college experience is supposed to be about more than just an education.

An opinion for the opinions page

Oooohh... I have to admit that I've been dreading this for a long time. An editorial about...well, I guess about capital "E" Entertainment, or, or... perhaps being an entertainment interim editor also means I can speak of small "a" art.

An opinion, eh?

Yes... An opinion for the opinions page. That's reasonable enough.

The problem is, I no longer trust opinions about art and the like, and by crooked logic no longer trust the pages upon which they are printed.

It's a kind of problem for me really. I gravitate towards people with strong opinions, but hate the unwavering tone of opinions themselves. I believe my inclination is a perversion, similar to how a hostage falls in love with her captor. I love the impulse, the passion that drives vitriolic spasms in my friends, but in the end feel as if it's wasted energy.

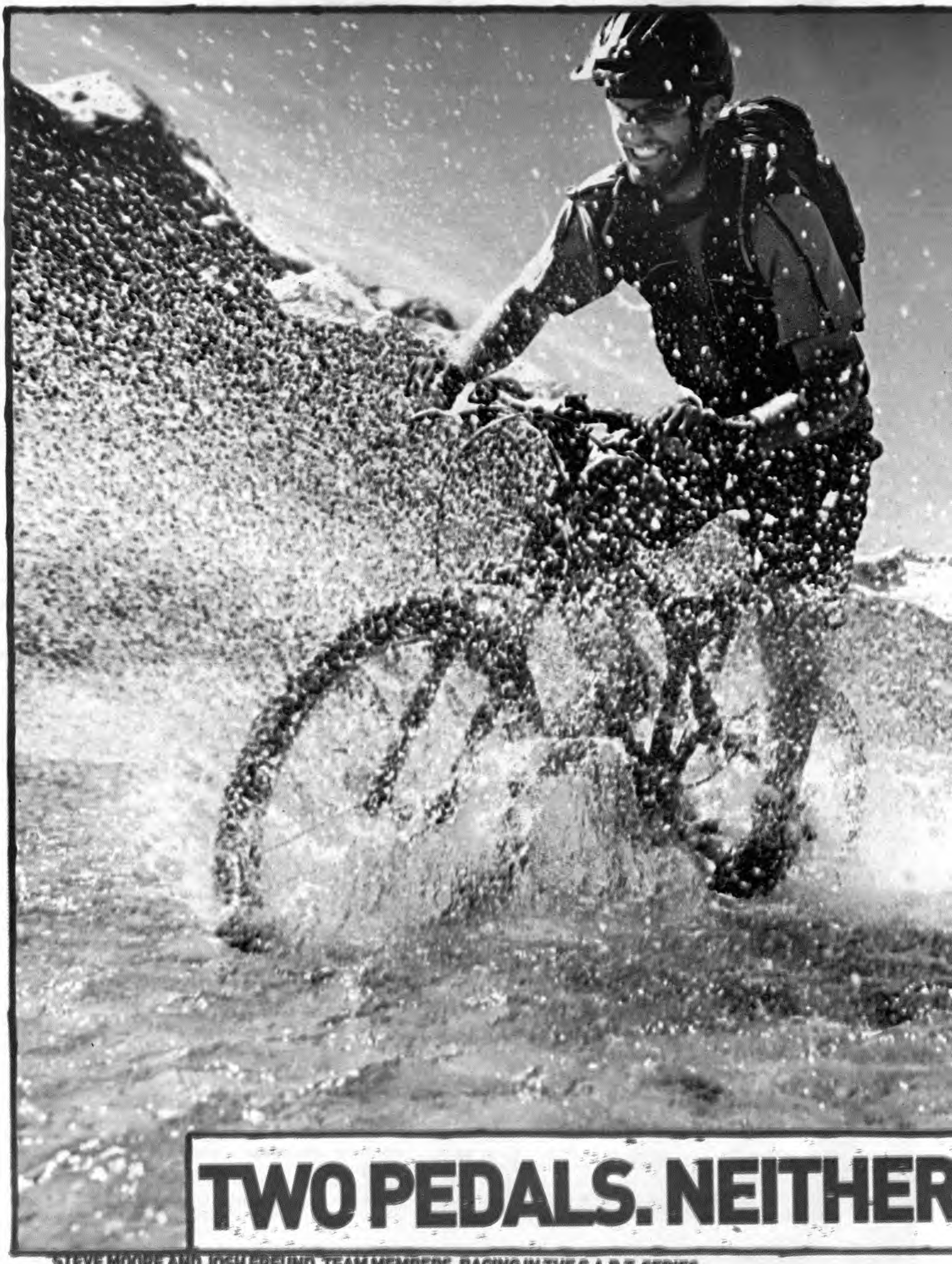
Don't get me wrong, brothers and sisters, I used to have many opinions about capital "E" Entertainment and small "a" art. I fought many a battle defending the merits of Tom Waits' inebriated voice and the lone cries of angry acoustic lesbians on stage at the Blue Note. But this has all changed. Aside from obvious displays of Hollywood pulp, my authority to trash art has vanished, and my mouth now remains closed.

Two years ago I decided to leave Canada for a while, so I hopped on a plane to live and teach English in Asia. I worked with many embittered expats who spent the majority of their time drinking and discussing who in the public eye should be shot in the head, and who instead should be handed the reins of the world. With deep conviction they created their lists, and drooled as they listed off the victims. Leonard Cohen was to be shot. Tony Blair and Nicholas Cage were also on their hit list. These questionable friends of mine felt that celebrities had done nothing beneficial or worthy of praise, so to the guillotine they should be sent.

This talk of death and the apparent worthlessness of anything outside a culturally specific artistic sphere was great fun at first, but soon it became a little sad, and has left me with the conclusion that the opinions in and of themselves were false. Criticism and holding forth were the main objectives, not their honest reactions.

So, caustic statements now no longer thrill or dazzle me. What I need is some good old-fashioned hope. Happiness. How about glee? I'd rather have some glee.

That's my opinion, and I'm sticking to it.



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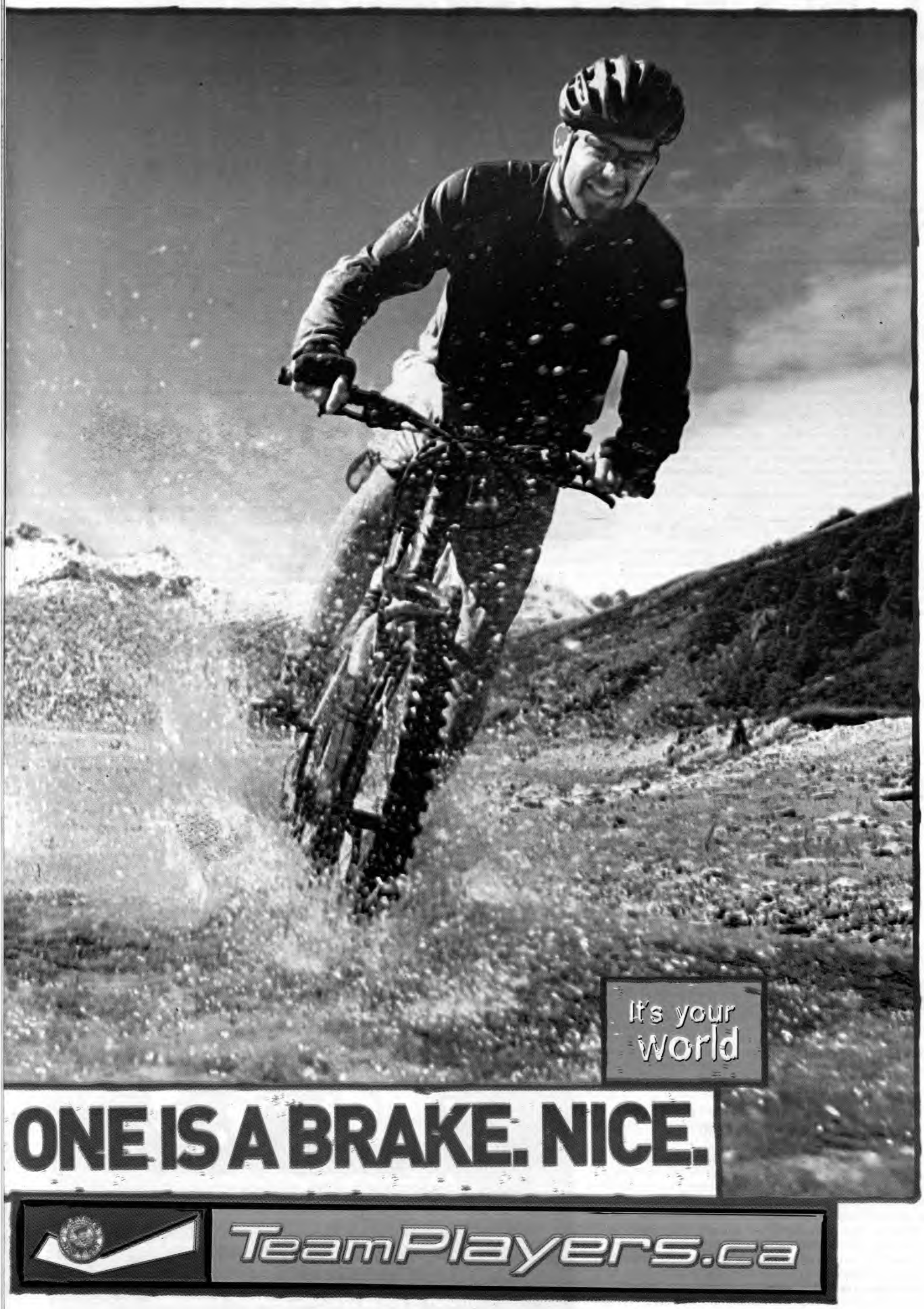
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ENTERTAINMENT

Sponges and madness

Sardonic comedian's career is a "fairy tale"

By Peter Vesuwalla

Steven Wright's official Web page mocks the notion that the Internet is a valuable research tool when preparing for an interview.

"I was born," begins his official autobiography. "When I was 23 I started telling jokes. Then I started going on television and doing films. That's still what I am doing. The end."

"Are you saying that you didn't get enough information from my version?" he asks during a telephone interview.

Well, let's see. The Web page continues with a picture of the 47-year-old comedian, with his trademark humourless facial expression, long stubble, and wavy, brown hair hanging down from beneath his toque. It goes on to list 12 books that don't really exist, including Jesus and Santa Claus, "the story of two middleweight boxers in Berlin in the early 1900's," and The Tall Blue Cloud, "the story of a Cajun menu that tries to take over the world." Then it includes a short story about how a small boy named Phillip accidentally invented going to the beach.

Speaking slowly and in the same distinctive baritone voice he uses on stage, Wright fills in some of the gaps.

He began his career in Boston playing small comedy clubs where he developed his unmistakable style of pacing back and forth on stage as if his mind was somewhere else and dropping a series of surreal one-liners between overtly long pauses while never cracking a smile.

"When I first started I was very nervous, so I was talking fast," he says. "But other than that it's just how I speak. I didn't have a meeting with myself coming up with a style. It was like, 'Oh, I gotta write some stuff,' and that's just how it came out. And this is just how I talk so it's just natural."

In the summer of 1982, a producer for The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson discovered Wright in a combination Chinese restaurant and comedy club. Two weeks later, Wright was backstage, waiting to make his first Tonight Show appearance when his hero strolled into the makeup room. Wright says he was awestruck.

"Snakes have no arms. That's why they don't wear vests."

"(Carson) was just telling me to try to just relax, and he could've been saying 'I'm gonna axe-murder you right after the show. We're gonna put you in one of those things that chops up branches.' And I couldn't believe I was seeing him, you know. I couldn't even believe he was in the room with me."

Wright describes it as a "fairy tale" moment that launched his career. "(Carson) made you come off looking good. He always wanted you to get the laugh. It was like a hockey game; he was the guy giving the assists."

The Tonight Show appearance led to spots on Late Night with David Letterman, Saturday Night Live, and then work in films. He played the disc jockey in Reservoir Dogs, and the guy on the couch in Half Baked.

In 1989, his own short film, The Appointments of Dennis Jennings, which he co-wrote with Mike Armstrong and in which he starred with Rowan Atkinson (Mr. Bean), won the Oscar for best live-action short film.

Taking a cue from another of his heroes, George Carlin, Wright finds material in everyday observations and little bits of knowledge, twisted by a perverse logic that ordinarily wouldn't apply. "Sponges grow in the ocean," he says. "That kills me. I wonder how much deeper it would be if that didn't happen."

His stand-up routine has evolved over the years, building into a repertoire of one-liners and observations analogous to a band's best songs. He says he's been using some of his jokes, such as "Today my foot fell asleep. Now it's gonna be up all night," (which is, for some reason, a whole lot funnier when he says it) from the beginning. "I have stuff in there that I've done for 20 years. I'll move it around. It's all mixed in."

He says the jokes just pop into his head, and he spends most of his time organizing his thoughts into a coherent routine. "I have notebooks with just fucking madness all over the place. That's where the work is: just going through and organizing and memorizing and picking out the best ones. The jokes come on their own. It's like a faucet with a drip."

Steven Wright will be appearing at the Burton Cummings Theatre for the Performing Arts on Jan. 28. Call 780-3333 for more information.

Symphony strikes a chord

By Kristin Marand

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra is definitely not one of the things you hear college students talking about much. Last Saturday, by some unfortunate circumstance, I ended up with tickets in the fifth row.

I expected to see a bunch of bourgeoisie dressed in fur coats. I was pleasantly surprised when I discovered that was not the case. When my sister asked if she could wear jeans, I laughed. Who would wear jeans to the symphony? Apparently a lot of people. When I told my friends that I would be spending Saturday night at the symphony they laughed and told me I was being hoity-toity. I told them I was trying to acquire a little class.

On January 17, the orchestra, along with guest conductor and violinist Jamie Laredo, changed my perspective on the culture that is the WSO. I sat through two hours of Rossini, Mendelssohn and Vivaldi. It was amazing! The performance may have been mediocre (the pieces chosen were fairly generic and not particularly challenging), but the experience was absolutely moving.

We took our seats after a drink in the foyer. Yes, you can drink at the symphony. At first I just looked at what was going on -- the bows and fingers flapping up and down -- but soon the music took me prisoner. Once the notes passed my ears I started to pay attention to where they were coming from. It was incredible to see the many bows of the violins moving in unison while the bass bows moved at a completely different pace. I tried to pick out where the various sounds were coming from. I'd hear a tiny plucking of notes and spend the next ten minutes trying to pick out what section of the orchestra that particular sound had come from. Or better yet, I'd see the subtle movements of the musician before they played, and anticipate the sound.

I found the orchestra to be a wonderful escape. It was nice to take some time and be enveloped by music. It truly does soothe the soul.

By now, you may have heard that the WSO is having some financial problems, something I would never have guessed by looking at the full Concert Hall that Saturday. So show them your support. Anybody with even a mild interest in music or instruments should check it out. Not only will you be amazed at the level of skill and discipline that it takes to play in a symphony, but you will also expand your appreciation for music in general. And hey, who can't do with a touch of class and culture now and again?

Study on families who have experienced the death of a child:

Families who have experienced the death of a child (newborn - 18 years) are being invited to take part. The aim of the study is to gain a greater understanding of families' experiences related to the death of a child. Participation involves individual family interviews. Families will be asked to talk about such things as the type of care that their child received, their needs, and the type of supports that helped them through the experience. All interviews are arranged on a date/time and at a place that is most convenient for the family. For additional information please contact Dr. Roberta Woodgate at the University of Manitoba: 474-8338. You may leave a message on Roberta's voice mail if she is not in. You may also email her at **Roberta_Woodgate@umanitoba.ca.**

Fear and loathing on Main Street

Nobody's in here, but it's still busy

By Ruth Shead and Sam Thompson

Espresso Joe's Casa de Café
232 Main Street
957-1481
*****/5**

Photo by Lyssay Perkins

When they arrive at Winnipeg's newest coffee shop, Espresso Joe's Casa de Café, Ruth and Sam order their beverages — regular tea for Sam, who is under strict orders from his doctor NOT to drink coffee (ironically this review was his idea) and a soy latté for Ruth, who spent two years of her life moonlighting as a barista. They choose a table under a red spot light, beside a plastic tree decorated with red Christmas lights...

Ruth: Espresso Joe's Casa de Café. Well, the first thing that has to change is the name. Seriously. It's a bit of a caffeine overdose. Just because it's a coffee shop, you don't have to use every synonym for coffee in its name.

Sam: This place is bizarre.

Ruth: And they spell veggie roti "vegie roti," but I give them an A minus for décor, although the stairwell looks like the entrance to a haunted house...

Sam: Or a dungeon.

Ruth: Or a dungeon. And you could really start to freak yourself out with all of the mirrors. But I very much like the use of purple. And sofas.

Sam: Mysterious stairwells.

Ruth: What?

Sam: The stairwells - they're mysterious.

Ruth: Yeah.

(The reviewers' observation skills are unparalleled. Sam reads a promotional sign.)

Sam: Does Espresso Joe's really exist in Paris, London, et cetera? Or is it all for show?

Ruth: I don't know. Do you like the music?

Sam: Yeah.

(Sam's bland answer is the antithesis of the atmosphere. Latin music plays on the stereo, a program about Cuba is showing on the TV...they really are in a "casa de café.")

Ruth: It makes me want to dance.

(After a brief silence, during which Ruth imagines herself in Cuba, drinking spiked iced lattés while swinging in a hammock strung between palm trees, and Sam wonders what it would take to become a rodeo clown, and if one of the café's fake plastic trees would look good in his house, the reviewers return to their sad commentary on Espresso Joe's décor.)

Ruth: The stereo is really strategically placed.

Sam: And all of the tables are made out of radiators.

Ruth: Hmm. Sort of like a made-over hair salon in here. Or the backstage dressing room of a musical.

Sam: A dressing room for Mexican rodeo clowns!!!

Ruth: Uh, right...

(Sam excuses himself to check out the bathrooms.)

Ruth: So?

Sam: "Jesus," I thought. "These maniacs have trapped me in some sort of savage circus tent." It sort of looks like a ranch or something out of a country bar, but once you close the door, there are a bunch of mirrors that are slanted all over the place and a ladder on the wall that leads to nowhere.

Ruth: Another mysterious staircase.

Sam: Yep. Mysterious staircases everywhere.

(Sam begins to read over the table menu.)

Ruth: Have you looked at the drink recipes? Everything comes with a "cloud." For example: "Choco-latté — A chocolate latté flavoured with chocolate and white chocolate and a 'chocolate cloud' with a sprinkling of chocolate." What's a cloud?

Sam: I don't know, but I don't think they needed to add "Get the idea - it's chocolate." Or did you see this one? "Soy you're a nut...It's good for you really!!"

Ruth: Kudos to Joe for having soy for the vegan in you.

Sam: They have European pastries.

Ruth: Are those cookies? Because there doesn't seem to be too many cookies (European pastries, if you prefer) in the cookie/European pastry display case.

Sam: Where are all the people? THERE'S NOBODY IN HERE! Why?

Ruth: Location, location, location.

Sam: At least they're taking advantage of the late night crowd that will come in after a night next door at Times Changed Café. It says here that they close at 10 p.m., but they re-open "1 a.m.- 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday."

Ruth: Well, there's nothing like coffee and European pastries after too much beer.

(Sam shifts his attention to the guy who was at the bar, but who is now sitting at a table behind the reviewers.)

Sam: Why is this guy hanging out over there? He's just sitting. And watching. He gives me the creeps.

(Ruth explains to Sam that the guy is not leering, but watching a recap of the Golden Globes which has replaced the show about Cuba on the TV. The reviewers join him.)

Ruth: Joan Rivers is a freak. And Jennifer Aniston forgot to thank Brad Pitt last night. He looked sad. Seriously, how could you forget BRAD PITT? He's so hot and he has such good hair.

Sam: I hate Jennifer Aniston.

Ruth: Me too.

(They sigh.)

Ruth: So?

Sam: If I was alone in this place, I would probably have a brain aneurysm. Too many colours, too much visual stimulation...and did you notice how the music switched from Latin reggae/soca/calypso stuff to soft R & B and then back?? But, my regular flavoured tea tasted like regular flavoured tea.

Ruth: Yeah. And my soy latté tasted like a regular soy latté. Satisfied?

Sam: Yep.

(The duo bundle up and head for the door.)

Ruth: Hey look! Ceramic cherubs on the walls, framed by picture frames without glass. Now THAT's trippy.

Sam: I'll definitely come back.

Ruth: Me too.

Pinter in the winter: how to beat reality TV

By Sean Kavanagh

Nine
Borealis Books, 468 Main Street
Saturday, January 19, 2003

This is not a review. I'm in no position to critique theatre and wouldn't know where to start. But I do go to a few plays, and the other night I ended up in a wonderful circumstance. I guess I have a very short story about going out on a blizzardy Friday night to see nine short sketches written by Harold Pinter, performed in a used book store on Main Street (actually at Borealis Books, right around the corner from the Princess Street campus – check it out).

Now, I know Pinter from his reputation and his films more than his theatre work, which is a real admission, because he is a big-time playwright. I didn't know what to expect as I joined about seventy or so others, crammed into this tiny little venue at the book store. What I got was bits and pieces of why actors can do really amazing things. I guess in the confines of that small venue, in from the cold and with people that really cared about the stage, the atmosphere was just right.

I said bits and pieces because that's what short sketches are about. But it also means that actors get precious time to say as much as they can. I saw a fellow (his name is Victor Cowie) rearrange his large florid face into a dozen contortions, each giving a new subtlety, often in place of dialogue. By the end of the sketch, I thought his head had grown by two sizes. It was a display of talent, and the room knew it.

I saw a fellow (his name is Victor Cowie) rearrange his large florid face into a dozen contortions

These nine sketches depended on an intimate place to be seen. The gestures were too small to be caught from far away. Actor Nancy Drake would give a smile that carried the world-weariness of ten pages of dialogue, and it would astonish me that I knew exactly what she meant. It was just that kind of an evening.

I can't say much about the dialogue. Some of it was funny, some sad. I will have to go to other productions to catch the broad genius of Harold Pinter. But I got my money's worth the other night, and the best way to review what I saw would be to thank Victor Cowie, Nancy Drake, Rick McNair, Maggie Nagle, Richard Orlandini, and Robert G. Slade.

Hey - go see some theater. It'll beat the Survivor-Bachelor-Idol stuff every time!

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Dinner *and a movie*

Why go to Montana's if it's faster to drive to Montana?

By Jeremy Besyk

Service makes customers run for the hills

Montana's
1221 St. Mary's
****/5**

Projector reviewer takes bite out of restaurant

Heading to Montana's restaurant at 9 p.m. seemed like a good idea – the mall had just closed, the dinner rush was over, and pulling up to the western-themed establishmet, the parking lot was fairly empty.

Inside, while waiting at the front, my friend and I have time to look around and take in all the restaurant has to offer: a sign reading "Staff will be pleased to serve you," benches to sit in while waiting for take-out orders, and televisions showing western movies greet you when you come in. Trouble is, the staff doesn't.

Five minutes later we continue to wait at the front and still, no one has even said hello. There is a microphone at the host's stand. I walk up to it and press the button. The music in the restaurant goes off, and I say, "service to the front please." My friend becomes embarrassed and turns red. A woman on the bench waiting for take-out starts laughing. Patrons in the bar look over to see me. I have everyone's attention...except the staff's. There is still no response from anyone who works there.

Finally, an employee leaving for the night calls another staff member over to the front. We are seated and told a server will be right with us.

A long sheet of brown paper covers the table and a cup of crayons is provided for guests to doodle with while waiting for service. Our server comes over and grabs a crayon from her apron and writes her name upside down (to herself) on the paper. We grab crayons and write our names for her. She laughs, saying that the trick is to write your name upside down, like she had to do. This takes our attention away from the frustrations of waiting for a seat, but we quickly complete the challenge she has given us, and remember our frustrations all over again.

Our server takes our drink orders, only to mix them up on her return, giving me the wrong beverage entirely. She takes our food order, sends it off to the kitchen, and the food is prepared and delivered to us. Before we even take two bites of our meal, the cheque is presented and we are thanked for dining at the restaurant. I didn't even think we had begun to dine, but the waitress seems to want us out of there quicker than we wanted to go, after the prompt and friendly service that welcomed us when we first arrived. Our server checks on us once more to see if everything is okay (essentially on our fourth bite of food), and we see her walking past every few minutes thereafter, but never hear from her again. Instead of getting refills for our drinks, we have to wait for the ice cubes to melt, and drink that.

Maybe a drive to Montana would be quicker than getting service at Montana's restaurant. The atmosphere inside is warm and cozy, but the staff is cold and distant.

You're pretty, but that doesn't mean you can act

By Lindsey Ward

Oh no. Not another teen romance. These dinner and a movie dates suck. Next time I'm choosing.

Just Married
Starring Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy
****/5**

Predictable. If one-word movie reviews were standard practice, that's how Just Married would be summed up.

The new film, directed by Shawn Levy (Big Fat Liar) and starring Ashton Kutcher (That 70s Show, Dude, Where's My Car?) and Brittany Murphy (Girl Interrupted, Eight Mile) is the first poorly constructed teen romantic comedy of 2003. Sadly, it probably won't be the last.

Murphy plays Sarah McNerney, the daughter of wealthy parents with high expectations, and Kutchner plays Tom Leezak, a radio traffic reporter with little more than five dollars in his wallet. Sarah ignores her parents' disapproval and marries Tom, and the two embark on a nightmare honeymoon through Europe. Eventually, they get to the point where they can't stand the fighting and the lack of post-marital sex anymore, and they give up on their weak attempt at a marriage.

Beneath the exhausted teenage romantic comedy formula, Just Married attempts to prove that true love prevails over all. Kutchner, best known for his ditzy tagalong role on That 70s Show, demonstrates his potential as a romantic lead. Murphy, known for her dicey sidekick roles in movies such as Riding In Cars With Boys and Summer Catch, effectively portrays a sensitive, enthusiastic young woman in love.

Together, the two make a rather convincing couple, but something is missing. Perhaps two second-string actors are only equivalent to one full-fledged star.

There really is not much to say for a movie of such unoriginal, weak quality. The characters are underdeveloped, the plot lacks creativity and is unrealistic at times, and the high-quality humour just isn't there. At some point it just becomes aggravating to see Murphy and Kutchner banging their heads on every object imaginable in a span of five minutes. Find a new joke, folks.

Bottom line? Just because two people might look good together, it doesn't necessarily follow that they will act well together (or act well at all). Perhaps it's just too difficult to construct a movie involving carefully plotted scenes, realistic acting, and above all, humour. Unless you find people getting their feet stuck in toilets while trying to have sex in a sewer-scented airplane bathroom comical, don't bother to see this wedding disaster.

EVERY TIME YOU WRITE FOR THE PROJECTOR, THE EDITORS' CHEEKS GLOW.

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Diversity
Panel Discussion Series

Part I:
The Immigrant and Refugee Experience Coming to Canada- Past and Present

Date: Wednesday, February 5th, 2003 • 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Location: Tower Lounge

Join our Special Guest Speakers:

John Paskievich ~ Film Maker and Director
Leilah Said ~ Immigrant councilor with the International Centre
Aaron James ~ Educator/Advocate for Refugee Rights with the Winnipeg Refugee Education Network
Hani Al-Ubeady ~ Refugee Settlement Councilor with Welcome Place
And Red River College Student Speakers

For a discussion of the challenges, barriers, and joys experienced by newcomers to Canada, and learn how the newcomer experience has changed over time. Join us to gain insight through the personal accounts of those who have journeyed to this nation themselves, and by those who work here in Winnipeg as educators and advocates for refugee and immigrant rights.

All are welcome to share in this discussion!

For more information contact:
The Office of the Student and Community Advisor- Diversity and Inclusive Initiatives
Rm: F214 • Ph: 632-2404

Stink of hypocrisy suffocating: Pinter

Playwright takes stand on Iraqi conflict

By Mauricio Martinez

From Jan. 9 - 25, the Manitoba Theatre Centre presented Pinterfest, showcasing the works of legendary English playwright Harold Pinter. Over three weeks, 16 local and international theatre companies conducted over 130 performances of his works.

And yet, on Jan 21, Harold Pinter stood before the British House of Commons to deliver a speech. I believe that in the words below — spoken by one man, printed in one newspaper, in one city which for three weeks honoured him — one can see what I believe is the true purpose of the artist in our society: namely, to inspire.

I would like his words printed because mine do not suffice. The following was sent to Christopher Black, a prominent Toronto lawyer, from Pinter:

"One of the more nauseating images of the year 2002 is that of our Prime Minister kneeling in the church on Christmas Day praying for peace on Earth and goodwill towards all men, while simultaneously preparing to assist in the murder of thousands of totally innocent people in Iraq.

"I've been taken to task recently by the American ambassador to Britain for calling the US administration a blood thirsty wild animal. All I can say is: take a look at Donald Rumsfeld's face and the case is made.

"I believe that not only is this contemplated act criminal, malevolent and barbaric, it also contains within itself a palpable joy in destruction. Power, as has often been remarked, is the great aphrodisiac, and so, it would seem, is the death of others.

"The Americans have the ostensible support of the international community through various sure-fire modes of intimidation: bullying, bribery, blackmail and bullshit. The international community becomes a degraded entity bludgeoned into the service of a brutal military force out of control. The most despicable position is that, of course, of this country which pretends to stand shoulder to shoulder with its great ally, while in fact being more of a whipped dog than anyone else. We are demeaned, undermined and dishonoured by our government's contemptible subservience to the United States.

"The planned war can only bring about the collapse of what remains of the Iraqi infrastructure, widespread death, mutilation and disease, an estimated one million refugees and escalation of violence throughout the world, but it will still masquerade as a "moral crusade," a "just war," a war waged by "freedom loving democracies," to bring "democracy" to Iraq.

"The stink of the hypocrisy is suffocating."

"This is in reality a simple tale of invasion of sovereign territory, military occupation, and control of oil."

"We have a clear obligation, which is to resist."

Harold Pinter

Exchange's galleries multiplying like bunnies on absynthe

Gallery review

By Lauren Phillips

It turns out the Exchange is a very deceptive place: behind the walls of those square, stone-faced buildings lie explosions of colour and technological innovation that defy their simple surroundings.

In the tiny amount of square footage that houses our own sparkling Princess Street campus, seventeen (you heard it folks) seventeen galleries wait for your greedy eyes and ears to devour. We thought that these public spaces were too well hidden, and decided to take a little tour.

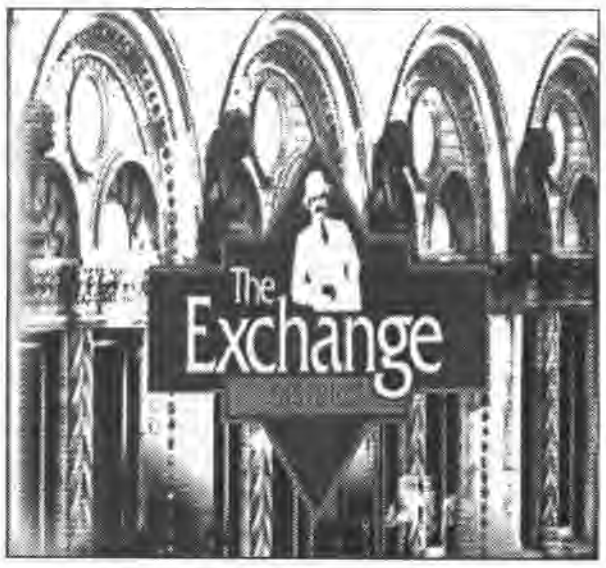
Over the next few issues, the Projector will review and introduce you to the Exchange's inner bohemian in an attempt to make the area a hotbed of artistic amour. Darling, we know this is what you've been waiting for, and we're here to deliver. This week's issue features a review of the Craftspace Gallery.

Craft. I know what you're thinking. The world of craft is normally relegated to the realm of grandmothers, little German ladies and overenthusiastic aunts. I'm certain the Craftspace Gallery will change that cruel misconception. Located a hop, skip and slide away from the Princess Street campus, Craftspace gives home to juried pieces of local art from a number of local talents.

From exceptionally delicate pottery to robust relief sculpture, the pieces on sale at the Craftspace Gallery display subtle prairie and northern themes. A well-lit area near the entrance of the building houses items for sale, while a spacious room towards the back provides an area for more traditional shows.

Best of all, Craftspace is people-friendly. It's run by the Manitoba Crafts Council, a non profit charitable organization that seeks to promote the variety of talent held by local craftspeople. A quick visit will nourish the Manitoban in you, and will help out a community that deserves a hearty round of applause.

Craftspace Gallery
237 McDermot
487-6114



music review

VARIOUS ARTISTS
More Music From 8 Mile
Interscope/Shady Records

***** / 5**

Eminem's big-screen debut, 8 Mile, has already yielded one successful soundtrack, a collection of songs that appear in the film's background, as well as some exclusives from Mr. Slim Shady himself. The album's sequel, however, is somewhat of a period piece. Eminem is nowhere to be found on the record, and none of the songs are more recent than 1995, the movie's setting.

One can only imagine that the likes of Mobb Deep, Naughty By Nature, Wu-Tang Clan and the Pharcyde were influences on a young Eminem, and the record is a collection of 12 early 90s hip-hop classics by these and other artists. Highlights include Ol' Dirty Bastard's Shimmy Shimmy Ya, the Pharcyde's classic Runnin' and Wu-Tang's ludicrous ode to the "dollar dollar bill, y'all", C.R.E.A.M.

Although More Music From 8 Mile is a welcome change from hip-hop's current obnoxious chart-toppers like Nelly and Ja Rule, it literally doesn't bring anything new to the table. All of these songs were at least minor hits when they were released almost ten years ago, and the hip-hop fans this compilation seems to be aimed at will likely already own copies of this material.

Still, More Music From 8 Mile is a welcome history lesson for Eminem's younger fans who weren't around when these songs came out originally. If I was making my own early 90s hip-hop compilation, I probably wouldn't include any of these tracks, but as far as commercial success goes, this is a perfect sampling of the popular rap atmosphere circa 1992-95.

The most questionable contribution to this record is Notorious B.I.G.'s 1994 track Juicy. With a reference to "blowing up" like "World Trade", it's a bit of chilling foreshadowing, considering what happened in September seven years later.

More Music From 8 Mile lets you relive the days before Wu-Tang got too gimmicky, before Outkast went completely insane, before 2Pac was releasing albums from beyond the grave, and before...well...Notorious B.I.G. was always crap, but you get the point.

A nice piece of nostalgia, but your money would be better spent checking out 8 Mile, the movie, instead.

- Sam Thompson

ARE YOU:
(A) TIRED OF ACCEPTING APPLES FROM NAKED WOMEN?
(B) DONE TRICKING THE THREE-HEADED DOG?
(C) PICKING "C" BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW THE RIGHT ANSWER?
(D) SWIMMING IN THE SEA BECAUSE YOU BURNT YOUR WINGS?
(E) ALL OF THE ABOVE?
(F) TWO OF THE ABOVE?
(G) IN LOVE WITH THE WOMEN WHO COME UP WITH THIS SELF-SERVING NONSENSE?

ANSWER: WRITE FOR THE PROJECTOR.

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Important Food Bank Notice

All previous notice for 2003 Food Bank Days are to be disregarded. They have changed. New dates are:

Year 2003

- ❑ January 10, 2003
- ❑ January 24, 2003
- ❑ February 7, 2003
- ❑ February 21, 2003
- ❑ March 7, 2003
- ❑ March 21, 2003
- ❑ April 17, 2003
- ❑ May 2, 2003
- ❑ May 16, 2003
- ❑ May 30, 2003

They don't sound like Nickelback or The Hip, but they're ours, so listen up Canada

By Kristin Marand

They're definitely worth fighting for

Noise Therapy flew in during their month off after finishing the Ill Nino tour to humbly play two shows at the Zoo on Jan. 24-25 just for us! It's not only that they play good hard-hitting rock, something we definitely don't get enough of in this frigid city, but they are also true performers. They're always ready to put on an unforgettable show.

They were last here in October, promoting their latest release Tension, and they flat out blew me away. I was standing on a chair with my eyes closed just feeling the music. It was amazing! I have seen few other bands put that much energy, passion and fun into a live show.

The band's bassist, Rob Thiessen, was kind enough to take some time to talk to me.

Noise Therapy is a Vancouver five-piece that has rocked the nation. Unfortunately, the nation that they're rocking isn't Canada – it's the U.S. You'd think that after eight years and a remarkable last release they'd be a shoe-in for a Juno. Unfortunately, the market for their brand of music is greater in the States than it is in the Great White North.

Noise Therapy has already released three videos for their songs "Down," "Electric" and "Loser Magnet" which got some pretty extensive play on MuchMusic for a while. They have also opened for big name acts such as Motley Crue, Slayer and Fear Factory.

Tension, released in August of last year (and soon to be released in Europe and Australia), was the band's first release on Redline, their new label (which also hosts scandal-of-the-hour Pete Townsend). "I don't think Redline's too worried about it. Noise Therapy's really kinda their number one concern right now" says Thiessen. The first single off Tension, "Get Up," helped break the band in the States (it's been on the top 30 there for three months) but it did little for them up here because they couldn't get Canadian radio stations to play it. Their second single "Star 69 (Wait for Nothing)," is about to be released. A video is in the works, tentatively to be shot by the director of MTV's Road Rules. "If Canada doesn't pick this one up... I don't know... We'll probably have to forget about 'em. But we'll still play Winnipeg," says Thiessen.

"We like playing Winnipeg better than any other city in Canada," says Thiessen. Thiessen likes Winnipeg so much that while the band was on a one-year hiatus (during which guitarist Kai played with Tommy Lee's now defunct Methods of Mayhem) he spent his time producing an album for Winnipeg's own Loco. The album landed in the Free Press' top ten local albums of the year.

2003 looks promising for Noise Therapy. "We're working on a couple of spring tours, but I can't tell you with who, 'cause I don't want to jinx it," says Thiessen. But he does promise that if it all works out, it'll be big. There is also the Jagermeister Tour (Jagermeister sponsors the band) and of course, Ozzfest. "Every band wants to be on Ozzfest, so we'll see," Thiessen says hopefully.

So, think they're worth a listen yet? You should. Call Power 97, call the university and college radio stations. Tell them you have an awesome way to up their Canadian content. Get them to play Noise Therapy!

My personal music guru once told me that if a band breaks (gets famous) before their third album, they're doomed. If that's the case, I predict a long and prosperous run for this killer ensemble. Pick up one of their CD's and try to catch them the next time they roll through. You won't be disappointed.

Play doesn't keep its promise, so keep your distance

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Loved or hated, Evita got her wish: how one woman's legend lives on

Evita
Manitoba Theatre Centre
Run ended January 25
****1/2/ 5**

It's been a few days since I saw Evita at the Manitoba Theatre Centre, yet I still find myself periodically breaking into a rendition of "Don't Cry for Me Argentina." Don't laugh; I think I'm only one verse away from a nice padded room somewhere. But it is getting better -- today I've managed to tone it down to a random humming of the first line (the only one I can remember with any clarity).

But, seriously, this is supposed to be a theatre review. Chances are one day you'll have the opportunity to see the long-running theatre version of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's account of Eva Perón, Evita, the famous Argentine actress and eventual First Lady of her country. Unfortunately by the time you read this Evita will no longer be playing at MTC (such is the price I pay for getting cheap student tickets), but I urge you to read on.

In a sense, Evita was to Argentina what Princess Di was to Britain, what Marilyn Monroe was to the U.S. This larger-than-life status is what the musical ultimately centers on -- who was Evita, and why was she so loved and hated?

That's the question that Ché, played by MTC newcomer Thom Allison, poses to the audience in the play's first scene. From there we are given a whirlwind view of how Evita (Blythe Wilson) rose from humble beginnings to stardom to marrying president and dictator Juan Perón (David M. Adams).

We are shown her many sexual conquests, her manipulation of those she needed to get ahead, her kindness to the poor, her iron-handedness with the people whodared to oppose her, and, above all else, her burning desire not to be forgotten.

The musical itself is basically one huge song with perhaps two lines of real dialogue. The songs are pretty repetitive, as though Webber and Rice just came up with a few good melodies and used them over and over again. Set design, choreography, and costumes are all respectable, but by no means innovative or memorable.

Once the curtain falls, though, you're left to wonder whether you should feel saddened at the death of a woman who was known to her people as the "Lady of Hope," or whether you should be disgusted at her antics. The play's high point is that it balances both these feelings throughout, showing the audience that at the core of the legend of Evita was a very real human being.

The mortal status that the play gives to Evita allows the audience to see the inconsistencies and hypocracies of her life. Wilson's use of sly looks and body language makes it clear that we rarely ever see the real Eva Peron -- only Evita, the persona she has created. The real Eva seems to hide deep inside, only truly coming out in her darkest moments of insecurity and anger.

Overall, Evita makes for an entertaining night at the theatre. If you're the kind of person who loves big musical and dance numbers, chances are you will enjoy Evita. But if, like me, you prefer more dialogue and less generalizations (Evita's political acts, some of them as questionable as her dictator husband's, are only touched on briefly), you'll probably find yourself searching for some real facts once it's over.

In the end, though, it can be said that Evita got her wish. Fifty years after her death, the legend, and the woman, have yet to be forgotten.

THINK ABOUT THIS:
THERE ARE NO ACCIDENTS AND SOMEONE'S ALWAYS LISTENING.

TOO BAD SHE DOESN'T EAT MEAT.

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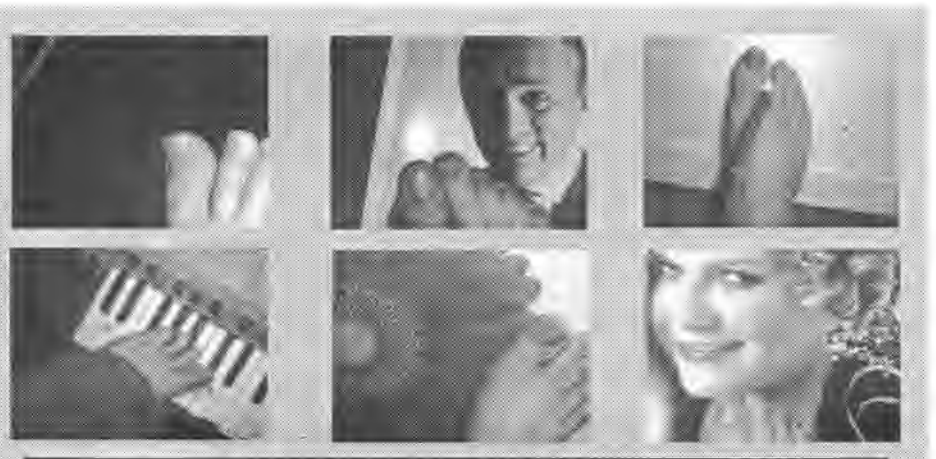
Winnipeg International Children's Festival
is looking for two volunteers to help out with a variety of activities with both the Festival and our inner-city youth at risk Circus and Magic Partnership program, throughout our 2002/2003 season. We are participating in the Youth Serves Manitoba program for university students to volunteer their time for a minimum of 100 hours from January – June 2003. Once the students completes 100 hours, they will receive a $500.00 bursary towards their tuition or students loans. Interested students can contact Jennifer Kaufman at 958-4749 or email: jen@kidsfest.ca for more information about application information and volunteer positions.



PINING FOR A PEDICURE?
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David Gilmour - balder, fatter and unplugged

DVD shows Floyd axeman still has his chops

By Joff Schmidt

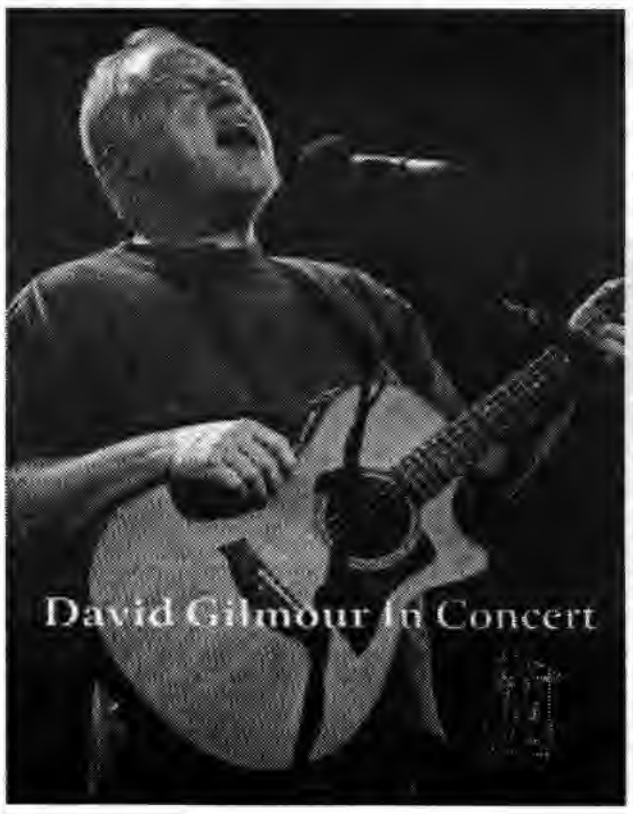
DAVID GILMOUR
David Gilmour In Concert
EMI
******/5**

Pink Floyd's David Gilmour is back — greyer, balder, and fatter than ever. Even so, the 50-something guitarist amply demonstrates on this live DVD why he was one of the most influential musicians of the '70s. Let's face it — the man's still got his chops.

The DVD, recorded during a series of concerts at London's Royal Festival Hall in 2001 and 2002, is a treat for Floyd fans. The show is incredibly intimate by Floyd standards - no lasers, no pyrotechnics, and Gilmour plays on an acoustic guitar with a relatively modest backing band for most of the show.

The disc's 16 tracks are a mixed bag. There are a few Floyd standards, like "Shine On You Crazy Diamond," "Wish You Were Here," and not one, but two versions of "Comfortably Numb" (which seems a bit excessive). What's more interesting are some of the unexpected gems thrown into the show. Gilmour does a fine version of "Fat Old Sun," from the underrated and underheard 1970 Floyd album Atom Heart Mother. He also covers a couple of Syd Barrett songs, and tosses in an arrangement of "Je Crois Entendre Encore" from Bizet's The Pearl Fishers to boot. Dave's become quite a class act in his old age.

Of course, in exchange for these, we have to endure some of the "new" Pink Floyd material from The Division Bell, and "Smile," a new and rather weak Gilmour composition. (On a side note, try comparing this "new" material to the far superior newer material on Roger Waters' live In the Flesh DVD, and you'll pretty quickly see which one really was Pink.)



All in all, though, the 90 minutes of concert footage is more than worthwhile. The sparse arrangements showcase Gilmour's fine guitar work. He's still able to make a guitar sing in a way that puts most of today's up-and-coming whippersnappers to shame. And in classic Gilmour style, he does it not with blazingly fast solos, but with style and a tone that should make lesser guitarists weep.

The disc is a quality production. It's well shot, with lots of close-ups of Gilmour. Admittedly, he's not much to look at these days, but it's still fun to watch him play. The sound quality of the DVD is excellent, and for the gearheads among us, the disc even offers the choice of a stereo mix or a Dolby 5.1 mix.

It also offers some curious "for hardcore fans only" extras. There's a section called "Spare Digits," which features a tight close-ups on Gilmour's hands as he plays a series of solos, so six-string nerds can get off watching Gilmour's fingers fly up and down the fretboard. Additionally there's a home movie of Gilmour rehearsing in his home studio, and three bonus studio and live tracks.

If you're a borderline Floyd fan, you'll probably want to pass on this one (break out your skull-shaped bong and watch The Wall again instead).

But for diehard Floyd fans, "Dave's Big Fat Bald Live DVD" is well worth looking into.

Ice skating and dope - beating cabin fever

By Lynsay Perkins

Cabin fever...minus 40 temperatures...minus 60 with the windchill...I asked RRC students, "How do you fight the winter blues?"

"Play guitar and smoke dope."
- Eryn Massey

"It's winter?? I'm in IST so we don't get to see the outside world."
- Jeff Huff

"I go ice skating if I can handle the weather."
- Wendy Fabre

"Sitting in the sun in the window."
- Kristy Reimer

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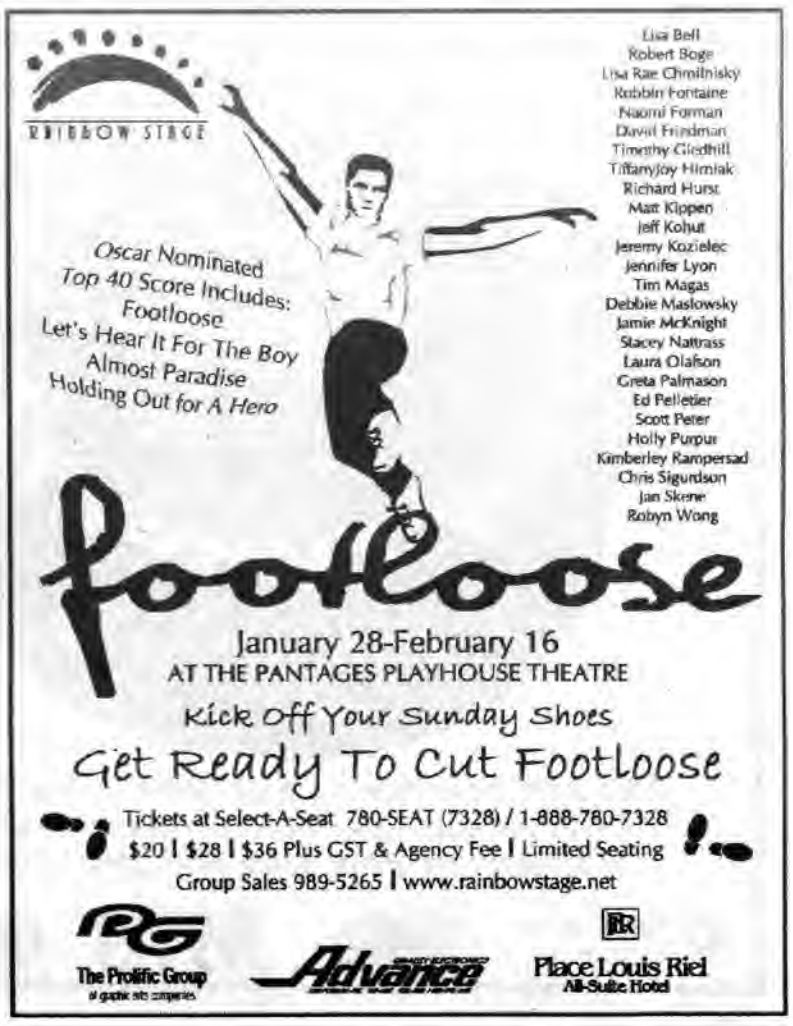

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Manitobans want speed.

WINNIPEG – A recent poll has the majority of Manitobans placing high speed Internet access at the top of the list of most desirable consumer products. Travel to a warm destination was second. "Yeah, I'd say high speed Internet puts the bounce back in my step." said Mortimer J. Bullworth, a long-time Manitoban resident. "That, and hitting the beach during molting season." Seems Mr. Bullworth isn't alone. A high percentage of residents found DSL High Speed Internet service from MTS to offer the best of both worlds in that they have blistering fast speeds for uploads and downloads, as well as instant access to weather and travel sites where they could book tickets securely online. "I found a Club Med that allows large pets," said Mr. Bullworth, "that's essential for someone like me. And I use high speed Internet for instant messaging and even live Web casts from the beach. It's awesome." In addition to travel, many users find DSL High Speed Internet service from MTS gives them unprecedented speed for head-to-head gaming, chat lines and research. "And if you want to catch up on your favourite tv show by watching clips or downloading studio provided movie trailers, you're pretty well hosed unless you have DSL high speed," said Mr. Bullworth.

GOT A BEEF?

For appeals, complaints or just to vent, we at your Students' Association office are here for you. Just visit the SA office in room DM20. We are here to listen.

RRC Student Night

MANITOBA MOOSE

Friday, February 21

$10 and $16 Tickets Available in Room D102
Win Prizes such as a FREE Solo prepaid cell phone.
Free entry after the game at Tijuana Yacht Club

RED RIVER COLLEGE of Applied Arts, Science and Technology

MTS

RED RIVER COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Red River College Students' Association presents:

RRCSA LOVERS SOCIAL

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MARDI GRAS (on the corner of McPhillips and Jefferson)
Free DVD Player draw at 10 pm
$2 Advance tickets available at the Ox Store or email saevents@rrc.mb.ca