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red river college students' association newspaper november 27, 2000

Thieves among us

Page 2

photo: Katie Chalmers

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Computer theft prompts security review at RRC

Police say thieves 'knew the college' before raid

By Kyla Duncan

Winnipeg Police are still investigating a $15, 800 computer parts theft from two labs in buildings A and B in late October.

District 2. Det. Rick Sierhuis is one of the officers investigating the theft. He says he believes the thieves knew the college and knew what they were doing.

"Finding those labs is like finding a needle in the haystack. The college is like a maze. I think it was obviously someone with knowledge of the college, someone who had spent time there," says Sierhuis.

Attention to security

The incident has drawn attention to the kind of security in place at computer labs around Red River College.

"The theft had happened in two brand new areas. The security hadn't quite been completed in those computer labs, another two days and all the proper security measures would have been in place," says Security manager Jim Drever.

"Finding those labs is like finding a needle in the haystack. The college is like a maze. I think it was obviously someone with knowledge of the college, someone who had spent time there,"

Det. Rick Sierhuis

Currently, RRC computer labs have some sort of security measures in place to prevent theft or loss, such as swipe-cards and chained-down equipment, says Drever.

The Risk Control Committee was recently formed to examine the effectiveness of security measures in use and the possibility of a greater investment in security.

Cameras in labs

Daryl Nielsen is the chair of the Risk Control Committee. He says the committee will examine all areas of security from personnel to entry points.

"The committee is basically a work improvement team formed to examine computer security issues and the overall effectiveness of the security for computers," says Nielsen.

"We'll be looking at tracking the perimeter entry points with swipe cards, to record the time and person who entered the lab. We're looking at the possibility of cameras in the labs."

Nielsen says despite the possibility of bumped-up security efforts in computer labs, students working at the college should not be effected.

"The nature of our business is to make the labs accessible to the students, so students shouldn't notice much of a change," says Nielsen.

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RRC plans for 56% tuition hike

Board of Gov. discussion paper forecasts possible tuition increases

By Sean Thiessen

A discussion paper to be presented to Red River College's Board of Governors contains a scenario involving a tuition increase of 56 per cent over the next five years, says Students' Association president Ian Scott.

"Is education a right or a privilege," asks Scott. "It's moving towards a privilege and that's not right."

Scott says the projected tuition increase will reduce the number of students while not necessarily improving the quality of education.

"Statistics prove when tuition goes up less people can go to school," he says.

"There isn't any evidence that by increasing tuition that education will improve."

Scott says the SA has countered the discussion paper with a discussion paper of its own highlighting students' tuition concerns.

This is in addition to a petition the SA is organizing along with the Canadian Federation of Students that has gathered over 1,100 signatures. Scott says once 2,000 signatures are gathered the petition will be presented to the board.

He says the SA hopes its actions will encourage the college to go to the province instead of students' wallets for funds.

"The Board of Governors has to make it an issue with the province and take a stand," says Scott.

RRC president Jacqie Thachuk says the discussion paper is an information tool for the board to use in its upcoming budgeting process.

She says the paper, prepared over this past fall, compares RRC tuition rates with other post secondary institutions across the province and across Canada. It then outlines the potential impact of various tuition rate increases.

Thachuk says the provincial government, which supplies approximately 55 per cent of RRC funding in the form of grants, gave the college a clear direction last year with a 10 per cent tuition cut. With no such direction coming from the province so far this year, Thachuk says other sources of revenue have to be explored, namely tuition.

We are conscious of the students' pocket book and students' needs," she says.

"The issue is that if we don't get increases in revenue we'll be falling behind. Our dilemma is how to balance this."

"Is education a right or a privilege? It's moving towards a privilege and that's not right."

Ian Scott

Thachuk says she hopes the discussion paper will put pressure on the government to recognize the educational value of the college and increase funding.

"We want the public to value education more and fund it through their tax dollars," she says.

Thachuk says with a half dozen new members still going through orientation, no timetable is in place for the board to review the discussion paper.

Scott says anyone interested in signing the petition against the proposed increases in tuition can drop by the SA office in room DM20.

photo: Katie Chalmers

A Board of Governors discussion paper suggests without more funding from the province RRC students will have to open up their wallets - wide

What Do You Think

How would a tuition increase affect your life? Are they necessary?

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As you may or may not know, the SA has comment boxes around campus, which we periodically empty and dig through to find out what is really on the students' minds. This time around, we decided to share some of the more common concerns, and address them so that all of you out there will see that yes, the SA really does care about the students.

The most prominent issue we found while pawing through the comments was the new dental plan. Lots of people want to know what's happening with it, so here's the scoop: We have concluded negotiations with our insurance agents, and the dental plan will be offered starting September 1st, 2001. In conjunction with this, there will be a Student Health Benefits Office opening on campus to better serve the students. Another subject of concern was voiced by our vegetarian students, regarding the sale of soy-based beverages at the Ox. The store manager, T. Buchannan, was happy to explain the current lack of this product. The store had carried the Sobe line of drinks, which did include soy-based flavours. However, the Sobe name was recently purchased by Pepsi. As our campus is solely a Coke campus, the Ox was forced to discontinue the product. As of right now, there aren't any other soy drinks available through our suppliers, but Mr. Buchannan will be on the lookout for any such products appearing in the future.

For all of you in Building J wanting more Coffee and Doughnuts, here's some good news: To continue with the Tuition Freeze campaign, we will be setting up in or near Otto's in the next few weeks. You can come sign the petition, and have a cup of coffee on the SA. Keep an eye out for posters with the dates and times. You can also stop by the SA offices in DM 20 for more information.

The final issue raised by students was regarding the absence of clocks in the bus waiting areas. This is an issue that falls under the college's jurisdiction. We will be in contact with the Facilities department on this issue, and we'll keep you posted on any progress.

These were the major concerns this time round through the comment boxes. If you have any concerns, or would like more information on ones mentioned above, feel free to come down to the SA in DM 20 and talk to us.

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Princess Street gets RRC crown

Campus to open fall 2002

By Kyla Duncan

Red River College will be able to loosen its bursting-at-the-seams corset after the provincial government announced the approval of the Princess Street location after months of deliberation.

RRC president Jacqie Thachuk says she is pleased the decision battle between Spence Street and Princess Street is over.

"It was a struggle trying to get Princess Street, but now it's exciting to realize our vision is finally becoming a reality," says Thachuk.

The $31.5 million vision is part of the provincial government's College Expansion Project which Thachuk says will have a ripple effect on the college and the surrounding Princess Street community.

"There is a lot of opportunity for other development downtown. The new campus will attract other businesses," says Thachuk.

Thachuk says the new downtown campus will be completed in two stages, one more quickly than the other to accommodate RRC's bursting seams.

"We want to build the campus in two phases, the first to be completed for classes in September 2002," she says.

With the expanding campus, Thachuk says jobs, program places and a new attraction to downtown will be created.

"With the college growing, it is creating rapid growth with some investment in staff and services."

Creative Arts chair Robert McGregor is getting ready to pack up his program and move it into the new Princess Street campus.

He says the new facility will allow the Creative Communication program to develop a new major, one he says is badly needed.

"We need to find a good balance for the programs. There is a new initiative now for a fourth major in Radio and Television. These are both courses students take in the existing three majors, Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising, but we don't give it as much attention as we could," says McGregor.

He says the new campus will not necessarily open up more spaces in the Advertising Art and Creative Communications programs, but will make its grads more competitive once they are in the job market.

"The expansion could open up more positions, but again the focus is on providing more behind the scenes training for the students to better equip them," says McGregor.

McGregor will also be reviewing if the Projector offices, a paper run by Journalism majors in the Creative Communications program, will follow Creative Arts downtown.

"It's really early in the discussions, but perhaps the Projector will have separate offices here and downtown. It's something we will have to discuss with the Students' Association.

Thachuk says she is reviewing which programs will move to the new downtown campus.

"I think we will be adding some more programs, but still on the slate are the new media program, Creative Arts and Communications," says Thachuk.

Thachuk says she is working hard to make the Princess Street campus something to talk about.

"The students are going to be using the facilities and hopefully it will be a college they are proud to attend."

photo: Katie Chalmers

First-year Manufacturing Tech, Lisa DeCuypere

RRC women Training for Tomorrow

By Cheryl Miki

Eighty Red River College students are $1,000 richer thanks to the Training for Tomorrow Scholarship Awards program.

The awards are available for women who are training for careers in traditionally male dominated areas such as math, science, and technology.

According to Darlene Funk, RRC Student Awards officer, the Training for Tomorrow award is one of the higher paying scholarships available at the college, and has the largest distribution.

Fifty new awards are dispersed annually throughout the province, with the majority going to RRC students. Recipients receive the award in two $500 installments in the fall of each year of their program.

Lindsay Pikta-Marie, a second-year Advertising Art student, just received the second installment of her Training for Tomorrow scholarship.

A single mother, Pikta-Marie inquired last year at the college's registration department for information on scholarships that applied to her situation.

She says the scholarship was the only award she could apply for because it did not rely solely on academic performance. The scholarship application requests a short essay that outlines the applicants career goals and the role their field of study will play in achieving those goals.

"An essay lets you explain your situation," says Pikta-Marie. "I think it's better because people's home situation are reflected in their marks," she says.

Scholarships like Training for Tomorrow help bring in students for whom finances are a deciding factor in their education, says Dale Watts, dean of Industrial Technologies at RRC.

"We don't have as many women in technology programs as we would like," says Watts.

He says the number of women in Civic and CAD Technologies is increasing, but very few women are in the Industrial Trades programs, despite efforts to increase enrollment. The most recent statistics available from the college's Research and Planning Department indicate that only 9.5 per cent of Industrial Technology students are women.

For those women who do enroll, the job prospects look pretty good. Ninety-six per cent of past scholarship recipients have found either full or part-time employment in their field, says Ruth Mitchell, policy manager for the Manitoba Women's Directorate. The directorate is an arm of the provincial government that dispenses the scholarship.

Mitchell says the number of applicants has increased a great deal since the award was developed in January of 1995.

"In the beginning, we were beating the bushes to get women to apply," Mitchell says.

Now, she says, the grade point average of the applicants has risen over the years which indicates that people are now pursuing these areas earlier in their academic career.

"Now we are in a position to make choices," she says.

To date, 341 women have received a total of $341,000 in Training for Tomorrow scholarships.

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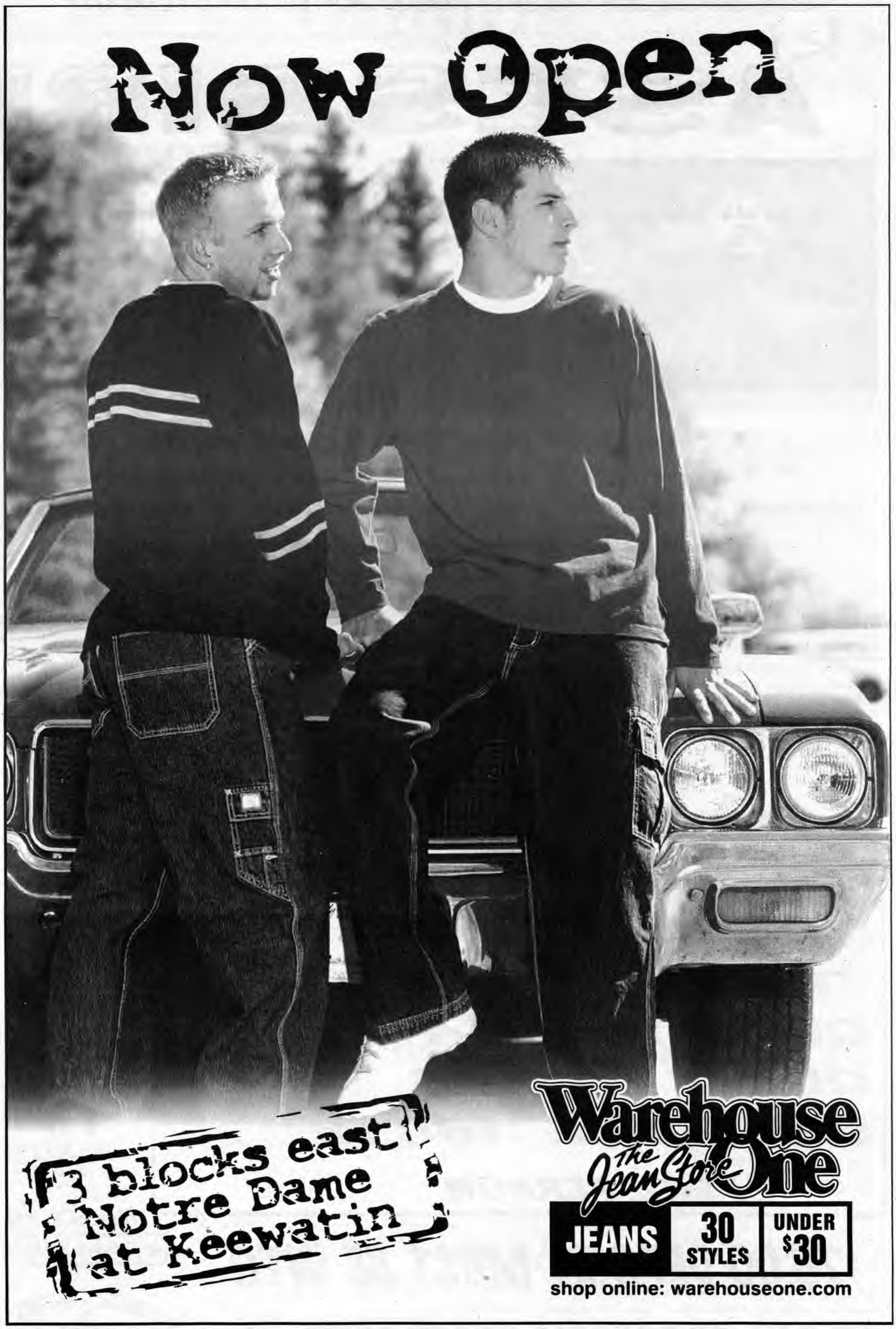

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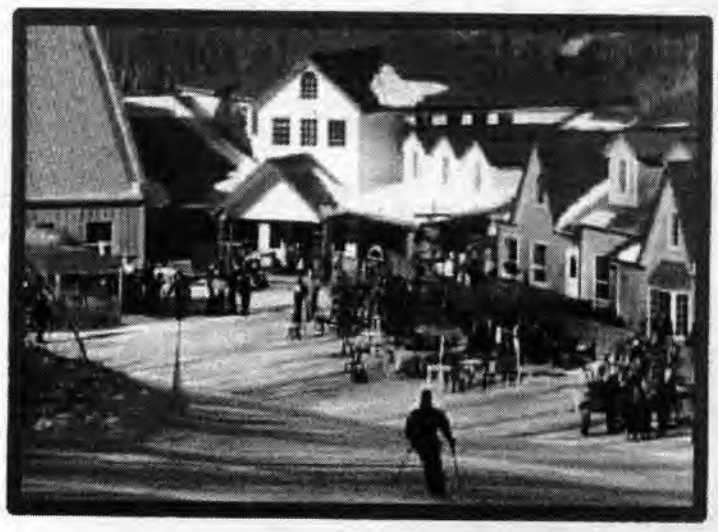

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Events

Past spoils the peace

The daily body count being tallied in the streets of Israel testifies to an inherent problem in the Middle East peace process.

How do two parties who have come to the table through illegitimate deeds create a legitimate and stable peace?

Israel came to the peace table with an ambiguous ace up its sleeve.

Shortly after its establishment in 1948 Israeli scientists began scouring the barren expanses of the Negev Desert. They were looking for a fuel that would help secure their sovereignty into the future and protect themselves from a recurrence of their recent past.

The trace deposits of Uranium they found laid the foundation for a nuclear weapons program that the best fiction writers in the world would find impossible to describe.

Through decades of clandestine and overt actions Israel developed a credible nuclear force while simultaneously denying it to its Arab neighbours.

While never formally acknowledging its nuclear status, Israel repeatedly used this nuclear innuendo to serve warning to its enemies, both seen and hidden, that it would never be simply pushed into the sea. It only came to the peace table after assuring the world that any conventional defeat could result in a nuclear reprisal, one whose effect on civilians and the environment could be felt for generations to come far away from the battlefield.

However, once at the table Israel was confronted by the problem faced by all nuclear powers.

How do you turn the potential to unleash an incomprehensible amount of death and destruction into viable political leverage at the bargaining table?

The same question plagues Palestine Liberation Army leader Yassar Arafat.

A civil engineer by education, Arafat helped define 20th century terrorism through his work beginning with Al Fatah and later the PLO.

Hijackings, bombings and assassinations became the medium for Arafat and those he inspired to promote their cause.

Just as Israel has not been able to find a way to turn potential decades of devastation into legitimate political gains, the PLO has failed to find a way to turn decades of very real terror into a political advantage.

Once released, the Siamese genies of nuclear weapons and terrorism are proving impossible to get back into their respective bottles.

If good international relations are indeed based on the creation of mutually accepted norms, this peace process was poisoned from the start.

This is not a problem that is unique to the Middle East.

It will be a problem faced around the world, between Northern Ireland and Britain, Chechnya and Russia, Basque and Spain/France and throughout sub-Sahara Africa.

Too bad the West is too preoccupied with dimpled chads to pay any attention.

Sean Thiessen

photo: Katie Chalmers

Women's bodies, as election issues

Elections are usually more about style than substance, and the federal election that ends when voters head to the poll today was no different.

However, over the past few weeks the federal election, for all it didn't do, at least managed to resurrect one old debate: a woman's right to choose.

Although Canadian Alliance Leader Stockwell Day did his best not to make abortion an issue during the campaign and risk alienating women and small-L liberals even further than the Alliance and its predecessor the Reform Party already have, a scan of recent headlines shows abortion is once again, at least for now, being discussed on a national scale.

Most of the talk has surrounded the Alliance proposal to allow citizen-initiated referendums and Day's personal, anti-abortion views, although Day has maintained his party has no position on the issue.

While Alliance supporters are justified in complaining they are being unfairly painted as a bunch of pro-life extremists, NDP Leader Alexa McDonough had a point when she asked during a televised debate with Day in Vancouver whether we going to "roll back the clock" on women's rights and take away their right to have an abortion.

The fact abortion is still a topic of social debate is understandable - it is an incredibly sensitive issue. But the fact people are still trying to be drag abortion back into the realm of legal debate is astonishing in this day and age.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1988 that legally forcing a woman to carry a foetus to term constitutes "a profound interference with a woman's body and . . . a violation of her security," and polls have consistently shown that a decisive majority of Canadians believe women should have the right to choose.

And yet, perhaps Canada isn't as enlightened on this issue as you might think. After all, we were years behind the U.S. in striking down our abortion laws. And while the abortion pill known as RU-486 (which lessens the psychological trauma of abortion and makes it possible for women to have one early in her pregnancy) became available in the U.S. last week, the pill will not be available to Canadian women anytime in the foreseeable future.

Perhaps, then, it is not unthinkable that abortion rights might come under genuine attack in this country.

Those who dismiss the possibility that Canada might once again criminalize abortion would do well to consider the consequences should that relatively unlikely event to occur.

We might find ourselves facing a choice one day soon – a choice between giving citizens control over their own bodies or forcing women to return to the days of back-alley operating tables and fifth-rate physicians.

Adam Clayton

Remember the Montreal massacre

December 6 marks the 11th anniversary of the brutal murder of 14 Quebec women while attending class at Ecole Polytechnique.

The 14 dead women are still the most haunting reminder of violence against women, something police, administrators and government have all tried to eliminate with laws, restraining orders and court orders. They are the reminder of a society's mistakes.

Robin Osmond, SA vice president of Student Affairs has decided to remember this sad symbol of violence against women during the "No Means No" campaign. This is the first time RRC students, both male and female will have the opportunity to join their voices against emotional and physical abuse towards women.

The No Means No campaign, initiated by the Canadian Federation of Students gives out some startling facts about date rape:

"20.2 per cent of female students said they gave into unwanted sexual intercourse because they were overwhelmed by a man's continued arguments and pressure.

6.6 per cent of female students said they had unwanted sexual intercourse because a man threatened or used some degree of physical force.

13.6 per cent of female students said that, when they were drunk or high, a man attempted unwanted sexual intercourse."

Osmond has jumped on this CFS band wagon for one reason.

"Date rape and violence against women is not just a women's issue. Society as a whole is affected by this."

Osmond is organizing a white ribbon campaign to commemorate the 14 murdered Quebec women and she hopes to bring attention to the date rape issue with the No Means No campaign.

White ribbons and facts about the date rape drug Rohypnol will be handed out with each social ticket sold for the SA's Dec. 9 Christmas social. Ribbons will also be handed out around campus and will be available at the SA office in DM20. RRC students are asked to remember the Quebec women by wearing one of these white ribbons.

Students can also add their hand print to the cause. Osmond will be going to college cafeterias at lunch hours where students can add their hand print to a banner dedicated to the slain women. The banner will be posted on Dec.14.

If you think you have been untouched by violence against women, think again. Your sister, mother, grandmother, cousin, friend or the girl sitting beside you on the bus has been touched.

Wear the white ribbon for them.

Add your hand print to remember the innocent.

Kyla Duncan

PROFILE

Barbara-Lee Edwards

Edwards at the top of her game

CKY5 anchor reflects on success, fame

By Greg Burch

It's quite a leap from stuffing envelopes in the mailroom of a chemical company to interviewing the Prime Minister of Canada, but CKY5 co-news anchor Barbara-Lee Edwards can list both jobs on her resume.

Edwards recently sat down with Jean Chretien at the CKY5 studio to discuss the federal election.

"I tried to focus on local issues so that I could really make it fresh for our viewers," says Edwards.

CKY5 is the top-rated news program in the Winnipeg market. Some of the program's success has been attributed to Edwards, but she says she's not going to take things for granted.

"It could change," says Edwards, "and we know I could change. We can never become complacent or go into cruise control. News is a big deal in this town."

Edwards believes feedback from viewers helps CKY5 keep its edge, and she says she is very open and attentive to it. However, that feedback isn't always related to the quality of their news, she says.

"I'm amazed sometimes that at the end of the day, if we worked really hard that day and pulled off a really good show, I'll get a phone call from someone saying they didn't like my haircut," says Edwards.

Whatever you think of her haircut, it's hard to deny Edwards is getting people's attention. Not only is CKY5 atop the ratings, but Edwards and CBC anchor Diana Swain tied for the top spot in a survey conducted by the Winnipeg Sun asking Manitobans who they thought was the sexiest woman in the province last summer.

"We were laughing. We both thought exactly the same thing: two married women in their thirties with children and we're considered sexy.

"It's not all bad. I know who I am and where I'm at and I thought it was funny. At the end of the day I was flattered by it," says Edwards.

Edwards' journey towards broadcasting began in Vancouver, B.C., where she was born and raised.

Edwards worked for the school newspaper in Grade 11, and also enjoyed public speaking, and acting.

"I was talking with my dad one day and he told me that television brings all of these things together," says Edwards.

Edwards liked the idea, but she still wasn't sure which avenue of journalism she wanted to pursue.

"I even toyed with the idea of being a disc jockey," says Edwards.

Ultimately, Edwards decided television was the way she wanted to go.

"I enjoy the writing so much, the creative part of it; I thought that if I got into television I could work on writing with pictures.

"I knew then that television was really where I wanted to go," says Edwards.

Edwards took a broadcast journalism program at the B.C. Institute of Technology, after which she worked hard to find a journalism-related job while stuffing envelopes in a chemical company mail room to pay for her student loans.

"Getting my first job; that was the biggest challenge. I applied anywhere and everywhere. Radio stations, TV stations, anywhere," says Edwards.

"I finally got on with a radio station, in the promotions department. I got on the air once in a blue moon, but it was a foot in the door," says Edwards.

Edwards eventually caught on with UTV in Vancouver in 1990. Her first anchor work consisted of hourly one-minute news updates.

"I basically took the shifts that nobody who was currently working there would take, like overnights or weekends starting at 5:30 in the morning."

UTV management was impressed, and they offered her a role in their new weekend newscast.

"They asked me if I wanted to do weather, which I didn't, it wasn't really my focus. But I took it anyway," says Edwards. "Who is going to say no and get picky when you're on your first job?"

"At the end of the day I was flattered by it," says Edwards on tying for first place with CBC's Diane Swain in a survey that had Manitobans pick the sexiest women in the province.

Edwards was soon doing sports as well as weather on weekends at UTV.

In 1992, Edwards moved to UTV's sister station STV Saskatoon as a full-time anchor.

"It was a huge step for me, but it was an amazing experience, because it was a small station and I had to do everything," says Edwards. "I produced the shows, and I was the anchor."

Edwards was surprised to get a call from Winnipeg in 1994, since she had never been to the city. Someone from CKY5, when traveling through Saskatoon, had made a tape of Edwards and taken it back to the office. When Nancy Gregory left the station, Edwards was quickly offered the evening anchor job.

The move to Winnipeg would be another big step for Edwards, but she wanted to take it.

"I knew CKY5 was a national affiliate; I knew it was a number one station. It was a move up for sure."

Edwards started at CKY5 in 1994 as the late night anchor and was promoted to the six o'clock team in the same year.

Edwards feels her colleagues experience has been a great help to her.

"When I came here I was working with people who had been in the business for a long time and they could take me from the level I was at and work with me from there. It was a real eye-opener," she says.

When she isn't at the studio, Edwards spends her free time with her four-year-old daughter.

"When I'm not at work, she pretty much owns me and she knows it," says Edwards.

Edwards also donates her time to organizations like the Humane Society and the Children's Wish Foundation, and she says she is happy to do so.

"Anybody can make an appearance, but when somebody with a public profile does it, it raises public interest," she says.

"And if you can do that for somebody because you've been blessed to be able to succeed in the career of your choice, you should do it," she says.

Wild on Wilde

PTE production demonstrates the Importance of good acting

By Adam Clayton

Oscar himself would have been proud.

Using only a miniscule stage, minimalist lighting, and a sparingly decorated set, Prairie Theatre Exchange has put together a smashing production of Oscar Wilde's play The Importance of Being Earnest even its cheeky playwright would have been hard pressed to find fault with.

Wilde's classic, which first appeared on the London stage in 1895, opens with "Ernest" (Paul McQuillan) and Algernon (Mike Shara), two wealthy, indolent individuals, discussing Jack's intention to propose to Gwendolyn Fairfax (Sarah Mennell).

The droll Algernon has an aversion to marriage and teases Ernest about his proposal before bowling him over with a bit of intelligence he has gathered about his friend - it seems Ernest's real name is Jack.

Algernon forces Jack to reveal the mystery behind his name, and the exasperated Jack admits he is "Ernest in town and Jack in the country."

It seems Jack has invented a wicked, London-dwelling brother named Ernest so he can enjoy living it up in the city while maintaining a clean reputation back home in the country, where his lovely young ward Cecily Cardew resides.

Jack and Algernon's repartee continues until Algernon's aunt Lady Bracknell (Evelyne Anderson) and her daughter Gwendolyn arrive. Jack takes advantage of the opportunity to propose to his love, but soon finds his hopes stifled by the stiff Bracknell, who disapproves of the match because of Jack's dubious ancestry. The unknowing Gwendolyn's declaring she will only marry a man named Ernest put Jack in an even more difficult position.

In the course of conversation, Jack reveals the whereabouts of his country estate, which he had previously kept to himself, and in the second act, Algernon takes advantage of the information by paying the young Cecily (Jennifer Villaverde) a visit, posing as Jack's fictional, rakish brother Ernest.

Hilarity ensues when Algernon and Cecily quickly fall in love, Gwendolyn pops in for a visit, and Jack, unaware of Algernon's ruse, announces that his brother is dead.

Things become even more complicated when it is discovered Cecily is also intent on marrying a man named Ernest, but needless to say, everything works out for the young lovers.

Director Allen MacInnis' production is a fine accomplishment, with the actors earning themselves particular distinction.

McQuillan is rightly cast as the much-put-upon Jack, and Shara in particular shines as the dandy Algernon, whose snide observations and physical contortions had the audience in hysterics.

Anderson is perfect as the prim, authoritarian Bracknell, and Brian Drader (in a dual role, playing both Algernon's and Jack's butlers) earns several worthy laughs.

Judith Bowden's sets are splendidly simple and effective, and her ornately decorated mobiles hovering above the stage blend in surprisingly well.

As for Mr. Wilde's playwriting: Earnest is rightly considered his greatest achievement, and his sharp, incomparably witty writing bears the test of time surprisingly well.

The Importance of Being Earnest is playing at the Prairie Theatre Exchange until Dec. 10.

Much ado about everything

MTC's 'abridged' works of Shakespeare lively, comical

By Tamara King

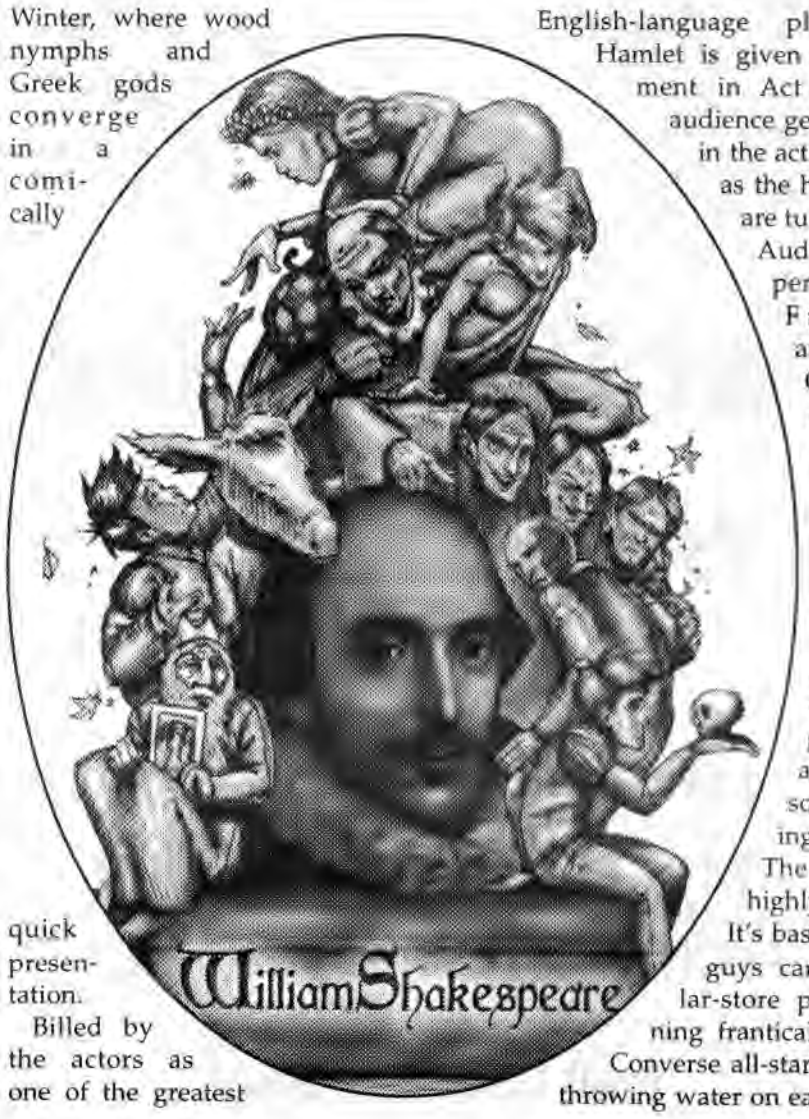
There are plenty of men in drag or velvet tights (and all of William Shakespeare's works, to boot) in the Manitoba Theatre Centre's latest production, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged.

It's Shakespeare summed up; Three Stooges, comedy-slapstick style. Three energetic men, Daniel Cipilinski, Chris Sigurdson, and Larry Mannell, act out the entirety of Shakespeare's Complete Works, or, in other words, 37 plays in 97 minutes.

Dizzying audiences by climbing off-stage, racing through the aisles, and vomiting on the patrons, the trio flashes 36 of the 37 plays before your eyes in the first act alone. The Three Shakesperian Stooges add style the stories with improvised jokes and crotch-grabbing antics.

Highlights include Juliet (Cipilinski) leaving the stage (and even the room), climbing into the audience and up onto the balcony, and Burt and Ernie puppets get cozy in Hamlet's "play within a play" scene.

The Bard's 16 comedies are lumped together as The Comedy of Two Well-Measured Gentlemen Lost in the Merry Wives of Venice on a Midsummer's Twelfth Night in Winter, where wood nymphs and Greek gods converge in a comically quick presentation.



Billed by the actors as one of the greatest English-language plays ever, Hamlet is given solo treatment in Act Two. The audience gets involved in the action onstage as the house lights are turned on.

Audiences help perform a Freudian analysis of Ophelia's psyche by examining the id, ego and superego, and an unsuspecting audience member is given an acting lesson in "feeling the part."

The play is highly energetic. It's basically three guys carrying dollar-store props, running frantically in their Converse all-star high tops, throwing water on each other to simulate drowning, and waving stuffed dummies around to simulate missing characters.

When the dummies are missing, and a costume change needs to occur, only one actor will occupy the stage, telling off-the-cuff jokes.

While digressing from the Bard's own words, the audience is well entertained by the on-the-fly humour, although Shakespeare's humour is overshadowed by improvised pop culture references.

Audiences will no doubt recognize the Keanu Reeves references in Hamlet and the jokes about Stockwell Day in a wetsuit. And in true Shakesperian style, men play the women's roles, and really, what could be funnier than a man dressed up as a woman?

MTC's treatment of Shakespeare is reassuring. Even if you slept through most of high school English, you can still appreciate MTC's Shakespeare.

Highly energetic entertainers carrying around plastic swords and wearing plastic crotch covers and multi-coloured pantaloons remind us how simple centuries-old literature can really be.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged is playing on the MTC main stage until Dec. 16.

Treble Charger happy to hit Brand New Low

Toronto rockers play the 'Peg Dec. 9

By Adam Clayton

In spite of its title, treble charger's new album Wide Awake Bored is anything but dull, according to lead guitarist/vocalist Bill Priddle.

"We're really happy with it. Our last album went gold in two-and-a-half years and this went gold in 10 weeks," says Priddle.

Treble Charger's major label debut, Maybe It's Me, yielded the hit singles Red and Friend of Mine and brought the Toronto rock quartet national attention. Priddle says treble charger isn't worried about suffering from any sort of sophomore jinx with Wide Awake Bored, released last July.

"I think there's a lot of strong single contenders. I think our latest, Brand New Low, is going to do really well," says Priddle.

The band's next tour includes their first Winnipeg show since Summersault, which Priddle says was an odd experience.

"It was kind of a weird show; kind of a weird crowd, because it was on a weekday. It's sort of a weird town, Winnipeg.

"It seems they like really heavy or really underground music. Finger Eleven probably went over really well that day," says Priddle.

Asked how he would describe treble charger's sound, Priddle pauses.

"I guess it's just a rock band. That disappearing breed - it's kind of getting marginalized, with all the teen pop," he says.

Priddle says today's music scene is reminiscent of the empty, bubble-gum pop of the '70s.

"It's pretty easy to look at what's been on the Top 40 for the past 30 years and describe it as shit," he says.

"Eventually it all goes around, it sort of reflects the demographics," says Priddle.

"Pretty soon the kids will grow up and we won't have so many 'N Syncs and Christina Aguileras."

The band, which has been together for about eight years, made a concerted effort to improve their music while recording Wide Awake Bored, says Priddle.

"I think we concentrated on writing more up-tempo songs, writing better songs, and being less lazy," he says.

"Our producer said no song is done until the lyrics make sense, so the songs are a lot more direct on this album," says Priddle.

Still, songwriting is always a strange process, says Priddle, explaining the origin of Wide Awake Bored's first single, American Psycho.

"We'd all read the book American Psycho, and Greig was working on the song and he just sort of came up with the title.

"That's the way it is sometimes with songwriting. You get an idea and it's sort of like 'Oh, that's the way the song goes.'"

Priddle, whose musical influences range from the Beatles and the Rolling Stones to Sonic Youth, the Pixies, and R.E.M., started playing the guitar at age nine. He says music has always been a major part of his life.

"I never wanted to get into the music industry. I just wanted to be a musician, but unfortunately you can't be one without the other," he says.

Treble Charger is joined by Eve 6 and Gob at the Walker Theatre on Dec. 9.

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The Fake News

RRC student annoys classmates with constant Simpsons impressions, quotes

By Adam Clayton

Some second-year Computer Engineering Technology students say they're fed up with classmate Bernie Finch's "incessantly" imitating characters from the popular animated TV show The Simpsons.

Chad Waczinski says he thought his classmate's impressions were funny at first, but he quickly grew tired of Finch's constant Simpsons-related wisecracks.

"I love The Simpsons as much as the next Generation-X male, but there's got to be a limit," says Waczinski.

"I mean, the guy answers questions in class in Chief Wiggum's voice, for God's sake."

photo: Adam Clayton

Simpsons fanatic Bernie Finch says only "glaven" in response to allegations he overquotes The Simpsons

Sarah Campbell agrees something has to be done about Finch's behaviour, but says she often feels sorry for the diminutive Finch, whose communication skills have deteriorated to the point where he can only communicate through Simpsons catch phrases.

"It's really quite sad, when you think about it," says Campbell. "Every morning when he turns on his laptop he says, 'Hello Smithers, you're quite good at turning me on,' in a Mr. Burns voice, to no one in particular."

Then again, the 31-year-old Finch, who lives in his parent's basement and has allegedly boasted he can "beat any video game," can also be quite arrogant, says Campbell. She says she will never forget the time she worked with Finch on a group assignment.

"I gave him some of my stuff to look over and all of a sudden he turned into that fat comic store guy, you know the one I mean," says Campbell. "Anyway, he called my stuff the, 'Worst . . . proposal . . . ever' in front of everyone. I was mortified. God, what a loser."

Waczinski says he's worried Finch is only going to get worse before he gets better.

"He's reached the point now where he's pretty much just babbling nonsense," he says. "Before, at least his quotes were marginally appropriate - like, he'd say, 'D'oh!' when he made a mistake or someone would mention dogs and he'd say, 'Dogs are outstanding.'"

But in the past few weeks, Finch has begun shouting obscure phrases like, 'I'm not not licking toads' or 'You can really taste the goat' in the middle of lectures, says Waczinski.

"I don't think he has much of a life," says Campbell. "I'm a little worried for him, quite frankly - and for myself."

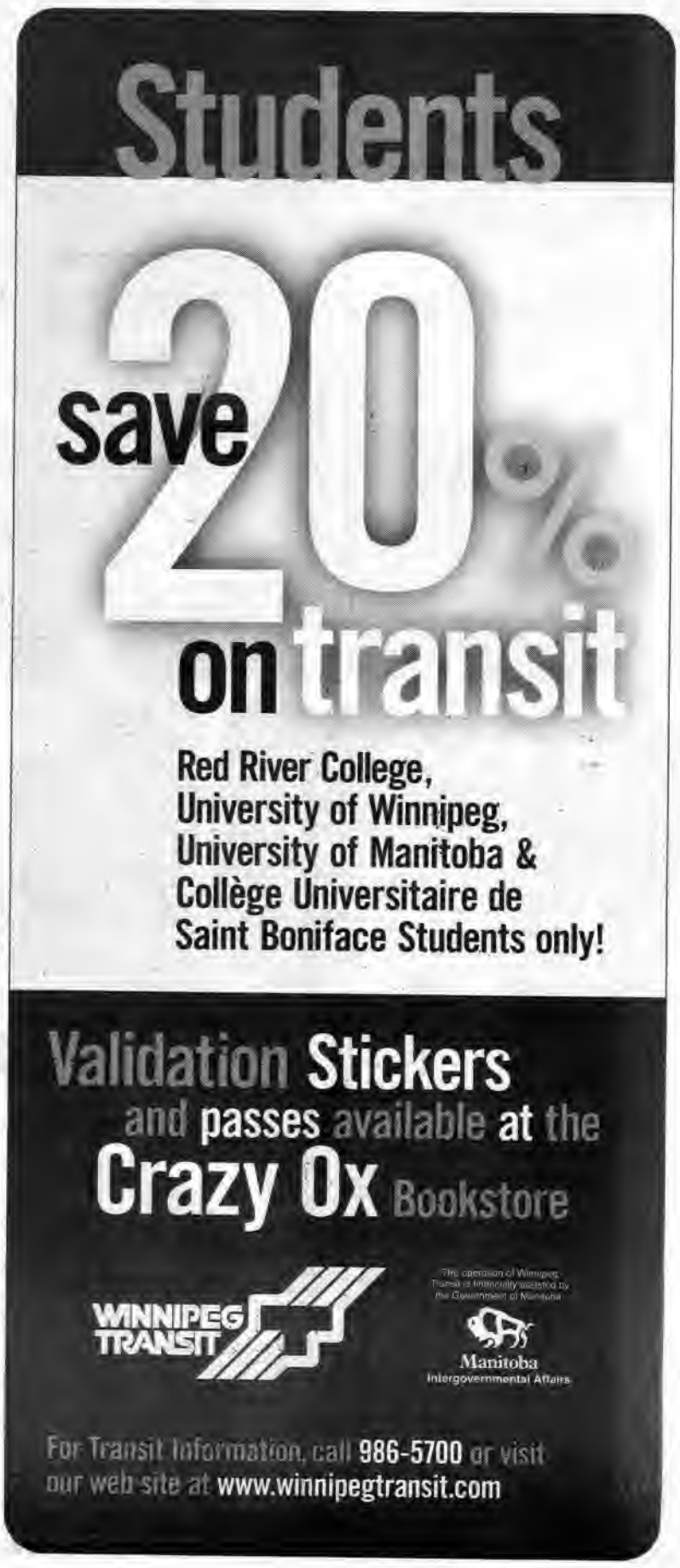
When reached for comment, Finch would only twitch and mutter 'Glaven' before sighing and adding, 'Loneliness and cheeseburgers are a dangerous mix.'

The Fake News is a work of fiction and is entirely satirical in nature. It should in no way be construed as fact. The views expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of the Projector's editors or the Red River College Students' Association.

TOP TEN

Top 10 signs you need a shower

10. The crud between your toes just winked at you
9. Your head keeps sliding off your pillow
8. You can't get a ride in a Winnipeg taxi.
7. The homeless in The Exchange stop asking you for change
6. The RRC weight room empties when you walk in.
5. You find out green "stink lines" don't exist only in cartoons
4. You roll down your windows driving past the slaughterhouse on Marion for some fresh air
3. Nobody notices when you step in dog doo
2. Your deoderant stick melts on contact
1. K-Tel offers to bottle your sweat as bear repellent



ENTERTAINMENT

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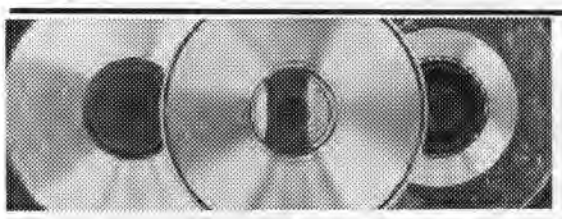

Reviews

Oasis
Familiar to Millions

Oasis' brash, sprawling sound has always lent itself to stadium shows and the raucous atmosphere of a soccer riot. Their first live album successfully captures the drunken hooliganism of an Oasis concert, from Noel and Liam's brotherly bickering to the latter's slurred, obscenity-laden asides.

-Adam Clayton

Rating: 8 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 5(CD2), 2,7(CD1)

Blink 182
The Mark, Tom, and Travis Show

There's nothing new here for friends or foes of Blink. The Moffats on speed and Viagra would best describe this live collection of poppy, cotton-candy "punk," which contains all the joy of their previous unoriginal, uninspired releases peppered with infantile, mysoginistic banter.

-Andrew Langendorfer

Rating: 3 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: None

Dream Warriors
Breathe or Die

Why anyone would want to indulge in seven different versions of pretty much the same music, in succession, is beyond me. The album isn't necessarily a complete waste - the ambient tracks are sufficiently ambiguous to blend unremarkably into various club mixes somewhere.

-Tamara King

Rating: 4 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 7,4,3

Squirrel Nut Zippers
Bedlam Ballroom

SNZ's new release is an eclectic blend of jazz, swing, and rag-time, with a modernized feel. Despite some excessive choral repitions, Bedlam Ballroom will keep your toes a-tappin.'

-Andew Langendorfer

Rating: 7 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 1,6,8,13

Black Eyed Peas
Bridging the Gap

Trip-hop, jungle, and '80s funk - they're all here. The single cut from this grooviest of Phat records is Weekends, which features the sultry and seductive Esthero, who fills out the old-school beat with an undeniably catchy chorus. Final result - really funky stuff.

-Brandon Boone

Rating: 8 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 2,4,11

Rap Essentials 2000
Various Artists

This mix of up-and-comers and old school masters is a radio-friendly mix of slower hip-hop and upbeat club anthems, but it certainly isn't an essential compilation. Notable MIAs that keep this from being quintessentially "2000" are Eminem and Dr. Dre.

-Anne Dawson

Rating: 5 out of 10. Favourable Tracks: 2,6,12

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Yin & Yang

By Katie Chalmers

We Can Help. That's what the red sticker said. It was placed in the top right corner of my photo by some smart-ass machine-operator at Black's Photo.

The photo was too dark, the flash didn't fire, but I'm certain that's not what why they wanted to help. What they really meant was the following: we see you're a loser, you look retarded blowing a kiss, you obviously need help.

I took the photo of myself, sitting in my car in the parking lot outside Polo Park. I was on the 34th frame, and thought I'd finish up the roll before taking it inside to be developed.

So I closed my eyes and blew a kiss to the lens. I would slip the sugary sweet

photo: Katie Chalmers

photo into my boyfriend's Christmas card.It would be romantic. Coy. Sexy.

Now that I've got the photo back, I now see my cheeks look like they're storing a couple dozen acorns or at least two decent sized kiwis. Not romantic, but foolish, ridiculous, wrong.

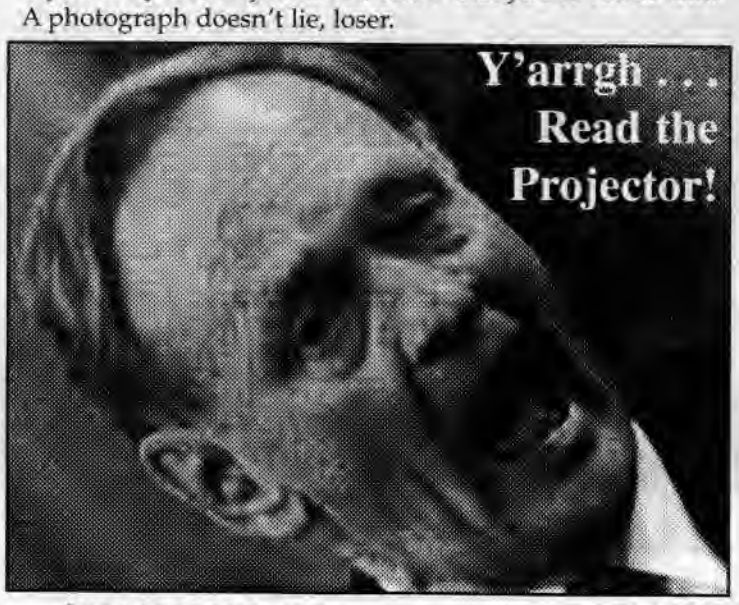
Most of you likely have crappy photos floating around you couldn't rip up before your parents put them in the family album.

Or perhaps you have photos taken by your sister and taped onto the inside of your front door so everyone who drops by can see what you look like at 5 o'clock in the morning, after a real rough night, passed out, bare thighs (at a bad angle), black make-up gobs in your eyes, puddles of drool soaked into the pillow . . . or something like that.

You must have a photo or two that makes you look like a haggard junkie, a bloated fish, a gaunt geek, a monkey with the complexion of head cheese, or pregnant, even though you're not. You cry out in disgust, 'Do I really look like that?'

If you tell yourself you don't, know that you're full of shit.

A photograph doesn't lie, loser.



By Andrew Langendorfer

I just got off a Greyhound bus after an arduous 23 hour, 15 minute journey from Winnipeg to Lethbridge, Alta.

I don't have a Discman, my Walkman is broken, and I get carsick if I read too much in a vehicle. Things were not exactly looking up as I left my friends behind for a week and choked back diesel fumes in the loading area.

There are a lot of negative attitudes towards travelling by bus. It takes too long, the passengers are smelly and weird, the washrooms are tiny and dangerous, and the drivers are always crabby about something.

I wish I could dispell these myths, but I can't.

Had I driven to Lethbridge without stopping overnight, it probably would-have taken about 13 hours. The cost in gas would have been about half of my ticket price.

The passenger sitting in front of me smelled like a cross between a whisky still, a dentist's office, and the set of a porno movie. I wouldn't say the passengers were "weird" so much as flat-out nuts.

There was the guy with a tennis racket, playing against an imaginary opponent all the way from Regina to Calgary. Somebody stayed in the washroom for half an hour and advised me to "watch out for them turtles" as he moseyed on back to his seat.

He should've warned me about the tsunami splashing onto my ass every time the bus hit the tiniest bump. The driver told one elderly lady to "sit the fuck down" when she walked up to ask him where exactly the time change occurred.

The bus is definitely a different experience for most students that take it. It can also be a positive learning experience.

Where else can a person see such a great cross-section of the Canadian population in one confined area?

I'm not sure I would even believe people played imaginary tennis if I hadn't taken that bus.

From now on, I'm not going to complain about the bus. In fact, I'm recommending it to all of my wander-lusting fellow students.

Despite all of its faults, the bus is a prime example of why the destination isn't nearly as important as the journey.

After all I saw and heard in that one day of my life, I'm not sure my CDs, books, and video games will be nearly as interesting.

GRADUATION PHOTOS

Graduation photos for the December 6th Graduation will be taken from November 27th to November 30th, 2000. The sitting fee is $7.00, which has to be paid at the time you make your appointment. Bookings are now being taken at the Students' Association office located at Room DM20.

If you wish to have a photo taken on the day of the Graduation December 6th, 2000 you must also make an appointment. Sitting fee is $7.00 and must be paid when you book.

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(FOR DECEMBER 6TH GRAD)

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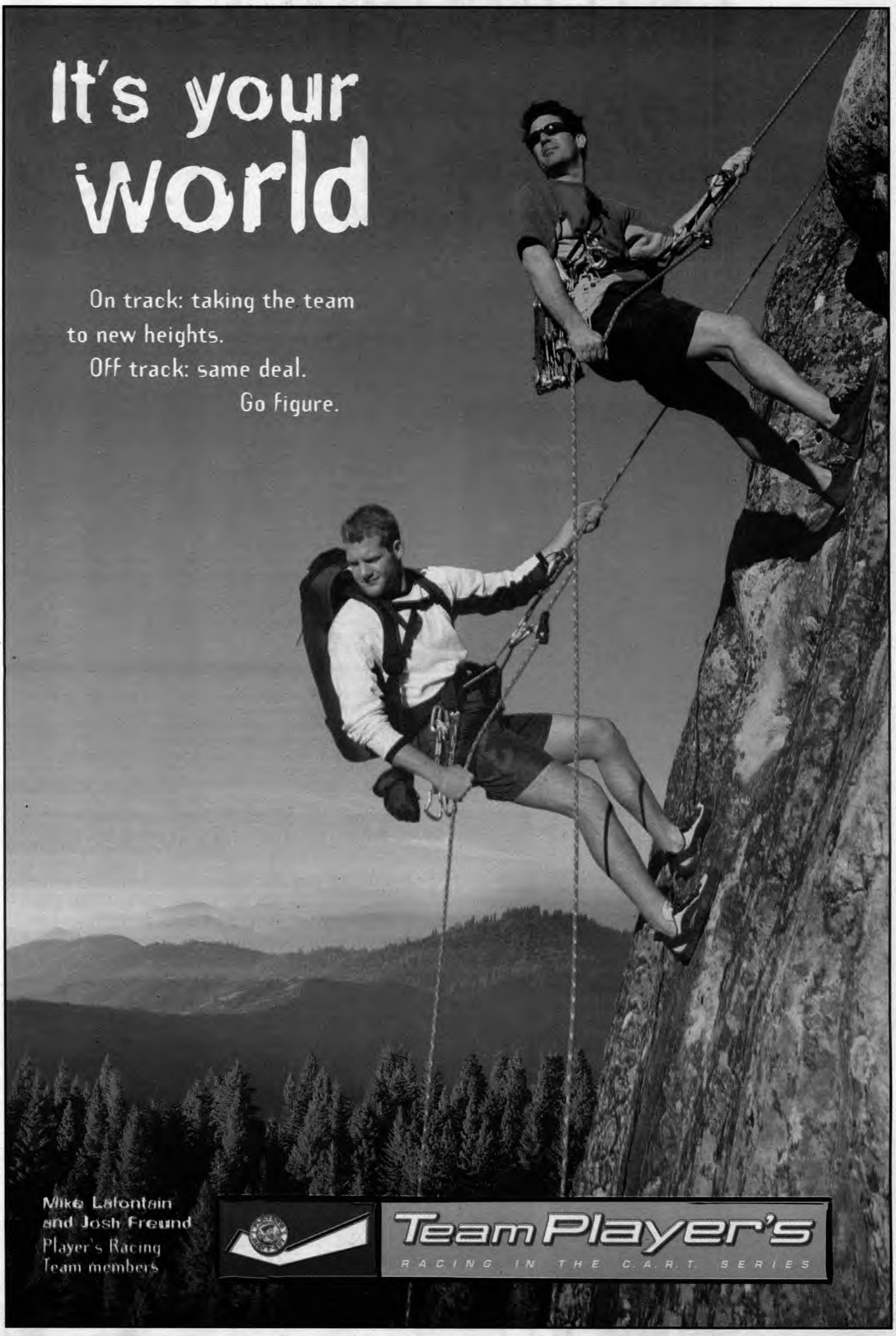

Mike Lafontain and Josh Freund
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