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the PROJECTOR

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the PROJECTOR

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Got Ink?

The next story meeting for the *Projector* is noon, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2004.

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News briefs

By The Projector news staff

SA Petition for Reading Week

The Student Association is launching a 'Bring Back the Break' petition in support of reading week. Because several programs have switched from a trimester system to a semester system, students have been left without a week off of classes. Instead of a full five-day break, this year students will only be receiving an extended weekend – a Friday and Monday off.

"Although there are advantages to this system, students become more stressed," says SA vice-president for the Princess Street campus, Craig Loewen. "School, finances, work, relationships, everything adds up."

A petition is circulating around the campus for students to sign.

Audit Committee Volunteers

The college is looking for 12 volunteers to assist in a Security Audit Committee walkabout at the Notre Dame campus during the month of December.

The Audit is reviewing all campus locations, in respect to personal safety issues, as well as asset security.

Students involved will be broken into teams of 3 or 4, as well as a team leader. All groups will be required to do a physical examination of the assigned site or building.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Grant Morrison gmorrison@rrc.mb.ca prior to Nov. 29 at 632-2323.

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Program Profile: International Business

BY NATHAN WILLOUGHBY

Among the many business-related programs offered at Red River College, one takes the world of business to another level.

The one-year international business advanced diploma program at RRC is designed to prepare students for the demands and challenges posed in an international marketplace.

Allan Green, an instructor in the program, says it offers many opportunities for students.

"Students take part in a wide range of networking events in which they meet top-level business people, government officials and politicians.

The program has a very real life feel, he says. He adds that although the program material is high-level and challenging, it's more practically based.

Green, before becoming a full-time instructor at RRC, taught at the college, while working with a Manitoban corporation as a marketing manager.

Applicants to the program should possess good communication skills, an interest in international events and sensitivity to cross-cultural relations. Previous business experience and/or education are also a requirement.

During the program's 12-month duration, students take part in a variety of things such as a summer practicum with an organization involved in global marketing.

Student Krystal Prokopiuk says she already has a job lined up with her summer employer who was impressed with her performance during the practicum.

In yearly surveys of Red River graduates, 25 out of the 29 graduates from the international business program during the last four years have found employment.

This translates into an 86 per cent employment rate for graduates of the program. Some jobs of international business grads include: marketing consultant, currency broker, air freight importer, international business manager and international inside sales representative.

"There's a big focus on cultural aspects and how they apply from a business perspective" says Prokopiuk.

"I'm really looking forward to graduation."

For more information on the international business program, brochures are available at the Notre Dame and Princess Street campuses, or log onto rrc.mb.ca.

Student nabs $1,500

Volunteering pays off

BY CHAD SMITH

Handshakes and high fives are in order for Red River College student Chad Audy who was one of the recent recipients of the Helen Betty Osborne Award.

Audy, a second-year automotive technician student, was presented with a $1,500 scholarship by Attorney General Gord Mackintosh during a two-hour ceremony at the Millenium Centre on Nov. 4.

Audy, 24, was one of nine Manitoba students who received a bursary in memory of Helen Betty Osborne. The bursary rewards students who enhance the community through volunteering and exhibit a dedication to his or her field of study.

"I was volunteering for 10 hours a month at my daughter's daycare," says Audy. "I was there to help whenever they needed something fixed."

Audy volunteered at the River Avenue Co-op Day Nursery Inc. at 175 Mayfair Ave. but had to put his services on hold so he could focus on his studies.

Audy is a graduate from the mechanics program at Technical Vocational high school, but decided to spend a few years in the work force before enrolling at RRC.

"I was going from job to job and after years of meaningless work I decided to focus on my career," says Audy.

Having completed a year of studies in the college's ACCESS integrated pretrades program, Audy is now working towards an automotive technician certificate.

"Chad works really hard, and his exams show that he is studying," says Art Turner, Audy's instructor.

"He has a good potential and if he puts his mind to it, he can go real far."

Audy plans to enter the workforce immediately after he graduates and work towards becoming a fully licenced journeyman mechanic.

"I want to work in a custom shop doing low to high-end work," says Audy. "I want to be involved in the total restoring of vehicles."

Marcy Richard, chair of the Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Foundation, says Audy was unique from the other recipients of this year's awards.

"Chad was the only student in a trade-based program," says Richard. "With today's labour market shortages, he'll never be out of a job."

Audy credits the inspiration of his two-year-old daughter Tina for his success, and says to excel in his studies, he has had to work hard and use his time wisely.

"The course is very condensed," says Audy. "I don't take spares or weekends for granted."

Engineers to host event

IEEE celebrates 40 years

BY MITCH CALVERT

Red River College's Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) student branch will be hosting their 40th anniversary celebration on Dec. 1. Many students, staff, alumni, and members of the engineering community will be attending.

The event will take place in the atrium of the RRC's Princess Street campus from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

> "When the branch was started, I don't think that any of us thought it would achieve the prominent role it has attained in local, national, and international circles."
>
> -BOB DUECK

Bob Dueck, IEEE student branch counselor at the Princess Street campus, believes the event will provide an excellent means of networking for students and industry representatives alike.

"IEEE provides ways for students to meet potential employers and future colleagues through industry tours and networking events, such as our 40th anniversary celebration this December," says Dueck.

The theme of the celebration will focus on the past, present, and future of the college's IEEE and will involve all guests.

Dave Kemp, the first RRC IEEE student chair, will be the guest of honour for the evening's festivities.

"It is a privilege to be the guest of honor for this anniversary event. The branch has demonstrated long-term sustainability and leads the way in many aspects."

Kemp is impressed with the success IEEE has achieved at the college and looks forward to future progress in the years to come.

"When the branch was started, I don't think that any of us thought it would achieve the prominent role it has attained in local, national, and international circles."

Dueck thanks the college for their commitment to the IEEE.

"RRC has always been supportive of IEEE," Dueck said. "There has been recognition on the part of the college that it is important for students to actively participate in professional societies."

The IEEE is a non-profit technical organization with 380,000 members across the world. RRC's student branch, established in 1964, has been a long supporting member of events and scholarships for students in the electrical, electronics, and technology related fields.

They provide mentoring for students by taking them on technical tours, loaning them equipment and supplies, and preparing them for success in school as well as their future careers.

Universities need help: survey

BY ROBERT KOTYK
CUP CENTRAL BUREAU CHIEF

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- Manitoba's universities once again failed to do as well as most other Canadian institutions in the annual Maclean's survey, but the results may be a symptom of a larger problem facing post-secondary education in Canada, one of the magazine's editors says. The University of Manitoba placed 15th out of 15 in the medical-doctoral category, with the University of Winnipeg dropping one position in the primarily undergraduate category to 11th out of 21 schools.

Brandon University faired a little better, moving up two positions to 14th among undergraduate institutions.

For the past 13 years, Maclean's has been rating Canadian universities under a variety of categories such as class size and the average entering grade for first-year students.

Ann Dowsett Johnston, the editor behind the survey, said students disappointed with the results for Manitoba's schools should question whether their institution is receiving the kind of support it needs.

"We're looking at record-low per-student funding in this country and record-high demand on the part of students," she said. "We're talking about public funding to publicly funded institutions."

Since its inception, the ranking issue quickly became the publication's most popular, prompting criticism from some university officials who say the rankings oversimplify the diverse range of needs most universities must meet.

John Danakas, spokesperson for the University of Manitoba, said the school's consistently lacklustre ranking is frustrating because, as the only medical-doctoral institution in the province, the university has to admit students with lower averages to be as accessible as possible.

"Schools that don't even allow students who have less than a 75 per cent average in are rewarded and are ranked more highly than universities like ours that have more of an open-door policy (and) believe in offering opportunity to those who can succeed." Danakas also said most readers of the issue look at the overall rankings and do not examine the results closely. He pointed to the "value-added" category, in which the University of Manitoba ranks 12th overall.

"They report (the value-added result), but it has no weight in their ranking," he said. "If that had weight, we would outperform every other university in our category and probably every other university in western Canada."

He added: "It is of concern that the local media just kind of jump on something that's being spoon-fed by a competing media outlet."

Dowsett Johnston agreed she was disappointed with the way the Winnipeg Free Press reported the results of the survey -- with the headline Manitoba Universities Flunk.

"That headline was devastating," she said. "I think people tend to treat it like the swimsuit issue or Fortune 500 . . . and I'm the first to say that I too find that disappointing."

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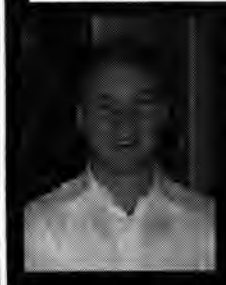

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Up & Coming Events for

Nov 27– MOOSE GAME
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Dec 2– X-Mas Kegger @ Notre Dame 3-7 in the Cave

Are you interested in **Snowboarding or Skiing** keep your eyes and ears open or drop in @ DM20 or P110 for more info

To find more out about the SA events, Join the SA Events Email List. Email saevents@rrc.mb.ca with "add me to the list" in the subject

Check out the Students' Association web site www.rrcsa.com

Message From Your SA

We are excited to announce the opening of the new quit study lounge. We invite all of you to use the lounge in hallway "E" at the Notre Dame campus. The space is the perfect place to study, meet with groups and eat your lunch. Also, wish us luck as we are in Ottawa lobbying the Federal Government on PSE (Post Secondary education) issues.

The SA executive is currently working on important issues such as Teacher Evaluations, Semester System break, Safety issues, Town Hall Class Rep System, Social Events and the next phases of our building projects.

We wish you all the best in your studies! Please come by and visit us anytime at DM20 for Notre Dame or P110 for the Princess Street campus.

Sincerely,

Your Students' Association:

Ryan Mariani
Shauna Grant
Becky Turner
Craig lowen

New Club

Who we r:
African Caribbean SA
What we Represent:
Unity and Education on both Campuses while having fun doing it.
What we would like to do
Social, Fundraising events maybe even Excursions

Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday November 30th @ 4:30pm in the Multipurpose room @ the Princess Street Campus

Contact info: President **Natalie**—229-9554 or niexotic@hotmail.com
Vice President **Yorick** 880-0536 or yparke@hotmail.com

BRING BACK THE BREAK

PETITION

READING WEEK HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM ALL STUDENTS IN THE SEMESTER SYSTEM

-1 IN 12 COLLEGE STUDENTS MAKE A SUICIDE PLAN, SUICIDE IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS
-READING WEEK PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH VALUABLE TIME TO DE– STRESS AND TO CATCH UP ON THEIR HOMEWORK, AND LIVES

Visit the SA Office at both campuses or contact your class rep to sign the petition to

Bring Back the Break

Attention Food Bank Recipients !!
Holiday Hampers Available
Wednesday, December 15th
Food Bank Trailer/ Notre Dame Campus
Pick– up between 1:00 and 4:00
If you need help this year please register for your **Holiday Hamper by December 10th**
Registration forms available @ the Students Associations offices DM20 or P110

Safe Walk

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Contact Campus Security at 949-8305

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Safe Walk Phones or call 632-2323

Operation Red Nose lights up for '04

BY LESLIE WILLIAMSON

The 2004 Operation Red Nose campaign is kicking off for another season, and this year Red River College is involved for the first time.

Operation Red Nose is a volunteer program dedicated to the fight against drinking and driving over the holiday season.

Suzanne Wray, Operation Red Nose coordinator for Winnipeg, says it is important that people know there is an alternative to drinking and driving.

"One death from drinking and driving is too many, and Operation Red Nose wants to do its part to prevent that situation," she says.

The program is sponsored by Manitoba Public Insurance, and hosted by Manta Swim Club in Winnipeg.

A motorist can call Operation Red Nose, and three volunteers will drive the individual and vehicle to their destination. This service is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. In Winnipeg, donations are directed to the Manta Swim Club.

> "The Students' Association decided to participate in Operation Red Nose because it's a great cause. It promotes safety and discourages drinking and driving"
>
> -RYAN MARIANI

The Students' Association is organizing four teams to drive on Dec. 2. Each team is to be made up of three people, either SA members or student volunteers, and led by an executive of the SA.

"The Student Association decided to participate in Operation Red Nose because it's a great cause. It promotes safety and discourages drinking and driving," says Ryan Mariani, president of the SA. "It is an opportunity to work with the community and provide a helping hand over the holidays."

Over the past nine years, hundreds of volunteers have safely provided almost 11,500 rides.

"Year after year many volunteers return to participate in the campaign as a way of giving back to the community," says Wray.

"Clients sign up to volunteer a few nights later as they realize what a great service it is and they want to show their appreciation."

Operation Red Nose was the brainchild of Dr. Jean-Marie De Koninck, coach of the Laval University's swim team. It began in 1984 to grant scholarships to prime swimmers. There are now more than 90 host organizations across Canada, and others in France and Switzerland.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, contact the SA at the Notre Dame or Princess Street campuses. You can also call 957-5071, or e-mail rednose1@mts.net.

Refugee recounts past

BY DAVID NEUFELD

From first impression of Anthony Gwidio, you would never guess, with his broad smile and vigorous handshake, that this Sudanese refugee and former child soldier has nothing less than a heartbreaking past.

On Nov. 12, the 26-year-old gave students at Red River College an inspiring lecture on his life in war-torn Sudan and the process of making it to Canada to start a new life.

At the age of eight, Gwidio was taken from his home and placed in the front lines for the Sudan People's Liberation Army, a rebel group that was backed by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

"Children make better soldiers because it is easier to desensitize them," he said.

According to Gwidio, the commanders would give the child soldiers confidence by telling them that they were the better fighters, the leaders of tomorrow and they would own the country.

> "Instead of going to school, we ended up as soldiers."
>
> -ANTHONY GWIDIO

"Instead of going to school, we ended up as soldiers."

Like thousands of other child soldiers, Gwidio had to fight his way to a high school education. He learned to speak English while attending a Roman Catholic high school.

Gwidio, as well as many other child soldiers, fled to Kenya to avoid the rebel leaders who were following them. There, they only had food for survival.

"It was better than nothing. Better than the army," said Gwidio.

He applied in 1995 to the United Nations to come to Canada. Four years later, he was able to meet with a Canadian immigration lawyer, and came to Canada as a refugee in 1999.

Gwidio says he has not seen a member of his family since 1986, nor has he returned to Sudan since his arrival.

Although he feels fortunate to be in Canada now, Gwidio has not forgotten the issues that still exist in Sudan. He played a newscast from the British Broadcasting Corporation, taped just days earlier, where Sudanese refugees were attacked by local police."I feel sorry sometimes to hear of what's happening there."

Magazine hosts annual benefit

BY KEVIN RANVILLE

Jack Layton, the New Democratic Party leader of Canada, spoke in Winnipeg on Nov. 13, discussing proportional representation and tuition fees at Canadian Dimension magazine's annual benefit.

Canadian Dimension magazine is a national, Winnipeg-based publication dedicated to debating a broad range of political and social issues of interest to the political left. It is Canada's longest running independent national magazine, at 42 years of age.

Layton also said he wants to see the NDP invest in post-secondary education.

"The New Democratic Party of Canada wants to see federal investment in post-secondary education to bring down tuition fees and reduce student debt."

He says turning the national debt over to the shoulders of students is immoral.

"It's wrong, and it's bad economics," he says.

University of Winnipeg political science student Jonathan Tan was the first to applaud when Layton touched on proportional representation.

> "I'm nervous about the future, but I'm slightly less nervous now that I've heard what Jack had to say"
>
> -TIM HOVER

"I think electoral reform is long overdue," said Tan, who was among 200 people in the audience.

Proportional representation is an electoral system where seats in Parliament are divided up according to each party's share of the popular vote. Currently parliamentary seats are filled in a first-past-the-post system: whoever wins the most votes in each riding wins that riding's seat. It's a system which Layton claims is unfair and undemocratic.

"I'm nervous about the future, but I'm slightly less nervous now that I've heard what Jack had to say," said Tim Hover, a University of Manitoba engineering student.

Marion Yeo, a local feminist and long-time activist, received the magazine's first Person Who Changed the World award. Yeo said it's a greater honour to her than winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

"No single person changes the world," Yeo said. "It's gotta be a group. It's gotta be a movement."

Diversity and Citizenship Quiz: Questions

[Look further into the Projector for the answers]

What do you know about Canada and immigration?

Canada is a country of multiple peoples, and our population only continues to grow and diversify. The immigrant story - the age-old tale of traveling to a distant land for a better life is an integral part of this country's history. But it's far from being stuck in the past. Indeed, many say the future of Manitoba depends on increases in immigration. And this belief has spurred the province's plan to increase economic growth in Manitoba through doubling immigration levels.

So what do you know about the immigrant experience?

Immigration Quiz

1. What are the top five source countries of immigrants to Canada? (1996 – 2000).
2. What about the top five before 1981?
3. What is the percentage of immigrants that can conduct a conversation in either English or French?
4. What is the average household income of recent immigrants?
5. What is a refugee?
6. How many people become citizens every year?

Test your Citizenship

In order to become a Canadian citizen, immigrants between the ages of 18 and 59 must pass a citizenship test. Recent polls show that most Canadians have a limited knowledge of their country and its history. Here are a few sample questions asked on the Canadian Citizenship Test.

How many can you answer?

7. Who were the United Empire Loyalists?
8. What does Confederation mean?
9. What are the three main groups of Aboriginal peoples?
10. From whom are the Métis descended?
11. What part of the Constitution legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of all Canadians?
12. Which province is the only officially bilingual province?
13. Name the five regions of Canada.

SOURCES:
1996 Census Facts and Figures 2001: Immigration Overview
Citizenship & Immigration Website: cbc.ca

Diversity & Immigrant Student Support

For more info call: 632-2404
Diversity & Immigrant Student Support
D105 - 2055 Notre Dame Avenue
E-mail: lmphillips@rrc.mb.ca
www.rrc.mb.ca/cid

See page 15 for the answers

Stop stressing, start shopping early

BY DARREN RIDGLEY

Holidays are just around the corner. It's time to get shopping, which can be a stressful thing. If you want to avoid the holiday rush, there are a few steps you can take to make getting gifts a breeze.

Since last year, "traffic increases by about 20 per cent to 25 per cent in November and 55 per cent to 60 per cent in December over the average monthly traffic the rest of the year," says Sandra Hagenaars, director of marketing for Polo Park Shopping Centre.

Hagenaars recommends Christmas shopping in November to beat the rush.

"Crowds are smaller, inventory is still fresh and you beat the deadlines from mailing packages to out-of-town recipients. Extended shopping hours generally start in malls mid-month giving you extra time to shop," says Hagenaars.

> "What shopping? We're students! We're broke!"
> -BRIAN WHITMORE

If you start in December, prepare yourself for the crowd.

"Come knowing that there will be lines, because things will be very busy," says Erin Ashdown, a customer service representative at St. Vital Centre. "And try not to yell at the staff."

Hanagaars says taking the extra time to look for that special gift often pays off.

"Gifts don't have to be expensive to be special. Just ask anyone who participates in a gift pool with a spending limit. A scarf or fashion accessory that gives an existing suit, dress or coat new life can be like getting a new suit, dress or coat," she says.

Patti Page, marketing director of St. Vital Centre, says if you can't get a hold of the perfect gift, there are always alternatives like as gift certificates, which are good at all stores in the mall.

"Sometimes people don't like to give gift certificates but ask anyone -they're great to receive. Gift certificates are great for everyone but especially teenagers who like to pick out their own gifts and take advantage of all the sales after Christmas."

But students like Shelley Stewart are looking at different alternatives for Christmas.

"I'm just baking over the Christmas break," says Stewart, a computer analyst programming student at Red River College.

"What shopping? We're students! We're broke!"

Can you survive Buy Nothing Day?

BY LORI EBBITT

It's a day to break free of the shackles that our consumer-driven society has placed around our wrists, or wallets if you will.

Buy Nothing Day, approaching on Nov. 26, is an initiative started by Adbusters Media Foundation.

"It is a yearly event that takes place the day after (the American) Thanksgiving, which is the busiest shopping day in America," says Melissa Bennett, a co-coordinator for the University of Winnipeg's Ecological Males And Females In Action (EcoMAFIA).

Co-operator of Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Eton Harris, says the point of Buy Nothing Day is to "give people options that are outside the traditional capitalist goods and economics."

The EcoMAFIA is holding skills shares workshops the week of Buy Nothing Day, which are for students who have a skill and are willing to share it with others. On Nov. 24, they will hold a 'Stuff Swap', which allows people to bring in unwanted items, and trade them for others.

"You don't even have to bring anything. You can show up, pick up a pair of jeans that you like and be on your way; keeping in mind that maybe next month you'll have something you can donate. That way it's always perpetuated by other people's good will," says Bennett.

Last year the group went to a shopping mall, hiding informative flyers about Buy Nothing Day, in clothing and items from other stores.

"Our finale was a big tug-of-war in the middle of the food court. Half of us were dressed like corporate business people and the other half were just dressed like normal...each side had slogans to yell," says Bennett.

Bennett says Buy Nothing Day is about thinking responsibly about buying and using alternatives where they are available. The group even drinks fair trade coffee.

"Buy Nothing Day is definitely a way of promoting things like fair trade," says Bennett.

Harris says all of Mondragon's coffee is fair trade. They also buy mostly fair trade teas, and even cocoa when it's available to them.

"Fair trade is as opposed to free trade, we try to buy goods that are produced under fair trade, which is making sure that workers are getting the proper amount for what they're producing," says Harris.

The Mondragon does not close on Buy Nothing Day, and Harris says he doesn't usually participate in the cause.

"A day where I don't spend any money is not too uncommon. I don't need to celebrate this particular day, but maybe this year I will," says Harris.

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OF APPLIED ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

December 2004
Convocation Ceremony

Wednesday, December 8, 2004
7:30 p.m. – North Gymnasium, Notre Dame Campus

If you have not received your Convocation information package in the mail, including your gown order form, by November 12th, contact one of the Student Service Centres (Notre Dame Campus, D101 or Princess Street Campus, P104)

Convocation attire must be worn at the ceremony.

Winter blues: a serious concern

BY DAN GERVAIS

The weather's getting colder and the days are getting shorter. For people with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), the changing of seasons doesn't just mean having to wear a warmer coat; it has a direct affect on their day-to-day lives.

"SAD is a form of depression that is directly related to the amount of sunlight you're exposed to," says Bev Trachuk, executive director of the Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba. "When you don't get enough sunlight, that's when depression sets in."

Most people get the winter blues, but for people with (SAD), the blues are much more intense and can take over their lives.

SAD comes and goes like the seasons. It is strongest during the fall and winter, when there is less sunlight, but can occur any time during the year. This year has been an especially bad one because of the horrible summer weather Winnipeg received. Bev Trachuk, who also suffers with SAD, recommends getting out in the sun to get rid of the winter blahs.

"Even in January, people should go out for a walk," says Bev Trachuk. "It makes a difference in the day of a sufferer."

Symptoms of SAD include low energy, fatigue, irritability, disrupted sleep patterns, and anti-social behaviour. The best treatment for SAD is light-exposure, either from outside light, or from light therapy lamps, which have high-intensity bulbs (10 to 20 times brighter than regular bulbs) and look like an ordinary study lamp.

"Some people use the lamp for 20-30 minutes every morning and this helps them get through the day," says Bev Trachuk. The lamp simulates daylight, at a level equal to a clear spring day. It's like a morning cup of coffee for sufferers of SAD. In more severe cases, sufferers can also take anti-depressants along with the use of a lamp.

MDA rents out lamps, at a rate of $5 for two weeks. Because of the bad summer weather, this year has been busier for rentals. Already, they have 19 people on a waiting list to get lamps.

PHOTO | DAN GERVAIS

Sufferers of SAD often say they feel like they're not fully awake. They want to sleep all day and are anti-social. There is a scientific explanation for this. While sleeping, the pineal gland produces melatonin, which causes drowsiness. In the morning, once eyes open to receive light, the body stops producing melatonin and can now function normally. For people with SAD, lack of sunlight during the winter stops their body from completely waking up.

"Having SAD is like having a cloud of depression over you. You're in a bad mood all the time," says a Red River College student, who asked to remain anonymous. To help cope with SAD, this student goes tanning to get an instant dose of sunshine. "I'll go tanning for ten minutes every week or two. After I tan, I feel great for a few days, but it's just temporary."

According to the Mood Disorders Association, most cases of SAD are diagnosed in northern regions, because SAD is directly related to the exposure to light. Someone in the southern United States is less likely to get it than someone in Churchill. Ideally, all sufferers of SAD would benefit from living in a warmer climate.

"My doctor suggested I move down to Arizona," says Bev Trachuk, "but he wouldn't write me a prescription for that."

The best way to fight the effects of SAD is by getting as much exposure to the sun as possible. Exercise is a good way to fight depression, because it relieves stress and builds energy. Another suggestion is to spend time outdoors or in well-lit areas. These efforts will have a direct effect on an SAD sufferer's mood.

According to the Mood Disorders Association, two to three per cent of Canadians have SAD. Women are slightly more likely to suffer from SAD than men. Although you can suffer from SAD at any age, the average age of sufferers is 30-50.

Charity fights AIDS

BY BARRET COATES

UNICEF Canada has launched 'Don't Just Sit There', a campaign urging Canadian students to make a difference in the life of a child affected by HIV/AIDS.

UNICEF regional director Evelyne Guindon is very enthusiastic about this campaign and hopes it is just as successful as previous years.

"We anticipate that this year will be much bigger than last year. The number of children orphaned around the world because of AIDS is growing and the need for help is growing as well," says Guindon.

According to UNICEF Canada, the leading cause of death in sub-saharan Africa is HIV/AIDS. One in 10 people between the ages of 15 and 49 are HIV positive.

In 2003, there were an estimated 14 million children orphaned by the AIDS virus. The disease takes their parents and caregivers, leaving them alone to raise their siblings. This often leads to abusive child labour and child prostitution which further spreads the disease.

UNICEF is asking students to organize a 'Don't Just Sit There' fundraising event in their own school, university, or college. They say it can also be easily tied into existing events within the school. UNICEF is willing to provide campaign kits to help organize the event. They will also train people who are willing to act as speakers to educate and inform other students in Winnipeg.

All money raised will dramatically help children affected by the AIDS virus. One hundred dollars is enough to cover the tuition payments for 30 children for one year in Ethiopia.

To encourage participation, UNICEF is offering three separate scholarships to Canadian students.

Last year this same campaign gave way to events in over 150 schools across the country.

This epidemic is also affecting millions of people in North America and other high income countries.

Currently, 1.6 million people are living positively infected with the virus in first world countries. Fortunately, this number is much lower than it could be, thanks to advances in anti-retroviral drugs.

However, our advanced medical technology has made many people under-estimate the risk of sexually transmitted diseases. They view HIV/AIDS as a treatable disease and are not taking adequate precautions. Because of this, the number of infections is on the rise again.

At the end of 2003, about 20,000 cases of HIV/AIDS had been reported in Canada.

Any student willing to donate can find more information on the campaign's website at giveitup4kids.com or by phoning the UNICEF Prairie region office at 477-4600.

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Tuesday, December 7th

Canadian Blood Services will be hosting a Blood Donor Clinic for Red River College staff and students. Take the Lifebus Shuttle to and from Canadian Blood Services or drive yourself. They are located at 777 William Ave. Pick up times and locations below.

Notre Dame Campus	Princess St. Campus
2:00pm	2:30pm
3:30pm	4:00pm
At the Bus Loop	North Atrium Entrance on Elgin Ave.

Drop by the Student Association Office to reserve your seat! You can also call 1-888-to-donate (1-888-236-6283) to make an appointment or to get more information on donating.

Please eat before donating.
Bring I.D. bearing full name & signature or photo.

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Editorial: Time to grow up

BY MIKE UHRICH

After visiting the Burton Cummings Theatre on Nov. 11 for The Tea Party concert, one thing became very clear to me, besides the fact that Out of Your Mouth is the worst thing to come out of Canada since Sandy McTire, the dorky looking Scotsman featured on the Canadian Tire money.

People have too many negative things to say about the United States of America and more importantly, their President George W. Bush.

After watching bands make anti-Bush statements, I thought to myself, why is that necessary? Is it because we live in an age where disrespecting the government is cool? Or is it the fact that it's cool to hate America in general? As Canadians I think we all need to take a look in the mirror and ask ourselves these questions. In my opinion, I don't think we should be constantly walking all over our sister to the south and certainly the slightest mention of the country by name shouldn't cause everyone to erupt into a chorus of boos.

We seem to hate America for their bully-like presence in the world. The fact that they take action first and ask questions later. We hate them for not being able to understand the Middle East, for commercializing the world, and for slowly taking away hockey - Canada's national game.

As Canadians we listened to celebrities and musicians who were telling Americans to 'Rock the Vote', 'Vote for Change', or 'Vote or Die.' Anyway you look at it Canadians felt the run-off of the election propaganda. What's funny is that Americans didn't seem to buy into the hype as much as we did. In fact one of the saddest displays I witnessed all year was seeing Fahrenheit 9/11 receive a huge ovation from the audience as the credits rolled. The drones in the audience ate up Moore's rhetoric in giant spoonfuls without taking the time to think things out for themselves. It was a sad day for independent thought.

People need to have an open mind, and not just rely on evidence brought to them by the big, fat ogre who dominated the box office this summer (and I'm not talking about Shrek). We need to understand what America is doing in the world. It's hard to be the top dog, while constantly taking criticism from all directions for every decision that they make. And it's very easy for Canadians to make criticisms and judgments on those decisions.

I just think that we all need to come together and try to get along. America is our strongest ally in the world, and more importantly they are our closest friend. You shouldn't treat your friend the way we treat the States. We all learned that in freaking pre-school—or kindergarten for the late bloomers. If you've got something educated and productive to say, then go ahead, but if not you should grow up, and stop acting four or you can feel free to go back to pre-school and learn how to be a good friend and neighbor.

Poutine Fever Hits USA

BY JACK SANTUCCI
THE MCGILL DAILY
(MCGILL UNIVERSITY)

MONTRÉAL (CUP) -- I'll take one poutine, please -- but leave out the curds.

The greasy staple of Montréal burger joints is becoming a favourite among junk-food lovers south of the border, but Americans have replaced the classic topping with more mainstream cheeses.

The aversion to curds has deep historical roots. In fact, American poutine may have evolved separately from Québec poutine.

For example, the Athenian Diner in New Haven, Connecticut, has served French fries with gravy and cheese since opening 50 years ago.

Owner John Baoutis, who had never heard the term "poutine," has no plans to offer cheddar curds. Most customers prefer American or processed cheese, and dissenters can choose among cheddar singles, Swiss and mozzarella.

"I have cheddar cheese -- regular, sliced, processed," he said.

But Canadian-born David Sunstrom, an economics student at McGill University, was not impressed with the new version of the classic Québécois dish.

"That's disgusting. This is a disgrace to poutine. . . . It seems typically American to put Kraft singles on poutine."

The Shannon Pub in Buffalo, New York, added poutine to its menu a few weeks ago and now sells 40 to 50 orders per week at $3.75 US each. But, like the Athenian Diner, the pub uses shredded mozzarella instead of cheddar cheese curds.

"You start talking about curds and whey, and they stay away," said owner Kevin Cownsell. "We were force-fed them with lima beans as kids."

Curd-less poutine has a Montréal following, too. Nick Grigoropulos, owner of the city's Mamma's Restaurant, has prepared the dish with shredded mozzarella for 40 years, jealously guarding the recipe of its sauce. The kitchen only introduced cheese curds in recent years following special requests from customers.

Mamma's still sells about 75 per cent of its poutines with mozzarella. "It's more popular with out-of-towners, particularly from Ontario and the U.S.," he said.

For Grigoropulos, the debate over cheese is moot.

"A lot of Quebeckers will argue that, without cheese curds, it's not a real poutine. Fries are fries, and cheese is cheese. What brings them together is the sauce," he said.

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Peter Vidmar
Two-time Olympic Gold and Silver medalist 1984, Gymnastics

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The art of getting jumped

BY JARRETT STOREY

I became a statistic on Nov.1. At 7:30 p.m., on the 300 block of Ellen Street, on the way into the Red River College Princess Street campus, my friend and I were jumped.

On the walk in, we stopped to smoke a cigarette,and enjoy the last of the half-decent, pre-snow weather. Through the parking lot came the sound of approaching footsteps.

Two young men, in their late-teens, clad in matching black clothes and white bandanas, approached us. They proved coordinated in more ways than wardrobe alone; the duo

came closer, separated, and circled us, landing them in a flanking position. It was a textbook, strategic military-type maneuver, but these were no boy scouts.

I didn't get any names, given the gravity of the situation but I managed to get a quote from one of the young men, once he was close enough. He repeated it a handful of times: "What's up, [expletive]?"

Good question.

At this point it became apparent that one of the young men had what is commonly referred to as an "eight ball." For the uninitiated, an "eight ball" is a weapon made by putting a pool ball inside a sock. It's sort of like the modern ghetto answer to the maces of yore.

The other youngster was less creative, though, opting for a more pedestrian choice: a knife! A knife in a fistfight is even more dangerous, and probably better than an eight ball if you don't feel like making anything.

The tandem was so close to us that we could see their faces clearly; fearless eyes, bad post-pubescent moustaches.

I did the first thing that came to mind.

As the foul-mouthed youth whipped the sock around, getting ready to start the eight ball beat down, I threw my binder in his face. Just like that. I don't know why, it just seemed like the right thing to do at the time.

The eight-ball wielding youth bent snatched my binder from the ground, and the two turned on their heels and took off down the back-alley.

I maintain that the binder-throwing incident probably scared them off.

I lost the binder, and everything in it; class notes, essays and papers, twelve pounds of schoolwork, some burned CDs that only work sometimes, a pair of beat up headphones.

We walked in to make our report at the Public Safety Building, which is conveniently located a couple of blocks away from the scene. After giving one of the two officers at the desk the condensed version of events, he let me know that it would be "hours" before anyone would come down and take my statement.

He explained that if I wanted to leave, I could just "call it in" later, as he wrote a phone number down on a very professional looking scrap of loose-leaf. By calling it in, I could tell the dispatcher not to send anyone to my place after a certain hour, and that I may just be able to get them to come take my statement the next day. On the way out of the building, the officer called after us: "Make sure you call it in!"

I said that I would.

So listen; be careful out there. Also, if you happen see a blue binder lying around outside around the campus, maybe on the boulevard, or in a dumpster somewhere or something, just don't tell me.

I like to think somebody is at least enjoying my records, maybe reading an essay or two. I guess I can take some comfort in the fact that I probably did the right thing by giving up my stuff.

Being one of the many jumped on the streets of Winnipeg is still a hell of a lot better than being homicide number 31.

If you experience a similar incident, contact campus security and the Winnipeg Police Service to file a report.

Back to Bakx

BY KYLE BAKX

Let's say Mary starts working at a video store for $7 an hour, the minimum wage. She busts her ass working there while attending college and after several months gets a raise to $7.25. She has worked harder than her fellow employees and deserved the raise.

The government then comes along and raises the minimum wage to $7.25. All of Mary's hard work has been wasted because her boss might not increase her wage because the minimum wage has gone up, and the boss now is forced to pay all the workers more money.

An increase in the minimum wage in Manitoba affects both business owners and people working for minimum wage. The people who should be most concerned should be the workers that receive just over the minimum wage, like Mary.

The government gets input from Manitobans and as a result, for the last four years the NDP government has increased the minimum wage by 25 cents an hour every year.

Currently, the minimum wage is $7 per hour in Manitoba, which is around the average of all the provinces in Canada, with British Columbia having the highest at $8 and Alberta with the lowest at $5.90.

Those in favour of an increase in the minimum wage are mainly those workers who receive minimum wage, including many students. Can people survive on the minimum wage?

Well, that can be disputed based on how many hours people work, the type of lifestyles and the situations in which these people live.

Would an increase help minimum wage workers make a living? Definitely. People struggling to make ends meet could use the extra cash and some students could spend more time concentrating on school work rather than being on the job.

Some companies want the minimum wage to drop to decrease labour expenses. Obviously among these companies, businesses paying their employees minimum wage are affected the most. These companies, both big and small, could see significant changes with their finances and it could determine if some companies end up in the red or black.

Small business with minimum wage workers could use a decrease in the minimum wage. Not only do some small businesses have to struggle to begin operating, but they also have to compete with massive low-price retail stores, which seem to continue to pop-up across Winnipeg and in other cities in Manitoba.

Once again, the provincial government is consulting the public about the minimum wage and once again it will be a dogfight between minimum wage workers and business owners.

Speak Out!

By Jillian Brown

Manitoba's minimum wage is $7.00/hr. and the provincial government is considering increasing it 25 cents in April 2005.

The *Projector* asks: "Does Manitoba's minimum wage need to be increased?"

Joseph C. Torchia
Commerce industry sales and marketing
"I think minimum wage is fine where it's at. If we increase the wage, the cost of living goes up. Alberta is at $5.90 and we are at $7.00. I think it's more than enough here in Manitoba."

Tammy Schmidt
Computer accounting technician
"There are a lot of people out there who work while going to school. An increase in minimum wage could help pay for school. I think it's a good thing."

Taryn Foreman
Business administration
"I remember when I first started working the minimum wage was $4.75. I think $7.00 is fine and people shouldn't complain too much about it."

Ward Marteinsson
Outdoor power equipment technician
"I make $7.50. My boss would increase my wages however much the minimum wage went up. This is a good thing because I get more money."

Gabriel Sabourin
Electrical engineering
"I truly believe it would be better. I have two daughters myself and they work hard but they don't have enough cash coming in."

Marlise Friesen
Joint nursing program
"I'm a server so minimum wage doesn't really matter to me because I make tips."

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WAG targets youth

BY ELIZABETH HOLMSTROM

Having been around since 1912, the Winnipeg Art Gallery could be seen as old. However, age hasn't stopped it from trying to attract young people. Although some might find it intimidating, WAG offers students more than they think—for less money than they think.

Entrance rates for students are extremely affordable, says Crystal Hiebert, WAG's media and public relations co-ordinator. For only $4 and a valid student ID, students can enjoy all of the gallery's exhibits.

For those visiting the gallery on a regular basis, WAG offers a yearly student membership for $30, offering unlimited gallery entrance and discounts at the gallery's gift shop.

With 130,000 visitors last year, Hiebert says that WAG is still looking to see more youths. "I think that that's an untapped resource. We'd like to see more students coming through," she said. "I think we're always looking for new ideas and how to engage all audiences, but certainly the university crowd is one we'd like to see come visit us a little more."

Located in their studio just across the street, WAG also offers many different art classes ranging from photography to drawing to clay sculpting. Hiebert says pricing is about $100 for 10 classes, but with a WAG membership there is a discount.

Not only does WAG offer courses to create art, but it also has many programs to encourage people to view art. After 5, Art for Lunch, and Family Sunday, are all programs that encourage people to visit the gallery's exhibits.

The newest addition to the gallery is Winnipeg artist Steve Gouthro's Through the Mill, which is based on the steel mill in Selkirk.

Other exhibits include American Tableaux, which examines American culture, Mark Ruwedel's Written on the Land, a photographic timeline of human effect on the environment; The Faye and Bert Settler Collection, Inuit art that is part of the gallery's permanent collection; and Canadian Mosaic, a collection of Canadian art work which is also owned by the gallery.

The WAG still has events planned for the rest of the year. Each Wednesday and Friday from now until Dec. 3 will offer either After 5 or Art for Lunch.

And for those who missed the Cannes International Advertising Festival this

PHOTOS | ELIZABETH HOLMSTROM

Art showcases USA

BY ELIZABETH HOLMSTROM

What does it mean to be American? This is the question I faced when I visited the Winnipeg Art Gallery's exhibit American Tableaux: Selections from the Collection of Walker Art Center.

American Tableaux features over 50 artists with over 70 works of art in a variety of media.

The exhibit, on at the WAG until Dec. 5, is a full-frontal confrontation examining America's history, present, and future.

When walking into the exhibit, I was stunned by two huge six-foot-tall signs that read EAT and DIE by artist Robert Indiana. Done in red, black, green, and yellow, the contrast between the signs and the severe white walls was electrifying.

Anger and sarcasm is the only way to describe the next part of the exhibit, a civil rights section that examines the history of America with historical posters and signs. In stark contrast, colourful paintings depict a pluralistic society.

Racism, homophobia, and competition are a few of the many themes that run through American Tableaux. Mark Tansey's painting Constructing the Grand Canyon is a remarkable representation of a divided America. Using orange and vibrant red, Tansey paints modern-day people building the Grand Canyon. His painting reflects all divided aspects of American culture with opinions on abortion, gay marriage, and stereotypes.

This show is refreshing in its loud and direct message compared to the subtle and discretionary art that is often encountered by art fans. Perhaps the only negative side to this exhibit is its lack of direction and explanation. For novice art enthusiasts, this may pose a problem in trying to understand the underlying themes.

Between the sections of this show and the work done by well-known artists, American Tableaux is capable of stirring a lot of emotions.

Whether you like art, are interested in history, or just want to go to something other than dinner and a movie, this exhibit is enough to hold the interest of even the most uninformed audience.

With American Tableaux making Winnipeg its only Canadian stop, it is definitely worth taking the time to see.

Goodbye old friend

BY CHRIS KITCHING

A woman in a Jets jersey wiped away a tear. Fans snapped one last picture of the scoreboard. Others didn't leave their seats for at least half an hour after the last goal was scored.

Nearly 14,000 people all found different ways to cope, but for every single one of us, there was no mistaking the enormous loss and it wasn't the shootout defeat the Manitoba Moose suffered at the hands of the Utah Grizzlies that had us choked up.

It was the atmosphere inside Winnipeg Arena during the last professional hockey game there on Nov. 6, the sight of ex-Jet Teemu Selanne and other hockey greats on the ice again, and those last few steps toward the exits of the old barn, which has been a fixture on Maroons Road since 1955 and home to the Moose since the Jets booked it to Arizona in 1996.

During that time, nearly every Manitoban has been part of something special that happened inside the arena.

Up until five years ago, the Queen was part of it, too.

It was under her watchful eye where Jets fans created the whiteout during the team's brief – but deafening – post-season appearances in the NHL. At least fans of the WHA version were treated to three Avco Cup wins during the '70s.

We watched a young Canadian team come within a goal of winning a gold medal at the World Junior Hockey Championship in 1999.

Millions of people around the globe watched thousands of Winnipeggers blow the roof off the place last June during two televised World Wrestling Entertainment events.

There were the Pan-Am Games, international curling, hundreds of big-tickets concerts and a couple of movie shoots.

But even when I look back on the arena moments at the top of my list – watching Wayne Gretzky have his way with the Jets comes to mind – it's easy to say goodbye to the old barn, its poor sight lines and that God awful upper deck that made me queasy more than once.

No one is going to miss the troughs in the men's washrooms, either.

Goodbye, old girl. It was nice to know you.

Hello, MTS Centre. Welcome to the family.

Winnipeg's new hockey rink and entertainment complex cost $133.5 million and can accomodate up to 15,000 fans.

There's not a bad seat in the house, the trough isn't making the trip downtown and pretty much everything inside is state of the art, including the scoreboard and a "power ring" video display that circles the entire arena.

Winnipeg Arena may have a date with a wrecking ball but there's no better place for the city's hockey tradition to carry on.

'Peg vies for music shrine

BY MIKE UHRICH

Winnipeg is the heart of Canadian rock 'n' roll," says John Einarson, the man behind a bid which has got Winnipeg on the short list with two other Canadian cities to become the future home of the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

The Hall is home to 57 artists and industry professionals who have been inducted since 1978. Notable inductees include Neil Young, The Guess Who, Rush, The Band, Tom Cochrane, Anne Murray, Leonard Cohen, Gordon Lightfoot and Joni Mitchell.

Even though the Canadian Music Hall of Fame concept has been around for over 25 years, it still doesn't have an actual building to call home. Therefore in June of 2004, bids began to be accepted for an official site to house the Hall.

The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) was responsible for the request for an official site for the Hall of Fame. They are the group in charge of the Juno Awards and have inducted every member into the Hall since its inception.

Standing in Winnipeg's way are bids from Toronto and Hamilton.

"The winning bid must include a complex combination of factors," says Ross Reynolds, chairman of CARAS. "But simply put, we need to go with the site that can best showcase Canada's rich musical history to the widest possible audience."

Winnipeg is located in the centre of the country, which gives easy access from all areas of the continent. According to Einarson that is a major selling point for the city.

Einarson's bid includes a number of ideas, which aren't limited to just the Hall of Fame concept.

"It will have changing exhibits and changing features," says Einarson. "It will also have a Community Club Canteen, a music themed restaurant and a performance area."

All this built in Einarson's ideal location – downtown Winnipeg.

"It's the perfect place to be," says Einarson. "It'll be part of the rejuvenation of downtown Winnipeg."

All one has to do is look south of the border to see why Einarson's pipe dream could turn into a reality.

"Just look at Cleveland," says Einarson as he talks about the home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. With a population of just over 500,000, they beat out bids from places like New York and Los Angeles to house the Hall. Since its opening it has drawn more than five million patrons in 11 years.

"We think we've got a strong claim in terms of contributing to Canadian music," says Einarson. Rock legends Neil Young and Randy Bachman agree with Einarson and say the Hall should go in Winnipeg.

Einarson and Winnipeg will have to wait until January to see if CARAS agrees when they make their final decision.

New station adds Flava

Hip-Hop finds a place on Winnipeg Radio

BY MIKE DELACRUZ

After many years of struggle and complaining, Winnipeg finally has a major urban radio station to call its own.

Although the arrival of Flava 107.9 FM is a major step forward for hip-hop in the River City, it has conjured up a flurry of mixed emotions.

"It's cool," says first-year Red River College computer accounting technician student Leslie Mawejje. "It's the only h' hop station in the city, bu I see a big difference from the other (major) stations. [The morning show] seem[s] to talk more than they play music."

Yorick Park, a first-year RRC business administration student and local urban event promoter has similar feelings towards the new station.

"I think it's a great idea, but I question the people that work there. They need more people that sound like real radio personalities."

Franc Capozzolo, owner and general manager of Flava, says the project was two years in the making. Capozzolo, who has spent 27 years in the radio industry, felt there was a great demand for this type of station in Winnipeg and decided to capitalize on the opportunity.

"I decided to create a station with this kind of format because I felt there was an opening for it in the city."

Capozzolo, who also operates the Winnipeg Broadcast Training Centre, says he also started the station to attract students to the radio broadcasting school. In fact, there are talks about joining efforts between the Winnipeg Broadcast Training Centre and RRC.

"We're talking about it. We've spoken to a consultant but it hasn't proceeded yet," he said. "It would be good to be involved with Red River College. They have a fabulous creative communications course. It's a very respected and recognized course."

Despite the mixed reviews, Capozzolo remains confident.

"The response has been very positive considering there has been very little outside marketing."

He's not the only one who holds the station in high regard.

"I think it's a positive alternative to pop music and other radio stations in this city. It's a step forward for hip-hop music. I listen to it six times a week," says Jordan Chalifoux, a first-year creative communications student.

Although many people have conflicting opinions regarding the station, Flava is groundbreaking for Winnipeg. According to Capozzolo he has many things in store for Flava and for the city of Winnipeg including concerts, mix shows, and club nights.

currently kicking my ass

SHAWNA FORESTER | *Columnist*

Compulsive record listening syndrome

Rock against Bush...I want to rock against Jack, my very lovable albeit musically irritating coworker.

Jack is one of those guys who has a serious problem – he likes to kill CDs. He's the only guy I know who can make people hate the Beatles. You try listening to Abbey Road, day in and day out for months on end. Plus he's a drummer and he drums along – sometimes he whistles too.

Rock Against Bush is a very noble compilation CD filled with punk rock songs that express detest towards the famous Republican and all he stands for.

Protest is cool. Protest music has been around for ages, but good lord this is terrible. One song in particular makes me cringe because it involves very low-fi female punk vocals that sound like a Swiss mountain goat getting a colon-rectal exam.

I'll admit I too have suffered from CRLS (compulsive record listening syndrome). I have drove people nuts listening to the same song over and over again, but at least I have good taste in music.

Jack likes some pretty weak bands, and he also doesn't know when to stop. I was happy when the stereo system broke and all we had left was the little ghetto blaster that stays in the office my boss and I share, which is only supposed to be used for music licensing purposes.

It's understandable when you get a new CD and you find a song you really love and you want to listen to it over and over again. But all good things must come to an end. I have been on car trips where I have been forced to throw CDs out windows or burn them with lighters to ensure no man will ever listen to them again. I'm sure somewhere in the ditch between here and Grand Beach on the 59 there is a very weathered copy of Wilco's Yankee Hotel Foxtrot, that my ex-boyfriend killed to death one summer.

For those of you who read my column with some regularity – not every man I've ever dated was a raging loser, but thanks for thinking so.

That's why an LP was a beautiful thing. You had to get up and flip them and move the needle in order to listen to them over and over again. There were no repeat and continuous repeat buttons.

Hell, even tapes stopped many folks from killing music. Tapes were even harder to cue than LPs were – plus if you screwed around with them too much they'd unravel.

One day the musical rapture will come and the world will be split in two – those who kill CDs will be forced to one half of the Earth with the awful demo tape makers, Celine Dion fans, and Harlequin.

Winnipeg welcomes R.E.M....finally

R.E.M
Nov. 15th, 2004
Centennial Concert Hall

BY JEN ZORATTI

When a show sells out in less than 10 minutes, you know that it has got to be a good one.

When R.E.M. played the sold out Centennial Concert Hall, they didn't disappoint. The alt-rock heroes finally played in Winnipeg for the first time, and it was one of the most anticipated concerts of the year.

The whole show could be summed up in one word – beautiful.

Michael Stipe spastically danced his way through over 20 songs ranging from Automatic for the People-era tunes to brand new songs from their newest Around the Sun.

The pretty, yet melancholy, Leaving New York was one particular standout as well as the trippy High Speed Train.

But no matter how good the new is, people came for the old. Classics that shaped their teen years and made being a high school loser special. And Stipe didn't disappoint – a beautiful rendition of Drive being the fourth song in.

They steered away from the obvious hits Bad Day, Shiny Happy People, and, to many people's disappointment, Everybody Hurts.

But R.E.M gave us a highly energetic Orange Crush that surpassed the recorded version, a deeply moving Losing My Religion and played one of the most beautiful R.E.M songs ever recorded – One I Love.

They also came back with a rousing rendition of What's the Frequency Kenneth that had every last audience member on their feet. Stipe's famous voice brought the classics from the records to life in the wonderful acoustics of the concert hall.

The skinny Stipe, moved around the stage like a lithe yoga instructor for the slow tunes and Mick Jagger for the fast ones. He bowed after every song and smiled coyly to the audience, and his soft-spoken yet witty banter made for a very charismatic performance. "I want to thank you all for dressing up on a Monday night," he said smiling.

Stipe, who is a notorious left-wing political activist, left the anti-Bush banter behind, his only comment being, "It's a blessing to be in Canada."

Before standing on top of the amplifiers and bowing for the last time, Stipe and his band ended with a surprise that the audience didn't think was coming, but a lot came to see – Man on the Moon – a beautiful ending to a beautiful night.

Openers sour Tea Party gig

Tea Party
Nov. 11, 2004
Burton Cummings Theatre

BY MIKE UHRICH

A stripped down sound wasn't what the Tea Party was founded on, but that's what they showcased during a lively set at the Burton Cummings Theatre on Nov.11.

Together the power trio from Ontario pounded through a 90-minute set which was heavy on material from their newest studio album, Seven Circles.

"If you don't know the chorus to this next song, you've been living under a mighty comfortable rock," said lead singer and guitarist Jeff Martin, as he kicked into Writing's On the Wall, the first single off of the new album.

Eleven hundred people took in a showcase of musicianship from Martin, bassist Stuart Chatwood, and drummer Jeff Burrows, as the band played through everything from the newest of the new, to songs off their debut album. They even slipped in covers of All Along The Watchtower and Paint It Black.

The Tea Party managed to prove that they are truly one of the highlights of the current Canadian music scene. As Martin and Chatwood played through songs on a plethora of instruments, the crowd was with them from beginning to end, even if the openers didn't give them any help setting the mood for Martin's haunting vocals.

The opening act, Out of Your Mouth (the band who is notably semi-famous for doing a lacklustre cover of Madonna's Music), was absolutely hands down the worst band I have ever witnessed play music (and I'm not talking about the song).

I sat in awe as lead singer Jason Darr, made fellatio references, and un-educated anti-America remarks, all while making a complete fool of himself and wasting 45 minutes of my life.

What really confused me was the fact that there were actually people cheering this dredge, and buying autographed merchandise after the show.

And due to the fact that this was the worst band in the history of sound, I lost respect for their hometown of Calgary; I lost respect for Canada; I lost respect for the Tea Party; and I think I may have lost respect for music in general.

That's sad because the first opening act was actually good. Todd Kerns, the former Age of Electric front man ran through an '80s rock-influenced set which included AOE hits Ugly and Remote Control, as well as a rocking cover of Motley Crue's Looks That Kill.

Even though the awesome performance by the Tea Party couldn't quite make up for Out of Your Mouth, I slept comfortably that night knowing that there are worse things in Canadian music than Rita McNeil.

Country star delivers hits

Paul Brandt
Nov. 14, 2004
Burton Cummings Theatre

BY RICHARD LIEBRECHT

Dozens of rubber ducks flying onto stage at the Burton Cummings Theatre is a sight Paul Brandt and I will never forget.

Brandt played to a packed theatre on Nov. 14, where he, his band, and his wife were barraged on stage with rubber ducks, a welcomed response to his wildly popular remake of the classic trucker tune, Convoy.

Brandt's easy going, yet heartfelt country rock style is easily approachable for the hardcore and the moderate country fan, which made for a diverse crowd – cowboy hats and American Eagle shirts united.

This stop is part of Brandt's This Time Around tour, taking him across Canada, eight years since he broke into the country corral with the 1996 album Calm Before the Storm.

Brandt's intimate style comes across even better on stage than in his music. He took lots of time to talk to the crowd, introduce them to his wife (much to the disappointment of the females in the house), and to talk about some of his small town roots.

Then the stools came out, and the band moved up to do some of Brandt's more personal tunes, including I Do and Sycamore Tree, which talks about an abused child's safe place.

World Vision got a plug from Brandt who visited Africa a few years ago and could barely express the sorrow he felt at seeing the children suffer in poverty. He sang a tear jerker song specially written for a video that was put up on the stage.

Brandt then performed a song he wrote about Jesus, who he gives credit to for his success.

He topped off the subdued section with a rousing set of his boot-stomping good time songs like My Heart Has a History, That's the Truth, and Get Away Feeling.

Then, for the big finale, he broke into the song the crowd had been calling for all night.

Complete with lights on the drum platform that loosely resembled a semi-truck, and rubber ducks strewn about the stage, Paul Brandt played his throwback tune, Convoy. Belt buckles clinked and boots scooted to end what was a fantastic country show.

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CD Reviews

Boy
Every Page You Turn
****

Let's hope the boys from Boy never grow up.

The second album from Boy is a rollicking rock 'n' roll album, with unavoidable pop harmonies and even a few cellos thrown in, just to mix it up.

But while the self-titled debut album from Boy was received well by the media and musicians, this album is for the fans. They won't be disappointed – this album just plain sounds good.

Singer-songwriter Stephan Kozmeniuk handpicked the band to form a new incarnation for Boy. Most notably is the addition of Winnipeg's Steve Payne, formerly of Transonic, on the bass guitar.

This time around, the guitars get to breathe then blend, and a simple seeming back beat of drums meld into a clear comfortable sound. Whitehorse native Kozmeniuk's voice is flawless, and the backup vocals complement him. You can understand how he picked these guys.

The album's first single, Same Old Song, is already on the MuchMusic rotation. With its Headstones-like hook, it is a melodic bastion of rock 'n' roll at its calmest.

People Come On opens up the sound, with pulsing guitars, and an ethereal undertone to the breakdown. The album's title track, Every Page You Turn, lives next door to Melbourne rockers, Jet. Stars is a joy, Kozmeniuk's voice faintly reminiscent of The Verve's Richard Ashcroft, and the cellos are an understandable addition.

The entire album has a decidedly Oasis/Wonderwall feel about it. The layered vocals and trippy guitar effects work, and the result is a time-tested formula that is familiar, but with a new voice.

If you need something to throw in your Discman, this album will definitely do. It will rev you up, chill you out, and even keep you entertained. This may well be an album you come back to years after you buy it.

- DARRYL GUNTHER

The Dears
Thank You Good Night Sold Out
*1/2

The live album is an interesting concept. It's meant to recreate the feeling of being at a show. It's made for those who have never seen a great band live. Why, then, would a band whose live show is well below average put out a live album? Because live albums have the reputation of being a filler album; an album released between real albums to satisfy hungry fans, or to make a quick buck.

The Dears are a six-piece band from Montreal who play the kind of intense, moody music that makes you want to mope, not get up and dance. Their new filler album, Thank You Good Night Sold Out, was recorded during a few performances in Montreal and Toronto. The album has eight tracks, which are very strong and represent the band's best, and totals 68 minutes and 37 seconds.

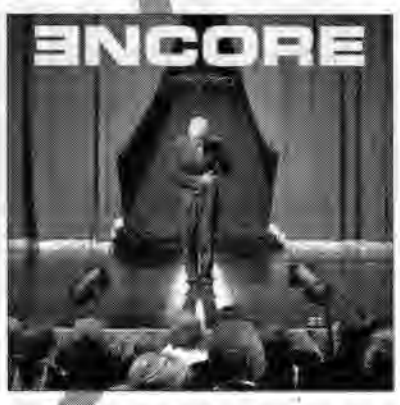
The band, whose sound combines themes from the Cure and the Smiths, does everything a moody band should. They play long songs that have long, intelligent-sounding titles, while lead singer Murray A. Lightburn's woe-is-me voice cries out poetic lyrics.

The songs on the album are amazing, but hearing them live doesn't add anything positive to them. The songs are just longer, the sound quality is worse than on their studio albums, and clapping is heard during the songs' intros and ends.

There isn't even any talking between songs, which is what gives a live album its feel. The songs lack the emotion that is perfected on their studio albums. The general idea is there, but the songs aren't presented at their best.

The Dears play music that's very powerful and very beautiful, but Thank You Good Night Sold Out is only for die-hard fans, if only for the novelty of having all their albums, and the fact that they will love anything The Dears put out. For the new listener, a better bet would be picking up one of their great studio albums, like 2003's No Cities Left.

- DAN GERVAIS



Eminem
Encore
****1/2

Guess who's back, back again?

Eminem is back with his fourth album, and the boy who has become king lays claim to his throne in the year's most anticipated rap album, Encore.

It has become cool for the masterpiece theatre type critics to talk about Eminem, his artistic talents and lyrical genius - and how much they attempt to understand him.

Any way you slice it – Eminem or Slim Shady or Marshall Mathers – should also be called brilliant.

Encore features the signature humorous songs, Just Lose It, My First Single, and Rain Man – all poking fun at who ever he wants, leaving a list of celebrities like Christopher Reeve, the Hilton sisters, Jessica Simpson and Michael Jackson in his wake.

Eminem also has songs where you nod your head like you understand exactly where he's coming from, although most of us really have never experienced it in our Winnipeg upbringing.

In tracks like Toy Soldiers, he raps about how lyrical battles in rap have gone too far, with people getting killed over words. Eminem attacks the war in Iraq and George W. Bush in the powerful anthem Mosh.

As tough as Eminem seems to be, he always amazes when he talks about his daughter in a song. In Mocking Bird it's as though he's not talking about his daughter Hailie, but instead talking to her. The song sounds like a confession and an apology to her, and is definitely one of the albums strongest tracks.

When Eminem is funny we all laugh, when he drops a chorus we all sing, and when he has something to say, we all listen.

When Eminem raps he does it with so much emotion and conviction, he commands the ears of the whole music world.

Love him or hate him everyone hears him.

- DAVIDE CAPONE

U2
How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb
***1/2

I have a tough time accepting the fact that U2 are never coming out with another album like The Joshua Tree.

At first listen, I was scared. I thought U2 read Radiohead's book on how to wrap crap up in a jewel case, sit back and watch critics lose their minds over how the terrible sound is genius.

But after listening to How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb a few times, it really started to grow on me. It is an extension of All That You Can't Leave Behind, but just might have surpassed it.

A problem I have with the album is a lot of the songs showed potential – they had that famous U2 chorus build up, but in some cases didn't deliver the catchy hook. In songs like Miracle Drug and City of Blinding Lights I was so pumped heading into the chorus because of the build up, but was let down when Bono didn't hammer out the U2 chorus I was expecting.

U2's old music used to sound like they were fighting a battle, and in the last two albums it seems like whatever battle they were fighting they won, and these were their victory songs.

U2 love songs are best done when there is hurt behind them – tracks like A Man and A Woman sound like they'd be better done in a Las Vegas lounge.

I said I'm not going to draw a comparison to an album like Achtung Baby, but if Achtung had its One, then Atomic Bomb has its Sometimes You Can't Make it on Your Own, a U2 ballad where you really catch a glimpse of old U2 shining through. And All Because of You delivered the chorus I wanted.

It's important to split U2 into two different bands, the new and the old. U2 may have promised an old school rock driven album in Atomic Bomb, but they didn't deliver.

What you get instead are old rockers still trying to keep things fresh and new, even if their fans might be hungering for something old and proven.

- DAVIDE CAPONE

Gamers go crazy for Halo sequel

BY KYLE BAKX

It was 9 p.m. and the sun had long left the sky. Jordan Coates stood with his younger brother outside EB Games on Kenaston Boulevard, preparing for the long wait to be the first to get the Holy Grail of videogames.

Halo 2, the much-anticipated sequel to Halo: Combat Evolved for the Xbox console., regularly sells for $59.99 and the collector's edition sells for $69.99. Included in the Collector's Edition is a bonus DVD packed with video features and the game comes in a metal case.

"We were the only ones there. Other people only started to show up at around 10 or 10:30 p.m.," says Coates, a 19-year-old student. Shrugging off any embarrassment for coming out so early, the two brothers were sure the wait would be worth it.

As midnight approached, about 100 people were in line waiting for the store doors to open.

"There was discussion about the game but it was pretty cold so not as many people were talking," says Coates describing the outdoor atmosphere. "There was a sense of anticipation."

Finally at 12:01 a.m., the doors opened and the frigid gamers crammed their way inside. EB was one of only only a few stores in Winnipeg opening at midnight to take advantage of the escalating hype for Halo 2.

The midnight opening at Future Shop was much the same says Adam Quinn, entertainment associate at the store on St. James Street.

"It was insane, there were people lined up around the corner of our store."

About 200 people were lined up at Future Shop, but when the doors opened, the crowd of gamers didn't jam into the store.

"The people were civil. It wasn't like a sale; the gamers knew what they were coming in for."

Quinn has played the game himself and admits that he has already played it way too much, especially at work on Future Shop's big-screen TVs.

"It has surpassed my expectations. The story is great and the graphics are just amazing."

Around 1.5 million copies of Halo 2 were pre-ordered in Canada and Quinn says they sold about 300 copies at their store in the first week alone.

Diversity and Citizenship Quiz: Answers

[Look back into the Projector for the questions]

So what do you know about newcomers?

Immigration Quiz

1. 1. China, 2. India, 3. Pakistan, 4. Philippines, 5. South Korea.
2. 1. United Kingdom, 2. Italy, 3. U.S.A., 4. Germany, 5. Portugal,
3. Eighty six per cent (86%) of immigrants can conduct a conversation in either English or French.
4. The average household income of recent immigrants is $46,400 compared to the average of Canadian-born households at $47,200.
5. A refugee claimant is an immigrant who must prove that he/she has a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, or faces torture or cruel and unusual treatment if returned home.
6. 150,000 people become citizens every year.
7. During and after the American Revolution (1775-1783), thousands of people left the United States. They became known as United Empire Loyalists. Many of them settled in the Atlantic region. They had various ethnic backgrounds, including English, Irish, Scottish, German, Swiss, Dutch, Italian, Jewish and African-American. Today, people of many different cultures and ethnic backgrounds live in the Atlantic region. Many are descendants of the earliest arrivals.
8. On July 1, 1867, the provinces we now know as Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia joined together to create the new country of Canada. This is known as Confederation.. Confederation was made official by the British North America Act of 1867. As time passed, other provinces and territories joined Confederation and became part of Canada
9. The Constitution Act of 1982 recognizes three main groups of Aboriginal peoples in Canada: the First Nations, the Inuit and the Métis.
10. Many early French fur traders and some English traders married First Nations women. Their descendants are called the Métis people. The Métis, who developed their own distinct culture on the Prairies, played an important role in the fur trade.
11. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of everyone in Canada. Can you name some of these rights and freedoms?
12. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada. About one-third of the population lives and works in French.
13. Canada has five distinct regions: the Atlantic Region; Central Canada; the Prairie Provinces; the West Coast; and the North.

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Peter Pan flick fails to fly

BY RYAN HLADUN

Finding Neverland
***
Polo Park, St. Vital, Grant Park
Starts Friday, Nov. 26

I tried to use an adage from Peter Pan after watching Finding Neverland. Maybe if I really, really believed it was a great movie, it would turn into one; but to my dismay, it was still a lazy, forced let-down. I even thought happy thoughts, but it didn't work. I guess I needed some fairy dust.

For all the many Peter Pan adaptations there are, it's hard for the story to become stale – but Finding Neverland tries hard to make the characters the play is inspired by be as dull as possible.

Johnny Depp is J.M. Barrie, the father of everyone's favourite transsexual in green tights, Peter Pan. The film is a loose account of Barrie's friendship with a deteriorating widow, Sylvia Davies (Kate Winslet), and her four young children, Peter, Jack, Michael, and George – all who inspire the play.

The problem is that the children by all accounts don't seem particularly inspiring. They are pretty much like any other kids. It was hard to believe that an extraordinary play like Peter Pan was created from playing make-believe pirates.

That's without even mentioning how it's never explained why a reclusive writer (evident in his failing marriage) would suddenly befriend four young children.

Sure, Finding Neverland will make your heart purr – it's designed to. Only the coldest of people wouldn't warm up to its basic story – or at least seeing Johnny Depp on screen for 100 minutes.

It's a movie about real life magic and believing in oneself – all of the themes prevalent in Barrie's play. But everyone with any normal upbringing has seen some form of Peter Pan. We know the themes, and don't need to have our intelligence insulted by forcing them on us as adults. Finding Neverland is basically a children's movie playing dress-up with mom and dad's clothes.

Director Marc Forster (Monster's Ball) is misguided. He found the wrong balance between reality and fantasy and what should have been the most important factor – the characters – suffered.

The best example is the character Captain Hook is inspired by, Sylvia's mother-in-law. She has contempt of Barrie's intrusion into her family, but is not even close to interesting enough to care about (not to mention thinking of her being the basis of one of the most sinister villains of all time).

Thankfully, the gifts of Depp and Winslet save this sinking ship.

Depp, who much like the characters in Barrie's Neverland, never seems to age, is, as usual, his irresistible self. Not many actors have his remarkable range.

Kate Winslet is arguably the most talented actress in Hollywood right now, and it would be a crime if she left this award's season empty-handed. She manages to, through acting alone, add dimensions to a one-dimensional character.

Also, delightfully surprising is a cameo by Dustin Hoffman, who played the best ever Captain Hook in Steven Spielberg's 1990 adaptation. Hoffman plays Barrie's producer.

Unfortunately, the combined talents of Depp, Winslet, and Hoffman could not inject enough energy into the otherwise tedious script.

Finding Neverland is being called "pure Oscar bait," and it will most likely be nominated. It's just really too bad that it doesn't live up to the billing.

Sideways portrays reality

BY RYAN HLADUN

Sideways
****
Grant Park
Now Playing

A buddy road flick gets a shot of Pinot in Sideways and for the second straight year Paul Giamatti stars in one of the year's best films.

Last year he gained much deserved recognition for his performance as a grumpy cartoonist in American Splendor.

In Sideways, Giamatti is another bitter cynic, Miles (he'll have to be careful not to become a typecast, but he plays it so well).

Miles, a struggling author and divorcee, and his best friend Jack (played by Thomas Haden Church, who was a relatively low key actor until now), decide to take a trip into California's wine country and spend time together before Jack gets married.

To Miles' discontent, his intentions and Jack's are quite different. Miles, a talented wine taster, just wants to drink wine and play golf, but all Jack wants to do is find a woman other than his wife (he's unsure about tying the knot).

On top of that, Jack is getting annoyed with Miles' constant sneering and depressed attitude, and vows to get him laid before they leave.

Miles and Jack meet Maya and Stephanie. Maya is a waitress and fellow wine enthusiast at a restaurant Miles frequents when he's there. He's attracted to her but is too insecure to tell her (on top of the fact she was married last time he saw her). Stephanie is a bartender at a local pub.

Jack and Stephanie immediately hit it off, but Miles, who finds out Maya is now divorced, is uncomfortable with the situation.

He slowly begins to open up to Maya, but only after lying about his book being published, and failing to mention his friend was using Stephanie.

Basically, Sideways starts off as a typical buddy road trip movie, but director and writer Alexander Payne (About Schmidt) takes the film into a realm of irreplaceable, realistic storytelling.

It's a collaboratively brilliant piece of cinema. The wordplay and chemistry between Giamatti and Church feels genuine, the script is wonderful, and the direction is fitting.

Miles and Jack's actions are so sporadic and silly, but also believable. In the funniest scene, Jack and Miles fire a golf ball back at the group behind them who shot before they were a safe distance away (who hasn't wanted to do that?).

Take a page out of Miles' book of wine tasting, and take a moment to see the essence of Sideways – that life is a delicate and complicated process (and people lose it sometimes).

"It's a hard grape to grow. It's thin-skinned, temperamental. It's not a survivor like Cabernet that can grow anywhere, and thrive even when neglected. Pinot needs constant care and attention," says Miles to Maya in one scene.

Payne was drawing a parallel between the wine and Miles' personality with that, the defining line in the film. Beyond that though, the line reflects filmmaking at its finest – a welcomed rarity nowadays.

director's cut

RYAN HLADUN
Columnist

theatre etiquette

Attention moviegoers: it's time to take a stand!

It's time to rid ourselves of the loudmouths, heavy breathers, loud chewers, drink slurpers, and crying babies that are plaguing our theatres.

True, theatre annoyances have been around since moving pictures were first put to screen, but that doesn't mean we, the well-mannered movie fans, can't do something about it.

It's been getting worse lately. People have stopped yelling "shut up" and "sit down," and let theatre anarchy reign. They've allowed the problem-makers to make snide comments about a movie's plot, chew with their mouths open, and allow their kids to jump up and down on the seats.

This is a pet peeve of mine that goes beyond petty annoyance, as I'm sure it is for many people. If I turn around and tell you to "shhh," when you won't shut your mouth, I'll only be polite once.

Follow suit, if you can, people – care again and maybe we can flush out the problem before it gets out of control.

Maybe you need inspiration.

I found my inspiration this summer when I saw Spiderman 2. A woman brought her two brats who were both under five. Throughout the entire movie, they cried, talked, and kicked the back of the chair in front of them – they weren't even watching the movie. After the movie – and here's the great part – a woman in front of these menaces turned around and completely told the naïve mother off (in less than friendly terms).

That's should be your inspiration.

I'm sorry, but if your kid calls Sky Captain Spy Paptain, you shouldn't be taking him or her to the theatre. Any kid under four should be kept to movies starring Hillary Duff.

And please, if you do insist on bringing your three-year-old, kindly (or harshly, depending on your parenting technique), tell him or her to "shut up," because we don't need to hear "Spiderman is back!"

The ugliness of this issue showed its full scope when I went to a showing of The Day After Tomorrow. Two slack-jawed yokels felt the need to yelp "Holy f---" after every explosion or disaster. Fun times.

It will take us all, the ones who go to the theatres to enjoy a good (or bad) movie, to extinguish this problem.

For now, I'm heading off to write a letter to the government to lobby for a screening process that only allows certain people into theatres.

Tribute explores band

Punk rockers career chronicled

BY RYAN HLADUN

The Ramones: End of a Century
***
Cinematheque
Nov. 26-Dec. 2

Being in a rock and roll band isn't easy," says Dee Dee Ramone, former bassist of the Ramones, who died of a drug overdose in 2002, two months after being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the revolutionary punk rock band.

The line, which comes near the end of the documentary End of a Century, sums up the band, or any band, simply and clearly.

End of a Century isn't necessarily a tribute to the Ramones as much as it is a story of tragedy produced for those who don't know them, to help get to know them.

There's no doubt fans of the band knew they had problems. According to the film, Joey was an obsessive compulsive; Dee Dee turned tricks for heroin; Johnny was a conservative hardass; and they couldn't seem to keep a constant drummer.

Through candid testimonials from every member of the band, and the people that knew them, the world of top-of-the-mountain rock and roll is opened up.

Truthfully, rock band documentaries are more overdone than left-wing propaganda films, but End of a Century isn't a typical break-up and gets back together rock band doumentary. It's not a story of success (even though the Ramones were highly successful); it's not about living a lavish rock star life – rather it's a story of clashing personalities and substance abuse, hookers and bad influence – but keeping the sound alive.

One interviewer pointed out how growing up listening to the Ramones he noticed they never changed their image. They never shed the leather jackets and shrill vocals. No matter the decade, they played like it was the '70s.

Another chunk of this film is dedicated to showing how the Ramones birthed a new generation of punk rock bands like Blondie and the Sex Pistols, and how they were almost trampled in the process.

It almost seems like the access to information is too good to be true. The testimonials are great, but actual inside footage is lacking, and is filled with somewhat useless live performances.

That aside, End of a Century seems genuine enough to be compelling, and is different enough to be interesting, and succeeds at transcending rock band documentaries.

Film's title says it all

BY ALAN MACKENZIE

Nothing
*1/2
Cinematheque
Nov. 26-Dec. 2

Nothing could have been something. On paper it sounds like one of the must-see films of the year – in reality the title sums up the movie too well.

Nothing is the story of two twenty-something roommates who realize they have the power to make the entire world around them disappear by "hating it away."

Directed by Vincenzo Natali, who helmed the cool, intelligent Canadian sci-fi film Cube, it should by association make this a thought-provoking project as well, but that is certainly not the case. In fact, knowing this film is co-written and directed by the man who made such a smart cult film makes it all the more frustrating.

This movie isn't just bad – it's frustratingly bad. It could have been clever and funny – I was hoping for a Canadian counterpart to Charlie Kaufman's films (Adaptation, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind), but, really, it's just irritating.

It's Waiting for Godot meets Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, but with all the worst elements of both.

The film gets off to a good start, with several reminders the story we are about to see is true – "totally and completely true" – and some great animated sequences that introduce the main characters, David Hewlett and Andrew Miller, who play themselves. It falls completely flat when they enter their world of nothingness, which, unfortunately takes up most of the 89-minute running time.

There are a few slightly funny moments – including a montage where Andrew hates away his memories, but generally Hewlett and Miller seem to think all they need to do to generate laughs is jump around and scream for several minutes at a time.

Even the philosophy in the film has little thought to it. Comparing life to a video game is a good idea, but they could have done more with it than "maybe we're on pause, man."

I actually feel bad for Hewlett, Miller, and Natali – they have a great concept that ultimately goes nowhere. I think one of the major reasons for this is the performances of the two leads, who try too hard to get us to like them. Couldn't Natali have had them tone things down a bit? At times it feels like no one was in charge of this thing and just let these two guys run wild.

And the idea of making the things you hate disappear doesn't work – I tried to hate away Nothing, but it's still playing.

Grad launches book

BY SHAUN WILLINGHAM

A former Red River College student has released his second book.

Mike McIntyre, and his publisher, Great Plains Publications, held a reading for his new book The Yuletide Bandit at the Empress Street Chapters bookstore on Nov. 9 to a crowd of about 200 people.

PHOTO | SHAUN WILLINGHAM

Author Mike McIntyre launches new book

The book is an account of Michael Syrnyk's seven-year career as a serial robber who held up banks and armored cars in the Winnipeg area. In several of the robberies, shots were fired and guards were injured.

Syrnyk, who has since plead guilty to 35 charges involving the robberies, is spending 23 years behind bars.

McIntyre says he met with Syrnyk over a period of four months earlier this year after receiving a call from him on his cell phone while in Saskatoon. McIntyre was doing a book tour for his first book Nowhere to Run. Syrnyk decided he wanted to share his story with the world and McIntyre immediately met with the convicted robber.

"I wanted to explore the criminal psyche, and get into the head of Michael Syrnyk. I think it's important to always listen and never to judge," says McIntyre.

McIntyre works full-time as a court reporter for the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and is the on-air host of Crime and Punishment on CJOB.

In April, he began penning his book, which was completed in late August. He says he found time in the evenings and on weekends.

McIntyre explains the term "Yuletide Bandit" was actually coined by a co-worker at the Winnipeg Free Press.

"We were calling him a masked robber believed to be behind a number of Christmas time armored car heists. David O'Brien renamed him the Yuletide Bandit," he recalls.

McIntyre says this story is very thorough thanks to the help of police statements and reports he was able to obtain.

"Never have I been able to tell a story from A to Z. This case certainly gripped our community for many years."

McIntyre was only 18 years old when he entered into the creative communications program. He graduated in 1995, majoring in journalism.

Although McIntyre, 29, says he loves writing books, he's going to take some time off now for his new project – raising his new baby.

Forced laughs

An Accidental Canadian
by Margaret Wente

BY SHANNON MARTIN

An Accidental Canadian is a tongue in cheek look at Canadian culture through the eyes of a middle-aged American immigrant woman.

Margaret Wente, 54, is a long-time *Globe and Mail* columnist. Like most newspaper columnists Wente is known for her outspoken views. Her new book combines some of her classic columns with new commentary, including topics like education, feminism and relationships.

It's probably more of your mom's kind of book, but it still manages some light laughs and thoughtful insight.

The book wants to be witty and tries to be clever, but can come across as more of a lecture. Wente assumes her role as columnist throughout the book, often offering opinions without outside research—sounding like Aunt Edna at Thanksgiving who spouts random "facts."

Wente tackles Kids Today in chapter seven. The title alone makes any youthful reader want to skip ahead, but despite its hokey title, it should be read.

She begins the chapter with a nostalgic look at growing up in the suburbs of Chicago in the '50s and '60s: the simpler days of no bike helmets and carefree kids running around the neighborhood without worrying about creepy strangers.

Wente fast-forwards to today, including several paragraphs on Janet Jackson's costume malfunction and, of course, Ms. Spears' sexual shenanigans on stage. Wente openly admits she's a member of something she calls the "Morally Uptight Club," which causes more of a snicker than a firm nod in agreement.

"Take a look at the friends your daughter is having for a sleepover. Chances are those kids in PJs are talking about BJs," writes Wente.

Call it overdramatic, but she has a point. Anyone who's been to the mall lately knows what Wente is taking about.

Wente is easier to swallow when she writes about issues ignored by major media. Later on the same chapter, Wente describes a trip overseas where she meets a Palenstian family. Their 18-year-old daughter strapped a bomb around her waist in a suicide mission, killing herself and an Israeli bystander. Wente even talks about reserves on the east coast where Aboriginal children as young as 11 die from sniffing gas.

It's here, when Wente sticks to compelling issues rather than diary journalism about growing old or losing weight, that the book is appreciated.

Wente started working at the *Globe and Mail* in 1986, and has won the National Newspaper Award twice, recognizing her column-writing, according to the University of Calgary website. She is the only journalist in Canada to hold that distinction.

Local writer impresses

Cherry Bites
by Allison Preston

BY JULIE HORBAL

Within the first few pages of Winnipegger Alison Preston's third self-proclaimed mystery novel Cherry Bites, it is evident the story will not be a happy tale with a gift-wrapped, Christmas present ending.

In the prologue, we get our first glance of Cherry Ring, the then four-year-old, who is taking a bite out of her newborn brother Pete's face.

The year is 1954 and the place is Winnipeg. The reason is sibling jealousy (as Pete has not even been around long enough for a full-blown sibling rivalry). The incident is a moment of sheer panic – and at the same time it bears more influence on Cherry's life than she could ever have imagined.

At the time of the biting, Cherry is not an overtly malicious child, but rather a mixed-up emotional derelict, whose life only deteriorates as the story unfolds.

When Preston brings the reader into present day in the first chapter, the story really starts, as Cherry begins to consciously tell an invisible audience her story.

Her motivation is simply stated at the start of things: a cluster of three events have just happened to change Cherry's life forever, while at the same time answering all the questions acquired throughout her misguided upbringing.

The first event, the strange and unexplained delivery of her dead and estranged mother's journal, kicks Cherry's already fragile world into a tailspin and provides the basis for the rest of the novel. Once she starts to read the journal, she presents questions we know will be answered through the two remaining events.

If Preston's novel falters at all, it would be through a slight bit of predictability. The second and third events are easily guessed – although they still provide suspense, tension and incredible motivation to keep reading.

It is nearly impossible to explain the events without revealing the novel's most riveting parts and a complete explanation runs the risk of deterring a potential reader from picking the book up – which would be a tragedy in the literary world.

Cherry Bites is an intriguing and constantly interesting piece of fiction that deserves all the attention it can get.

Preston manages to completely engage the reader in Cherry's life, explaining her mutual hatred for her estranged dead mother, her non-committal lifestyle, and her non-relationship with Pete with more unspoken tension than words.

Through three points of view – Cherry's present day narrative, flashbacks, and readings of Cherry's mother's journal – Preston unwinds the strangely simple details of one woman's extremely complicated life in a skillfully executed post-modern masterpiece that leaves the reader wondering why they've never heard of this local author before.

And when they will hear from her again.

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CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN WINNIPEG

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Our volunteers will be dispatched to meet you - a driver and navigator will drive you to your destination in your own vehicle!! An escort vehicle will follow you to pick up our volunteers at the end of the trip – it's just that easy!!

Although this valuable service is provided free of charge, we do gratefully accept donations with all proceeds going to support amateur sport in Winnipeg.

Host Organization

DAYS OF OPERATION (9:00pm to 3:00am)

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

VOLUNTEERS

Red River College Students' Association is recruiting volunteers to do some driving for Operation Red Nose on Thursday, December 2nd – our opening night!! If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact Ryan Mariani, President, Students' Association or call the Red Nose office at 957-5071.

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FROM THE PRESSBOX...

MTS Centre a success, sans urinals

MATT PACKWOOD
Columnist

Aside from the $5 beers, $6 hamburgers, and the $7 coolers, the first Manitoba Moose game at the new MTS Centre was a great time, even for a broke student.

The anticipation was high, the building was buzzing, and the night ended in a Moose victory.

These three things added up to a perfect first game for the Moose in their new environment.

Simply put, the facility is amazing. Over 15,000 people attended the first game. All were amazed at the new building after putting up with the horrible barn for half a century.

Fans were thrilled with the comfortable seats, great view, and believe it or not, leg room.

Not all fans are happy with the new building though.

After making a few trips to the men's room, I found that a large portion of my gender counterparts were unhappy with the lavatories. They claimed to have preferred the troughs that made the Winnipeg Arena famous to the new, porcelain urinals.

I don't understand the importance of urinating beside another man at sporting events. Maybe to some it was what made the experience worthwhile. However, I enjoy hockey games for the hockey. That being said, I suppose there are no written rules keeping two men from relieving themselves in the same urinal.

Maybe the building designers knew that they would be charging $5 for a beer, and the demand for urinals would, in turn, be much lower.

Another major misconception that was proved untrue was transportation.

Portage Avenue was lined with city buses after the game, and the flow of traffic seemed to be no worse than the traffic after a game at the arena or stadium.

Those who had nothing but bad things to say about the new arena, which many would refer to as whiners, were fairly quiet. Apparently they too were swept up in the moment. Either that or they were fascinated with the free souvenirs.

To say the least however, the number of people that were happy with the new building certainly outnumber those who dislike it.

A new leaf in Winnipeg entertainment has turned.

RRC Students Association
SKI/SNOWBOARD Trips 2005

Now offering 2 Trips

Asessippi, Jan 29 - 30
Annual trip with the Molson Keg

or

Fernie, Feb 25 - 28
New Trip - perfect for 4-day break

All packages include; Motor coach transportation, accommodation, lift tickets, and Bar nights.

Space is limited so buy your spot on the trip early.

For more information email saevents@rrc.mb.ca or drop by room DM20 or room P110.

LAST CHANCE FOR MEXICO

"Mayhem in Mazatlan, Mexico Spring Break 2005"

Most students won't get a full spring break next year... last chance to go to Mexico with a group from RRC!

Sign-up TODAY!
Drop by Room DM20, ND Campus or Room P110, PS Campus.

Email: saevents@rrc.mb.ca

Check out photos from last years trip at www.sunparties.com (Spring Break March 2004 gallery).

RRC Moose Hockey Night

Saturday, November 27

Pick up $14 tickets at The Ox or The Mercantile stores by Wed, Nov 24.

Come see the Moose vs. "Jordan TOOTOO" and 2004 AHL Champion Milwaukee Admirals

XMAS KEGGER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, CAVE LOUNGE, ND CAMPUS

Jerry Returns

BY MIKE UHRICH

Christmas is coming early and I can't wait for it. For years I have been waiting for the day when nothing finally means something. If you still have no clue what I'm talking about, I'll give you a hint.

A long time ago a comedian created a television show based on his stand-up routines; it became very successful and is widely considered to be the greatest sitcom ever made, and yada-yada-yada, after nine seasons and 180 episodes the show went off the air.

Still not sure what I'm talking about? Then maybe you should climb out from under the rock you are currently living under.

The show is Seinfeld and all the hoopla is over the long awaited and highly anticipated release of the series onto DVD. Someone must have been listening because six and a half years after the show went off the air, fans have had their prayers answered.

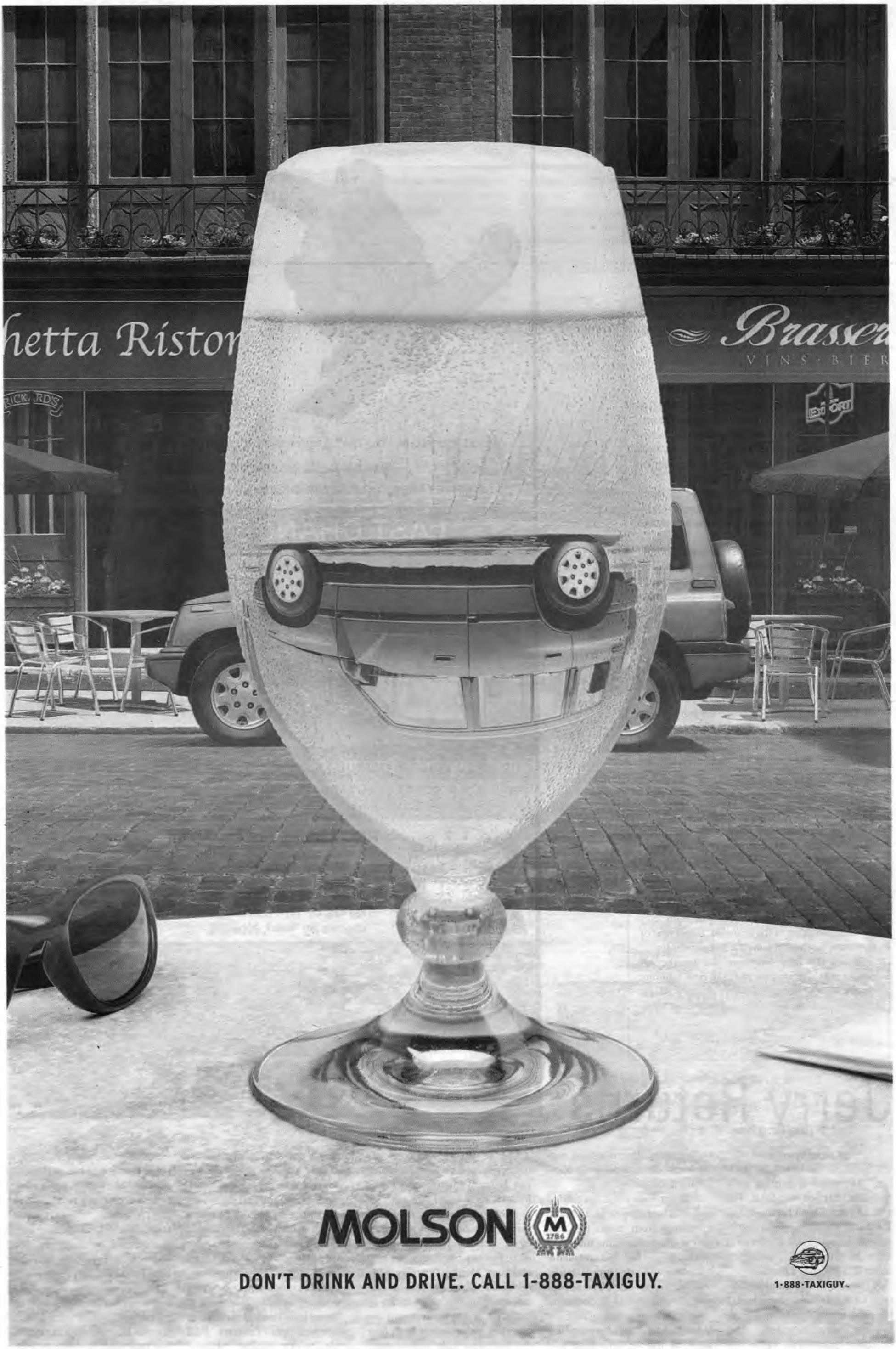
The first three seasons are being released on Nov. 23, which can be conveniently purchased in a cleverly titled "Re-gift" set that includes a limited edition script with hand written notes by co-creator Larry David, a deck of collectible playing cards, and exclusive Monk's Diner ceramic salt and pepper shakers and metal napkin dispenser.

If that is too extravagant for you then you can buy both four disc sets separately, with seasons one and two being packaged together and season three being packaged alone.

Together the set features all 40 episodes from the first three seasons, with a staggering 24 hours of bonus features. Highlights include a never before seen pilot episode, loads of bloopers and deleted scenes, clips from Jerry Seinfeld's standup routines, and interviews with cast members.

Those interviews almost never happened, too. Co-stars Julia Louis-Dreyfus (Elaine), Michael Richards (Kramer), and Jason Alexander (George) refused to contribute early on in the DVD process. They were upset about not receiving any royalties from the DVD sales, which is understandable. Thankfully those problems have been resolved and everyone's favorite foursome is on board for the project.

The release is also being accompanied by a TV special airing on Nov. 25. The Seinfeld Story is a one hour retrospective of the first four years of the show and is hosted by Seinfeld himself.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