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the PROJECTOR

Tuesday • November 15 • 1994

NOV 17 19

Ox wears yoke for SA losses

by Stan Mak

RRCC's campus convenience store, the once "Crazy" Ox has caused the Students' Association to see red.

The SA reported a $120,000 loss for the fiscal year ending in June 1994.

SA executive director Gord Fardoe said that the loss would not affect student fees but would instead be absorbed by the surplus equity the SA has from previous years.

"There might be an increase in tuition next year but it won't be due in any way to these losses," said Fardoe.

He also said that the loss was due largely to high wages and severance packages paid to the out-going staff at the Crazy Ox.

"The staff was given the option of a salary reduction or the severance package and they all chose the severance package which we did not expect," said Fardoe. The severance packages combined were worth over $59,000.

According to an auditor's report, the Crazy Ox's total income was $136,813 while wages and benefits were $144,289 — 105 per cent of the total income of the store.

Fardoe said that the severance payment, although unexpected, was the solution to making the store profitable again. The store has been losing money for the last three years and Fardoe said that the high wages of its employees had always been considered to be a contributing factor to its losses.

The severance package was paid to the manager, the assistant manager, 2 full-time and one part-time cashier.

With new employees, the SA has budgeted the Ox's wages at about $77,000 — a little over half of what they once were, which is much closer to the industry standard of 50 per cent of profits.

Maurice Tornopolski, class rep for C&I Sales and Marketing said he was concerned about the Ox's track record.

"Were [the SA] just not seeing the picture?" said Tornopolski who attended the student council meeting on the report November 2. "Maybe they'll be more motivated to be profitable now."

"I'm confident that the Ox well be seeing a profit this year," said Fardoe. "We've reduced the inventory, restructured the marketing plan, and there's one less full-timer now."

Another major expense that helped put the SA in debt was funding for the Alumni Association to the tune of $54,153, but as with the severance package, Fardoe said that this was a one-time expense.

"The Student Union Building (SUB) Fund was made unavailable to the Alumni Association so we picked up their costs for that year," said Fardoe. The college will be funding the Alumni Association this year. "No students' association of any college or university in Canada is supporting its alumni association and neither should we."

The report also included the start-up of the Safewalk program and the information centre as a one-time expenditure costing $25,652.

College joins traffic on information highway

by Rosanna Ferguson

Red River Community College will soon be a pitstop on the information highway.

The college is installing an Internet "node" or access point. This means that staff and students will be able to place and access information of the Internet.

George Martens, director of computer services who is helping set up the node said it will benefit students in terms of research because of the readily available information.

"It is technology that has arrived and we need to get with it," he said.

The Internet is a world-wide computer network connecting over one million with over ten million users. The Internet will allow students to contact other users, browse library catalogues all over the world, or access databases and archives which would provide unlimited information.

Martens said that they hope that eventually the node will be available through a network, meaning the Internet will be accessable to any one who has a computer within the college. But at first it will be available only through the library.

"It'll be good for Red River because we will be seen as an information provider," said Grant Ball, desktop publisher for Red River's public relations department.

Red River currently has an acount with the University of Manitoba which gives the college access to the U of M node, but it is unable to place information on the Internet, such as the administrative structure.

Setting up the Internet node at Red River will cost $30,000 for operation costs and $35,000 for the hardware to get it started.

The University of Manitoba has had an Internet node since 1990 and currently has 12,000 user ID's, 3000 of those outside are accounts.

Bill Reid, manager of networking at the U of M said one third of the staff and students use the Internet, although, it is mostly staff.

"Once Red River is connected it will allow us to share data much easier," Reid said.

"I would use it if they weren't charging students for it. It has a wider (information) base then the college has to offer because the Internet offers the world, instantaneously," said Betty Punkert, a Public Relations student.

Nursing student, Bonnie Freeman said, "No, I wouldn't use it because I don't think it would apply to me."

Martens said the node, which was proposed two years ago, is expected to up and running within weeks.

■ *Finally, information at our fingertips* photo by Jayson Kowal

Sound protection or just noise pollution?

by Naline Rampersad

Alarms may be sounding in the halls of RRCC if student council goes ahead with the proposal of renting out personal alarms.

"I think it is a good idea," said Students' Association president Randy Rummery, who pitched the idea to council.

He said it's an added security measure and could bring peace of mind to students.

The personal alarm is small and easy to carry. When activated it produces an ear piercing screech.

RRCC Women's Group member Leslie Malkin suggested that the money used to buy the alarms should be put towards hiring more security for the school.

"They may be loud, but with only three security guards on campus what are the chances of them hearing it?" said Malkin.

see "Community", pg. 3

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Dee-jays 'foul' one off

■ *CMOR deejays aren't lauging anymore*

Warning: This article contains language which may be offensive to some readers

by Annette Elvers

Careless slip sinks CMOR deejays.

Jeff Ryzner and Hilary Pickering, two second year Creative Communications students, were fired from the in-house radio station Nov. 4 for playing a c.d. of comedy sketches that contained questionable language.

"Swearing in music is fine, but not to the point of 'fuck fuck fuck,'" said CMOR station manager Dan MacKenzie of the Adam Sandler recording. "They're supposed to use a degree of common sense."

According to MacKenzie, "Students are allowed to swear, but only if they're going to use it constructively."

"Dan knows that our show is pushing it a little anyways," said Pickering. "Dan was okay with that, but yes, we did go way too far."

"A lot of the f sharp word," was being used, said Arlene from the print shop (who did not want her last name printed.) "Maybe I'm a little old-fashioned but I don't think that should be used on the radio."

When news of the complaint reached the station manager, the pair, who had been warned once before, were fired.

"Well, it was pretty rude," said Ryzner. "We'd played three off there and then the fourth one was a surprise. We faded into another song."

"It kinda makes me stop and think you should pre-screen some of the things you play," said Pickering.

The Sandler tape was brought in by an Elvis impersonator who was a guest on the afternoon show.

"We just wanted to have a whole pile of fun with the Elvis guy and all that but holy did it turn sour quick," said Pickering.

Ryzner said he knew there was a language warning label on the cover of the disk, but didn't realize the contents were that questionable.

"If we'd known how bad it was it never would have gone on air," added Ryzner.

"We apologized right away," he said. "But the damage was already done."

Arlene said she's, "had some words with the station manager already and I was treated very poorly because I'm a non-student.

"Everyone on this hallway [hall D, mall level] wants the speakers disconnected," she added.

Listeners won't have to worry about the duo for the rest of this term however, CMOR may not have heard the last of Pickering and Ryzner.

Their termination was changed to a suspension on Nov. 7 after the pair wrote an apology to the station, and promised to run a general apology in the Projector. (See the editorial page.)

Opening Lines of "Toll Booth Willy," the song that got Ryzner and Pickering fired.

Willy: Welcome to [unintelligible]. Dollar twenty five, please.
Man: Hey, how you doin' Toll Booth Willy.
Willy: Good, thanks for askin'.
Man: Ah, that's great, considerin' you're a fuckin' idiot.
Willy: Go fuck yourself you son of a bitch. I should come right out of the booth and whack you, you fuckin'

Campus radio stations take stand

by Daniel Winters

"SEX FM: RADIO EXPOSED."

This was the name of the full day of programming that the University of Winnipeg in-house radio station CKUW kicked off Oct. 27 as a show of solidarity for CKDU-FM Halifax.

The day of protest was designed as a reaction to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) decision to restrict CKDU-FM Halifax's right to a broadcast sexually explicit material between 6 am and 9 pm.

The National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCRA) believes that the decision by the CRTC to be the first wedge of a broader campaign to censor campus and community radio broadcasts.

The CRTC requires that warning messages be aired prior to the broadcasting of sexually explicit material one week before, two hours before and on the hour during the actual broadcast and that sexually explicit material not be broadcast except between 9 pm and 6 am.

The CRTC also said that material which may conflict with "generally accepted audience values" regarding matters of vulgarity, profanity or sexual behavior, can only be broadcast if integral to the theme of a program or has "worthwhile educational value."

Ian Pringle, president of NCRA, is concerned that the decision will set a precedent for the censorship of gay and lesbian radio programming across Canada.

The protest, which featured music, poetry, interviews with gay MLA Glen Murray and local lesbian artist and activist Noreen Stevens as well as general censorship issues featuring performances by Lenny Bruce, Allen Ginsberg, Bob Dylan, Ice-T and Jello Biafra.

CKUW station manager Alec Stuart said campus radio, "gives a voice to those not heard on mainstream radio."

The controversy began in June of 1993 when CKDU-Halifax broadcast a day of programming called "All Gay, All Day."

The decision by the CRTC was a result of a complaint against CKDU-Halifax lodged by Wayne Harvey in which he stated that the, "references to gay sexual preference was totally unacceptable."

According to the NCRA campus/community radio is mandated to provide air time to groups whose interests are not served by the mainstream media, including the gay and lesbian community.

The NCRA said they believe that time of day restrictions further marginalize gay and lesbian identity.

CKUW program coordinator Ted Turner said the programming was "designed for gay and lesbian audiences" and that Harvey was "not a member of the community CKDU was licensed to serve."

He said the CRTC has based the, "entire argument on one complaint."

Although RRCC radio station CMOR did not participate in the nationwide protest because they were not notified early enough, station manager Dan MacKenzie said they likely would not have joined in anyway because the issue of gay and lesbian lifestyles is "too controversial."

"As a manager, I would shy away from the issue," said MacKenzie. "The station has been involved in controversy in the past," he added, referring to the two students who broke the Teale case publication ban.

While MacKenzie said he thought students at the college would be open-minded about gay and lesbian programming also said he thought staff at the college might react differently to hearing it in the hallways of RRCC.

Puddle problem evaporating?

Or will the college get soaked plugging leaks?

by Cameron MacIntosh

Drip, Drip, Drip...

Red River students will be able to step easier, as the puddles of water that have been gathering on the floors of the college are going to disappear, hopefully for good.

Problems with a leaking roof have plagued the college all year. As a result students have learned to watch their step.

Student council member Rebecca Stastiuk learned her lesson the hard way, when she slipped on a puddle near the North Gym.

"I was trying to catch up to a friend and I slipped on the water and landed on my backside rather nicely," said Stastiuk, who was uninjured.

Stastiuk added that she felt she was lucky. "Someone could (get hurt), really could," she said. "There is no need, in my mind, for the building to leak like that."

Stastiuk said she would like to see the problem fixed before a serious accident occurs.

"I guess they're going to have to go through the budget and try to allocate the funds," she said.

On Oct. 17 environmental/occupational safety and health co-ordinator Daryl Nielsen filed three requests to facilities manager Arden Carroll to have the roof looked at.

One request was filed on behalf of a physically challenged group, the other two came from Nielsen's own observations.

"They (physically challenged) were concerned about slipping on a puddle that kept recuring in a bathroom," said Nielsen.

"The other two requests were based on observations I made in the pipe fitting shop and the white buckets they were putting out around the Mall Level after it rained," said Nielsen.

The requests to have the roof looked at were passed along by Carrol to Hakam Joll at the department of government services, located in Building H.

"The roof is currently being repaired," said Joll.

Joll said Oakwood Roofing & Sheetmetal have been contracted by the department to put an end to the leak.

Joll added that the work currently being done is not intended to be a temporary solution.

"It should be a permanent end," said Joll.

Joll couldn't disclose the cost of the repair job.

However, he added that the cost of the repairs will fit into the department's repair budget, no extra funds will have to be allocated in order to carry out the repairs.

Safewalk still only shuffling along

by Kirsten Hathaway

Don't be a victim, protect yourself.

That is what head of security Ernie Marion, at Red River Community College, said of the Safewalk program.

The program is in place right now but applicants are still being interviewed for the student staffed Safewalk program.

"We'd like to have extra people if we could," Marion said.

The tentative date to get the program off the ground for this year is Nov. 24.

"There is always someone who can overpower you," warned Marion. That is why the program is made up of five teams of two, one male and one female.

This covers concerns of sexual harrassment that may arise.

It also provides an escort for the Safewalk patrols.

"As a team, the patrols use whatever resources they have to help them," said Marion.

Each team will have a radio to call security if there is an emergency.

"It should be here becuase it's a lot safer. If something happened, you wouldn't want to come to school," said Sabina Venderbos, a Childcare student at the college.

"I've been in uncomfortable situations having to walk outside at night at school," said RoseAnna Schick, a former Safewalker.

Safewalk isn't just a service for people who are alone walking to their cars.

The patrols are also there to offer direction and assistance, ensure that high risk areas are given special attention, and to be on the lookout for accidental damage and other occurences such as theft or vandalism.

Last year there were instances where patrols found minor fires in washrooms and garbage cans.

They also reported other hazards on the floor such as water flooding.

When Safewalk is running, the hours will be 4p.m. - 10:30p.m. from Monday to Thursday, and 8a.m. -2:30p.m. on Saturday.

Results of last year's Safewalk program:

Number of Safe Walk Patrols Completed.....380
Number of Safe Walk (escorts) Completed.....165
Number of Occurrence Reports Filed.....17

Smoking policy haunts Halloween social

by Christine Stuart-Edwards

The turn out of ghosts, goblins and witches at the Halloween social was much lower than expected this year, even though smoking was allowed.

There were 62 tickets presold, and 90 tickets sold at the door. Twenty-five people were signed up on the guest list, but only approximately 175 attended the social, down considerably from the estimated 450 who attended last year's Halloween social.

"The board of governors took so long in making a decision (whether smoking was allowed) that it really hurt our ticket sales," said SA activities co-ordinator Geoff Sine.

"They didn't find out until Thursday and by then most people had already made plans."

On average a social rakes in $500, "I don't expect we made what we usually do, I hope we break even," Sine said. "The money that we do make goes to help out with other events."

Business Administration student, Bruce Kemp didn't attend the social because he heard that there weren't many people going.

"The smoking decision was one of the main reasons I didn't go," Kemp said. "You can't drink beer without smoking."

However, now that he knows smoking is allowed at socials Kemp plans on attending the next one.

There are some people who are just strapped for cash and could not go.

Derek Meikle, a second year business administration student said that the smoking policy is good, and for himself it would not have affected his decision to attend the social.

Like Meikle, Dave Allan's reason for not attending wasn't because of the smoking decision, or lack of.

Instead this business administration student felt that there is a lack of enthusiasm, and that the socials should be advertised better.

"I was here two years ago and there was a lot of hype, but you don't see that anymore," Allan said.

■ *Does he turn into a coach at midnight?*

Ukraine offers students many opportunities

by Tim Friesen

Red River students are poised to take advantage of business opportunities in the Ukraine, but as with all opportunities, there are obstacles as well.

"The best thing for Ukraine is technological and financial assistance," said Leonid Kuchma, president of Ukraine, reminding the G7 countries that technological investment is as vital to the health of Ukraine's economy as financial aid.

"The possibilities are really good for our students," said Joe Mackintosh, former International Business instructor, who now works for the Red River Community College president's office.

"The entrepreneurial skills learned in the Business Administration will make those students well equipped to take advantage of the opportunities," said Mackintosh.

But it's not only Business Administration students which stand to gain from Canada's strong relationship with the Ukraine.

"Our technology programs are held in high regard throughout Canada," said Mackintosh.

"RRCC has played a lead role in setting accreditation standards between 12 colleges across Canada, including BCIT, and NATE," he added. "Leading edge technologies are the real opportunities for business."

It's a good opportunity to travel, and spend time in a different part of the world," said Jason Deprez, a second year Business Administration student.

In the recent G7 conference in Winnipeg, Canada established significant trade relations with the Ukraine in a deal which pledged Canada to spend about $50 million on the Ukraine to revitalize its beleaguered economy.

The deal will strengthen "Western Canada's long standing friendship with the Ukraine," said minister of human resources and development Lloyd Axworthy, during his opening remarks at the G7 conference.

"The primary investment will be to small and medium business," said minister of foreign affairs André Ouellet.

"$10 million will be spent on the private sector, $2.2 million will be spent on training, and 5 million will develop the science centers in Kyiv," Ouellet added.

The Commonwealth of Independent States is open to businesses that wish to get in "on the ground floor," but large profits will not be made immediately, cautioned International Affairs instructor Carol Derksen.

Chair of the mechanical, manufacturing and materials technologies department Rob Jamieson, said that it is "still too early to comment one way or the other."

Since the CIS was formed, times have been hard throughout that region. Environmental and social disasters are common throughout the commonwealth.

This is the primary reason why Ukraine is requesting investment from the G7 nations, but it is also a great problem to new businesses in the region.

In Aug. 1993, the Free Press reported that the CIS was host to an outbreak of anthrax, diphtheria, tuberculosis, typhoid and cholera.

The former soviet republics were incapable of fighting these epidemics because of war, poverty, and the breakdown of social services.

There are still has two Chernobyl type reactors operating in Ukraine today. In total 14 nuclear plants provide 40 per cent of Ukraine's electricity, according to a paper released by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"You couldn't pay me enough to go there," said Mark Diepold from carpentry.

In March of this year, the Free Press reported that "in Ukraine, the bank completes a deal in its own good time."

Because of this, one man lost the equivalent of $162, 000 by depositing $20,000 in the bank, which took three weeks to process the transaction.

"Contractors from Manitoba are working there right now," said Arnold Kolaski, carpentry instructor.

"Living quarters and food are really bad. Many contractors who took on jobs there have now come back. A lot of other guys have refused to go."

"Community"

continued from pg. 1

Community relations officer Constable Michelle Benoit said people would benefit from carrying a personal alarm.

"It is better to have and never use it than not to have it and regret the decision later," said Benoit.

Benoit is a personal alarm user.

"We have to be cautious these days," she said.

But she warns against the false sense of security an alarm might give an individual.

"The alarm is meant to be a deterrent. It should scare the attacker away. It doesn't give you license to walk down the back lane in the middle of the night," she said.

Council will vote on the alarm purchase at their Nov. 17 meeting.

The Projector is Red River Community College's student newspaper. It is published by the RRCC Students' Association approximately 18 times from September to May, usually every second Monday.

The Projector's mandate is to provide fair and balanced coverage of issues and events of interest to RRCC students. Any interested students are invited to contribute.

Letters to the editors are welcome on any subject, but must be signed. *The Projector* reserves the right to edit for good taste, length, and legality.

The Projector offices were once in the projection booth near the South Gym, This is where the 26 year old *Projector* got its name.

The editors can be contacted in Trailer K, (near the west student parking lot), through the Students' Association office, or by calling 632-2479. For advertising information, please call 632-2375 or FAX 632-7896.

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As the leaks continued, the Mall Level was converted to the Moat Level.

Mighty Morphin Power Parents

by Todd K. Besant

When we were kids, my brothers and I used to watch All Star Wrestling.

This was in the pre-Hulk Hogan era so we would shout and jump about cheering on The Crusher, Dr. X or Baron What's-his-name.

About halfway through the show we would have worked ourselves into an invigorated state and start wrestling each other.

Eventually it would get out of hand.

Our mother would come into the living room and tell us we were being 'too rambunctious.'

"Too rambunctious' meant that the TV was turned off and it was time to go read The Hardy Boys. The seriousness of the message was occasionally reinforced by the waving of a large wooden spoon.

I was reminded of this by the recent fuss about and subsequent pulling of the children's show *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*.

It was pulled by YTV because two parents (yes only two) complained to the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council.

Apparently the parents thought that the show was too violent for their children to watch.

Well, the council ruled and found that Power Rangers was indeed too violent for broadcast.

Now, I've sat through a few episodes (Hey, YTV is part of my basic cable package) and *Power Rangers* is bad. Very bad.

But heads and limbs stay attached and blood doesn't splatter the walls, so it isn't exactly *Natural Born Killers* or *Pulp Fiction*.

Heck, there isn't even a good mock explosion.

In fact, *Power Rangers* looks much like a bunch of kids throwing themselves around a living room miming martial arts.

Nonetheless it was found to be too violent.

Several things about this ruling bother me.

One, it only took two complaints to cause this ruling. Remember democracy? Something about freedom of expression? And something about free choice?

Two, how quickly YTV acquiesced. Even though, as John Doyle wrote in the Globe and Mail, YTV isn't covered by the council.

And, of course, the basing of the ruling on the misconception that TV is so powerful it can influence the meekest child or the most rational adult to commit horrible crimes.

This is false. We know it's false.

Sure my brothers and I wrestled, but we didn't need any encouragement from TV.

And if a TV programs content do influence or alter behavior in such a manner, why doesn't it work in reverse?

You know, Barney the Dinosaur could influence people to save the world and anyone who watched more than two episodes of *Three's Company* would be a drooling idiot.

Now, *Power Rangers* isn't the ideal children's show.

It's a prime example of what's wrong with most children's programming: low budget, low quality and is broadcast for only one reason.

Merchandising.

No doubt *Power Ranger* dolls, games, t-shirts etc. will find their way under millions of Christmas trees this year. The show would have had it's run and then it would have disappeared. (Remember the *Ninja Turtles* ? Heard from them lately?)

But, for some reason, two parents felt were just so powerless over their children that they needed the governments help to make their kids stop watching *Power Rangers*.

I can't help but wonder why?

Are these parents the norm nowadays?

Maybe they're just gutless wonders when it comes to just turning the TV off?

Or maybe they didn't even try that.

Now, I know parents aren't allowed to wave wooden spoons at their children to influence their viewing habits, but if you can't influence your kids perhaps it's not the government's problem?

Perhaps we should be wary of laws and regulations that make it the government's problem?

Oh, for the record, my mother never hit me with that wooden spoon.

Letters

An apology

To: CMOR Staff, Dan MacKenzie, Staff and Student Body of RRCC,

On Friday, November 5, 1994, Hilary Pickering and I were dismissed from CMOR for playing a tasteless piece of comedy by Adam Sandler. We were not trying to make a statement of any sort.

The theme of the show was comedy and we had played four other pieces prior to the incident. If we were more familiar with the material on this disc, the piece would have never aired.

We would like to extend our deepest apologies to the CMOR staff and to those who were offended. We regret what we did, and know that we screwed up. We fully accept our dismissal and hope that our irresponsible actions do not reflect upon other DJs at CMOR.

If there is anything that we could possibly do to make amends, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are sorry for any inconvenience we have caused the station.

Sincerely,
Jeff Ryzner,
Hilary (Donut) Pickering

The next issue of The Projector will be published on December 5/94

It's time for gun control

by Anthonie Koop

A few weeks ago the front pages of Winnipeg's local newspapers featured the story of a fifteen year-old girl who was accidentally shot by a friend showing off his newly acquired sawed-off 22 calibre rifle.

A bullet, which could have ended her short life, instead - luckily passed through her thigh without doing serious damage.

About a week before this near tragedy the Winnipeg Arena was the site of a rally to protest the supposedly totalitarian crackdown on the rights of Canadian gun-owners by Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Justice Minister Allan Rock.

Now, let's put this in perspective. Young children are getting their handson illegal sawed-off rifles, shooting one another, and some members ofour society, who like to shoot at bottles, ducks or deer for sport, are worried about protecting their rights to own a gun.

I'm just a little confused by this. Where are these people's priorities?

There is no denying that there is a problem with guns in this country, and that it's growing.

A little under a year ago a series of articles on youth violence in theWinnipeg Sun described how the Winnipeg Police hadwatched young offenders go from using bats and knifes as their weapons of choice to saw-offed shotguns and pistols.

Further, there are more guns being used in crimes because guns are becoming more available to criminals.

So it seems logical that Chretien would propose stricter controls on the guns in this country, such as mandatory registration of all firearms.

But, as always happens the instant controls on gun ownership are proposed the chorus of protests begins.

This time the protest is coming from within Chretien's own party.

Liberal MP Elijah Harper (Churchill) has spoken out against the registration proposal saying that it would be an unfair burden to those Northerners who are out on remote traplines.

According to Harper, forcing those people to come in from the wilderness to register their guns is inconsiderate.

Is it really unreasonable to ask people to come into town once a year to register their guns?

All Canadians have to register their cars, shouldn't Canadians also have to register their guns?

The people at the Arena on the night of the gun rally don't think so.

The argument from these gun-lobbyists is that the government is infringing ontheir rights, that these controls are unduly restrictive.

What rights are they talking about?

Last time I checked the "right to bear arms" was a luxury afforded only our neighbours to the south.

Besides, it is time for people to wake up, the days of the wild, untamed frontier are over.

We don't live in a lawlessland, it isn't up to Jimmy-Joe-Bob to protect the family homestead anymore.

We have laws which govern societies behaviour, and we have police to enforce those laws. (Police with big, shiny new guns!)

I understand that some people like to collect guns, I respect people's choice to hunt, but I don't understand that same groups deep resentment towards gun control.

Owning a gun is a privilege, not a right.

When children are being shot at, when they are getting their hands on illegal firearms with increasing ease, it's time for Mr. Chretien and Mr.Rock to bite the bullet and send that message to all Canadians, loud and clear.

Because when children become the victims of guns, controlling them should be everyone's priority.

Six weeks and counting

by Leslie Malkin

You'd think Christmas was next week.

The newspapers are getting really thick - laden with glossy fliers and fancy catalogues.

Those blinking colored lights and plastic holly have been decorating the store shelves since the day after Halloween.

And you can't turn on the radio these days without hearing from the Canadian Tire Christmas expert: Old Man Scrooge.

But actually, I think that's O.K.

I suppose it takes us all a while to get back into the spirit of things.

And if we've forgotten since last year, I'm sure that by December 25, we should all be sufficiently reminded of the real significance behind Christmas.

Buy, buy, buy.

* * * * *

I've been looking forwardtothe long weekend.

Well, I'll admit I *was* looking *more* forward to it before I spent those five dimes which could almost have bought me another draft on Friday night.

I'll explain. The Salvation Army has been selling poppies on street corners for the last week.

And I finally decided to break the bank and buy one.

After days of walking past that sweet old woman, standing there all alone and smiling forlornly at me every time, I just couldn't look her in the eye one more time and tell her I had no change.

I'm not too sure what the poppies are for. I knew once, but I've forgotten.

But I'm not too worried about that because I've given my poppy a *new* purpose in life.

Stuck into my coat lapel by its shiny silver pin, it now serves as a *perfect* reminder that Christmas is only six weeks away, and I'd better get on with my shopping.

* * * * *

Here's a bit of holiday cheer: We *are* ahead of the Americans, in something.

I doubt if our southern neighbors have any time to even *think* about Christmas, yet, never mind start *their* shopping.

They're too busy getting ready for Thanksgiving.

You know, the day reserved for reacquainting ourselves with that old turkey recipe once again, before the Big Day in December.

We celebrated it *last* month.

And that reminds me.

I heard about a really nice Thanksgiving tradition, the other day.

Actually, I *overheard* it (I wasn't minding my own business) so I won't mention who's family customs I caught wind of, or I'm liable to lose my job.

He was describing this past Thanksgiving, where he and his family sat around the dinner table and took turns telling the others what they were thankful for.

He said he was thankful that he still has his hair.

I wouldn't have said that.

I don't have to worry about losing *my* hair.

And although I forgot on Thanksgiving, I'll tell you all what *I'm* thankful for.

I'm thankful that there are still six weeks left to do my Christmas shopping.

Its nice getting into the spirit of the holidays.

Isn't that what its all about?

* * * * *

Campus Chatter

by Shannon Wilson **Photos - Jayson Kowal**

How important do you think involvement in extra-curricular activities is at the college?

"I hadn't given it much thought. I guess it is important but I have to admit I don't do any of it. It's important to do something because it gives you something to do besides school and you get to meet people."

Tom Swirski
Electrical Engineering Technology

"I don't know. I guess it gives them something to do. I don't really see any big reasons, though. I guess it's not really important because it's not necessary. It makes life interesting but some of it is a waste of student money."

Steven Dueck
Business Administration

"Well, I think it's important to keep up the school spirit but I haven't been into it at all this year like other years. They have the socials, but they don't promote them to get everyone involved."

Farida Hosein
Business Administration
Second Year

"I don't think it's really important. Well, I think students have a lot more important things to do—some have jobs or lots of homework and people just don't have the time to get involved."

Marieann Delima
Business Administration

"I'm taking Mechanical so there's no time for anything outside our course. If there is other stuff, you just don't make it. I don't know anyone in my class doing anything. I guess there's a few guys in third and fourth year that only go to school part time."

Richard Moreton
Mechanical Engineering Technology

Program gives lift to First Nations students

by John T. Harvie

Not all Manitobans are equal when it's time to enter college, and some of the First Nations students are not prepared for the academic adventure that awaits them.

That is where the College preparation for Aboriginal Students program comes into play.

"By the year 2000, 25 per cent of the labor force will come from the aboriginal community," said the program chair Ed Roy. "It will benefit all of society if that work force is well trained."

The program is designed to provide a comfortable environment for the First Nations student, with all the instructional staff from the Metis or Aboriginal community.

Students are first assessed of their needs through placement testing, then their level of college preparation is geared towards the entry level of their program choice.

The program is parallel of the Basic Adult Education also offered at the college, differing only in the make up of students and instructors, who are all from Aboriginal or Metis background.

"The retention of the student is greater in a comfortable environment," said Roy.

"Providing a comfortable education experience results in greater success," he added.

The most popular program students prepare for is the Business Administration program. Nursing is second.

There are significant numbers of students preparing for entrance into various trade programs at the college but the waiting period after completion of the program can be a lengthy one.

Virginia Arthurson, Education Advisor to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, said the present programming and curriculum of the present secondary school system was not developed with minorities in mind.

"Students don't build a great deal of self esteem in the system we have now," said Arthurson.

The need for the college preparation program is especially necessary for those students from the rural areas of Manitoba.

"Most communities are small, it can be difficult to the large classes," Arthurson said.

The college preparation for Aboriginal students program helps to alleviate some of these problems.

The program allows the students to be amongst themselves with positive role models at the head of the class and this can help in raising their self esteem.

Just having a place to go where you are the same as everyone else for a few hours of the day can make the learning process a lot easier.

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■ *Smiles from merchants during Market Days, held last week on campus.*

photo by Jayson Kowal

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The following is a list of volunteers opportunities available in the Winnipeg area. If you are interested in any of the following or many others not listed here, please contact the Volunteer center for an appointment at 477-5180

Volunteer to Nursery Instructor Assistant required to provide a quality play group porgram for two- to five-year-olds. Must have strong interpersonal and communication skills and a background in Education. Social work or related social science.

Volunteers with an interest or background knowledge in psychiatric disabilities are required as support workers to provide one-on-one jub coaching, emotional support and positive reinforcement. Six month commitment required.

Volunteer Bowling Scorekeepers required Saturdays to work with dasabled athletes while they are 5-pin bowling. Various locations throughout Winnipeg.

Volunteer Literacy Tutors required to work one-on-one with inmates studying basic academics such as literacy. Must have strong communication and interpersonal skills. Daytime only in Headingley.

Volunteers required for a museum gift shop as a sales assistant to assist with sales, pricing, stocking merchandise and arranging displays. Strong interpersonal and communication skills essential. Retail experience preferred.

Volunteer Friendly Visitor required to provide an individual with Mulitiple Sclerosis regular social stimulation, support and information on various activities. Strong communication skills required. Warm, friendly and commited.

Volunteer Library Assistant required for school library to perform clerical tasks such as updating files, barcoding, shelving books, etc. Volunteer should have strong communication and organizational skills. 8 month commitment.

SERVICES

CHILD CARE STUDENT, in West Kildonan. Mornings, afternoons, or evenings. Care for 6-month old child. Phone Patty at 339-5707.

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT Second year Business Administration student. Bookeeping for small business during evenings. West Kildonan. Knowledge of ACCPAC. Phone Ross at 339-5707.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANOUNCEMENT

CHILDRENS' HOSPITAL BOOK MARKET announces a pocket book sale. Monday, November 21. 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. At the gym of Community Services Building, 685 William Avenue. Book Market's chute at the rear of 685 William Ave. is open Monday to Friday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm for donations. Please be sure to tie bags and boxes. Pickups are availbale for those unable to drop off their books. No weekly magazines or older encyclopedias. Thank you. Call the Book Market at 783-1125 for more info.

IF YOU'RE DISABLED and would be interested in going out and doing something on Friday adternoons, then the Independent Living Resource Centre Youth Project might be the thing for you. We offer someone to go along with you to the Forks, the Museum of Man and Nature, to a movie, or to go shopping at Portage Place. If you have a free Friday afternoon and would be interested in one of these activities, contact Lori at 947-0194. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

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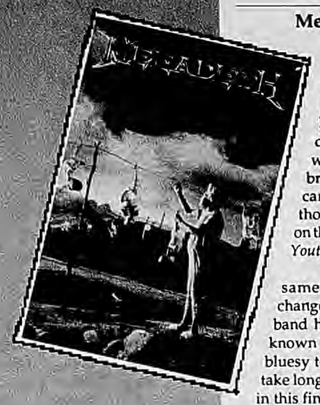
The future's not bright

Megadeath disc commentary on today's youth



Megadeth - *Youthanasia*
(EMI)
by Dave Patel

It's time parents stopped hanging their kids out to dry. The future of the world is not going to be very bright unless parents start caring. Megadeth makes those statements very clear on their newest release entitled *Youthanasia*.

The sound remains the same but the message has changed. With *Youthanasia* the band has maintained their well known hard rocking style with a bluesy tone. However, it doesn't take long to find the new wrinkles in this fine piece of work.

Political statements have become scarce and have been replaced by concerns about community affairs issues. Now that doesn't mean that Megadeth is softening in their old age, but they certainly have changed speeds.

The disc starts off with "Reckoning Day", a hard hitting track that sets the tone for the rest of the 11 tracks on the disc.

"Train of Consequences" moves fast and features a wicked piece of guitar creativity. Expect "Train of Consequences" to be the first single off of the album.

The topics in the songs range from what kind of legacy you leave behind too taking care of our kids.

Vocalist Dave Mustaine once again is the main writer of material and the producer.

The contributions however are strong from all members and the band is as close as they've ever been.

Dying is always a familiar theme on Megadeth discs and thankfully even with the change in pace of lyrics it is still present. The band also sings about the trials of touring and they end off this work of art with an almost autobiographical account of their works up until now.

Put it all together and Megadeth has once again managed to achieve the same unique sound that has established them as one of the big names in their field. At the same time changing a major part of their identity without losing their edge.

While the music may not be everyone's cup of tea, it's certain to keep the ever loyal Megadeth fans on their side and assure them that they haven't lost their touch. ♪♪♪♪

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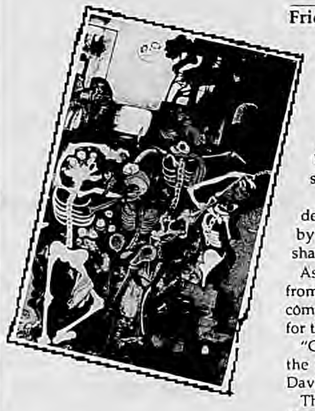


Friction Love Corps - *Smoked BBQ Salmon*
(Venture)
by Aileen Goos

Friction Love Corps has managed to accomplish what few bands rarely do: produce an honest, solid effort the first time out.

Smoked BBQ Salmon, the band's debut, offers innovative lyrics driven by pounding bass rhythms and shamefully raunchy guitar riffs.

Aside from a little production help from Chris Burke-Gaffney, the 10 track compilation was self-produced, and for the most part, self-financed.

"CIDO financed one fifth of one of the songs," vocalist/bassist Glen Davies said.

The tracks "Old Hapless Man" and "Midsummer Day's Nightmare" showcase the bands harder side, while "World of Man" takes the listener to the softer side not often heard from the four-piece group.

The funked-out bass grooves of "Harmony" jump out and make the disc an eclectic mix on a strong debut.

Comprised of Davies, Chris Weighell (drums), Tim Ball (guitar) and Marcel Wierckx (guitar), the local musicians have changed noticeably from what people may remember them as: Dynamo Hum.

"We changed our format," Davies explained. "We thought the name change would signify a shift in the music."

No longer a cover band, *Smoked BBQ Salmon* suggests that Friction Love Corps should have become an originals -only band a long time ago. ♪♪♪♪

Finally, a movie about animal obedience

by Shasta A. Chartrand

One of the best independently produced films of the year is *Spanking the Monkey*.

Writer/director David Russell gives us a unique look at a dysfunctional American family whose perception of family values is mostly warped.

The story focuses on Raymond Aibelli (Jeremy Davies) a first year pre-med student on summer vacation who has the incredible opportunity for an important internship. Raymond runs into trouble when he realizes that he can't take it because he has to take care of his chronically depressed, bed-ridden mother Susan (Alberta Watson).

There are many sacrifices Raymond must over his summer: his father is away on business, they can't afford a nurse, and they have no contact with other relatives. But no matter what, you feel for the young student whose summer is wasted; whose father cares more for the dog than his son or wife. Add to the list that Ray hasn't any privacy - not even when attempting to masturbate - and you've got yourself

what did you think we'd run?

a teenage docudrama.

Day to day, Ray takes care of the family chores: weeding the garden, fixing daily meals, walking the dog. It's when he's walking the dog that he meets Toni (Carla Gallo), a sexually inexperienced high school girl.

Their mild flirtation throughout the film is sort of an outlet for Ray, but not a very helpful one, as he is as sexually frustrated as ever. This makes the audience aware of a certain degree of tension, especially between Ray and his mother.

Intellectually they are on the same level, but she is a lonely housewife and he is a trapped young man. Their relationship takes a forbidden twist of fate when they innocently engage in long conversations, progressing to lotion rubs, ending in a close encounter of the sexual kind. Which is when Raymond's torment really begins.

The film is wonderful. It's daring without being vulgar. It's honest without being preachy. It makes the audience care about Raymond all without once looking at your watch.

Beach is waiting for the end of beaded buckskin-clad stereotype

Disney didn't do their homework

by Dustin Marks

Adam Beach doesn't jam in the basement of his North End home anymore. After scoring the lead role in Disney's new motion picture *Squanto: A Warrior's Tale*, Beach is proving that he's ready for Hollywood.

After attending the screening of his next film *Dance Me Outside*, in which he co-stars with fellow Winnipeg actor Ryan Black, 21 year-old Beach relaxed for a few weeks in Ottawa with his girlfriend before flying to Los Angeles to attend the release of *Squanto*.

It wasn't all play and no work for Beach. While in LA, he finished work on his newest film, titled *A Boy Called Hate*, with Scott Caan, son of James.

"I guess you can say that being native is the flavour of the month, but I'm waiting for this so-called fad to end and to still be out there," Beach said, adding that he'd like "to surpass what Tom Jackson and Graham Greene have achieved to the level where there is Tom Hanks and Daniel Day Lewis."

After *Dances with Wolves*, and recent versions of *Geronimo*, Hollywood might end the history lesson and move on with getting aboriginal people in roles other than the noble savage.

Beach agreed that the buckskin image should end and turned down a role in John Candy's last film, *Wagon's East*.

Hopefully, Disney, along with aboriginal people, can finish with the traditional buckskin and beads image of aboriginal people and move on to a more modern image of t-shirts and Levi's.

But you can always count on Disney to make a good fairy tale. And as with most fairy tales, facts and reality get dropped in exchange for entertainment.

Squanto: A Warrior's Tale is a family adventure story of a brave warrior from the Wolf Clan is captured by the English in the 17th-century and taken to England where he must perform at sideshow attractions. He escapes to a monastery, which later assists him in his action-filled struggle to return to his homeland. The typical Disney fairy tale ends with the origin of the Thanksgiving tradition and the signing of the first peace treaty in New England.

And they live happily ever after...

If Disney had done their homework, they'd find that the treaty was broken two years after it was signed; and that the Indian people were killed and not just "driven" off the land.

Disney would also find fewer cliché characters: the good liberal-minded people fighting for the rights of all human beings; and the bad guys, who are obsessed with greed and power.

But as usual, Disney is able to pull off a good movie with an uplifting message of the good and evil in all people, whether red, white or purple.

Don't call 'em zany

by Sandra Routledge

In arranging an interview with Higher Than the Ground, Paul Anthony scratched my number in a bar of soap. His doing so set the stage for what was to be expected from the local comedy troupe.

"Don't call us wacky or zany, please!," Anthony said.

Talking to this troupe is like being at one of their performances. The constant humour and bantering between the group is evidence of the great stage relationship they have.

But as with any working relationship, conflicts are bound to occur, especially when the creative juices are flowing.

In dealing with personal differences, the group will not leave until the conflict is resolved. If all else fails, humour is the next option.

Ranging in age from 17 - 22, Higher Than The Ground aren't your "normal" young adults. Their energy to succeed could set them up to be described as off the wall and still being on it.

What is this group actually like?

According to Paul Anthony they're "like crack - instantly addictive," adding that once people take the chance to see them perform, they usually come back for more.

Higher Than The Ground is a local comedy troupe who met at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People. It is compromised of Paul "weird bonding" Anthony, Stanis "reality" Anthony, Lee "nice hair" White, Ray "smell easy" Fenwick", Devin "chiropractor family" McCracken, and Stephen "good guy" Sim. They do not depend of government grants. Opting instead to leave them to "those who really need them."

The question is: are they actors or comedians?

According to the members of Higher Than the Ground, they are both. However, they said their comedy shouldn't take away from their sketches dealing with deeper issues.

The actors/comedians try to appeal to all age groups, but they find the young adult crowd the easiest to entertain. If the audience is younger, the group tries to adapt their style to the audience, and vice versa.

The ideas for the sketches Higher Than The Ground perform can be found within anything. During their *Projector* interview, the group stumbled upon an idea within the context of Italian food, namely manicotti or cannelloni. (Advice from Higher Than The Ground: do not work for food).

Higher Than The Ground strives to present the audience with humour but allow them to derive what they will - a refreshing change from the normal spoon-fed approach.

They do so because, according to the members of Higher Than The Ground, "thinking is not done enough today."

A Ground-breaking performance

by Sandra Routledge

If you weren't at the Gas Station Theatre on November 5, you missed a Ground-breaking performance.

Local comedy troupe Higher Than The Ground - made up of Devin McCracken, Lee White, Paul and Stanis Anthony, Stephen Sim, and Ray Fenwick - took the audience at the Gas Station Theatre through a black-hole of comedic sketches.

The hour-long performance featured small sketches of black comedy, satire, and improv. The latter of which being the troupe's strongest element. One scene in particular featured Paul Anthony, White, Fenwick and McCracken. While Fenwick and McCracken were on stage motioning, Anthony and White provided the dialogue. Both Anthony and White could easily make a career out of improvisational dialogue as the twists and turns they placed their on-stage companions in had the audience amused.

The different aspects of the show make it difficult to mention the various acting techniques and reactions. The audience laughed and discussed certain scenes after the show - a sign that the act was a success.

There was, however, one drawback to the show which will undoubtedly be improved as time goes on.

During the first few skits, there were inside jokes targeted at a select few in the audience. The result was an alienation of the majority of the audience. This did improve as the night progressed and will likely be rectified as the group collects more material.

All in all the night was a success. People from the college may feel a bit old as most of the crowd were younger, but as time goes on the audience will expand.

If given the chance, Higher Than the Ground will definitely be a hit.

Alternative to what?

CARAS introduces new Juno category

by Aileen Goos

The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has done it again.

But the question no longer is "what is Canadian?", but "what is alternative?"

In an effort to appeal to the growing genre of alternative music, CARAS has introduced a new category to be presented at the Junos early next year: Best Alternative Album.

Glen Davies of Friction Love Corps thinks that defining alternative could prove to be a problem for the members of CARAS.

"What is alternative and what's pop?" Davies questioned. "If you listen to the most popular songs on the radio, they're alternative."

For those of us, like Davies, who don't understand the category, the members of CARAS have attempted to define exactly what alternative is.

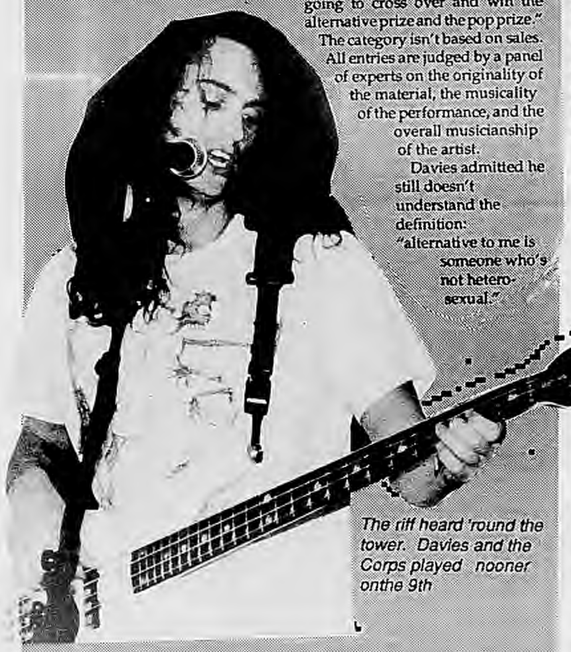
According to a media release produced by CARAS, "eligible styles for this category may be defined as a genre of popular music that embraces attitudes of progression and innovation.

"It's music that evolved out of a post-punk style and is largely outside of blues-based structure. It may embrace sub genres such as grunge, industrial, techno, hardcore, modern rock and any hybrids thereof including any new emerging sound that is ahead of mainstream pop."

"I think the real problem with having an alternative prize in the Junos," guitarist Marcel Wierckx commented, " is what bands are going to cross over and win the alternative prize and the pop prize."

The category isn't based on sales. All entries are judged by a panel of experts on the originality of the material, the musicality of the performance, and the overall musicianship of the artist.

Davies admitted he still doesn't understand the definition: "alternative to me is someone who's not hetero-sexual."



The riff heard 'round the tower. Davies and the Corps played nooner onthe 9th

No cakewalk for returning cast members

By Jeope Wolfe

Winnipeg has been visited by an angel - twice.

The Prairie Theatre Exchange's (PTE) encore presentation of Margaret Laurence's "The Stone Angel" met with rave reviews and sold out performances during its 10 day run.

The PTE was invited by the National Arts Centre in Ottawa to remount the production, which was originally shown during the company's 1992-93 season.

It now moves on to Ottawa (November 22 - December 6) for two weeks of performances at the National Arts Centre.

In a theatre company devoted to the development of new work, the remounting of "The Stone Angel" is a rare honour. By no means, though, was it a cakewalk for the returning cast.

Returning once more to the play was Shirley Douglas. Hagar Currie's character is extremely demanding, requiring the 6- year-old Douglas to be on stage for every scene in the two act play.

Told through a series of flashbacks, Douglas' portrayal of several different characters (from a spirited young woman to a frail 90 year-old woman in her final hours), Douglas found it to be "an extremely challenging role."

The cast remained virtually intact from the 1993 presentation, with the exception of two key roles. Richard Clarkin assumed the role of Currie's son John, an Robert Collins was chosen to portray her husband Bram Shirpley.

"Not to worry, I've got Bram all through me," Collins joked. The Calgary actor played the same role in a Toronto production last year, making the transition smoother.

Having returned for a second run, the actors found that practice does make perfect.

"It was easier to rehearse the second time," said actress Megan McArton, who played Currie's daughter-in-law Doris.

"But we wanted to start fresh to make sure it went right."

"The Stone Angel", based on the novel by Neepawa native Margaret Laurence, is the acclaimed story of Hagar Currie, who, with undaunting spiritual resilience, rises above the hardships of life to seize control of her own destiny.

Acted out before the audience on a bare-bones stage, the story is recounted through flashbacks of Hagar's long and colourful life.

Adapted to the stage by James Nichol, "The Stone Angel" debuted in Winnipeg two seasons ago to the delight of theatre-goers.

All performances at the PTE were sold out - a huge accomplishment considering that the play was originally no part of his year's theatre series.

This Bud's for you

by Rhonda Bruchanski

When a commercial break comes on, most people can't find the remote control fast enough. But over 900 Winnipeg residents recently paid hard-earned money to watch television commercials over the weekend.

The Cannes 40th International Advertising Film Festival, presented by the Winnipeg Art Gallery, featured the world's best commercials from 1993.

The show consisted of 109 award-winning commercials from 17 different countries. Not one of which were Canadian.

In keeping with Cannes tradition, commercials from Great Britain dominated the screen. Typically, these commercials were very silly, drawing bursts of laughter from the crowd. There was Mr. Bean in a dinghy, advertising the Barclay Card; Cheers' Cliff selling Coors Extra Gold; and Leslie Nielson pitching Red Rock Cider's catchy slogan: "Red Rock Cider. It's not red and there's no rocks in it."

The humorous commercials were offset by those carrying socially relevant messages.

Belgium's Spa Water (Spadel) ad, "The Tear", focused on its title. As the camera followed a single tear from the corner of a woman's eye down to the slope of her cheek, a sullen voice asked, "One day, will this be the only water left to us?" The closing message was "When man cares for water, man cares for man."

Carol Williams, a Cannes regular, said she would like to have seen more commercials of this sort.

"The majority of them were devoid of any social content," she said. "The festival wasn't as impressive as it has been in the past, but I did find some of the commercials entertaining.

"You sure can tell the difference between countries when it comes to advertising. We seem almost puritanical compared to the rest of the world."

What would the festival be without a little nudity? One commercial in particular that widened the eyes of many viewers was a British Fosters Lager ad featuring an erotic couple. The production was reminiscent of the notorious "food scene" in 91/2 Weeks.

Brazil and Spain dealt candidly with the subjects of foul breath and flatulence. Their straightforward approaches are reflected by the commercials' titles, "Homicide" and "Farting".

"Some of the commercials were extremely funny," said Misty Sloan who attended the festival for the first time.

"I thought it was really interesting and I'd definitely like to see it next year."

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CONGRATULATIONS

At press time, *The Projector* was informed that local comedy troupe Higher Than the Ground has been nominated for a YTV Achievement Award.

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Letter-man perfect

by Dustin Marks

It seems anything or anyone who gets close to David Letterman becomes an instant star: Sirajul and Mujibur, the owner of Hello Deli, and now me.

For as long as I can remember, I've always rehearsed what I would say if I ever got on *Late Show with David Letterman*. But then good ol' reality would give me a good swift kick in the head. I had no idea the actions I was about to take in the last year would lead me to the greatest moment of my entire life.

With the insanity of college life, the only time I ever find to relax is by having a good giggle at someone else's expense by sitting back in my La-Z-Boy at 10:30 every night and watching Letterman. It's a ritual I've been practicing for the past eight years.

Being a pathetic fan with no life of his own, I grew a strange kind of bond with the show - somewhat like the bond men seem to have with their cars.

Then one night, I noticed a phone number in the credits. Faster than a New York cabby, I wrote it down and called. The machine clearly explained how to send a self-addressed stamped post card, which I did the very next day. And sure enough, five months and twenty days later, I was being invited to the Halloween taping at the Ed Sullivan Theatre. $730.00 later, I was in New York.

From nine in the morning to four in the afternoon, I spent my time wandering from landmark to landmark in my blue shorts. I walked over to K&L's Rock America, home of Mujibur and Sirajul, where dozens of other pathetic fans were buying *Late Show* souvenirs.

At four o'clock, we assumed our positions in line - I was number 11. A security guard informed us that we should take advantage of the bathrooms now, because once the show is on, getting out of your seat is impossible. I forced myself to go so I could use the urinal that was possibly used by Elvis, or Jim Morrison, or maybe one of the Beatles.

Finally, at 5:15 we were led into the theatre. Guns N' Roses "November Rain" was being played while they filled the first and second levels of the legendary theatre. By this time, I was regretting wearing my blue shorts - it was freezing!

I felt my groin moisten as the tall, thin man strolled in from off stage and thanked everyone for coming out. There he was, not even five feet from where I was sitting, asking the crowd if they had any questions.

A guy in back yelled out "Can I have a canned ham?"

"No, you can't," Letterman quickly snapped. "You can't just yell it out."

Then a guy right behind me tried to be a smart ass: "Dave, since you were a weatherman, can you tell us exactly how cold it is in here?"

Letterman didn't even blink.

"Not cold enough! There's a guy infront of you wearing shorts. He gets the ham."

When Letterman finished his monologue, the stage looked like a New York rush hour. People moved like they had a football strategy getting ready for the first guest, Lauren Bacall, followed by Sinead O'Connor and Steve Harvey.

And fast as it started, it was over.

But wait, the ham.

A crowd watched as the band as the band got in their cars and went home. People rushed to get their picture taken with the kid who got the canned ham. Like Mujibur and the Deli guy, I, too, was a sudden celebrity.

Tom, the Location Coordinator, told me while I waited that within the 12 years of doing the shows, he never once saw the fame go to Letterman's head.

As he was telling me how he met Letterman while moonlighting for NBC's *Top Cops*, I almost got whiplash when three women walked out of the building followed by Letterman.

After he signed my ham, I confessed my love for the show and let him know that his show keeps me sane through college. He laughed and signed the ham.

My head was so big, I could have entered the Macy's parade.

Coming back to the reality of school and the rushed responsibilities was incredibly hard. But, all I have to do is sit back, cradle my ham in my arms and watch Letterman.

The big ham himself: Letterman presents Marks with the famous ham

Heaven on Earth

Corydon cafe a God-send for local artists

by Paul Cowie

Go past the Dark Zone, above and beyond the Green Earth, and you will discover - what else - Heaven.

With the opening last month of Heaven Art and Book Cafe, Corydon Avenue has added to its reputation for alternative browsing and carousing.

Tim Brandt, 38, has frequented the cozy coffeehouses in the area for year, and said he wanted to create a similar setting for Winnipeg's arts community.

"I just knew what I wanted to do and hoped there would be a good response." Brandt said. "There is."

He called the idea of a fully-integrated bookstore-cafe "a concept that's been spreading and growing in popularity," adding that he "wanted to be the first here in Winnipeg."

The Corydon cafe is popular with more than just the local crowd.

At a recent reading, well-known Saskatoon poet/playwright Anne Szumigalski said Heaven is "a wonderful place with a human atmosphere. It has the ideal size to speak to people."

For the committed, yearly memberships at Heaven cost $25. Membership includes a 15% discount on book purchases, as well as half-price admission to any paid events.

But those who are just curious, including Red River Community College students, are always welcome, he said.

Aspiring writers and painters take note: Heaven plans to showcase Winnipeg talent with a new exhibition each month. This will afford local artists who may find themselves squeezed out of the more established galleries the opportunity to display and sell original pieces or art.

For writers, besides stocking an eclectic collection of new and used works of literature, Heaven will host readings and book launches on a weekly basis.

"Interest is really growing for literary readings," said Brandt. "[They] seem to be becoming the in-thing again."

The art of polite conversation

by Michael Thibault

Hercule Poirot, I am not. But I can see the clues when they are there.

I noticed her in the library. She was reading the Arabian Love Manual, the one translated by Sir Richard Burton whose, in my opinion, best work was in Night of the Iguana.

And I was reading Yes I Can!, the wonderful and yet tragic tale of Sammy Davis Jr.

When our eyes met it was as if a Michael Bolton song was suddenly in the air. And actually, it was, because the library door was open and the sounds of CMOR were cascading in.

I approached her, cautiously, like a great white hunter moving ever closer to his prey. She froze in her tracks. I was downwind so that she couldn't smell me. Thusly, I leaped and landed in the seat beside her.

"Hello," I said, doing my best Kenneth Branagh.

"Hello," she said, with such cunning that I was instantly stunned by her wit.

"Don't I know you?" I asked, knowing bloody well that I didn't. My face was stone, but inside I was laughing hysterically at my pure genius.

"I don't think so," she parried coolly.

Well, well, well, what have we here, I asked myself. Can this lovely creature with the vermilion hair and the indigo eyes possibly be as intellectually derived as myself.

We'll just see about that, I thought. I confabulate with the best of them. So I threw her a curve ball when I know she was looking for a slider.

"Good book?" I ventured innocently.

"Yes," she responded without so much as the batting of the eye. And nary a heartbeat had tremored in my chest and she was on me like panther.

"And yours?" she asked as her eyes fell to my tome.

I felt the blood rush from my face. I momentarily had tunnel vision and was convinced that I was going to collapse. But, alas, I felt the words push my lips apart and crack the air.

"Yes. Good. Quite good."

(Love is not for the faint of heart, ladies and gentlemen. I implore you: do not try this at home.)

The ball was now in my court. I was unsure of whether to continue with this baseline rally, or throw some topspin on the ball and rush the net. I decided for the latter.

"Nice weather we're having," I deliberately didn't end the sentence with 'eh?' so that my inquisitive jab, would suddenly become a roundhouse statement, right to her jaw.

"You think so?" she petitioned.

Touche! This woman could counterpunch like Ali when he was Clay.

In all my conversations with the opposite gender I had never encountered one with such a tongue. It coiled around my cerebrum choking my acumen until it was dry.

But I had one last ace to play. It was a desperate attempt at prevailing in this repartee. I knew that there was no defence for her and that she would crumble like a house of cards at Portage and Main. But what could I do?

"Can I buy you a drink?" I whispered with a wink and a smile.

And as the absolute inanity of that question dawned on me, I watched her shake her head and turn back to her book, never again to speak with me.

I had lost. I had been vanquished. Quelled. I hung my head in capitulation and excepted my defeat.

Forever more, I shall not challenge the sharper sex to a duel of wit. Even Pushkin would have declined.

> "I had tunnel vision and was convinced that I was going to collapse."

photo by Jayson Kowal

■ A different kind of smoke break. Yes, another fire drill.

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Murphy leads by example

by Derek Dowsett

When the average person undergoes a heart transplant and barely survives a subsequent attack of pneumonia, common sense would suggest it's time to slow things down.

Apparently Cal Murphy is not your average person.

The coach and general manager of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers not only survived, but insisted on returning to the hectic lifestyle that may have put him in the hospital in the first place.

Ask Murphy if he ever considered surrendering one of his positions and it takes a full second for him to answer.

"No never," he said, leaning forward in his chair. "When I had the heart problem there was a misconception by too many people that because I had a transplant I was useless. That is absolutely wrong."

"There's a guy in Regina who was in the hospital with me and he works construction now. Another guy in Ottawa who also works full time. If they can do it, I can sure as hell run a football team."

Murphy doesn't only "run a football team", he lives for the football team. He bleeds blue and gold and simply will not stand for anything that is detrimental to the football club.

"You ask me why I got back into coaching," he said. "Well, it's simple. I was sick of all the garbage that was going on, it was time to go in and clean it up."

A long list of players have found out the hard way that challenging Murphy is a no-win situation.

Tyrone Jones, for example, was a dominating linebacker who began to think he was bigger than the team and could therefore get away with anything. He was wrong.

"Yeah, he was an outstanding football player," Murphy said. "But as the years went by he started getting away with way too much. His attitude was becoming unacceptable and he was hurting our reputation in the business community."

"When him and those other players came in here with those ridiculous demands," Murphy said, "I'd had enough. I made the decision then and there that he was gone."

Murphy is referring to the "mini-strike" in 1990 by a small group of players led by Jones and a few other Bombers. They refused to play unless they were given substantial bonuses and a better working environment.

Murphy listened to their arguments, issued a rather terse response and showed them the door. Two years later, all six had become ex-Bombers.

Murphy's long and successful career with the Bombers is a rarity in professional sport, especially in the Canadian Football League. The CFL seems to replace coaches and players faster than Madonna does boyfriends.

He has had opportunities to go elsewhere, including the National Football League, but has decided to remain in Winnipeg.

"I had a few chances to try the States," he said. "And let me tell you the money was quite a bit better. But my wife Joyce and I talked it over and we decided we liked Winnipeg. Besides, I've worked damn hard to get where I am, it just didn't make sense to throw it away and leave."

While the CFL's future is cloudy at best, Murphy still feels he made the right decision.

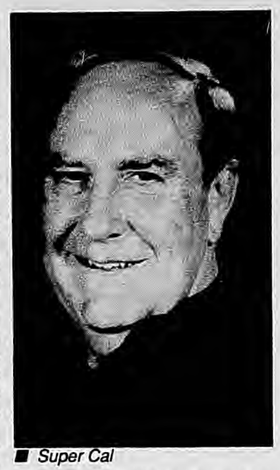
"First of all," he said, "there will always be professional football in Winnipeg, be it the CFL or whatever. Sure the league is a little shaky right now, but I like the new ownership we have. Plus, we even seem to be getting a handle on how we should expand."

Of course, Murphy has a few opinions concerning expansion. It's no secret he was against it at the beginning but he now seems to have warmed up to the idea.

"What they've finally realized is we have to expand regionally, create some rivalries and then we'll be okay," he said. "We also have to stabilize our schedules so we're not playing on a different night each week. That'll make it easier for fans to work us into their routines."

When he first became an assistant coach at Washington State Murphy never dreamed it would last this long.

"I didn't set out to become a general manager," he said. "I just tried to do the best job I could possibly do wherever I was. I really believe that's the key to succeeding in any line of work."



■ Super Cal

Spending about 90 hours a week on the job doesn't leave Murphy with much spare time, but he does try to relax by (and here's a surprise) watching other sports, especially college basketball.

After all he's accomplished, one has to wonder how much longer Murphy will put up with the pressure and long hours that goes with being the coach and general manager of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Having reached the very top of his profession, it's inspiring he still finds the motivation to continue to be successful.

"Hey this is what I do," he laughs. "I'm not saying I'm going to be here till I'm 90 or anything. Well, maybe 89, but definitely not 90."

Big George as champ and other sporting sundries

by Mike McIntyre

A few bits and pieces from the sporting world this week...

So big ol' George Foreman is the new heavyweight champion of the world. I guess all those self described experts who didn't give Foreman a chance are eating crow (that is, if Foreman hasn't eaten it all). And no matter what anyone might say, I think big George capturing the belt is the best thing to happen to boxing since Hollywood decided to stop making Rocky movies. Seriously, who better to promote a sport that has come under so much public scrutiny than a personality like George Foreman. He is exactly the tonic boxing needs, and I wish him all the best. Now if we can only find a way for Foreman to win Wimbledon. (Have you watched a tennis match lately? ZZZZZZZZ)

* * * * *

Did you hear about the pre-game brawl in Winkler last week between the Winkler Flyers and the St. James Canadians of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League? To recap, this was more than your everyday knuckle-duster. Several players were taken to hospital for various injuries, and I hear it took nearly half-an-hour to break up. Then, to top it all off, the game was canceled. And how did this mess get started, you ask? It seems that Winkler thought it would be funny if they stole St. James' net during the warm-up. When the Canadians came out for the pre-game skate and discovered their net was down in Winkler's territory, tempers flared and players began feasting on knuckle sandwiches. I just have two words for both teams - Grow Up! There's no place for incidents like that in hockey today. Not only were players hurt, but the reputation of the league was severely damaged.

* * * * *

Confused about who should be painted as the bad guys in the current labor strife plaguing the National Hockey League? I'll admit that when this whole thing first started, I was siding with the players. However, I have now changed my tune, and it's thanks to one man - Bob Goodenow. I mean, this guy is such a sourpuss, I hear he can bring a tear to a glass eye. And seriously, how is a resolution supposed to be reached when the only thing he'll listen to is the sound of his own voice? I say the lockout will be a long one, and until Goodenow makes some changes, we can get used to watching roller hockey instead of real hockey.

* * * * *

Turning to football, I'm proud to bring you my fearless predictions for the CFL playoffs, which got underway this past weekend. (Although this column was written prior to the playoffs beginning) I say that when the end of the month rolls around and it's Grey Cup time, people will be staring at an Edmonton - Winnipeg final. Why is that, you ask? Well, I just don't see Baltimore getting by the Bombers, especially with the game being played in the 'Peg. The Bombers have proven they can win when a lot is at stake and I see the East final as being no different. In the West, Calgary and Edmonton are the dominant teams, but I suspect Doug Flutie will catch some frostbite again this year and his Stamps will fall to the Eskies. That sets up a Grey Cup rematch of a year ago, but I think the result will be different this year. That's right, I'm picking the Bombers to win it all (Hey, call me a homer, but I think it'll happen).

* * * * *

And finally, I recently had the privilege of doing the play-by-play for a University of Manitoba Bisons football game on Shaw cable. The entire experience was a thrilling one for me, as it was my first real crack at sports casting, which is what I dream of doing for a living. However, enough about me. The real reason I'm mentioning this is because although calling the game was a treat, I was disappointed in one thing - the crowd. A quick head count pegged the crowd somewhere around 50. I was extremely shocked at the low turnout, given the conditions surrounding the game. It was a beautiful, sunny autumn day and the Bisons were playing their last game of the season. Running back Dominic Zagari also needed only 203 yards to smash a single season CIAU rushing record. The fans in attendance were treated to a tremendous outing by the Bisons and Zagari, as the team won 42 - 6 and Zagari eclipsed the record. Some advice to the general public - Next season, take the time out to catch a Bisons game. It's great football at a cheap price and it's a great way to support the local sports scene.

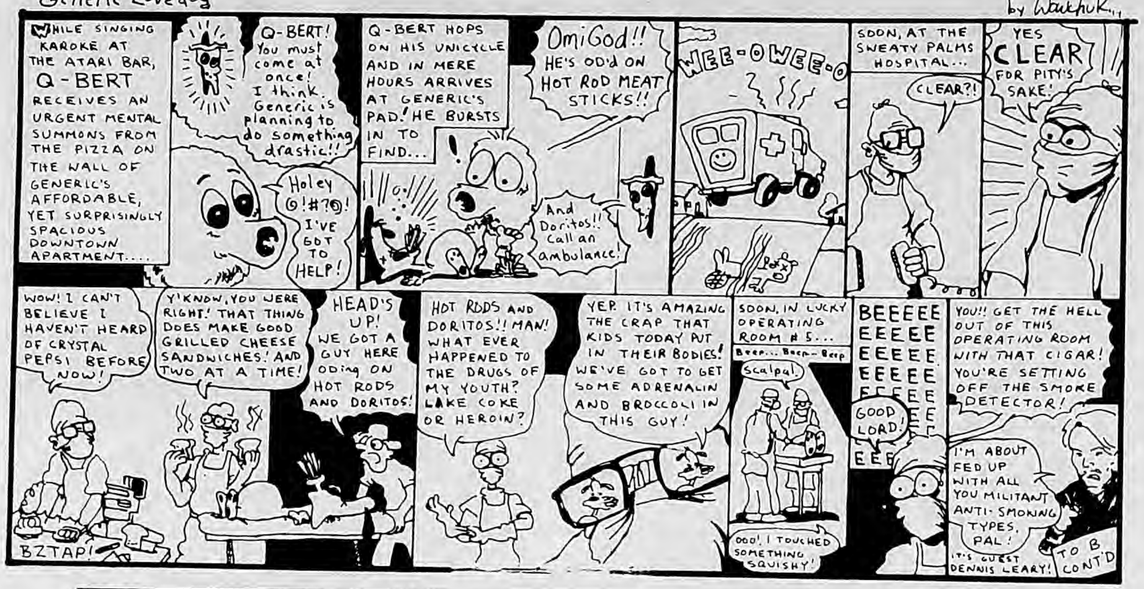
* * * * *

That's all for this week, folks. One last thing, though. If any of you have a question, comment or concern, feel free to drop me a letter. Just address it to me and drop it off at the Projector trailer.

Got a NEWS tip? Call: 632-2479

Generic Lovedog

by Wachuk



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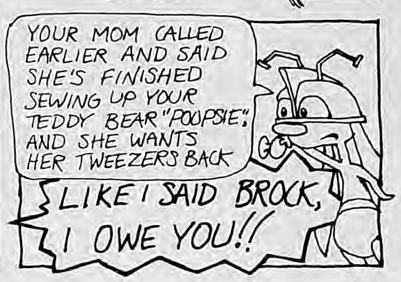
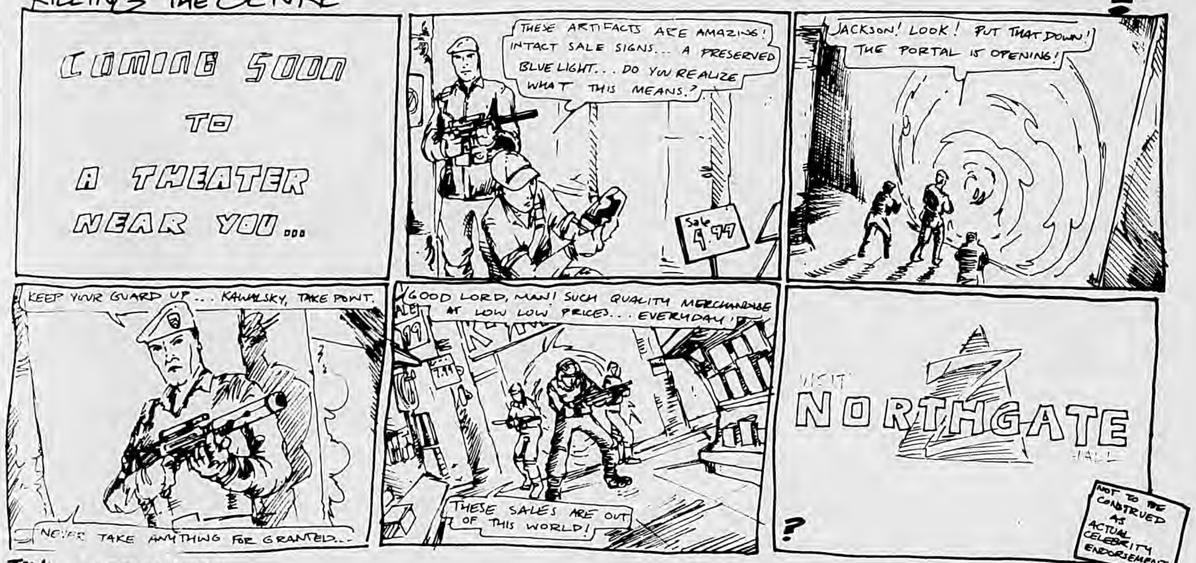
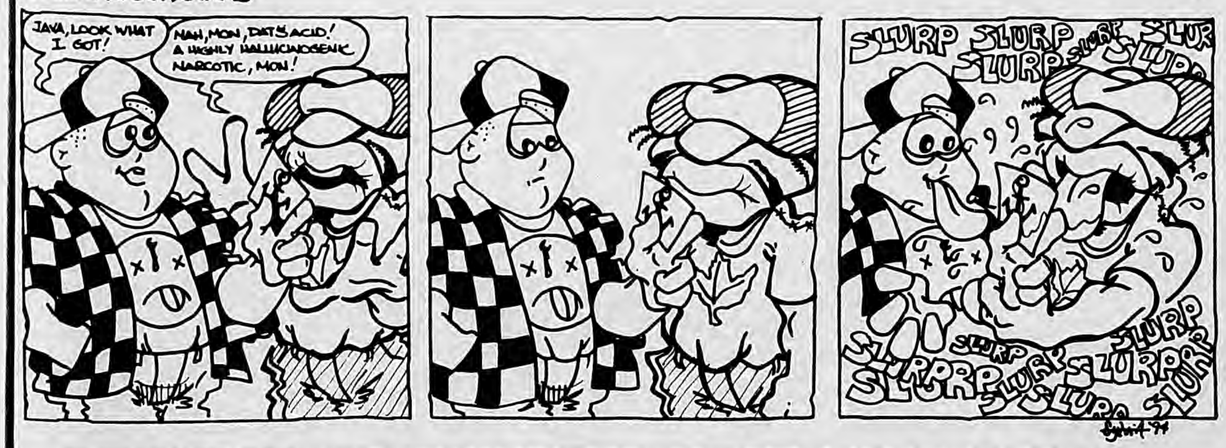


KILLING THE GENRE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