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the PROJECTOR

red river college students' association newspaper

march 26, 2001

heads roll over Mexico

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photo: Daniel Maher

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Greenspace SA eyes mandatory student fees to raise coffers

CAREER PROSPECTOR

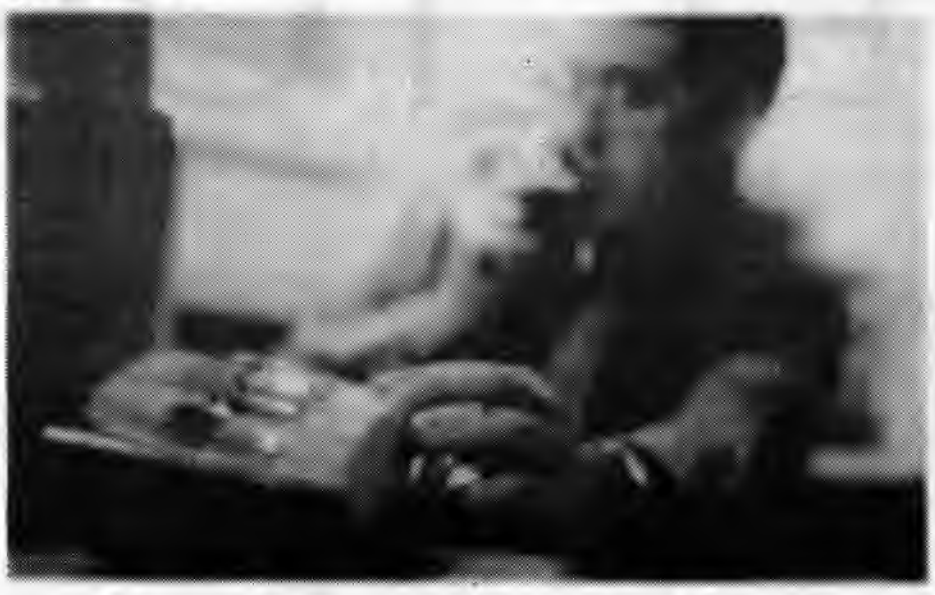

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photo: Katie Chalmers

The GSMSA (above) is looking for student fees

By Tamara King

Something is getting a little greener in the Greenspace Management program and it's not the grass.

The Greenspace Management Student's Association, the only student association at the college besides the Red River College Students' Association, is proposing to make membership mandatory for all student's in Greenspace Management.

"We want full mandatory membership, for full benefits," says GSMSA vice president Cory Brownson.

Greenspace Management, one of the college's newer programs, formed their own students association last March.

All RRC students pay a fee of $29 to belong to the RRCSA, which is tacked on to tuition fees. The current membership fee to the GSMSA is $35. Even though they formed their own Students Association, Greenspace management students are not exempt from the RRCSA fee.

"We thought it would be a good idea," says GSMSA president Kelsey Beirnes.

She says there are numerous reasons why Greenspace Management is attempting to carve out a space for themselves.

"Because we're not so involved with that end of the school. We even graduate at a different time," says Beirnes. "It is important to represent ourselves as a program," says Brownson.

RRCSA president Ian Scott says college administration would need to be involved with the formation of an official student's union with a mandatory membership.

"If you're going to charge union wages you'd better be able to justify it. Unless they could do that, the college won't justify it."

Tim Larter, a first-year Greenspace Management student says he thinks while the idea of making membership to the GSMSA mandatory is good, he isn't sure how many GSM students would be interested.

"It's a good idea but I don't think everyone's going to buy into it," says Larter. "They aren't all interested."

Beirnes says with only 40 people in the program, sustaining a fully functioning student's association might be difficult without making all first year students mandatory members.

"We haven't decided if it will be mandatory for all first years or everyone," she says.

Beirnes says the mandatory GSMSA fee might be $20, but no concrete decisions have been made so far.

She says there is often a lack of communication between the RRCSA and B Building, the part of the college that houses greenspace management.

Beirnes says one of the issues is the new student health cards.

She says students in her end of the college were not properly informed that they have access to student health cards.

"I wouldn't say I have a problem, personally," says Beirnes. "I think it's just poor communication between the RRCSA and our end of the building."

About half of the program's 40 students are members.

the PROJECTOR

Red River College's Student Newspaper for over 30 years.

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'Going to damage my reputation for the rest of my life'

SA program director gets axed over disputed travel voucher

By Sean Thiessen

Red River College Students' Association's program director has been fired after a dispute over the ownership of a travel voucher.

A memorandum issued to the Projector on Tuesday March 20, by SA executive director Owen Desnoyers says program director Geoff Sine was fired after allegedly misusing SA resources.

"Mr.Sine was dismissed after it was determined association resources had been inappropriately used for his own benefit," reads the memo. "We felt his actions illustrated a serious lack of judgement."

Sine, who is only a few credits short of his Business Administration diploma from RRC, has served as program director for nearly five years.

He says he was surprised by the dismissal and is now exploring all his options.

"I walked into the office and had no idea it was coming," says Sine. "This obviously is going to damage my reputation for the rest of my life. I want to clear my name first and foremost."

Sine says a $600 travel voucher is at issue. He says the voucher was issued to him after he filed complaints with the travel agency that arranged the SA trip to Mexico last year.

Sine then used the voucher to pay for an extended stay in Mexico during this year's SA trip to Mexico March 3 to 10.

"The dispute is who owns the voucher," says Sine. "It was made out to me and said it was non-transferable. It was issued because of things that happened to me and not to the group."

Sine, who was in Mexico as a SA troop leader, says his complaints included mistreatment by a flight attendant, an error in the style of hotel room he was given and problems booking with a tour operator.

Clash of Personalities

"If things happened to me on my own time and I dealt with the travel agency myself then in my mind that belongs to me," says Sine.

Sine says he suspects his firing may go deeper than the travel voucher.

"This has greater implications than this voucher. It goes to a clash of personalities," says Sine. "They could have just dismissed me and paid me my severance. Instead they've made an allegation that is untrue."

SA president Ian Scott says Sine will be paid for his overtime and three weeks vacation minus $600 for the voucher.

Scott says the SA is not looking to file criminal charges.

He says the SA will start tendering for a new program director starting in April and is looking to fill the position by June.

Until then, CMOR station manager Jarred Nolan will act as program director.

Nolan says he is excited about the new opportunity and is looking to make the most of it.

"If things go good I'll definitely apply for it," says Nolan. "I'm more of a music guy but who knows?"

photo: Rayna Anderson

RRC students headed south March 3 - 10.

HEPATITIS C VIRUS

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) hopes to identify more at-risk patients and improve reproductive care for women who have been infected with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), with the release last fall of guidelines that are the first in this area for Canada.

Dr. Marc Boucher, principal author of the guidelines and chair of the SOGC working group that developed them, has pointed out that most Canadians infected with HCV are not aware of it. In fact, only 30% of infected individuals know they carry the virus, which has been identified as a major public health problem worldwide.

The full guidelines document is available online at www.sogc.org; follow "Clinical Guidelines" links to "Obstetrics" and select #96. The guidelines document was published in the October 2000 edition of Journal SOGC.

The SOGC stated in a news release that Canada's HCV infection rate is escalating, particularly among 20-24 year olds, and is more prevalent in urban than rural areas. These women are of prime childbearing age, and there's a risk of transmission from mother to child-which increases from 7.9 to more than 40% if the mother also has HIV.

Among key recommendations is a call for targeted screening for women involved in risky behaviors such as past or present injection drug use, having multiple sex partners and practicing unsafe sex or being hemodialysis patients, blood recipients or children of HCV-infected individuals.

Please visit the Health Centre if you have any questions regarding Hepatitis C.

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

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More Elections Info...

Just when you thought the flood of elections information was done...

You've read about the positions available, you've pictured yourself running for Students' Association executive, and now you're wondering 'what exactly do I have to DO as a candidate?'

Here, for all of you interested parties, is the run down of the elections timeline.

Nominations officially opened on Wednesday, March 21st . As of that date you can go down to the SA offices in room DM20 and pick up a nomination sheet. Fill out your personal information, get fifty signatures from fellow students and you're on your way. Nominations close on Wednesday, April 4th, so be sure to have your papers completed and submitted to the SA offices on or before that date.

All candidates will attend the Candidate Information Session on April 4th at 4:00 p.m. to receive the rules and regulations for campaigning. The following day, candidates will begin their campaign. Speeches and debates will be held over the next two weeks, with the campaign period ending on Friday April 20th. Voting will be held on Monday, April 23rd.

So if you're interested in being a part of the Students' Association, come down and pick up the nomination forms. The current executive are available to answer any questions you may have.

If you're not planning to run in the election, then keep your eyes open for anyone with a nomination form. IT doesn't hurt to show support for a fellow student.

And if you're thinking to yourself 'why should I vote, I won't be here next year', remember: if everyone thought that way, nothing would ever be accomplished.

If you have any questions, or if you want to pick up a form, come down to room DM20.

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March 28th: 7:45-9:00 am- the Cave
11:45-1:00- Library Hallway

March 29th: 7:45-9:00 am- Voyageur East Entrance
11:45-1:00- Otto's Cafeteria

Free Mug to the first 50 Students

This is a joint venture between the RRC Students' Association, RRC Food Services and MPSC (Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation)

RED RIVER COLLEGE
OF APPLIED ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RRC Students' Association and the Office of the Student and Community Advisor – Diversity and Inclusive Initiatives announce the:

2nd Annual Diversity Essay Contest

All Red River College students are invited to submit essays answering the following questions:

What is a respectful college community? How do you as a student contribute to this respectful college community?

Prizes

1st Prize:	$500 RRC scholarship
2nd Prize:	$300 RRC scholarship
3rd Prize:	$200 RRC scholarship

How to Apply

Entry forms can be picked up at the Students' Association Office, DM20. The deadline for submissions is **April 20th, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.** For further information, contact Tammy Strachan at 632-2404, Room F214.

Criteria

Winners will be selected based upon their ability to thoughtfully and creatively reflect upon the questions posed. Winning entries will follow the accepted standards of quality writing. Essay length should be between 500 and 750 words, typed and double-spaced.

The essay contest was established to increase awareness of diversity and encourage and support a respectful environment at Red River College.

New mugs to give coffee drinkers and planet a break

By Kelly Stifora

The Red River College Students' Association is launching an eco-mug campaign that SA president Ian Scott hopes will reduce the amount of Styrofoam used on campus.

"We've produced 1,400 mugs in association with Campus Food Services and the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation," says Scott, "Our hope is to change the behavior of people on campus, to make them want to use these mugs."

MPSC provided $2,000 in support to the effort.

Scott says Styrofoam is one of the most environmentally damaging forms of packaging material in use today.

"It takes 500 years for a Styrofoam cup to deteriorate." says Scott

The official launch of the mugs will take place on March 28 and 29.

Over these two days, 100 mugs will be given out free to students who are willing to complete a three question survey on environmental practices.

The mugs will then be available at all food service locations on campus.

Mugs will cost $2.00 a piece and include two free fills of coffee. Two free slush fills may be substituted for mugs purchased at the Crazy Ox.

After the launch, all food service locations on campus will offer a 10 per cent discount on regularly priced coffee to anyone using a refillable mug, regardless of whether or not the mug is a RRC one.

"We appreciate the support of on campus food services," says Scott, who developed the idea along with RRC Recycling Coordinator Natalie Seaba. "Coffee is a huge revenue generator for them. But, it will save them two to three cents per unused cup. It also means the college will be more environmentally responsible."

"I think it's a very good idea, and I think students will use it," says first-year Business Administration student Meagan Towerzy, who says she believes the SA involvement might increase the campaign's chances for success.

"If the SA pushes something, I think students are more likely to help them out," says Towerzy.

First-year Business Administration student Carolyn Burton says she predicts the successful reduction of Styrofoam use on campus.

"Especially for actual coffee drinkers," says Burton. "I mean, there's the people who only drink coffee once in a while who won't care, but there's already lots of people who have travel mugs, so the discount will be an incentive for them to bring them."

photo: Katie Chalmers

New mugs to be offered by the SA aim to reduce styrofoam cups by giving java junkies a break in the wallet.

The SA will be conducting surveys and handing out mugs on March 28 and 29 in the following locations: March 28, 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in front of the Cave and 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Library hallway; March 29, 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Voyageur Cafeteria east entrance and 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Otto's Cafeteria.

Printing kiosk proposed for RRC

photo: Katie Chalmers

Printing Services staff like Debra Olafson (above) would help students at the proposed kiosk.

By Sara Williscroft

Printing Services is looking to relieve long line-ups at Red River College printers as early as September.

Printing Services Manager Glen Buffie, in conjunction with the Dean of Industrial Technologies, Dale Watts, is proposing the construction of a new printing kiosk to be located in the same hallway as the Voyageur Cafeteria.

Buffie says the proposed kiosk will enable students, staff and administration to transfer documents directly from laptops and floppy disks to college printers for a small fee.

"It will become a drop-off point for print jobs that would normally come all of the way down to Printing Services." says Buffie.

According to the proposal, the kiosk will contain equipment for scanning, faxing, small copy jobs, and for digital colour printing.

Shorten Lines

Advertising Art student Vanda Toews says the proposed kiosk would save her a lot of time.

"If we could print directly off our disks, it would be a lot easier than waiting in line," she says.

Buffie says the computers will have no problem handling the different software applications used by college programs.

"This kiosk will be networked throughout the college and will support RRC programs," he says.

Buffie says by introducing a digital printing office at RRC now, the Princess Street equipment will not be such of a shock to printing technicians.

Learning for Princess

"It's a good opportunity to develop a great learning curve for a digital print shop," he says. "We would like to be able to walk into the Princess Street location and say that we've already been doing it at our other shops."

Donated Equipment

Buffie says the kiosk will not be an alternative to the library or other printing stations.

"It's not meant to replace the existing labs, it's meant to expand our services," he says.

Buffie says unlike the photocopiers and printers in the computer labs, the printing kiosk will be manned by two Printing Services staff members at all times.

Buffie says he hopes RRC will only have to pay a minimum fee for the new facility. The proposal committee has discussed the possibility of supply companies donating the equipment.

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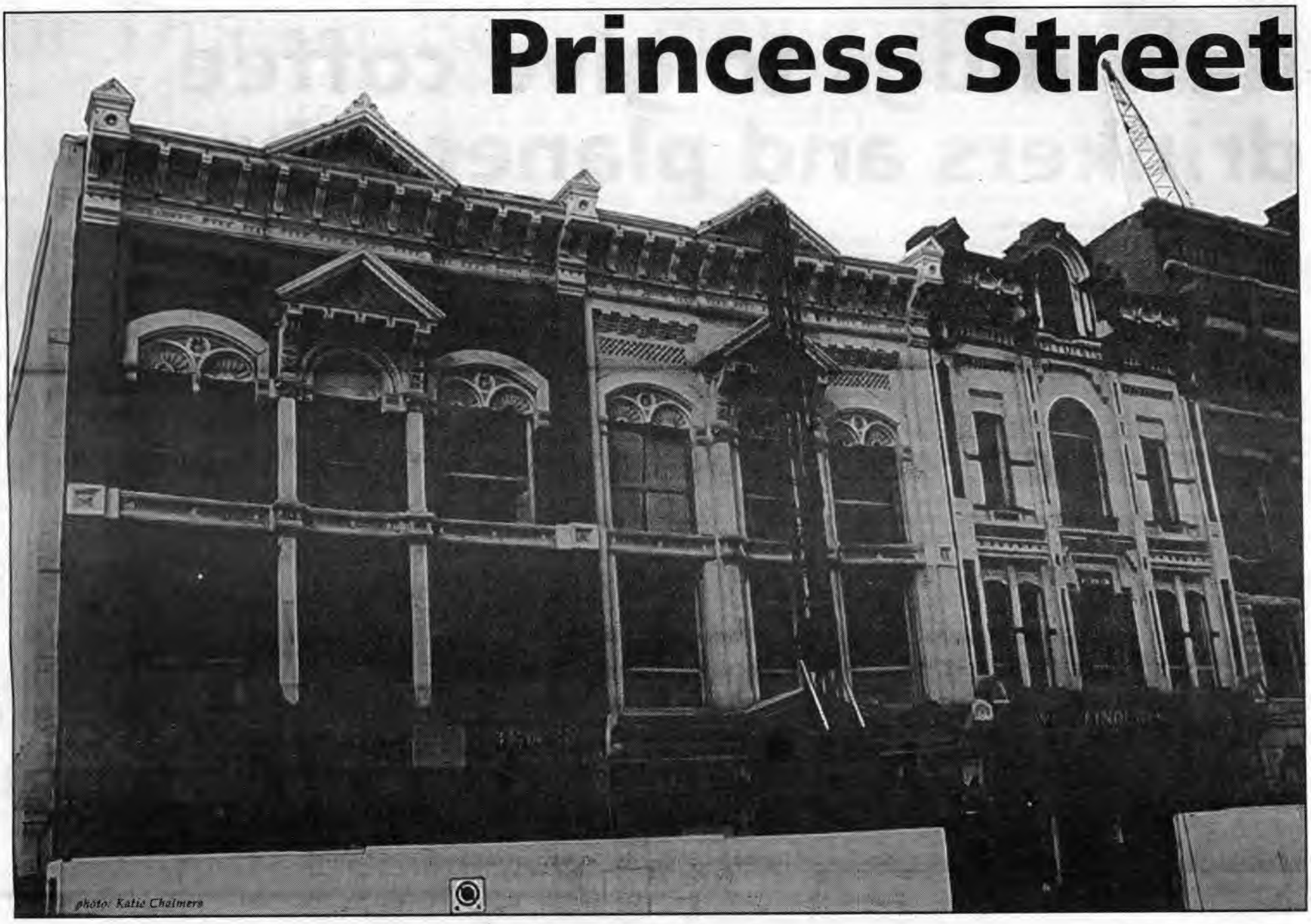
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trims 'nice to have' list

By Kyla Duncan

The windows are blown out, quick-sand-like-mud serves as a side walk and the sound of drilling is never-ending.

Princess Street isn't looking much like royalty these days, but Red River College officials are certain the downtown campus will be fit to walk the red carpet.

At least the province and the college hope so.

The Winnipeg Free Press recently dubbed the College Expansion Initiative the most expensive development project yet.

"Thirty-one and a half million dollars is a large amount, but I'm not sure if we were to normalize other past projects that it would surpass them as the most expensive. Thirty-one and a half million dollars does reflect what we need to build the campus we want to," says Curtis Nordman, executive director of the College Expansion Initiative.

Both the college and the province say the campus is right on schedule, despite coming across some bumps in the road.

One bump in particular, is going to cost $500,000 to smooth.

Architects discovered earlier this year the heritage buildings' foundations have crumbled and will have to be replaced.

"The initial drillings hadn't indicated the foundations were poor. But I'm pleased to say the discovery has not delayed plans in any way. I don't think it's cause for concern. It's just one of those things that happens," says William Regehr, RRC Board of Governors chair.

Regehr says this cost shouldn't upset the $31.5 million budget allotted to the expansion project, but some plans may have to be scrapped.

"Right now we're working on a 'nice to have' list, and of course, that's well over the $31. 5 million budget. It's like building a house. We would like a seven-person hot tub, but we might have to settle for a jacuzzi," says Regehr.

And a jacuzzi it will have to be. Nordman says the NDP will not budge on the $31. 5 million budget.

"It is a pretty solid number. The province has committed that amount to the college and any unexpected costs, like the foundations, will be contained in the budget," says Nordman.

Officials working on the expansion project are discovering that more and more. The current "nice to have" list totals $37 million. Regehr says shaving the number down shouldn't be too difficult.

"Thirty-seven million is a good figure for what we are looking at right now. We are just going to have to find a way to bring it down to $31.5 million," says Regehr.

The questions of which programs will join the Creative Arts and Technology programs already slatted for phase one of the project will determine how much costs can be cut down to meet the budgeted allowance says Regehr.

photo: Katie Chalmers

Drilling at the College Expansion Initiative on Princess Street revealed weak foundations which will cost $500,000 to shore up.

"It's nice that the project is being done in two phases. The programs going into the downtown campus in phase one have been decided. We are looking at the programs that would be the right mix for phase two. Phase one programs are quite firm and the situation is a little like a Rubik's cube looking for programs that would suit both the space and seats," says Regehr.

RRC president Jackie Thachuk says deciding which programs would best compliment the facilities is difficult.

"There's a lot of things to juggle right now. There is a plan, so 80 per cent of the programs going in have been decided. We're currently working out the other 20 per cent," says Thachuk.

Thachuk says the programs which end up going in will make use of every facility in the new campus.

"The whole campus is basically a lab for technology based programs. We're looking at a fully accessible campus," she says.

Nordman agrees.

"We (the province) are in constant dialog with the college to get maximum utilization of the space."

Nordman says RRC originally projected the campus to accommodate 1,100 - 1,500 students, but now the number of students Princess Street will eventually house is about 2,000.

Red River College Staff and Students
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Pick up any forms you may need
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And remember folks, even though your plan covers just about everything, September will bring even more options. What more could we possibly offer??
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Scholarships are taxable $$$

photo: Katie Chalmers

First-year Creative Communications student Julie Kentner is unhappy to find out she has to pay taxes on her scholarship.

By Cheryl Miki

The federal government can dish it out with one hand and take it away with the other.

As part of its 10-year commitment to post-secondary students, the federal government has awarded approximately 100,000 Millennium Scholarships to post-secondary students over the past year.

But during this year's tax season, students are finding out that the gifts are not all they are cracked up to be.

The scholarships, which can be as much as $4,500, must be included as taxable income on the tax return.

The trouble is, the students never actually see the money. The scholarships go straight to the students' financial institution where they are deducted from the balance owing on their student loans.

"I think it sucks," says 27-year-old Red River College student Julie Kentner. "As it is, I make very little income. So why should I be taxed on what little I get from the government? Why am I being taxed on a measly $2,500 that's supposed to be relief for $40,000 that I owe?"

Kentner says she was not informed that the money would be taxable. She found out when she received a T4A slip in the mail.

Rebecca Stiwich, 21, says she was not informed either.

"I didn't know. My mom did my tax return for me and the next day I got a T4 slip," she says

But Stiwich is not concerned about claiming the scholarship.

"I think it is pretty good. I was pretty worried about the large amount [of student loans] I had to pay," says the former University of Manitoba student who racked up $25,000 in loans.

Mandie Schnell, tax preparer for T Four Tax Service, has seen a few of the scholarship slips come in with student tax returns. She says some of the students were unaware that the loans had to be included.

"There was one person who was kind of irritated. He didn't want to declare it because it wasn't to his benefit," she says, adding that the student had no choice in the matter.

Sheila Lightly, 26, says including the scholarship income will not hurt her this year because she still has some education credits that she can carry forward from past returns to offset any extra taxes she may have to pay. Lightly earned $7,500 in scholarships last year, $2,500 of which was a Millennium Scholarship.

"The scholarship itself was great, but I guess the taxing is inevitable. It's kind of like free money, so I guess I can't complain," she says.

Millennium Scholarships are awarded to full and part-time post-secondary students across Canada. The scholarships are awarded to low and middle-income students with student loans. Students are automatically eligible upon receipt of their student loan.

Banks get out of student loans

By Andrew Buck

At the beginning of the month millions of student dollars silently switched hands when the government took responsibility for student loans back from the banks.

Since 1964 the Canada Student Loans Program has provided more than $15 billion in assistance to over 2.7 million full-time students in the form of student loans.

Due to a heavy debt-load on the government, banks started backing the program in 1995. Citing a poor repayment rate, the banks have now handed the program back to the government.

"I didn't know the government had taken the program over," says RRC Plumbing student Sean Lavallee, who has a student loan. "I don't know how it'll affect my loan."

The application process remains virtually the same.

Applicants must fill out a Canada Student Loans Schedule 1, (or Certificate of Eligibility), issued by the provincial government.

Once your school confirms your full-time enrollment, you can pick up a copy of the Canada Student Loan Agreement at Canada Post outlets, or visit www.canlearn.ca to apply.

Once you have filled out the necessary documents, you must present them in person at a Canada Post outlet.

Students who received a loan before Aug. 1, 2000 will still make their repayments to the bank that issued the loan. If you have received a loan after that date, it will be payable to the government.

The repayment policy remains unchanged; students have to start repaying their loan six months after the completion of full-time schooling.

Student loans will be handled through the government's National Student Loans Service, which took responsibility of the program because the banks no longer accepted the high default rates of student loans, said a government spokesman.

"The banks apparently felt the risk on student loans was too high, even though the federal government paid an annual five per cent risk premium to participating institutions to compensate for student loan defaults," said a Human Resources spokesperson.

Up until 1995, the governement accepted full responsibility for student loans, a process that was both expensive and provided little incentive for repayment.

In 1995 the banks took responsibility for loan repayment and were paid five per cent of what they lent to students by the government to compensate for the number of students who defaulted on their loans.

After five years, the banks found they were losing too much money on the program and pulled out.

The government has assured students thier loan service will not be interrupted.

Call for Membership – Manitoba Youth Round Table for Sustainable Development

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The Manitoba Youth Round Table for Sustainable Development (YRT) is seeking members who want to learn more, educate others and participate in projects related to sustainable development.

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Strike may improve TV

I don't want to be alarmist but the time to panic maybe close at hand. If you don't act soon you may become yet another victim swept up by the roaming mobs of the bored.

It will begin innocently enough.

The hoarding of books and temporary shortages of video games and rental movies will ultimately result in the rise of a new class of board game robber barons.

In their wake, the survivors will be forced to glare across the room and ask the dreaded four-word question, "how was your day?"

Western society as we know it will have ceased to exist.

The cause?

The pacification of Hollywood.

It survived McCarthyism, defied ratings boards, and seven Police Academy movies but it may prove to be no match for the picket line.

On May 1, the Writers Guild of America no longer has a contract. A little less than two months later the Screen Actors Guild contract expires.

The affect on tinsel town has already begun.

Movie production has already ground to halt because many pictures can't guarantee to complete shooting before the projected strike and the costs of shutting down half way are prohibitive.

I say both the writers and actors are lucky Hollywood has such nice weather. Because if I was a big wheel in the movie business I would let them strike and strike and strike their way back to their part-time waitress and washroom attendant jobs.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not a pop culture snob. In fact I could probably be best described as a small screen fanatic.

In my field of expertise I can see what types of shows are popular.

And the popular shows nowadays don't exactly boost the writers or actors hands in a strike situation.

The biggest phenomenon are the self named "reality shows." While the reality of their content is questionable their ratings and the money they bring in are not. They bring in record numbers with minimal writing and almost the worst actors in the world.

I say almost because the worst actors are those that end up on the second phenomenon, high stakes lowbrow game shows. Again, they put up big numbers with little writing and terrible acting, up to and including the recent round of classic celebrity Millionaire.

More damning to the actors and writers cause than the popularity of these shows is the reason behind their popularity.

TV sucks.

The sitcom has bottomed out since the retirement of Seinfeld with everyone trying to imitate it. Call it Frasier, Will & Grace, Friends or what ever you want it's still the same tired premise.

I'm sure doctors and lawyers lead intriguing lives, but it gets a little thin when every discipline of law and medicine has its own drama show.

Thanks to syndication I can find a Simpsons or a Star Trek series any time day or night.

So I say if they want to strike, let them rot on the picket line.

Sean Thiessen

photo: Katie Chalmers

Mess with journalists and risk getting bit

David Asper dangled his toe in the snake pit with his March 7 order to journalists to lay off his buddy Jean Chretien.

When Asper, son of media mogul Izzy Asper and CanWest Global chairman, wrote a guest column in the National Post, he didn't realize that he jeopardized every single Canadian citizen's fundamental right to a free and democratic society.

Asper, like many before him, and many to follow after him, has assumed because his family owns an incredible portion of Canadian media, that he was in his right to tell "his reporters" to stop picking on his PM. What seemed at first like a straightforward plea to drop what he viewed as innocent coverage on the PM, has turned into an all-out war in every newsroom across the country, big and small.

Journalists are shocked by Asper's audacity. Those working under him are at odds. They wouldn't be doing their job if they didn't cover the PM, especially when his ethics and leadership are in question.

It's a shame Asper doesn't know this. And it's a shame that in all forms of journalism, whether it be in national newspapers, or student newspapers, that people like Asper, big and small, think they can control the media.

There is no controlling the media. That is the way it is meant to be. Democracy is maintained by the media, not because we are opposed to or for any one political interest, but because we are opposed to everyone. Journalists do not take sides, at least a good journalist does not. It is our duty to present stories in a non-partisan, non-bias manner so the public can get truthful information from both sides of a story.

So even when people like Asper stake an ass-out of themselves by an attempt at power flexing, the media must smile, nod and continue doing their jobs in a non-partisan and non-bias manner. It is the same everywhere including here at the Projector.

In my term as editor in chief, I have been bombarded by people who think the Projector should be more political, more sympathetic, more partisan. This is my response to those people. The Projector will never be more political, more sympathetic or more partisan. We are a newspaper. A student newspaper. We bring you the news from around the college in a non-partisan, non-bias way. The Projector is not a political entity. And it will never be.

To all those David Aspers out there, here's a free lesson in journalism - don't stick your feet in the snake pit unless you're willing to get bit.

Kyla Duncan

Swan song from a true entertainer

Breaking up is hard to do, Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons once sang.

How right they were.

Today I am ending a long-term relationship, one that meant a great deal to me. All good things must come to end, I realize - I just didn't expect it to be so soon.

This is my last issue at the Projector. What started with a choppily written article on the Saskatchewan-based band The Touchtone Gurus in September 1999 (can it really have been that long?) has come to an end.

Along the way, we've had some good times, The Projector and I. Doing most of the movie reviews last year, before I joined the editorial staff, was a lot of fun - even though I almost always had to pay my own way.

Then there was a little contest that we dreamed up late one production night last year. The Win A Date contest was basically conceived to take up space but ended up being one of our wackiest sections. Who could forget Pasquale Greco's date with Julie the model? Good times, good times.

And then there was something I came up with over the summer - The Fake News. Stockwell, Chretien, Jesus, Business Administration students - everyone was fair game for the satirical barbs of news editor Sean Thiessen and myself - with often hilarious results, if I do say so myself.

I think I can speak for both Mr. Thiessen and myself when I say that long Fake News we wrote about the guy who's a little rough around the edges was a labour of love, something we spent more time working on than some of our courses. It was worth it, though.

And now, it's time to show my appreciation. I'd like to thank my predecessor, Amber Saleem, for selecting me as one of the babysitting editors last year. I'd like to thank our editor-in-chief Kyla Duncan for believing in my writing and hiring me as entertainment editor. I'd like to thank all of my classmates who found the time to write for the Projector.

But most of all, I'd like to thank the current staff of the Projector. Over the past year or so, I have had the immense pleasure of working with three talented and wonderful people: Katie Chalmers, Kyla Duncan, and Sean Thiessen.

You guys made every production night something to look forward to, even though there were many, many late nights and a few times where we saw the sun come up together. Without you, the Projector would have been just a job.

That really is the hardest part about leaving - knowing I won't have the pleasure of working alongside you guys anymore.

Like Frankie said, breaking up is hard to do.

Then again, you guys never really put out anyway.

Adam Clayton

Exit Wounds not terribly painful

Seagal, rapper DMX star in so-so action flick

By Tyler Walsh

Just when you thought you'd heard the last from Steven Seagal . . .

Exit Wounds, the latest high-flying, action-packed flick from director Andrzej Bartkowiak (Romeo Must Die), makes up for Seagal's sub-standard acting with a lot of entertaining fight scenes and explosive car chases.

Seagal seems to be a good fit with Bartkowiak's direction and choreography, which allows him to kick ass without talking too much.

Exit Wounds takes place in Detroit, where crooked cops have given up on the fight against crime for a more lucrative career in the drug trade.

Just when you thought he kicked his last. . .

Seagal plays maverick police detective Orin Boyd, who is sent to the crummiest precinct in town after taking the law into his own hands a few too many times.

Boyd soon finds out just how corrupt the precinct is and makes a few enemies.

Half-way through the movie, Boyd discovers he has some allies on the outside world in the form of crimelord Latrell Walker (DMX), club owner T.K. (Anthony Anderson) and talk show host Henry (Tom Arnold). The four somehow find a way to work together to put an end to the corruption on the streets of Detroit.

Arnold and Anderson add a kind of humour that doesn't really gel with the premise of the movie. With these two constantly making wisecracks, Seagal seems out of place and tries, unsuccessfully, to get his own laughs. We all know how funny Steven Seagal can be - the only laughs he gets are unintentional.

On the other hand, the scenes with Arnold and Anderson are still the most entertaining parts of the flick. As the movie progresses, Seagal takes a back seat to the better talents of DMX, Anderson and Arnold.

The problem with Boyd is he is too straight for the other characters. Walker and his sidekick T.K. are an entertaining pair, Henry is funny, but Boyd is just, well, Steven Seagal . . . enough said.

Exit Wounds is worth seeing if you like the action that made Romeo Must Die an entertaining flick and fight scenes that are reminiscent of The Matrix (Joel Silver produced both The Matrix and Exit Wounds).

But if you are expecting anything more than Seagal's usual quality of acting from this movie, you're going to be very disappointed.

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Jimmy Grimble's the one and only

By Tamara King

Jimmy Grimble might be a bit of a loser, but the movie, at least, is a winner.

There's Only One Jimmy Grimble, directed by British newcomer John Hay, is set in the rough-and-tumble streets of Manchester and follows the teenage turmoil of Jimmy (Lewis McKenzie), a shy 15-year-old who's a target for bullies.

Jimmy loves football, just like all the other kids, but he cheers for the wrong team. Manchester City is his favourite; whereas everyone else worships Manchester United and won't let him forget it.

Jimmy is no more of a success as a football player than as a football fan - he can't seem to play in front of anyone else.

Because only 12 people show up for tryouts, Jimmy makes the school football team in spite of his stage fright and his abusers become his teammates.

While practicing football by himself one day, Jimmy's tormentors chase him through a decapitated house until a homeless woman (Jane Lapotaire) invites Jimmy to take refuge in her home, a cave-like basement suit filled with discarded treasures.

The woman take a shine to Jimmy and gives him a pair of mysterious boots she says once belonged to Robbie Brewer, a famous football player for Manchester City.

Do the boots turn Jimmy into a star player? You'll have to see the movie to find out.

You won't be wasting your time. The honesty of Jimmy's character makes up for the film's initial bleakness. The subplots involving Jimmy's mother's love life and Jimmy's romance with a girl who is shunned because of her vampire looks add a lot to the film.

Hay also makes Jimmy visually interesting with shots of dirty football players and the seedy underside of working-class Manchester.

There are countless coming-of-age movies out there, but there really is only one Jimmy Grimble - you just can't help but like this perpetual loser.

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The Drawer Boy a memorable play

MTC production a contemporary classic

By Kelly Stifora

Sometimes the lies we tell each other are better than the truth.

That's the idea behind Manitoba's Theatre Centre's production of The Drawer Boy, as well as theatre itself.

The first rate play tells the beautifully simple and reflective tale of a young hippie-actor named Miles (Tom Barnett) who enters the lives of two aging farmers to gather material for a play.

Angus (David Fox) and Morgan (Jerry Franken) are two farmers toiling away the twilight of their lives in a state of symbiotic balance. They grew up together, went to war, fell in love with Englishwomen, and even got married together.

They were also together the night Angus was hit by a piece of shrapnel in a London air raid, leaving him unable to remember anything but the most regularly repeated of routines.

That is, until Miles puts Angus and Morgan's story on stage, a sight that triggers an avalanche of memories in Angus that conflict with what Morgan has told him over the years.

As Angus struggles to discover which of his memories are true and which aren't, Miles learns a lesson about reality and how easily, and mercifully, fiction can sometimes overcome it. The entire play is set in the kitchen and yard of Angus and Morgan's small farmhouse, represented by an amazingly detailed cutaway set (designed by John Ferguson).

Drawer Boy a "beautifully simple and reflective tale"

The picture painted is a vivid one. All three actors give superb performances, especially Fox, who portrays with utter conviction the childlike innocence and unpredictable danger inherent in Angus' disability. Fox won a Dora Award, one of Canada's highest theatre honors, for his performance in a previous production of the play at Theatre Passe Muraille in Montreal.

Franken's portrayal of Morgan provides the perfect foil for both Angus' repetitive forgetfulness and Barnett's spaced-out actor. He handles the dry humour of this Prairie man and veteran with stoic, stone-faced determination.

The real stars here, however, are playwright Michael Healey and director Miles Potter. Potter has been with the script since the beginning, serving as dramaturge while Healey developed it.

The character of Miles is based partly on Potter and his experiences while working on a project called Farm Show, during which he and some fellow actors, including Fox, stayed with farmers in rural Clinton, Ont. in order to produce a play about Canadian farming life.

Healey and Potter have crafted what will become classic Canadian theatre. Not only because it employs the universal themes of love, loss, hope and represents them through realistic, sympathetic characters, but because it reaches a level of transcendent truth which is forever elusive in real life.

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CD Reviews

Eve
Scorpion

An impressive release from the first lady of the Ruff Ryders. If Dr. Dre and Lil' Kim had a daughter it would sound like Eve. Scorpion has funky beats and excellent writing. File it directly under B for Booty Shakin' in your CD collection. One question though: does she kiss her mother with that mouth?

-Heather Dzioba

Rating: 8 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 2, 4, 13

Semisonic
All About Chemistry

This CD just screams road trip. With its sing-song melodies and catchy lyrics, I can practically feel the wind in my hair and the seatbelt across my chest. All About Chemistry is Semisonic's third album and it's by far the best. So go buy yourself a slurpee and enjoy.

-Heather Dzioba

Rating: 8 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 3, 8, 9

Johnny Sizzle
Self-titled

Sudbury, Ont.'s self-proclaimed King of Nerd Rock strums punk chords on an acoustic guitar and wails over drum loops or occasionally without accompaniment on his sophomore release. The result is an amusingly original set of in-your-face tunes with titles like Ron Jeremy for President.

-Kelly Stifora

MC Mario
Mixdown 2001

This CD has, like, so much energy. There, just, like, weren't enough popular artists on this album. If you, like, like the vocal stylings of Ricky Martin and JLo and Destiny's Child, this might be a good album for you. In some form or another, the first track has already swept through dance clubs everywhere.

-Tamara King

Rating: 8 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 1, 4, 6, 10

The Waterboys
A rock in the weary land

A little hard to understand what this album's trying to accomplish here. Songs with moody, dark, religious overtones. The track "dumbing down the world" has some biblical reference to the C.S. Lewis book "the Screwtape Letters." But I still didn't understand the whole message. But at least the album has some nice pseudo-Brit pop melodies.

-Tamara King

Rating: 7 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 1, 13, 14

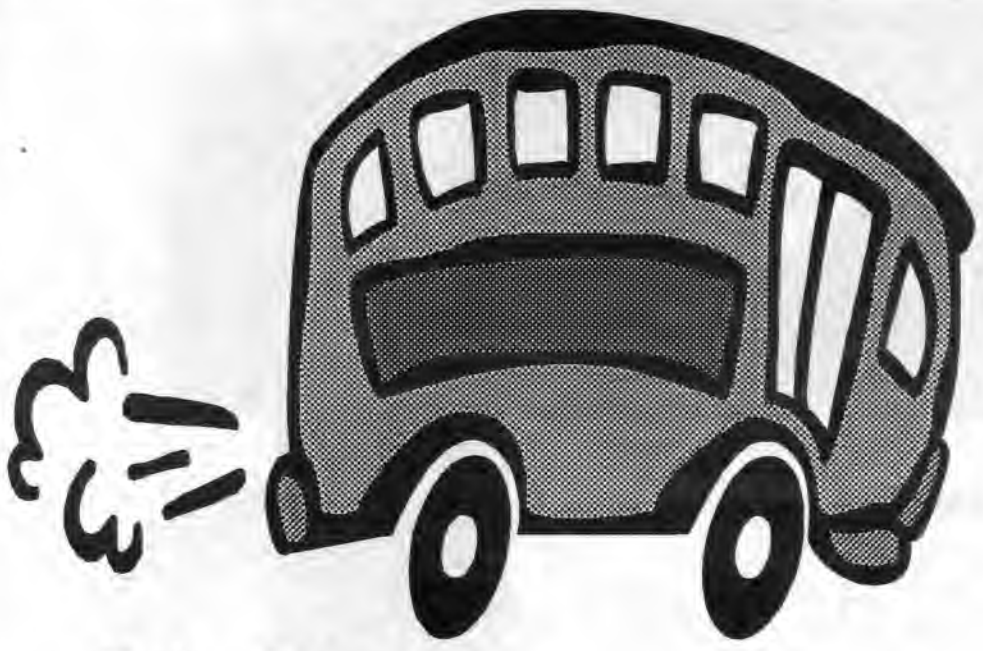
B. Darvill
B. Darvill's Wild West Show

Benjamin Darvill, formerly of The Crash Test Dummies, presents an interesting concept album that mixes strains of western music, drum and bass and hip-hop. Although this quirky, experimental album will remain in my permanent collection, it may be too esoteric to make any type of mainstream impact.

-Kelly Stifora

Rating: 6 out of 10. Favourable Track: 7

Rating: 8 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 2, 5, 8, 10



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3 - Pretending to be caught in bed with your best friend's wife

2 - Pretending to be caught in bed with your dog

1 - Three little words: "I have AIDS"

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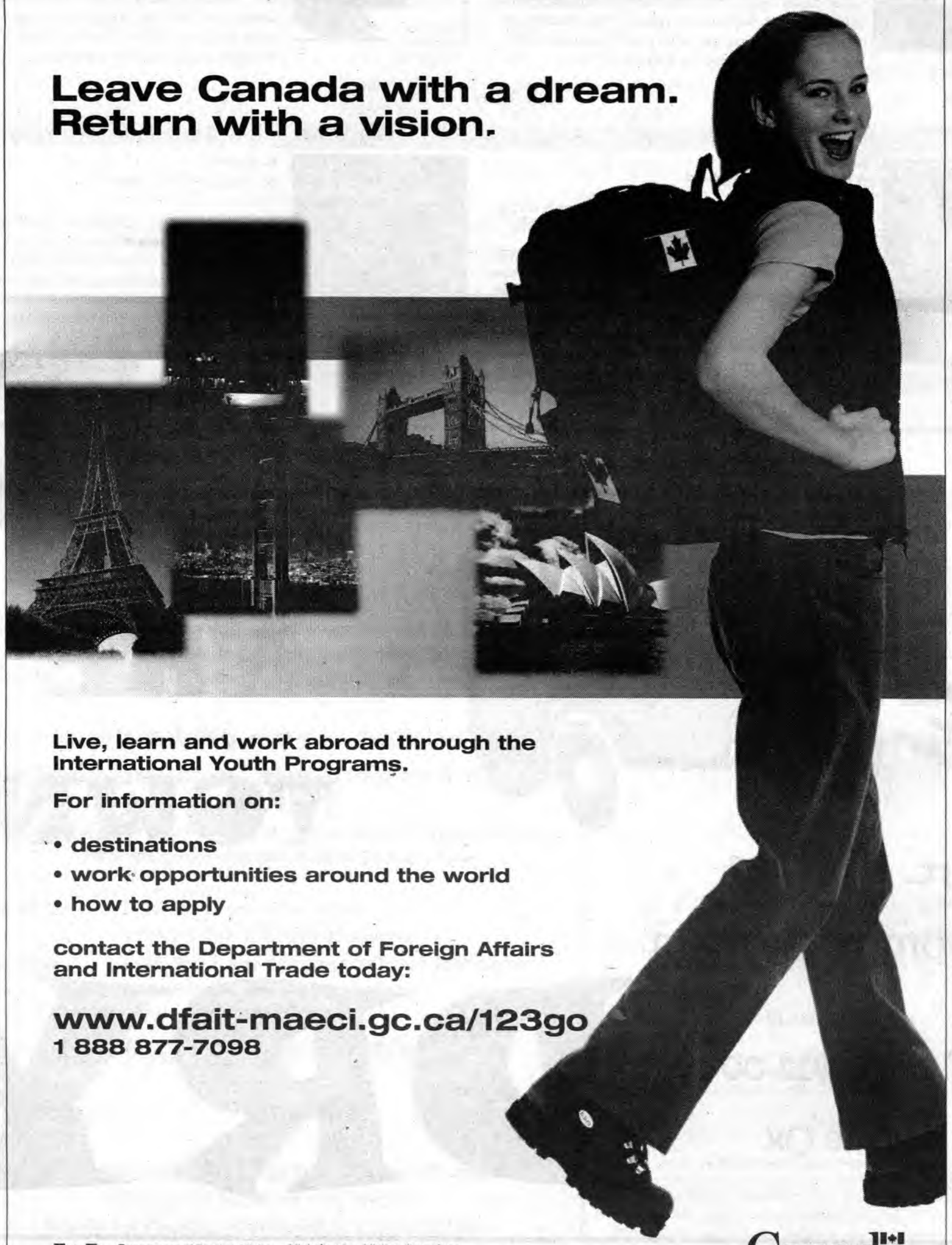

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Yin & Yang

By Katie Chalmers

On the eve of my 24th birthday I realized little has changed since I was two-years-old. My name is still Katie. I'm still a girl. I still drool in my sleep.

I still get cranky when I'm hungry. The crazy and totally irrational dynamics between my older sister and I haven't changed either.

She can be as annoying as a roaming polar bear in Churchill on Halloween, just waiting to pounce and ruin all the trick or treating fun, or as nice as a salesperson at an electronics store (but always working on commission).

We used to fight about whose turn it was to set the table, who gets to sit in the front seat of my mom's car, and we still do. But now, instead of playing house to make up, we shop.

Here's how a typical phone conversation works.

"Grow up! And don't call me anymore!"

"You grow up! And don't worry I won't!"

Click.

Ring. Ring.

"Hello?"

"You want to go shopping?"

"Sure, where you want to go?"

Go ahead, argue with your sister until your blue in the face, but hit the mall before you're tempted to hit her in the face.

By Heather Dzioba

Beauty magazines are pure trash that make us feel insecure about ourselves and anything but beautiful. 'Old news,' you say. Everyone knows this. So why is it I can't stop buying them.?

Every week I go to my local 7-11 and am immediately drawn to the magazines, with their glossy covers, boobalicious cover models, and headlines claiming that they will either tell me the secret moves that will drive a man wild, give me a bikini-ready body in just two weeks, or teach me all the professional hair and makeup tricks.

I fall for it every time, much to my disappointment once I get home.

It doesn't take long to figure out it's the basically the same issue as the previous month, but with different pictures.

They're all variations on How To Trap A Man, What To Wear To Trap A Man, and Am I Pathetic If I Can't Trap A Man?

But still I read on, through the ads of 12-year-old girls in bikinis straddling various household furnishings, the steamy confessions that sound like letters to Penthouse Magazine (or so I've heard), and the affordable fashions ($300 for a hand-bag, what a steal).

I keep telling myself that this time it'll be different. This time I really will lose 20 pounds in two weeks. This time I really will learn the secrets of attaining sexy cleavage and the perfect makeup colours to go with my zodiac sign.

I ask myself, will my world end if I don't pick up the new Cosmo?

Well, I'm not willing to risk it.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have some reading to do.

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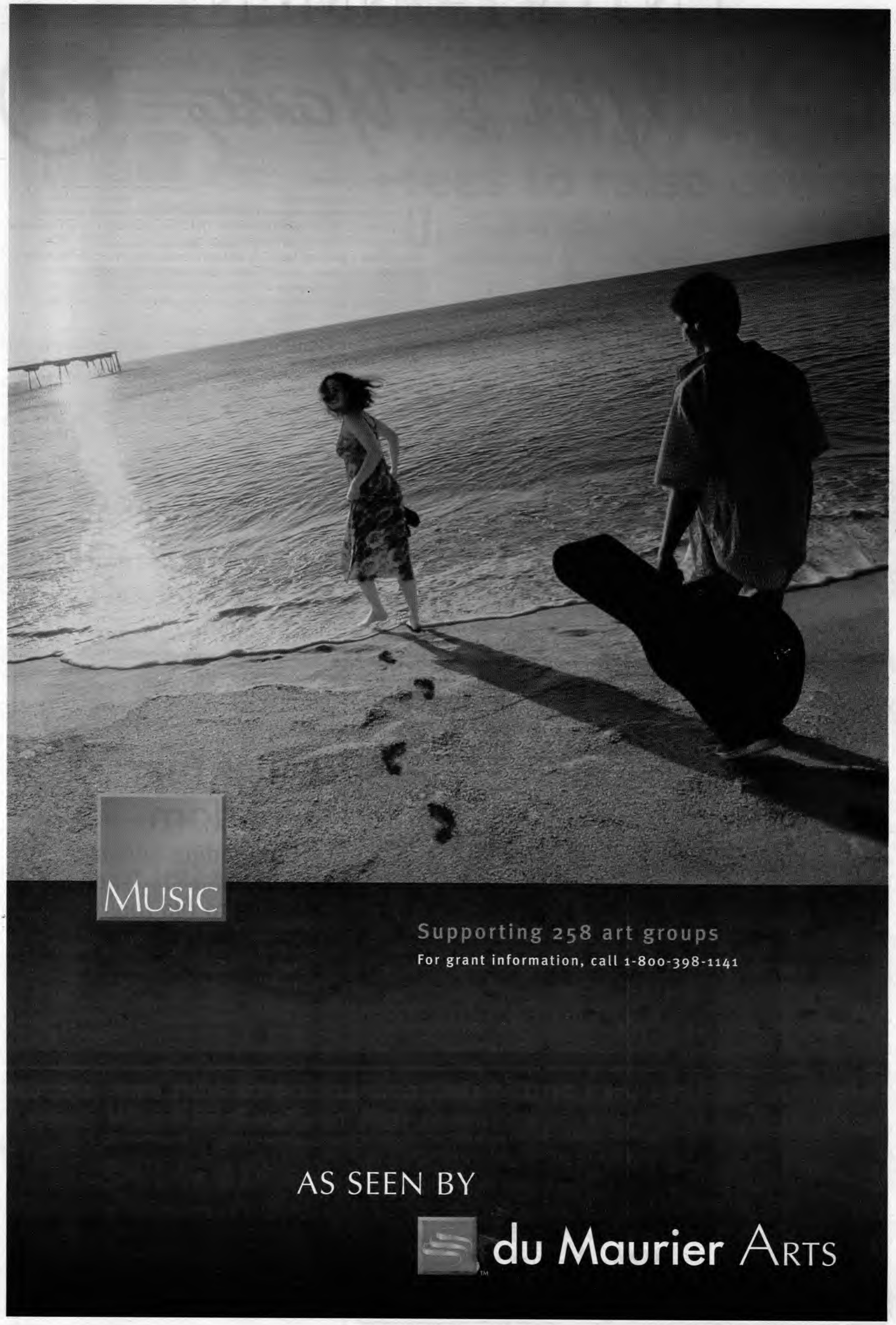
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