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The Projector
Red River College's newspaper
November 13, 2001

No Remembrance Day at Red River

By Dianne Hamill

Where have all the flowers gone? Red River College students who wanted to honour Canadian war veterans had to do it on their own time.

Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, honours Canadians who died in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War.

The college was closed Monday, Nov. 12 in recognition of the day.

With that exception, anyone looking for signs of Remembrance Day being acknowledged on campus had a difficult task.

According to Pat Bozyk, Dean of Student Services, the college has not offered Remembrance Day services in the past and this year was no exception. She added that there were no requests for services this year.

The showcase in front of the library puts up a Remembrance Day display only if the space has not been booked by other departments.

Library technician Bettina Allen said that the library has only had a Remembrance Day display twice in the last 10 years.

This year the showcase featured information about Louis Riel sponsored by the Aboriginal Education department.

Despite the absence of services and displays, the day did not go by completely unnoticed on campus.

Poppies were sold Nov. 2 at various locations at the College.

According to Bozyk, the sale is a "long standing tradition" at the College.

Organized by the Ladies Auxiliary from the St. James Royal Canadian Legion, the poppies were available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Joan Faraci, one of the event organizers, said the response to the sale was positive.

"I look forward to coming here. Students and staff are always supportive." Faraci expected to distribute 1,000 poppies throughout the day and cash value of the donations was expected to be in the thousands.

Money raised is used to help support veterans and given to facilities such as Deer Lodge Centre.

Student reaction to Remembrance Day activities at the college was mixed.

"They should have something now more than ever," commented Danielle Pelan, a Nursing student.

"They should offer services, they fought for our country," said student Dan McKenzie.

While some felt that the College should acknowledge the day, other students said that if a service was offered they probably would not attend.

"I have to study," commented Dan Johnson.

"It would have to fit into my schedule," said Heidi Chater.

When asked if they would attend a Nov. 11 service on their own, many students said no.

"I prefer to acknowledge it on my own. I observe the moment of silence at 11," said Chater, adding that "it seems Remembrance Day has been put on the shelf."

photo by Rayna Anderson

Students wishing to observe Rememberance Day had to do so off campus. RRC did not hold a service.

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Early College budget calls for higher tuition

Staff, maintenance costs may force tuition hike

By Scott Prouse

Red River College has announced its preliminary budget, which calls for a 13.2 per cent increase in base tuition, or a total of $187 per student, for the 2002-2003 school year.

The RRC Students' Association is working with other student associations across the province to place a freeze on tuition rates.

"Education should be available to everyone, not just the people who can afford it," said Robyn Osmond, President of the SA. RRC has had one of the lowest tuition fees of Canadian community colleges.

The provincial government is "committed to increasing college enrollment," but raising college tuition will make it more difficult for them to attain their goal of doubling college enrollment.

According to the RRC 2002-2003 Preliminary Budget, the College is facing "unavoidable cost pressures."

These include salary and benefit improvements for staff. Under the collective agreement signed March 31, staff are entitled to a 2.3 per cent general salary increase effective June 29, 2002.

College programming is largely technical in nature, and in order to stay on top of current education trends, the college must provide extra salary costs for staff training.

The college is facing other costs including facility maintenance, upgrading or replacement of program equipment and classroom furniture, backfill renovations of the Notre Dame campus, and the development of the Princess Street campus.

These small increases in tuition do not affect college revenue very much.

For example, a one per cent increase in RRC salaries would need a six per cent increase in tuition.

A discussion paper from a student representative states that "a tuition policy is required to regulate fee setting; one that is fair to students and that also contributes to a financially stable college." The principals for this tuition policy are as follows:

1. RRC should be accessible to Manitobans should their interest and ability lead them to the college.
2. Both society and students should make a contribution to the cost of post-secondary education.
3. Financial need should not be a barrier to post-secondary education.
4. Tuition fees should be reasonable and predictable to enable both the College and its students to plan their finances.
5. The college should be accountable to students for the level of fees set and the quality of services provided.

This paper also states that "tuition fees in Manitoba have increased over 200 per cent since 1988."

RRC has three main revenue sources: a provincial grant, which in 2001-2002 accounted for 59 per cent of College revenue; auxiliary revenue, contract training and continuing education revenues (22 per cent), and tuition fees (12 per cent).

With auxiliary revenue not predicted to increase, the government grant would have to increase by 5.1 per cent to account for the $2,131,100 shortfall facing the college.

"It is easier to put in a tuition increase than to lobby the government for a larger grant for education," said Osmond.

An update to the RRC tuition policy discussion paper stated "the raise in tuition would account for an extra $889,600 for the College. The College would still be facing a shortfall of $1,184,800 for the 2002-2003 year."

The paper also states that "with no tuition increase, this shortfall could result in program reductions."

Some students at RRC are not concerned about the proposed tuition increase.

"We spend so much daily, I've lost track," said Troy Sciberras, an Aviation student.

"As long as it's benefiting the students at Red River, I don't mind," said Melissa Chartrand, enrolled in Business Administration.

Others have different opinions.

"The government provides tax breaks for oil companies such as Shell, but they won't put forth grants into continuing education," said Dahlia Kurtz, a first-year Creative Communications student.

The Manitoba Students' Association ran a postcard campaign last year to keep the tuition freeze, and will be continuing the same campaign again this year.

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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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Online course evaluations slow to start

By Gordon Ellis

Have you ever wanted to let your instructors know how you really felt about their teaching skills?

Perhaps you wanted to tell them that they are the stars in your sky; or maybe you wanted to tell them that a monkey could do a better job.

Soon you will have an outlet for this critical feedback in the form of online instructor evaluations.

The Online Course Feedback System (OCFS) has been in the works for over a year and was originally slated to go online at the end of the current term, says Robyn Osmond, President of the Red River College Students' Association.

Instead, the OCFS will be phased into the Business Administration and Information Technology programs by the end of term two.

In September 2002, the system will be completed and all students will be able to evaluate their instructors.

The original start date of November 2001 had been pushed back due to the difficulty of developing a program that links students and their schedules to the instructors.

The OCFS will allow students to go to the College's Web site before exams start during the last two weeks of the term and evaluate each of their courses and instructors.

This anonymous information will be forwarded to the chair of the department as well as the instructor, and will act as a gauge for the instructor's performance.

"Student feedback is important to all of us, administrators and instructors alike," says Dean of Student Services Patricia Bozyk, "so they can work together to make continuous improvements."

The OCFS is being implemented to weed out the one major flaw in the traditional method, which required that only one class, which is chosen by the department head, evaluates its instructor. That only happened once every school year.

However, this process does not allow all of the instructor's classes to perform these evaluations.

"I've been here for three years," says Osmond, "and I've never yet done one because my class was never chosen."

The OCFS will follow the current format of the traditional pen and paper method of instructor evaluation. This design consists of specific and general multiple-choice questions, resulting in a student's appraisal of the instructor.

These questions will be followed by open-ended questions that will allow the student to elaborate further on issues they think are important.

A steering committee of students and administrators has been formed to ensure the OCFS gets off the ground as planned, and to make sure the students are aware of its existence and take advantage of it.

"The last thing we want is for a system like this, that is so good and can have so much benefit, to be lost because students don't know about it," says Osmond.

photo by Shawna Zeilstra

RRC Dean of Student Services Patricia Bozyk says online course evaluations will help administrators and instructors make continuous improvements.

Marine Dealers' Association gives College $35,000 donation

By Andrew Buck

On Nov. 5 the Mid-Canada Marine Dealers' Association put the finishing touches on a gift three years in the making, presenting the College with $35,000 worth of equipment.

The donation was made final at a press conference at the College's Building M. A plaque was also presented to commemorate the deal, which was made on behalf of the memory of Dealers' Association founding president Ed Rondeau.

The equipment will be used by the College's Power Equipment Technician Training Program. Included in the donation are outboard motor repair stands, stern drive engines, motor lifts, and test tanks for outboard motors and personal watercraft.

"This has been going on for just about three years," says Brian Ans, executive secretary of the Dealers' Association. Ans also serves on an advisory committee for the Power Equipment Technician Training Program.

"This is a multi-faceted initiative," he said. "The College needed to be upgraded in terms of its equipment and this also helps to get the apprenticeship program completed."

That apprenticeship program would see the Dealers' Association, the College and Manitoba Education & Training join forces to train marine technicians as early as 2002.

The Power Equipment Technician Training program is a one-year certificate program "that provides students with complete training in snowmobile, lawn and garden, marine, motorcycle and ATV employment," says program instructor Mark Blackner. "It's a pretty big program."

Blackner says the donation will help the program in several ways.

"It keeps students up to date and more efficient. It will be easier to move equipment around now."

The improved equipment will also help garner the attention of industry leaders, said Blackner.

"It just brings up the image of the program." There are now 16 students enrolled in the program.

"The actual equipment was delivered in January 2001," says Ans. Since that time the College had been working on installing and setting up the equipment.

"We were actually going to have a press conference in the spring, but it was delayed," he said.

The Dealers' Association has been in existence "for about 15 years," according to Ans. It represents marine dealers in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

The Dealers' Association runs the Mid-Canada boat show, as well as marine safety and awareness programs.

"One of our mandates is to work with dealers towards the servicing of boats," Ans says. "This will upgrade the quality of technicians and gain recognition for the trade.

"Once the apprenticeship program is through we will continue to work with the College in training technicians," says Ans.

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An Energy Efficiency design competition is also being held and is open to arts and design students, as well as other interested students, enrolled in a college or institute. The objective of the contest is to design an attractive sticker, with wide appeal, that promotes energy efficiency and can be used in the workplace and home. Two winners will be selected for a cash prize of $500 each.

For more information, please contact the members of the Energy Efficiency Steering Committee for your respective region (see www.accc.ca/energyefficiency/St_committee.htm for the list of members).

Forward forward your entry no later than Jan. 31, 2002 to:

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TALK BACK TO THE SA

Listed below are questions or comments fellow students have had for the SA. Check it out. They may have thought the same question as you!!!

Question:
Each Instructor should be judged by their students. Some of them could use improvement in their teaching ability?
SA Response:
Currently the Students' Association is working close with the college to put into place a teacher evaluation program. This is currently in the works. The program should be in place before the year end for you to evaluate your courses. The SA is always looking for ways to help improve the education at Red River College.

Question:
Why are the washrooms named ladies and men. Hey!! It's either ladies and gentlemen or women and men!?
Response:
It's nice to see students so observant!!! With today's ever so politically correct environment, this is something we should look out for. I have contacted the facilities of the college and made them aware of this situation.

Question:
Can a sign be posted by the courtesy phone with a time limit? Students don't seem to be very considerate when others are waiting in line.
Response:
When the phone was moved from the Info booth to its' current location, the sign was put up. However, it has been torn off numerous times by individuals. We are looking into placing a permanent sign which will be screwed into the wall hoping that no one will try and tear this one down as well.

For some students, it is hard to build relationships with fellow classmates when you have a family to raise and working as well. Mature students don't have time for socials and bar bashes to have fun. Is there any way of implementing a website service that could provide students a chance to build relationships?
Response:
This is a venture that RRCSA could look into for the students of the college. It also keeps with the theme of new technology. This is something that would take a lot of time and planning but it is something we will look into for the future. RRC Students' Association is currently working hard to improve the RRCSA.com website. Before we make any other additions to our website we want to make sure it is useful to the students. Great question. RRCSA is always looking for ways to serve our diverse population.

Thanks for all the great questions. If you have any more, stop by the SA office, DM20, or drop off a form in a suggestion box.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 12
No Classes
Remembrance Day Observed

November 13
Movie Tuesday –
Remember the Titans & The Replacements

November 14
Imaginus Posters
Located in the Library Hallway

Pizza Wednesday

November 20
Movie Tuesday – Shrek

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Portage Campus
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Upcoming RRC Developments:

Stevenson Aviation	(Starting Jan/02)
Princess Street Campus Phase 1	(Starting fall of '02)
Princess Street Campus Phase 2	(Starting fall of '03)
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Interested in getting involved in the college? Red River College Students' Association provides many opportunities for students to get **volunteer experience.**

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Check it out at Room D104

College online job centre up and running

By Natalie Pona

Looking for a job? Try the Internet. Red River College's Employment Services went online Aug. 1.

"I think it's exciting," RRC Career Councilor Heather McFayden said.

"The College is expanding so much to meet business and industry demands, it needs to have a service like an online job centre."

Red River College, in combination with Campus Worklink, Canada's largest job site for students and graduates, offers the service that links employers with students and graduates. McFayden said that Campus Worklink allows RRC students and alumni to do job searches that are based on their education and interests. Students are also able to create an online resume, search employer profiles, and inspect a resource link that helps with interview skills and career planning.

"Students who will be graduating soon are encouraged to post their resumes online a few months before their grad," McFayden said. "Posting early helps them get jobs sooner."

Kristen Tooth, a second-year Business Administration student, has been hired by Employment Services to promote the online service to students and employers.

"She's available to talk to classes or individual students about the Web site," McFayden said. "She's very helpful in explaining the service."

The funding for the online service was paid for by Campus Worklink and is provided to students and alumni for free, McFayden explained.

"All of our student career counseling is free," she said. She said that Employment Services helps students make decisions about what directions to take in their education and careers, considering their abilities and what they're interested in.

"Career counseling is also available to the public," McFayden said. She said that most of the people who come to Employment Services for career counseling are people who are thinking of enrolling at Red River College.

"We help match them with careers that are compatible with their interests and abilities."

RRC's Employment Services is in room D-104.

photo by Nancy Chan

The College's online job centre will help meet business and industry demands, says RRC Career Counsellor Heather McFayden. It can be reached through the College's Web site.

Campus Worklink is available at www.campus-worklink.com, or on the College's Web site at http://www.rrc.mb.ca.

Follow the links through Campus Services to Employment Services to find the Campus Worklink site.

Law Courts office offers credit and debit card payment options

By Andrew Buck

It's a situation we all know too well: you've racked up a whole swack of court costs, and now you've got to pay up.

Problem is, you don't get paid until Friday, and the payment's due this Wednesday.

Fear no longer, because the provincial government has expanded a service that allows fines and court costs to paid by to the provincial court by credit or debit cards.

"It's convenient for the general public out there," said Brad Janzen, acting executive director of Manitoba's court services.

"Especially in light of the new technology that's available."

The new payment options started Oct. 29 at the law courts building, located at 408 York Ave.

The changes affect payments of fines, restitution orders and court costs.

They are in line with a similar move made in 1996 at the 373 Broadway court offices. In the five years since that change was made about $2.8 million in fines have been collected by debit payments.

Janzen says that while it's too early for exact figures, the increased payment options have generated more traffic at the courts building.

"The credit card payment is brand new," he said. "The first week has seen heavy use, but I don't have any statistics yet."

The new payment options currently affect only Winnipeg, but that's about to change. Court offices in Thompson will accept plastic later this month, while Brandon will be coming online in December.

The payment program will be phased into other offices across the province at some point next year. Prior to the changes, cash and cheques were the only payment methods available at law courts offices.

Payments include things such as civil matter costs, court costs and parking tickets.

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Courtyard skateboarding grinds to a halt

By Tamara King

Some studious Red River College students are breathing a sigh of relief after skateboarders were shushed by the posting of new signs.

"No skateboarding" signs were recently hung in the College courtyard after students studying in the College library complained about excessive noise made by people skateboarding in the courtyard.

"Having someone rolling outside the window is very noisy," explains head librarian Paddy Burt.

The library's exterior windows face into the courtyard. The cement pads and ledges, perfect for skateboarding tricks, are located right outside the library's quiet study area.

"This has been a concern of the library staff for the past few years," Burt says. "We've watched people wipe out, and one day someone's going to hurt themselves."

The offices of some library staff also face into the courtyard, and they find it hard to work with the noise of skateboard wheels grinding against the concrete.

"We kind of half-laugh about it, but one of these days, they might come right through the window," Burt says.

In September, the noise and safety concerns prompted the library to ask the College's safety committee to post "no skateboarding" signs in the courtyard. Based on the noise concerns, the safety committee agreed.

"A lot of this was taking place while people were studying and all they'd hear was the scrapping and rubbing," says Daryl Nielsen, manager of Environmental Health, Safety and Insurance.

Though the College is mostly concerned about the noise from skateboarding by the library windows, there are some safety issues College officials have concerns about.

"Falling is what (skateboarders) do. So if they did fall down and hurt themselves, the College could be liable," Nielsen says.

RRC student and skateboard enthusiast Tyler Paziuk isn't too thrilled about the new signs.

"That courtyard is totally amazing for skating. Where are the students going to skate now?" he asks.

College officials say the signs aren't supposed to discourage students from skateboarding to and from school. Though noise and safety are a concern in the courtyard, the College has no official policy banning skateboarding in other areas of the College campus.

"It's not that we mind people skateboarding, just not in that area where it bothers people," says Bill Miller, the College's director of Facilities.

Since the signs went up three weeks ago, there haven't been any reports of skateboarding in the courtyard.

"It was just to do with the noise," says Jim Drever, manager of Security at the College.

"Skateboarding hasn't been an issue here. It's always something small. The students are very cooperative. Sometimes you get young fellows from the surrounding neighborhood who don't want to cooperate."

If Security comes across people skateboarding in the courtyard they will be asked to leave, says Drever. If they don't cooperate and aren't RRC students, they could be banned from the property.

Students who refuse to leave the area or stop skateboarding could face penalties through the Dean of Student Affairs.

"The vast majority of students are very co-operative," Drever says.

The library says the situation has calmed down considerably.

"We haven't noticed a problem in the last several weeks," Burt says.

The courtyard was a popular spot for skateboarders because of the flat, smooth cement and the cement planters and railing. The College has no designated areas for skateboarding.

"It would be nice if there could be a skateboard facility," Burt adds.

photo by Rayna Anderson

Disruptive noise led to the College's decision to ban skateboarding in the courtyard.

SA executive lobbies federal ministers in Ottawa

By Kelly Stifora

Red River College has been a member of the Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations (no affiliation to the Canadian Alliance political party) since Jan. 2000. Although the benefits are not immediately apparent, RRC Students' Association President Robyn Osmond assures us that there are many.

"There are a lot of benefits," says Osmond. "The biggest one is that we're increasing the presence of Red River on a national level. The government now knows about us, and knows that we're lobbying on behalf of the students at Red River and across the country.

Osmond says that without CASA, student governments would never get a chance to meet directly with government officials in a position to affect change.

This is exactly what she and other members were able to do during a recent CASA conference in Ottawa, meeting with Finance Minister Paul Martin and Heritage Minister Sheila Copps.

Topics of discussion included student debt remission and reducing textbook costs for students.

In January, the SA will return to Ottawa in order to lobby the government further on several policies and to take part in the Education Builds a Nation Campaign, for which they will be collecting thumbprints from RRC students on a giant banner.

In Ottawa, the banner will be rejoined with 23 others to create one giant, Canada-shaped banner at the CASA headquarters that will serve as a symbol of Canadian student solidarity.

While in Ottawa, Osmond and her colleagues (V.P. of Student Affairs Kevin Haiko and V.P. of Finance David Lyman) will also participate in lobbying Parliament on several CASA policies including interest rates on student loans, reducing indirect costs of research (an issue that will become important to Red River if current efforts to bring research grants are successful), and the Pan-Canadian Agreement.

"(The Pan-Canadian Agreement) basically ensures that all of Canada has the same policy when it comes to post-secondary funding," says Osmond.

"Right now, the federal government gives the provinces a lump of money that goes into all social programs, such as health care and education, and the provincial government decides how they're going to break it up.

"For instance, between British Columbia and Manitoba the amount of money allotted to education might vary greatly. With the Pan-Canadian Agreement we're trying to get it so that the provinces are little more balanced."

The Pan-Canadian Agreement also seeks to realize other aspects of CASA's vision of post-secondary education in Canada, which, according to the CASA Web site (www.casa.ca), is that "Canada will have a publicly funded post-secondary system that encourages student mobility and that is accessible, affordable and of the highest quality."

Watch for Osmond and other members of the SA in January when they will be in the halls of Red River informing students about CASA and CASA policies as well as collecting thumbprints for the Red River section of the Education Builds a Nation Banner.

The Projector

Opinion

November 13, 2001

Scare tactics pure cowshit

Within the next three weeks, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals plans on visiting unnamed Winnipeg schools. Not for beneficial informational seminars, however.

The reason is their Milk Sucks Canadian campaign, launched in London, ON Oct. 30.

The radical vegan group claims milk is responsible for obesity, acne, gas, phlegm, allergies, osteoporosis, Crohn's disease and even cancer and heart disease. They voice concerns over the treatment of dairy cows, the environment and human health.

Besides completely grossing me out and making me gag the next time I drank a glass of the white stuff, the PETA site Milksucks.com claims cows are treated like milk machines in corporate-owned factories.

Genetic manipulation and intensive production technologies allow modern dairy cows to produce 100 pounds of milk a day, 10 times more than they would naturally. "Cows – like all mammals – make milk to feed their own babies – not humans," says PETA.

PETA calls dairy products a "health hazard," citing they are full of saturated fat and cholesterol and are contaminated with cow's blood, pus, pesticides, hormones and antibiotics.

Disturbing thought of the day, brought to you by PETA: by US federal law, Grade A milk is allowed to have over a drop of pus per glass.

The Milk Sucks campaign targets elementary schools, accompanied by a cow mascot, and hands out gross trading cards. Examples on their Web site show some takes on popular "Got Milk?" campaign: disease-riddled innards with tagline, "Got Crohn's Disease?" and a big belly with the line, "Got fat?"

"If you knew how dairy cows suffered, you would spew!" says another. There are cartoons Chubby Charlie, guzzling milk into his protruding belly, and Loogie Louie, coughing up a huge spiderweb of phlegm.

Don't get me wrong: PETA stands for a great cause. But using scare and gross-out tactics on small children is not a great method of recruiting followers.

And there are strong arguments for milk out there, as well. According to Manitoba Milk Producers, calcium gives bones strength. The body doesn't produce calcium, so it must come from daily diet.

Manitoba Milk Producers says sufficient calcium intake during bone-formation years helps prevent osteoporosis, a condition characterized by calcium-depleted bones so porous and fragile they can easily break later in life.

Its recommendation is that elementary school children need from 600- 1,000 mg of calcium a day. One cup of milk contains 315 mg of calcium.

Both sides have strong arguments, and people have to decide for themselves whether to guzzle milk or forgo it completely. But that is not a decision they should have to make in Grade 3.

Manitoba Education Minister Drew Caldwell says the government will take whatever legal action is necessary to keep animal rights radicals away from local elementary schools.

He's right. Children should not be approached by such a campaign when they are at school, away from parental supervision.

It's good the children are learning other ways of life, but school is not the time or place.

Justice just for us?

At the time of this writing, I've just heard that Justice Minister Gord Mackintosh has decided that he will not pursue outside advice on whether or not professional or criminal sanctions should be taken against the police officers and Crown attorneys singled out in Justice Peter Cory's recently released report on the wrongful conviction of Thomas Sophonow.

No further inquiries will take place.

At the same time, a debate is developing over whether the Winnipeg Police Service should investigate its own members following the use of lethal force, such as was the case in the recent shooting of a man by a police officer at a gas bar on Mountain Avenue and Salter Street.

This is not the first time these issues have come under debate. When J.J. Harper was shot in the 80s by a Winnipeg Police officer, the ensuing investigation (conducted by the Winnipeg Police Service) became a long standing source of tension between the WPS and Winnipeg's aboriginal committee and led to accusations of police corruption.

Only a few years ago charges were brought against a Winnipeg Police officer (who I won't name here) for severely beating a suspect. When it was suggested that criminal charges would be laid against the officer, the 'blue wall' went up; his fellow officers threatened to walk off the job if disciplinary action was taken.

And now, after Thomas Sophonow has been denied the luxury of living what most of us would refer to as a normal life, after he spent two years in prison and went through three trials for a crime he didn't commit, after spending 20 years with the stigma of being the murderer of a 16-year-old girl hanging above his head, Winnipeg Police and attorneys have expressed outrage at the thought that perhaps the mishandling of the Sophonow case, and the subsequent trials, should be investigated, and criminal charges considered.

I'm outraged at their outrage.

Granted, investigative and procedural techniques have come a long way since 1981, the year during which Sophonow was initially accused. Granted, the investigating officers who handled the case have since retired, and the attorneys retired or moved on to other positions. But so what?

An apology and a promise that it would never happen again wouldn't have absolved Sophonow, and it shouldn't absolve the people charged with upholding the law in our fine little city.

Police Chief Jack Ewatski has issued a public apology to Sophonow. That's great, really it is, and $2.6 million won't hurt either.

But what about justice?

The police position seems to be that allowing outside agencies to investigate the Winnipeg Police Service will erode public confidence in this fine organization as well as the self-confidence of the officers, and that would be bad.

Instead, obviously, we should let the force continue to get more and more drunk on its own power, we should let them continue to ignore investigative and procedural policy time and time again.

Obviously we should support their need to be beyond reproach. Obviously we should let them continue abusing and misusing the system that, it often seems, puts innocent people in jail while supporting the professional injustices of an entire legal system.

I, for one, don't agree.

Acts of 'cow'ardice delivered courtesy of PETA

Remember the Garbage Pail Kids? Going to Emerson Elementary School, I can recall with revulsion the day one of my friends brought his set of cards to class.

Each card had a disgusting image of a kid aptly named to match whatever deformity or disease from which he or she suffered. Teachers and parents got their hands on the cards ("look what I got at school today, ma") and an uproar ensued. Before you could say Heavin' Steven the cards got banned.

And then a strange thing happened. The cards became uber-cool. Mind you, they were alright before, but after that they were 'bad' and thus a must-have.

Almost 15 years later, it looks like the Garbage Pail Kids have returned. Virginia-based People for Ethical Treatment of Animals has created a new Milk Sucks campaign using a set of cards with a gross-out factor similar to that of the garbage pail kids.

The idea behind the campaign, says PETA, is to get kids to stop drinking milk at a young age. I have no problem with that and neither does our constitution.

What I do have a problem with is the method PETA is using to target kids. Instead of going door-to-door or buying advertising space on major media, PETA is harassing students outside their schools.

To me, that's an act of 'cow'ardice. I have absolutely no problem with PETA's message. Chances are some cows are being mistreated. And, just maybe, the milk that we've been drinking for hundreds of years isn't that good for us after all. But to bombard innocent kids with a message which they have no faculties to evaluate? That's like shooting tofu in a barrel.

Education Minister Drew Caldwell has already taken a stand against the campaign, and I appreciate his concerns. But what's getting set up here is a no-win situation similar to that experienced on the grounds of Emerson Elementary 15 years ago.

If Caldwell leaves the protesters alone, thousands of children may have their minds warped by anti-milk propaganda. If he does ban protesters, PETA's campaign becomes 'bad'. A few cards get snuck into the schools, and some teacher spies them on little Johnny's person. Little Johnny gets busted, and the cards become cool. More and more kids get the cards, and the message spreads through young minds like bacteria through a vat of unpasteurized milk.

Don't think PETA's coming? They're already in London, ON and have announced plans to spread across the country. This could be a very real dilemma very soon.

Well son, my dad always said, life isn't fair. Damn rights it ain't. But why not fight fire with fire? By distributing the cards, PETA is only furthering the public's perception that animal-rights activists are a few pints short of a full quart.

I don't see anyone making "activist" cards, featuring the likes of Teargas Tommy, Rubberbullet Billy and Smashedface Suzy. Stupid behaviour shouldn't beget more stupid behaviour, after all. Whatever happens, chances are milk won't be the only thing that sucks around here.

PETA claims humans are the only animals that drink the milk of other animals. Well put this in your glass and drink it, veggie boy: we're also the only animals to increase their life expectancy twofold in less than 300 years. I'd say we know a thing or two about what's good for us and what isn't.

We need Women's History Month

Letter says there's still plenty of work to be done

I normally don't bother to respond to articles like this because it just is not usually worth the time, but this one set something off in me.

Ms. Anderson wrote a piece on "Why We Don't Need Women's History Month" (Oct. 29, 2001).

Her main reason for this stance was her wonderful childhood, which included supportive parents and the belief that she could do everything she ever wanted.

Well, I have to say Ms. Anderson, where the hell do you think this came from? Do you think that this just came about naturally? Don't you think that the Women's Movement of the past (and of today's) generation had anything to do with your parent's encouragement and modern thought?

If your parents had grown up 60 or 70 years ago instead of 20 or 30 years ago, do you still think that they would have had the attitudes towards what you should and shouldn't be encouraged to do as they do now?

Also, as happy as I am for you that you have had such a wonderful upbringing and wonderful parents that you have been able to grow up with such confidence, you need to realize that this is not necessarily the norm in our society or in others around the world.

While women are still being abused – physically, emotionally, and sexually – in the very world that you live in, should we not have at least one month to acknowledge the battles that women have fought against these?

While women are still receiving lower wages for equal work, should the battle to continue fighting against this injustice not be encouraged?

Do you and other women your age really want to ignore all the battles that have been fought and are continually being fought for women's rights to be mothers or not be mothers by choice, to walk safely at night, to love whatever gender they choose to, to not have to diet to live up to society's standards of beauty, to have sex without being called a slut or to not have sex when they say no, to voice their opinions loud and clear without being called "pushy bitches" – and so many other rights that are still being fought for today?

If you choose to ignore these than you are doing the women who have come before you an extreme injustice!

Perhaps when you grow up a little and come face to face with the real world you will have a little more appreciation for Women's History Month.

A Proud Feminist and Supporter of Women's History Month,

Danielle Gibbings

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CLUE #1:

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CONTEST
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The Projector

Entertainment

November 13, 2001

Rip 'em off style?

Blu Cantrell

Empire Cabaret

Nov. 5

★ /5

By Fraser Gilbert

PHOTO BY FRASER GILBERT

Hi Em Up Style. You can say that again. I was hit up and turned out by the Empire Cabaret. In short, I was raped.

I'm talking about dropping fifty bones on the Blu Cantrell show at the Empire on Monday night. Fifty bones is not a small chunk of change for a dude that's semi-retired. This dude is semi-retired and must be semi-retarded for shelling out big coin for this show.

My special lady is a fan of Blu Cantrell and wanted to see the show. So, wanting to grease the wheels with her somewhat, I took the twenty-five dollar per ticket plunge.

The show was slated to start between 9 and 10 p.m. We got ourselves primed and preened and arrived at 8:30 p.m. At the inflated price I figured we couldn't afford to miss a second of Blu.

The joint was already jumping when we got there. Much to my chagrin, we arrived to find no available tables. That doomed us to an evening of standing in uncomfortable dress shoes-there are no sneakers allowed in the Empire. So we got a couple of drinks and found a good spot to shoot pictures of Blu.

So we stood, and we stood, and we stood some more. We stood and we sweated. It had to be upwards of a hundred degrees in this place. A couple of hours in and I'm drenched in sweat, my feet kill, and I'm loaded. And broke. Drinks do not come cheap at the fancy shoe, hotter than hell, Empire Cabaret.

It's 11 o'clock and still no sign of Blu, but there is a ballad-singing boy band, Frenzy, crooning away on the stage. At this point I am convinced that a horrible bloody death would be preferable to this hell. I think I may have suffered a stroke at one point.

Just as we're ready to pack it in and cut our losses there is a stirring in the back of the club. Blu gets on stage after midnight. She looks great and sounds fantastic. She's a little woman with a big, rich voice. She also only has time to sing four songs. She's onstage for a grand total of 25 minutes.

In summation: Blu good, not enough of her. Empire bad, they've got to be kidding with charging big money for such a tiny show.

Skallowe'en Winnipeg's most successful ska concert ever

CONCERTS

Skallowe'en III

West End Cultural Centre

Oct. 31

★★★★ /5

By Sam Thompson

PHOTO BY SAM THOMPSON

The Racketeers perform at Skallowe'en III.

October 31st...Halloween. The night when ghosts, witches and ghouls take back the night and come out in droves...to a ska show?!?

For those unenlightened few who missed ska music's most recent revival a few years back, ska is an upbeat, horn-driven genre with origins in 1960s Jamaica. Contrary to popular belief, ska is still alive and well in 2001. In fact, as the third annual Skallowe'en concert at the West End Cultural Centre proved, Winnipeg's ska scene is back and bigger than ever.

With groups representing all of ska's sub-genres, including the mid-90s, 'third-wave' ska/punk hybrid, Skallowe'en III was the first entirely-ska version of the concert. In previous years, due to a lack of bands, punk acts were included on the bill to flesh out the show. Out of nowhere, Winnipeg's scene has found a much-needed boost, with six full-time ska groups taking to stages across the city.

The night started out with Christian ska/punkers Bailey's Car, who blasted through a quick set of high-energy, Less Than Jake-influenced, divinely inspired material. Although it was a relatively impressive set for their first Skallowe'en appearance, their songs tended to get very repetitive after a while. With all the devilry associated with Halloween, it seemed hardly the time nor the place to hear about the virtues of Christianity.

Scene newcomers the Barrymores came on next. Another band in the 'third-wave' vein, this is a group that has improved tremendously in a few short months. Despite a few lineup changes, their sound was tighter than ever. The addition of a trumpet player fleshed out their horn section, and despite a rather generic feel to most of their tunes, the set never lost its momentum.

The only group to be a veteran of not only one Skallowe'en, but both previous outings was the Racketeers. Winnipeg's best-known traditional enthusiasts took to the stage with some very significant line-up changes. In fact, the group's horn section was the only part of the group that remained intact since their last Skallowe'en performance.

Although they've been longtime local ska favourites, the group's popularity has suffered lately, due to their lack of interest in recording, and a seeming superiority complex. After having their egos taken down a notch last Skallowe'en, when they performed to only a handful of people, the group is back and better than ever.

The Racketeers pulled out all the stops with their brilliant performance. The hypnotic rhythms of traditional ska and reggae lifted the entire room to their feet. The obviously experienced new members of the group closed the set with an awe-inspiring funk instrumental, but only after the Racketeers blew the crowd away with old-school covers, their rendition of "The Monster Mash" and their old standby, "Kill Your Boyfriend."

Although they seem to switch keyboard players at an alarming rate, the Afterbeat have become the new darlings of the Winnipeg ska scene. Despite brilliant Clockwork Orange-inspired costumes and a crowd-pleasing array of cover tunes, the Racketeers proved a difficult act to follow, and the Afterbeat struggled to regain the momentum of the last set.

Their horn section is notoriously weak, but all members of the Afterbeat put on an electrifying live performance, which ensured their number one standing with the new, younger ska concertgoers. Educating the youth about the genre's roots, but with some high-energy punked-up hijinks thrown into the mix, the Afterbeat blew the crowd away.

This is a group that appears to be expanding their fan base with each performance.

As I was leaving the West End, Winnipeg ska's elder statesmen, the Wedgewoods, had started their set. This band's professionalism and individual/combined musical talent is astounding, but their songs tend to be more successful on Internet charts than they do in front of live audiences.

The show closed with Ten Too Many, who were stuck in the terrible last slot. The current ska audience is much younger than it has ever been, so the majority of the concertgoers were out past their bedtimes.

Skallowe'en III may have been Winnipeg's most successful ska concert ever. Let's hope they can pull in even more crowds for Skallowe'en IV.

MOVIES

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Danny DeVito plays thief Bergman in Heist.

Heist robs audience

Heist

Starring Danny DeVito and Gene Hackman

★★ /5

By Chantal Desjardins

Near the end of Heist, Gene Hackman says, "I don't tie my shoe without a back-up plan." Hopefully Gene has a back-up plan in real life if he's looking to star in another successful movie, because this one is just not going to cut it.

In Heist, Joe Moore (Hackman) is the leader of a highly skilled group of thieves, consisting of Bobby Blaine (Delroy Lindo) and Pinky Pincus (Ricky Jay). He decides to retire when he is caught on security cameras during a robbery. His associate Bergman (Danny DeVito) coerces Hackman into one last job by withholding his share of the profits from the previous heist. Bergman sends along his nephew Jimmy (Sam Rockwell) to oversee the robbery and to ensure that he is not swindled out of his share. For the rest of the movie, the plot revolves around Hackman's crew and DeVito trying to cheat each other out of the profits.

It becomes difficult for the audience to stay interested as too many subplots weaken the storyline. Not enough attention was given to developing the characters, which gives it a B-movie feel. The fact that microphones are visible in several scenes doesn't help it either. A few scenes seemed unrealistic, such as Pinky's remarkable recovery after walking in front of a moving car to create a diversion so his partners could escape the police. Also, in real life we wouldn't see a van of thieves chasing a moving airplane down a runway without being noticed.

I got the feeling that director/writer David Mamet rushed through the process of completing Heist. Perhaps he was wary of the rumored Hollywood actor strike. He could have improved the script by focusing on fewer subplots and developing those ideas and characters further. Heist did have a few entertaining scenes, such as when Pinky explained that he didn't have time to burn the getaway car because he had decided to visit his young niece.

Lindo, an excellent supporting actor, delivers a few jokes which makes the audience chuckle, but the humour seems out of place in this otherwise violent film. There was a great deal of profanity throughout the movie, and it added nothing to the story.

Hackman's acting ability seems wasted in this script, and his history of successful movies such as Unforgiven, Hoosiers and Crimson Tide leave us expecting more.

Heist was supposed to be comparable to The Score, but it ended up not scoring with the audience at all.

RESTAURANTS

Good meal a short drive from RRC

Olive Garden Polo Park

★★★★ /5

By Debbie Spence

It was rather strange; two kind of scraggly college students in jeans and sweaters wandering into the Olive Garden Restaurant at Polo Park. The place looked upscale so we felt out of place. The decor was a high point, visually pleasing and like pictures I've seen of Italian villas. Photographs of Italy adorned the walls and low lighting gave a romantic feel to the place.

Very friendly staff immediately greeted and seated us, as the restaurant wasn't busy that night. The only flaw of the night was when the host tried to explain the special of the day, the Tour of Italy, but mistakenly explained it as the Italian Feast, which had us confused when we opened the menu.

We noticed that they had strawberry banana daiquiris and were instantly hooked. Alcohol prices there were expensive at $4.95, but the impressive daiquiri was definitely worth the price, the best I have ever had.

Infamous amazing Olive Garden breadsticks, very light and soft, made an excellent start to our meal.

I chose the Capellini Pomodoro, angel hair pasta with pomodoro sauce, which I substituted for marinara sauce. Olive Garden allows substitutions on this dish for different pasta or sauces and charges by the sauce. My friend had the Tour of Italy, a combination of lightly breaded chicken parmigiana, homemade lasagna classico and creamy fettuccine alfredo. The meals were excellent, and they came out very quickly.

Our bill totaled around $40, which I think is fair for the excellent service and food. After our first initial bit of uneasiness, thinking we were too casual for the place, we immediately felt very comfortable and the staff made sure we were happy and satisfied.

Olive Garden delivers a pleasant experience – great selection, friendly and helpful service, good food and prices.

PHOTO BY DEBBIE SPENCE

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OPERA

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The Magic Flute

Manitoba Opera

Nov. 3, 6, 9

★★★1/2 /5

By Trina Rehberg

Mozart was in the building as Manitoba Opera director Larry Desrochers brought The Magic Flute back to life.

As a whimsical fairy tale with a love-at-first sight element, The Magic Flute provided an enjoyable escape into a world of fantasy but failed to convince that the love theme was real. Prince Tamino, played by Michael Colvin, is given a picture of Pamina, played by Monica Huisman, and he immediately professes his love for her. A nice thought, but a little too far-fetched. Tamino sets out to save his beloved Pamina from the clutches of the wicked Sarastro, played by Matthew Bedard. Pamina's mother, the Queen of the Night, played by Tracy Dahl, gives Tamino a magic flute for protection. Papageno, the birdcatcher who will help him on his journey, played by Doug MacNaughton, gets magic bells from the Queen.

When Tamino and Pamina finally meet, Pamina declares her love for him as well. They are then torn apart by Sarastro, which is sadly needed to make them work harder for their love. Papageno suffers from a stale love life until he meets and old woman, who later turns into a beautiful young woman, Papagena, played by Nikki Einfeld. The two are swept into a love affair which also includes separation, but it is a much more realistic based love story because they were involved before they declared their feelings.

The Magic Flute was sung in German with English subtitles. Most impressive was the amazing range of Dahl's soprano voice and her excellent ability at showing her character's despair over her missing daughter. MacNaughton played the most comedic character in the opera and also had the least depth in his voice, possibly because of the joking nature of Papageno. Colvin's forceful tenor voice is one of the most notable out of all the male characters. Huisman has a beautiful voice as innocent as her character.

Tadeusz Biernacki conducted The Magic Flute's musical score, which was generally light and meant to accompany the story. The music and the actors were compatible harmonically, as each were able to showcase their talents individually as well as together.

The sets were courtesy of the Utah Opera, which were quite bland with brown boulders and chairs that were moved to create different scenes. The Utah Opera also provided elaborate costumes – long, flowing pastel dresses for the women, tights, boots, and ruffled shirts for the men, and the addition of large gold jewelry for royalty.

The Magic Flute is a timeless piece that is easy to understand for opera novices. The cast gave an entertaining performance worthy of, well, Mozart!

ART

Northern portraits give faces to stories

Portraits of the North

Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature

Oct. 27 – Feb. 24

By Kristen Lucyshyn

Some say the camera doesn't lie. But the fact is, you can't always count on a camera to tell the whole truth. That is why artist Gerald Kuehl prefers to tell his stories with a graphite pencil. Kuehl's Portraits of the North collection features 25 framed portraits of Aboriginal people of northern Manitoba.

Collecting the stories and experiences of his subjects was Kuehl's motivation for creating the drawings – each portrait has an accompanying biography. All works were completed between 1998 and 2001. Kuehl's subjects come from many different backgrounds, but one thing unites them: they all had great stories to tell. In the biographies, Kuehl has documented the experiences of members of all four native groups in northern Manitoba: Ojibwa, Cree, Dene, and Inuit.

Each portrait could easily be mistaken for a photograph. The amount of detail that is put into the pieces is astounding. The intricate lines bring life to the subjects in a way that no photograph could. Every wrinkle and stray hair is accounted for. Perhaps the most captivating piece is Roderick Raven 1999. Jolly Hollow Water First Nation fiddler Roderick "Roddy" Raven is shown with his most prized possession - his fiddle. Kuehl captures the extreme realism of the man showing his ready hands holding the worn fiddle and bow.

The artist presents the unique spirit and character of each subject, but he also is building on a larger theme. Each subject is a reflection of Aboriginal people and their culture. Kuehl's collection shows his appreciation for these hunters, fishermen, and trappers, as well as the musicians, jiggers, powwow dancers, and artists. He presents the experiences of these people highlighting issues such as the impact of residential schools, urban relocation, and alcoholism. On the lighter side, Kuehl includes anecdotes about some very passionate bingo players.

Karen Pankiw, Communications Officer at the Museum, says that there has been a positive response to the exhibit. "We had a really good turnout at the opening. Manitoba Minister of Justice Gord Mackintosh was there as well as George Hickes." Hickes is MLA for Point Douglas and also the Speaker of the legislative assembly in Manitoba. He is the first Inuit to serve as Speaker of the legislative assembly in any Canadian province. His mother, Jenny Tootoo, just happens to be one of Kuehl's subjects.

PORTRAIT BY GERALD KUEHL, COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF MAN AND NATURE

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PROFILE

Ad art student has bright future

by Elliot Walsh

Jonato Dalayoan has an excellent and bright future in the area of graphic design, says Craig Mewyduk, President of the Manitoba Chapter of the Graphic Designers of Canada (GDC).

Dalayoan, 24, is a second-year Advertising Art student at RRC. On May. 12, he became the first first-year RRC student to win a Blue Sky award from the GDC. He won Best Student Work and Judges Choice awards. He competed with over 170 amateur and professional entries from all over the prairie provinces.

His awards were for a piece entitled "Chicago," a class assignment showcasing the city of Chicago. Advertising Art Program Coordinator Brian Fawkes says that "Chicago" met all the outlined requirements and successfully showed the essence of the city. The poster features a large lion, a prominent figure among Chicago landmarks, like the Field Museum and the Art Institute.

Fawkes explains that it takes many hours of research, not just artistic skill, in order for a work to be of that high quality. Fawkes states Dalayoan's "end results are always a good product."

When "Chicago" was completed, Dalayoan was not thinking about awards. At that time, the Blue Sky Awards were mostly reserved for second- and third-year students. On a passing suggestion from his classmates, the then-first-year student decided to enter. He entered the competition as a "whatever" move.

Dalayoan describes himself as always having his headphones on in order to "zone out." His greatest inspiration for his work is music. World Beat is one of his favourites. "It's important not to limit yourself to communicating in one language," he explains, drawing a parallel between music and his art.

Dalayoan's goal at RRC is "to make a career of my passion for design." He believes that Red River is the best place to offer him the "practical and motivating" experience that he seeks. He realizes that when he is done school, he will be emerged in a corporate world. But he insists that he'd still like to give back to the community by lending out his talents to groups like the Boys and Girls Club. He would also like to do work on CD covers for local musicians.

"Chicago" is on display outside the Creative Arts offices on the mall level of building F. Dalayoan has also completed seven murals around Winnipeg, such as Bar Italia on Corydon and the Children's Hospital.

PHOTO BY RAYNA ANDERSON

Dalayoan's award-winning Chicago

Know any RRC students who would make an interesting profile? E-mail the Projector at rrcprojector@hotmail.com

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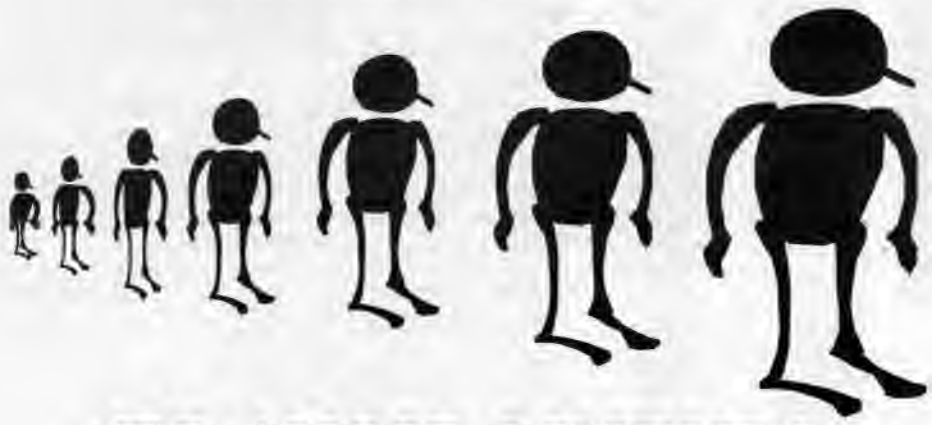

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BOOKS

Redhill wins first Prairie Proxy Prize

by Glenna Belanger

The University of Winnipeg and McNally Robinson Booksellers presented the first annual Prairie Proxy Prize night for best Canadian novel of the year Nov. 1 at McNally Robinson Grant Park.

The nominated novels were chosen from the short lists for the Governor General's Award and the Giller Prize. The jurors selected their favorite from the list.

Jurors included writer and RRC Dean of Business and Applied Arts Dave Williamson, broadcaster Ron Robinson, book club facilitator Kathy Strub and writer and educator Catherine Hunter.

Williamson picked Clara Callan by Richard B. Wright, saying, "there is not a single false note."

Strub selected Timothy Taylor's Stanley Park, in which the main character lives dangerously by drawing large sums of cash off his credit cards. "It should be brought from a local bookseller and you should pay cash," Strub joked.

Robinson picked The Life of Pi by Yann Martel, saying, "it's about survival. And if everyone votes against it, it will still survive in my heart."

But the winner of the first Prairie Proxy Prize is Martin Sloane, written by Torontonian Michael Redhill. Short-listed for the Giller Prize, it is about love and life and speaks to the unanswered questions of existence. "It's why I read books," says Hunter.

The winner was selected by a system of points each juror gave to their first and second choices. The sponsors of the award claim the prize to be one million "proxy" dollars.

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UPCOMING EVENTS/VENDORS

Check out what's going on in the Library Hallway (Mall Level) in the following 3 weeks
(subject to change without notice)

Week of Nov. 12 – Nov. 16

Nov. 13	- Smile 101 (Dental Hygiene)
All week	- Powerland Computers
Nov. 14	- Imaginus (Poster people)
Nov. 15	- MOVA (Manitoba Organization of Victim Advocates) - fundraiser
Nov. 16	- Costco (membership promo)

Week of Nov. 19 - 23

All Week	- Powerland Computers

Week of Nov. 26 - 30

All Week	- Powerland Computers

MUSIC

DMX
The Great Depression
Def Jam Recordings
★★★1/2 /5

DMX is back with his new album and new label. After warring with his former Ruff Ryders label all summer, being locked up for various offences, Dark Man X is back with his edge slightly dulled. X's fourth album is not up to par with his other albums like Then There Was X, but The Great Depression is far from mediocre. The tracks can't compare to "Party Up," "What's My Name" and "What These B*tches Want." Tracks like "Trina Moe" keep up a smooth beat with the hardest voice in rap. Another hot track on the album is "We Right Here," reminiscent of D's harder days. The album's first single, "Who We Be," will be a hit, but it's not one of DMX's best tracks. There are lots of tracks that just don't work. For instance, on "I Miss You," D hooks up with Faith Evans. The track is weak to say the most. There is also a lot of rock influence on the album, quite a sway from former albums. All the new vibes and styles that DMX experiments with on this album is all good, but to spit out another "its Dark and Hell is hot," D has got to stick to his roots. He's got to bring and raw and hard, like he said in "Get at me dog," "I AM the hardest rap artist." Not anymore, D. – Ajit Singh

The Misfits
Cuts from the Crypt
Roadrunner Records
★★1/2 /5

What do making love to a fat woman, riding a pony and listening to post-Danzig Misfits have in common? It's a heckuva lot of fun, but you wouldn't want anyone to catch you doing it.

Bad jokes aside, the Misfits Cuts From the Crypt is probably not what the average hardcore fan is looking for. Culled from the band's 1996-2001 reincarnation, the disc features demos and live tracks recorded during that period.

Original bassist (Jerry) Only, a.k.a. Jerry Caifa remains as the lone survivor from the band's original 1977 lineup, making the "M25 Anniversary" lineup seem rather silly.

Only and guitarist beefcake brother Doyle Wolfgang Von Frankenstein , a.k.a. P.C. Doyle, a.k.a. Paul Caifa are like the Eddie and Alex van Halens of punk: even during the band's late 70s/early 80s heyday it went through members like dirty diapers.

One of those members, drummer Robo (ex-Black Flag), a.k.a. ... aw screw it ... surfaces on Cuts From the Crypt, smacking the skins on a cover of Black Flag's Rise Above, recorded live last year in Brazil. Also making appearance on that track is vocalist and guitarist Dez Cadena, lending his gravelly ex-Black Flag voice to the song.

If two original band members play a song, is that really a cover? More importantly, is the album really classic 'Fits? With demos from the "famous" Mars Attacks sessions cut prior to the release of the American Psycho LP (1996) and fan club singles like 50s classic Monster Mash, this stuff goes where no Misfits record has gone before.

But is it a good direction? I'll take One Last Caress with the Danzig-era 'Fits, thank you very much. – Andrew Buck

Dave Matthews Band
Live at the United Center
RCA Records
★★★★ /5

It is most comforting to see that this album includes nothing from the Glen Ballard castration session that some refer to as Everyday. Instead, Dave chose to sweeten the pot by adding good friend and amazing guitarist Tim Reynolds to the onstage crew. Another plus about the album is the swells of screaming in-between songs. This creates great ambience and makes the listener feel as if he or she is actually at the concert, although the crowd dies down as soon as Dave and his boys begin to play again. A live album should convey the feeling of a concert and this does that and more. This album makes a great addition to the old road trip collection and a must have for the millions of Dave Matthews Band fans. – Nick Martin

Modjo
Self-titled
Modjo Music
★★ /5

While tasty and sweet may describe Mojo candy, Modjo the album is more on the sour side. This band comprised of Romain Planchart and Yann Destagnol is the first French band to reach number one in the UK. Their self-titled album has few highlights to make it worthy of the designation. "Acknowledgement," a weak dance/house track with little potential to become anything other than an album filler, leads off the disc. "Chillin," second on the album, again maintains a sound similar to that of "Acknowledgement," as do "No More Tears," "Rollercoaster," and "Savior Eyes."

"Lady (Hear Me Tonight)," seems to be the bright point to the album. It continues to receive airplay on radio stations throughout the world and has become huge on the club scene. "What I Mean," also seems strong with the potential to gain recognition and further the group's success. The CD has a couple of good songs, but isn't worth buying. – Mike Maryk

The Tea Party
The Interzone Mantras
EMI Music Canada
★★ /5

Maybe it's me, but the idea of a concept album by a Canadian rock band like the Tea Party just doesn't sit well. And I don't even know if this is supposed to be viewed as a concept album. If it is, then the concept is lost on the listener. If it isn't, then there is an enormous amount of wasted time found on this album. Each song on the disc begins the same way: a dark and mystical chord progression or backward recorded solo that kicks into a normal rock feel. Split in a solo here, maybe a sample, mix with Jeff Martin's (Jim Morrison?) baritone and a pinch of pretentious lyrics and voila, The Interzone Mantras. What the hell is an Interzone Mantra? I guess it's a phrase you repeat to get a sense of clarity and peace. The mantra for this album? "Shut it off, please just shut it off." – Nick Martin

Prophecy
Untold Stories
★ /5

I don't know how many Christian rock bands there are operating under the name Prophecy. A search on the Internet brings back several, but not the Toronto-band being reviewed here.

The lack of originality inherent to this three-piece band's name (a Christian rock band named Prophecy? What a stretch!) carries over into their music.

At times evoking Judas Priest (is that okay for a Christian rock band?), and at times Jeff Healey, one must wonder if these guys have even bought a new CD since the late 80s.

Untold Stories consists of 50 minutes of poorly recorded, underdeveloped songs. I am not anti-lo-fi, or anti-independent, but you can actually hear the tape being stopped and started again between the tracks on Untold Stories, and it makes the album seem sloppy.

That isn't the only problem. Juvenile lyrics, bass lines that always seem a step behind the rest of the song, and backing vocals that sound like they were recorded for a children's album all add up to make this, in no uncertain terms, an unpleasant listening experience.

I try to find something I like about every album I review, but for this one I just couldn't. – Kelly Stifora

The Mailman's Children
Maritime Sun
Independent
★★★1/2 /5

Winnipeg band The Mailman's Children have gone through some changes since laying down the five tracks that make up their debut EP, Maritime Sun. Eddie Vesely joined as their permanent drummer in June 2001, replacing the rotating roster of drummers that participated in recording these songs, and guitarist Frank Landry left the band in August for a position as court reporter at the Winnipeg Sun, a fact that is unfortunate considering that Landry's skilled guitar work (especially his extended solo on "Will You Listen?") is responsible for most of this EPs high points.

This is not to say that the rest of the band isn't good. The skill of these players, and their willingness to take risks, is evident throughout Maritime Sun. A penchant for finely-layered arrangements and sudden time changes bring a sense of originality to songs like "Beloved" and "Maritime Sun" that will help to set The Mailman's Children apart from other bands in the crowded arena of alt-rock and that promises interesting things to come.

Two complaints: First, the washed out production on this EP robs the songs, most notably "Will You Listen?" of their ability to soar, building drum breaks never get the chance to jump out of the mix, and as a result many of the songs feel flat. And second, the album cover possesses nothing that will help it gain attention on a wall of competing recordings. Rocks and water - how Winnipeg. Some of the creativity that went into the naming of the band should have been carried over into the jacket design. -Kelly Stifora

Various artists
NOW!6
EMI Music Canada
★★1/2 /5

Stick 18 songs together that have had more airplay than a Kern Hill radio spot and the end result is yet another compilation. NOW 6 has arrived with an assortment of pop and rock, similar to that included on the five previous compilations. The selections, however, seem more indicative of a disc that should have come out two months ago.

Including Creed's "With Arms Wide Open," Coldplay's "Yellow" and 98 Degrees' "My Everything," it makes you wonder just what "Now" really is. Tracks from Lenny Kravitz, Lifehouse, Bon Jovi, Janet Jackson and U2 help to pull together an otherwise bland compilation filled with almost 50 per cent Canadian content. With CRTC regulations mandating 35 per cent Canadian content for radio stations, artists such as Nelly Furtado, Sugar Jones, and The Moffats are heard more than enough. Do they really need or deserve to be included on a compilation?

If its current music you're looking for, NOW!6 probably isn't your best bet. Just remember the "Now" of today will always be the "Then" of tomorrow. – Mike Maryk

Hayden
Skyscraper National Park
★★★★ /5

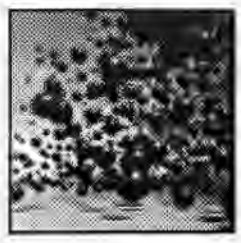
"Falling rock warnings and construction work / The engine blazes as the elevation raises / but the dynamite walls contain us" sings Hayden on "Dynamite Walls," the second track form his third full length album Skyscraper National Park. The song seems to embody a Canadian winter road trip: loose gravel, wet snow, and national park signs that leap out of the darkness.

The rest of the album embodies all that Canadian college rock should be. Like Rufus Wainwright, Hawksley Workman and Gordon Downie all rolled into one, Hayden croons, whines and shimmies through 11 songs that run the gamut from Hip-style prairie rock through rootsy anti-folk all the way to lurching cabaret decadence.

Hayden plays most of the instruments, and handles most of the production, proving himself to be as prolific as any of the above mentioned artists, or more so, and the result is an album that reassures the independence of Canadian music with moods so effectively set that the disc almost smells like pine, and that pushes canadian alt-rock into the new millennium without ever losing sight of the bedrock that makes up its past.

Extra credit is given for the title (which may or may not be a reference to American influence over Canada) and for the cardboard packaging, which features a line drawing of a moose on unfinished cardboard and looks as natural as the music feels. – Kelly Stifora

The Cranberries
Wake Up and Smell the Coffee
MCA Records
★★★ /5



The Cranberries' sound is particularly distinctive, mostly because Dolores O'Riordan Burton's voice is so unique. The lyrics are strongly influenced by the recent birth of her daughter with lines like "For you opened my eyes to the beauty I see / We will pray, we will stay together." The songs are mostly upbeat and melodic. And they all sound very much like The Cranberries of yesteryear. This is the perfect album for fans of the Cranberries, the band sounds as beautiful as ever, but don't expect much in the way of change and growth. – Rayna Anderson

GAMES

Sid Meier's Civilization 3

Published by Infogames

Developed by Firaxis

★★★ /5

PHOTO COURTESY OF INFOGAMES

Who ever says that history is boring hasn't played the Civilization series. The rise and fall of empires, the thrill of discovering new technologies, the establishment of colonies on foreign soil, it's enough to keep a gamer glued to the screen for hours on end.

The first two Civilization games, and other similar games by Sid Meier like Alpha Centauri, are renowned for their addictive qualities.

There's no good place to stop this turn-based strategy game, you always want to continue and see what amazing things your minions will do next.

Made for the Windows platform, with minimum requirements of PII300 and 32MB RAM, you begin by choosing one of 16 civilizations, each with their own built-in quirks. Your first units are a Settler and Worker and from there you go forth and multiply.

Those familiar with Sid Meier's previous games will have no problems with this version. There are only three major differences that change the way the game is played.

The most obvious is the interface: while everything used to be cluttered, but easily within reach, now menus are hidden and difficult to find.

Luckily for those who are familiar with the older versions, the hot keys remain unchanged.

Also changed is the way that cities expand. You no longer deal with single cities with their own borders. Now you get a single border for your empire that is influenced by Culture. If you have a city with a strong cultural identity, and a neighbouring country's city has a weak identity, they might envy, and eventually join your glorious empire.

Finally, trade is a more abstract concept, there are no more caravans wandering to and from cities, which means no more ambushes. You now have to build roads to commodities in order to have access to them.

There's no multi-player support, but there has been talk about expanding the game with network play as a possibility. The music and graphics are improved; they are equal to anything else that's out right now.

The game is Civilization, like all the rest. There is nothing earth-shattering about this new release, but for fans and people new to the game, Civilization will always be a well loved addiction. – Rayna Anderson

Coming up...

Nov. 13 is the last night to catch Tap Dogs at the Centennial Concert Hall. Tap Dogs is dubbed as a "rough, tough and rocking reinvention of tap dance." Six performers from Australia, the U.S., England and Canada. The show is at 8 p.m. Tickets available at TicketMaster.

One of Canada's biggest rock legends will hit the stage at Coyote's Nite Club and Billiards Wednesday, Nov. 21. Kim Mitchell tickets are available at Coyote's, 1931 Pembina Hwy.

Heritage Winnipeg and Heartland Associates present Broadway! Friday. Nov. 16 at the Hotel Fort Garry. The play tells seven stories of life on Broadway from 1881 to the early 20th century, based on Street of Dreams: The Story of Broadway, Western Canada's First Boulevard by marjorie Gillies. Call 942-2663 for tickets.

Manitoba Theatre for Young People are performing An Illustrated History of the Anishnabe by Ian Ross Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17. The play is recommended for ages 13 and older. Call MTYP Box Office for tickets.

Manitoba Theatre Centre is presenting Lost Boys Nov. 8–24. Writer and performer R.H. Thomson sifts through a collection of family letters to deliver the stories of his five great-uncles who struggled to survive during World War I. Tickets available from MTC Box Office.

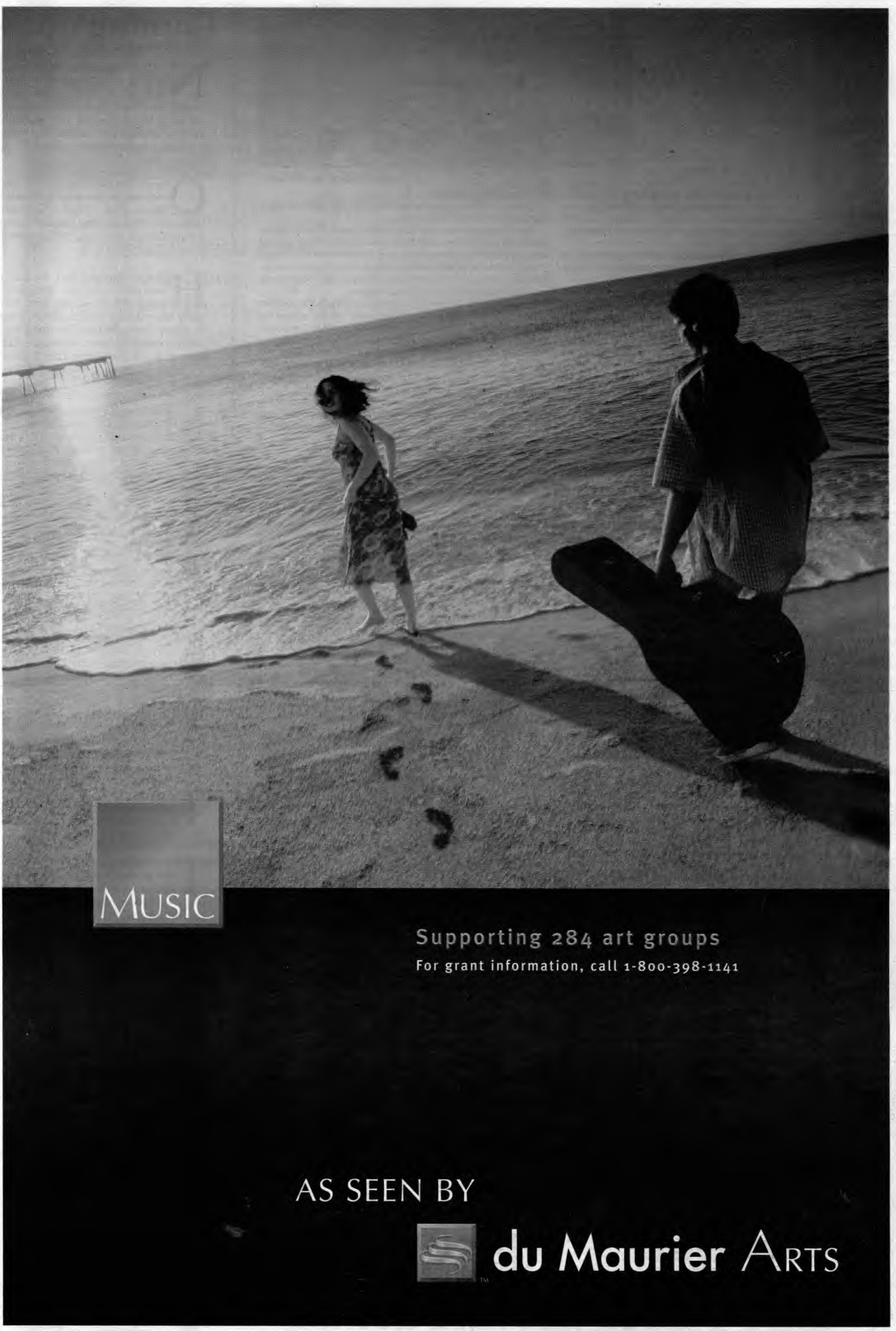
Catch the Winnipeg Blue Bombers Nov. 18 for the CFL Eastern Final Playoff Game at Canad Inns Stadium. Tickets at 780-7328.

Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra presents Bright Lights on Broadway Nov. 23-25. David Itkin will conduct songs by the likes of Rodgers and Hammerstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Call 949-3999 for tickets.

Tennesee Williams' The Glass Menagerie is playing Nov. 21-Dec. 9 at the Prairie Theatre Exchange. Call 942-5483 for tickets.

The annual Night of Lights festivities and Manitoba Hydro Power Smart Festival of Lights kick off at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 17. in downtown Winnipeg. Festivities include fireworks and parade.

Hometown band the Watchmen play the Walker Theatre Nov.29. Tickets at TicketMaster.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