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Bookstores face backups

BY RHIANNON LEIER

With only a few weeks to go until midterms, many students don't have all the books they require because the bookstores are currently out of stock.

The lack of books is apparent at both the Notre Dame and Princess Street campuses, but most evident at the Princess Street location.

Pat Hiatt, a sales person at the Princess Street bookstore has dealt with disgruntled students for the past month.

"This year is worse then any other year ever," said Hiatt.

According to Hiatt, the lack of books is due to a number of things; the store has experienced difficulties with their suppliers, the shipments have not arrived on time, and the booklists have been late.

"It is not always the bookstore's fault, some of the instructors do not get their booklists in on time," said Hiatt.

"This year has been a nightmare. The departments are just totally forgetting to send in their lists. This is the worst registration I have seen in 13 years," says Eileen Zuke, manager of the bookstore.

Coordinator for electronic technology program, Bryan Crandell, admitted that the reason the students in his program don't have all the books they need is partially his fault.

"I didn't place the order on time," said Crandell.

Rob Olson, Red River's director of auxiliary services says that some instructors forget to send their book orders to their coordinators before they go away on summer holidays.

He says coordinators are then forced to submit the book lists when the instructors return, which may mean books aren't always in stock at the beginning of the school year.

"To deal with this problem we are moving towards a more electronic format for next year so the instructors can send the order online and we can confirm receipt of the book order," said Olson.

Another reason for the problems at the bookstore is that it's the first year both stores have been running together.

Keith Penhall a first-year business administration coordinator, who has dealt with missing books in his faculty, explains that the centralized ordering for both locations causes problems.

"If logistics go awry it is very noticeable. It happened in this case," said Penhall.

While the bookstore scrambles to find books, many students have resorted to other means to finish their assignments.

John Sheppard, a first-year electronic engineering student is currently missing a report writing book.

"The instructor has had to photocopy the assignments for the class," said Sheppard.

Mark Kowalski, a part.–time student at the Princess campus, is also frustrated because he still hasn't been able to buy one of his books.

"You would think the bookstore would have it at the beginning of the term. There is no point in having it two months down the line."

PHOTO | RHIANNON LEIER

Bookstore clerks says it's the worst year ever

Manitoba officially smoke-free

Students share mixed reactions about ban

LINDSAY PAYETTE

Tammy Seymour isn't happy about the province-wide smoking ban that took affect on Oct. 1.

The business administration student is one of many customers who had been driving to Headingley to dine after an indoor smoking ban took effect in July 2003.

Peter Dalla-Vivenza, spokesperson for Healthy Minister Jim Rondeau said the idea for the ban began in 2002 when Ontario waitress Heather Crowe was diagnosed with lung cancer. She was not a smoker, but she worked in places that had smoking sections.

"Second-hand smoke has a devastating health impact on workers and long-term smokers. A smoking ban would help protect workers from second-hand smoke," said Dalla-Vivenza.

The Manitoba government formed an All-Party Task Force to get people's views on an indoor smoking ban. They held public hearings and found that the majority was in favour of a ban. On July 1, 2003, Winnipeg was officially told to butt out.

He said the government has seen results since the ban was introduced. In 2000, 26 per cent of Winnipeggers smoked compared to the 21 per cent who now smoke.

> "Second-hand smoke has a devastating health impact on workers and long-term smokers. A smoking ban would help protect workers from second-hand smoke"
>
> – PETER DALLA-VIVENZA

The Manitoba government's website outlines fines for non-compliance. Individuals who are caught smoking in a public place will be fined between $100 and $500 for their first offense and up to $1,000 for additional violations. Corporations will be fined anywhere from $500 to $3,000 for their first offense and up to $15,000 for additional violations.

The government announced smoking will be permitted on patios which meet required regulations.

That decision may be just what local businesses like the King's Head Pub need. Owner Jay Khanuja said that after Winnipeg businesses were told to butt out, he lost 25 per cent of his customers. He has since tried to rid the stigma of a smoke-filled place by focusing more on food, which he says has helped a little.

"The decision to let people smoke on patios won't help this year. Patio season is over," said Khanuja, although he hopes it will bring back some of his customers next year.

However, students like Tina St. Godard aren't upset about the smoking ban.

"It's nice to go to the bar and not have to walk through a cloud of blue smoke."

This just in - we need more writers!

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College kickoff week a bust

SA re-evaluates student interests after low turn-outs

BY KYLE BAKX

The Red River College Students' Association is re-examining students interests after experiencing record low turn-outs during Kickoff Week this past September.

The move comes after the SA was forced to cancel their annual Much Video Dance Party due to low ticket sales.

SA program director Michael Blatherwick says this type of cancellation has never happened before, in fact, the cancellation of any scheduled event during Kickoff Week is unheard of.

"This is the fourth year in which I have been responsible for the planning of Kickoff Week. Every other year we offered the social during the second week and every year it has sold out... except for this year," he says.

The Much Video Dance Party offered a social evening, equipped with two large video screens, a beach theme, and prizes given away throughout the night from the SA, the Molson Canadian Rock Squad and Coca-Cola.

SA president Ryan Mariani says they will have to adapt to the recent drop in participation among students.

"The recent events hosted by the SA have unfolded a unique message that students' interests are changing and require careful examination of these changing trends," he says.

The social was the final straw during a week plagued with lower than expected attendance levels. Normally the Kickoff Week is held either during the first or second week of school but because college started before the long weekend, the event was held during the third week of classes this year.

By the time the third week came around, many students had already become busy with their courses, therefore resulting in low ticket sales. Although plenty of hype was generated, the excitement and anticipation had worn off by the third week, ultimately resulting in the cancellation of the social, the week's main event.

First-year business administration student, Lorraine Brooks, feels the social was not much of a success because it was at the end of the Kickoff Week.

"I was looking forward to the beach party on Friday, but was tired from going to all of the other events (prior to the social) during the week."

Some students may have avoided the social because of the preconceived notion that a Much Video Dance Party is a dry event, because the students had already attended one of these parties in high school. Alcohol was planned to be served and students should assume alcohol will be served at all college socials, unless noted.

But Blatherwick promises a better end result next time.

"I guarantee it will not happen again."

See editorial page 9

Downtown student violently assaulted

Female student struck three times in the face after midnight

BY STACY CARDIGAN SMITH

A Red River College student is recovering after a violent assault outside the campus during the week of Sept. 20.

A 25-year-old graphic design student, who declined to give her name, was leaving the Princess campus at approximately 1 a.m. when she was struck in the face three times by a native man on her way to the bus stop.

The student says she didn't use Safewalk, a program that hires students during the week and contracted security on weekends to escort students to and from their vehicles, or the bus stop, because she didn't know it existed.

Until this school year, the College was open until 2 a.m., with Safewalk available until the college closed. But due to low numbers of students after-hours, campus hours were shortened as of July 1, 2004. It's now open until midnight, at which time the building is supposed to be completely empty.

However, recent confusion surrounding both Safewalk's hours of operation and the existence of the program itself has lead to students and staff being left without a safe way home.

According to Jim Drever, security manager at the Notre Dame campus, some problems with the program may stem from the recent changes in building hours, as people are now unsure of the Safewalk's end time.

All students and staff should be out of the building at 12 a.m., not just beginning to clear out, says Drever.

"This shouldn't be happening," he says.

If this were the case, Drever says everyone could be safely accompanied to his or her destination.

Ron Barnes, director of campus services at Princess agrees.

Barnes says there should be no confusion about campus hours as they are clearly posted at every entrance to the building.

"There should be no reason people do not know when campus hours are," he says.

Security staff also goes around and reminds students of when the building closes, he says.

"If people want Safewalk, then they must leave by 12 a.m." says Barnes.

There may be some exceptions in the future when Safewalk hours may be extended, such as during exam time, he says. But this must first be negotiated by many levels of campus authority, and will not take effect any time soon.

If the hours were to be extended, extra security would have to be brought in, and that is not a financial option right now, says Barnes.

Confusion in the program's hours may not be the only problem. The program may also be suffering from a lack of publicity.

Barnes is currently looking into producing a pamphlet to better inform students of the college's services and some general safety tips.

However, he says the student manuals, which every student should receive at registration, also contain the safety information.

"All the information they need, including Safewalk, is listed there," he says.

In the meantime, Barnes says the assault is a fairly isolated incident.

Since the Princess Street campus opened August of 2002, there have been only a handful of reported incidents.

"There is nothing significant we are aware of," he says.

There have been two other reported incidents that he could remember, including one just last week involving a female staff member, and one last year concerning a student on Portage Avenue. But these were not in campus jurisdiction, Barnes says.

PHOTO | TREVOR KUNA

If students want to use Safewalk, they must leave the campus before closing at midnight

Security supervisor Ross McCorriston is organizing two personal safety presentations to be held Tuesday Oct. 19 and Wednesday Oct. 27. The time and location weren't available at press time. Contact campus security for more information.

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An evening of fine dining and wine tasting has been organized by a group of Culinary Arts Students on Thursday November 18th. The evening will feature a six course menu designed and prepared by the students as well as wines from Kenaston Wine Market.

Also featured is guest speaker Chef Cameron Tate of Culinary Team Canada who will travel to Erfurt Germany to compete in the World Culinary Olympics this October.

Funds raised this evening will go towards tuition for a culinary arts student who had to withdraw from the course and leave his place of employment due to an automobile accident this spring. Tickets are $75 each or $65 each for 2 or more.

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Auto theft on the rise

Notre dame campus hit

PHOTO | TREVOR KUNA

Four cars were reported stolen at the Notre Dame campus in September

BY ELIZABETH HOLMSTROM

A recent string of car thefts and vehicle break-ins at the Notre Dame campus is an ongoing cause for concern, says the security manager at the Notre Dame campus.

Jim Drever says although RRC has a lower than average rate of car break-ins and theft, it's still not an acceptable rate.

"In order to combat the rise, we've taken even more precautions. We have cameras that cover almost 100 per cent of the parking lots, and we've also hired another security person and increased the patrol of the security van," he said.

This month alone there have been four cars stolen and eight car break-ins, all occurring in the Notre Dame campus parking lots.

Three years ago, Notre Dame was faced with this same problem. The Winnipeg Police Service were called in to the patrol the parking lot – arresting three people from outside of the college for the incidents.

A study done in 2001 by Statistics Canada reported that the rate of auto theft in Winnipeg has more than quadrupled from a decade ago.

"Winnipeg has the highest rate of auto thefts in Canada," said Sergeant Randy Harris with the Stolen Auto Unit, part of the Winnipeg Police Service.

"There's an average of one car per hour being stolen, and the yearly average is 10,000."

"There's not one worst area. Instead there are pockets," said Harris, when asked if any part of the city was worse than another. "Anywhere there is a large number of vehicles where people can come and go unnoticed."

Students' Association President, Ryan Mariani is concerned because he says students shouldn't have to worry about their cars being stolen.

"As a student and a student representative, I'm unimpressed and disappointed. Students should not have to worry about their car being stolen in a parking lot that they pay for."

Drever explained that most cars are broken into either by a method called "punching the lock" or simply by breaking a window. "Punching the lock" involves making a small hole in the door under the lock, and then using an object, such as a screwdriver, to push the lock up.

The most popular things stolen, Drever said, are electronic equipment such as CD's or stereos.

If any student sees any unusual activity in the campus parking lots, they are asked to call the 24-hour security line at 632-2323.

Beware drivers

Youth at risk: survey

BY CHRIS KITCHING

Tony Sandison says he's finally learned his lesson.

It's taken three break-ins and thefts and a lot of money lost for the Winnipegger to seriously consider ways to protect his car from crooks.

"I can never say 'It can't happen to me' because it always does," said Sandison, a 20-year-old baker at Earl's Restaurant on Main Street. "I should probably get The Club."

The most recent break-in and theft happened on Sept.17 while Sandison was at work.

Thieves broke into his 1996 Ford Escort, which was parked in the restaurant's lot, and made off with a $200 stereo, he said.

"I think they jammed a screwdriver into the lock to force their way in. They knew what they wanted because they didn't touch anything else," Sandison said.

"I was a little upset but it was probably my own fault because I left the faceplate on (the stereo). I'm just surprised it happened during the day."

It's not the first time thieves have broken into Sandison's car, which he doesn't protect with any type of security device, to steal stereo equipment. His car was also broken into outside his River Heights home and a second time while parked downtown.

Sandison said he hasn't reported any of the thefts to Winnipeg police or Manitoba Public Insurance "because the deductible is too high."

"It's my own fault, too, for being stupid," he said.

According to a recent MPI survey of more than 800 Manitobans, Sandison and other drivers between ages 18 and 24 are at greater risk of having a vehicle stolen, vandalized or broken into.

About 38 per cent of respondents in that age group say they reported an auto crime to the Crown corporation during the last two years.

In comparison, 26 per cent of motorists between ages 25 to 39 reported similar crimes during the same period.

"Young drivers have a lot of things on the go and they haven't been taking the time to educate themselves on how to protect their vehicles," said MPI spokesman Brian Smiley.

"They assume their vehicles are safe and protected."

They're likely targets because they generally drive older vehicles, park on the street and leave valuables – including CDs, wallets and jewelry – in plain view in their cars, he said.

The best way to ward off car thieves is to install a security tool such as a steering wheel locking device or an electronic immobilizer, Smiley said.

MPI offers a financing program and yearly $40 discount to Manitobans who purchase and install an after-market immobilizer in their vehicles.

Help keys offer panhandlers food, shelter

BY SARAH MORTON

Downtown Winnipeg Biz's Change for the Better program is offering citizens another alternative when approached by panhandlers on the street.

Help Keys are being distributed, after a small donation to the Change for the Better program at various downtown locations, to be given to panhandlers in exchange for spare change. The keys can then be used at a variety of social agencies for a number of basic services, including a meal, change of clothes, counseling, as well as a shower and shelter.

Most importantly, 100 per cent of donated money goes to these agencies, totaling approximately $60,000 so far, according to the organization's website.

The Downtown Winnipeg Biz's Change for the Better program, developed in 1992 and expanded in August 2003, has seen dramatic results in not only assisting panhandlers but also making downtown residents, business owners and students feel safer and more comfortable in the city's core.

The Help Key, originally developed by the Union Gospel Mission, is another way for citizens to help panhandlers without worrying about how their spare change is spent.

Jennifer Verch, communications and marketing manager at the Downtown Winnipeg Biz, says that donations have gone up since the key was added.

"We are very pleased with how [the new initiative] has gone so far," says Verch.

"The Help Key and the new campaign have been very good at drawing attention to the issue of panhandlers in our city."

She explains that one of the main reasons for adding the Help Key was in response to a 2002 Downtown Biz survey revealing that 84 per cent of downtown business members consider panhandling a problem.

"The Help Key was created to give the general public an alternative when approached. When you give change to a panhandler, you don't know where it's going."

And the minority who give cash to panhandlers have good reason for concern. A Change for the Better study revealed that seven out of ten respondents admitted to using the money for cigarettes, alcohol or solvents. This makes most people wonder whether they would be feeding a person or an addiction.

So far, the program has been considered a success, with approximately 250 Help Keys redeemed per month between the six social agencies involved. The majority are redeemed at the Union Gospel Mission, which offers the widest range of services. Len McKelvey, the resident facilitator, says panhandlers redeeming the keys seem "very happy just to be getting something."

Downtown businesses have mixed reactions towards the panhandling situation in Winnipeg.

Greg Tonn is the owner and manager of Into the Music located in the Exchange District, and is very impressed with the Downtown Biz and how they approach the issue.

"The Biz Patrol is very respectful to the panhandlers and most business owners just want to know how we can take care of these people in the best way possible," he says.

Others are not so charitable. A cashier at another downtown business, who preferred to remain anonymous, condemned panhandlers as "totally trashy" and denounced the Help Key program, saying that "maybe they don't want to go to the shelters with that key because they feel like it's a trashy thing to do."

Otherwise, Verch says that there has been a lot of positive feedback, from panhandlers themselves along with downtown residents, business owners and religious communities.

Like it says on the Change for the Better website, "the campaign is not the solution; but we hope it is the beginning of the solution."

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Activist speaks

Irshad Manji in city Oct. 13

ELIZABETH SOTO

Irshad Manji, outspoken Canadian journalist and author, will be speaking on the topic of "Confessions of a Muslim Reformer," followed by a question and answer session, at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on Oct. 13.

Manji has recently received a lot of attention as a result of her book, *The Trouble with Islam: A Wake-Up Call for Honesty and Change*, in which she criticizes Islam from the perspective of a Muslim gay woman. Manji's book and overall message is one that encourages critical thinking in religion and challenges deeply entrenched beliefs held for centuries.

The event is being hosted by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and is part of the Combined Jewish Appeal's 2004 Women's Campaign. Elaine Goldstine, associate director for the organization believes Manji's message is an important one.

"People currently have one view of Muslims and she's providing a message that challenges that view."

She says Manji challenges a views sometimes offered by the media, where all Muslims are portrayed as violent extremists and terrorists.

Manji is considered one of Canada's most influential voices at present and has received world-wide recognition. She's been named one of Canada's "Leaders of Tomorrow" by *Macleans* magazine and she was named a "Feminist of the 21st Century" by *Ms.* magazine. She was also the winner of Oprah Winfrey's "Chutzpah Award" for demonstrating "audacity, nerve, boldness and conviction" in her message of change.

The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's goal is to make this event accessible to as many people possible.

"We wanted this event to be inclusive and open to anyone who wants to come. We want to make this affordable to anyone," said Goldstine

Tickets are $15 and $5 for students and can be purchased through the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg by calling 477-7427.

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International students drawn to 'Peg

Red River has 125 students from 27 countries

BY NUO YANG

It's a long way from his home in South Korea and overcoming language and cultural barriers isn't always easy, but Young Hoon Kwon is glad to be enrolled in the electronic engineering technology program at Red River College's Princess Street campus.

"I can find a job easily after graduation," Kwon said. "I can learn real English and skills here. People are friendly."

As an international student, Kwon is not alone at RRC. The international education office reports 125 international students from 27 different countries have registered so far this fall, including students from South Korea, China, Mexico and India.

Enrolment of international students is a growing trend across the country. Citizenship and Immigration Canada reports that more than 130,000 international students choose to study in Canada last year, more than double the nearly 57,000 in 1990.

Closer to home, the University of Manitoba has experienced a 41 per cent increase in international students this year over last year while the University of Winnipeg has witnessed a 20 per cent growth, as the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported recently. This has caused some to wonder what RRC's current strategy is towards international education.

"The college has a policy not to displace non-visa students," said Terry Lewycky, director for the RRC's international education office. "Our international capacity varies based on local demand. It is a situation facing colleges across Canada."

A popular program at RRC that has a long waiting list of Canadian students will be unlikely to accept international students.

"Our courses are very marketable overseas. But we have to consult with the program to see if there are still positions available," Lewycky added.

The nature of college education also restricts student recruitment, including international students.

"We offer a different type of education from universities. We must make sure that there is enough labs and equipment when we admit people," Lewycky said.

In spite of the limitations, efforts have been made to maximize the opportunity for international student to study at RRC. For the first time, they can apply to the technology management program and the aerospace and aviation training program.

PHOTO | NUO YANG

Felipe Varela is an international business student from Chile

> "Winnipeg is a mystery to me. I didn't know anything about Winnipeg before I found about RRC. I am curious"
>
> – SELENE ABURTO-BRITO

The most popular programs for international students include English as a second language, academic English for university and college entrance, international business, technology management, hotel and restaurant management, tourism management and electronic engineering technology.

An informal survey conducted by the international education office at RRC shows international students choose RRC because of its hands-on training for future employment and competitive tuition. In addition, Winnipeg's low cost of living appeals strongly to many international students.

Selene Aburto-Brito, an international business student from Mexico was introduced to RRC through her brother who assisted with a RRC trade show in Mexico. She was attracted by the affordable tuition and the short, compact learning which characterizes the international business program

Aburto-Brito also let her romantic side take over when deciding where to study in Canada.

"Winnipeg is a mystery to me. I didn't know anything about Winnipeg before I found about RRC. I am curious," she said.

The state-of-art facilities, friendly staff and faculty have impressed Aburto-Brito. She also thoroughly enjoys the guest speakers coming from business and the government arranged by her program.

Aburto-Brito's classmate Felipe Varela is from Chile. He came to RRC through an exchange program. His status made him entitled to tuition waiver for the first term of study.

"Red River College offers more practical training than universities," Varela said.

Besides, Winnipeg's low cost of living was a big attraction. In addition, Varela thinks that Winnipeg is a safe city.

He noted, "I never went to downtown at two o'clock in the morning at home. But I can do it here."

The international educational market presents great opportunities for Canadian institutions. So what might the future for international education at RRC look like?

"We are undergoing a strategic planning process. It has taken us a while to reach the maximum capacity for individual international students. We are now ready to look at other options. For example, bringing cohorts to training at one time or customized training," said Lewycky.

Program Profile:

Tourism and hospitality management

BY JEAN-MARC PRÉVOST

Dale Yuel is a graduate of Red River College's hotel and restaurant management program, and he says it has taught him all the things he needs to run a successful business.

His restaurant, Tavern in the Park, located at the Assiniboine Park Pavilion, is rated one of the best places to eat in the city by the best-selling book *Where to Eat in Canada*.

"I think there may be some misconceptions about the program only teaching basic serving skills but it is so much more. It is very thorough and reflects the realities of the industry. You learn things about accounting, law, and human resource management."

If you are someone who may be interested in a career in the service industry, there is good news: Red River College is offering a new and improved program.

The tourism and hospitality management program is a two-year program that can give you the experience and skills to put your natural aptitudes to use in the business world. Recently amalgamated from two separate programs, hotel and restaurant management and tourism management, the first year of courses give you training in the basics of customer service, accounting, business communication, and human behavior. It also gives you a wide exposure to the career opportunities in both tourism and hotel/restaurant management.

"We found that with two separate programs, students who had an interest and aptitude in both fields were never sure if they had made the right choice by going into one or the other of the programs," says hospitality department chair David Rew.

"With the new program, students get a first year to experience both fields and then choose a major in their second year."

The program, which is 24 continuous months, also includes two paid co-op work placements in places like Travel Manitoba, Oak Hammock Marsh, and Splash Dash Water Services for tourism majors; and the Fairmont Winnipeg Hotel, the Delta Winnipeg, and the Radisson Hotel Winnipeg for hospitality majors.

Yuel says his work placement taught him more than he ever thought it would.

"It taught me so much. I learned everything about working with customers, European serving, and wine."

He encourages anyone who may be interested to check-out the program.

PHOTO | TREVOR KUNA

Tourism hospitality department chair, David Rew

The program accepts 80 students each year.

New kart racing complex in city

Projector tests out track and survives to tell the tale

BY JEN ZORATTI

It is a news writer's task to gather information for their stories. Sometimes this means sitting through a meeting. Sometimes it means an interview. And sometimes it means driving a race car.

I was the privileged *Projector* writer assigned to tell you all about Speedworld, the new European style indoor racing track that recently opened here in Winnipeg on Oct. 1.

The 27,500 square-foot venue, located on the corner of Berry Street and St Matthews Avenue, is home to a state of the art modular track and brand new lightweight carts that are designed to handle turns better than most sports cars.

Just don't call them go carts. Go carts are for children. These are karts -- with a "k."

At least that is what owner and manager Mark Sawatsky couldn't stress enough during our chat about the new facility.

These karts are not the birthday party variety we all know and love. These are for adults who have a need for speed, and as Sawatsky informs me, there are many people in Winnipeg who do.

"I have 12 kart leagues already signed up, and I haven't done a lick of advertising," Sawatsky says, prior to the opening of what he calls his "baby."

Speedworld features kart racing leagues for people who want to take their road rage inside and race against their friends and colleagues. Everyone from corporate business people to high school students can sign up a team. You can also get a lifetime membership for $5.

Sawatsky put in a fair amount of sweat and blood into this three-year project. Construction on Speedworld began on June 6, 2001 based on a need for indoor racing in Winnipeg and for something to do in the winter. Sawatsky based his design on the indoor track in West Edmonton Mall, and of course, wanted to surpass it.

"It's even better than the Edmonton track," he boasts. "I traveled all over North America, looking at different tracks, different designs. It's been a busy time." And now that racing is under way, it's been even busier. "We've had private groups come check out the track. There were 30 yesterday, and we're not even opened yet!"

So, being the curious journalist that I am, I decided that I had better see what all the fuss was about. I mean, who wouldn't want to test drive around a $6,000 lightweight kart "like no other in Winnipeg" complete with hydraulic brakes?

Me, that's who. I was semi-terrified. When I referenced children crying about go-carts at birthday parties, I was that kid. I had never been in an actual kart before. I don't have a need for speed. Walking is just fine. But Sawatsky assured me that kart racing is about as dangerous as riding a bike, so I was convinced. I'd ride the car.

After a brief moment of getting my shoe stuck in between the break and the ground and asking which side the gas was on, I was off to the races! Well, not really. When I say I drove slow, I mean slow. But I gained confidence, and started making use of the kart's famous fast acceleration. This, of course, had nothing to do with the fact that Sawatsky was chasing me.

Afterwards, I had to face my dismal lap time. Each car is outfitted with a transponder, a device that records lap times down to a millisecond on a main computer. This is used for novice drivers to improve their speed, and also to accurately determine winners in league races.

My average speed? A speedy 18 km/h. To put it in perspective, the average kart racer drives at 41 km/h and the average tricycle moves at 8 km/h. As Sawatsky says, my time was "pathetically slow." But myself and my fellow pathetically slow racers can join Speedworld's racing classes held every Saturday afternoon to hone our skills and stop fearing the gas pedal.

Speedworld is open from 4 p.m. to 12 p.m. from Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on weekends.

Rate are $15 for 10 minutes, $25 for 20 minutes (group rate) or $30 for 30 minutes (league rate).

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– Brad Woodle, chiropractic student

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Unique boutique

BY JULIE HORBAL

As the Exchange District continues to breed new life into Winnipeg's downtown, one new business is bringing new ideas into the Exchange.

On the corner of Princess Street and McDermott Avenue, Mango fusion interiors and exotic gifts is breaking the mould cast by neighboring Exchange District boutiques.

It's also breaking the boundaries owner – and lone staff member – Aynsley Anderson, 25, was living her life within.

For the past ten years, Anderson worked in retail jobs in other areas of the city. Last year, she decided it was time to get out on her own and open a jewelry, clothing, and home design store that meshed with her ideas and that of the funky downtown area.

"I'm an artist and I've worked in retail for extensive amounts of time," she said.

"I was like, how do I combine what I love with something where I can make money and not hate in ten years or five years or even five months? I figured I could do all this myself."

With a dream to open up a diverse and groundbreaking store of her own, Anderson turned to the SEED (Supporting Economic and Employment Development) to solve her problems.

SEED is a non-profit organization set up to give people with ideas – but not necessarily the means – the chance to set up their own businesses.

For six months, Anderson underwent intensive training preparing her to write her own business plan and open a profitable, sustainable business.

When she successfully completed the course – and her business plan for Mango – Anderson approached lending institutions and before she knew it her dream was off the ground and celebrating its grand opening.

Anderson says she wanted to have a gallery/boutique that no one had ever done before in the heart of the Exchange district.

"I wanted to be downtown. I like the buildings, the architecture, and the whole idea of it. Plus there wasn't a really gallery and broad boutique. There were other stores, but none like the one I had in my mind. This combines a whole bunch of Exchange District ideas," she says.

With over half the store devoted to locally made jewelry and vintage clothing and the rest to imported goods from Asia and South America, Anderson feels her store is compatible with the rest of the area.

> "I was like, how do I combine what I love with something where I can make money and not hate in ten years or five years or even five months?"
>
> - AYNSLEY ANDERSON

Anderson's business has picked up significantly since Red River College came back into session and she is more than impressed with the welcome she's gotten from the Exchange business community.

Soon, Anderson hopes to have people working with her – not for her – to make Mango an even more diverse and unique venture.

"A friend of mine is going through SEED right now with a plan to put a café in here," she said.

"Also, the girl who currently does our vintage clothing line is planning on renting her space and opening up a boutique within my boutique. Soon there will be bigger and things in this space that's just getting better."

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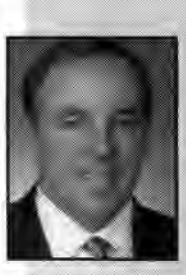

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Don't forget your vitamins!

Fight the flu, ace exams with the help of multi-vitamins

BY RYAN CALIGIURI

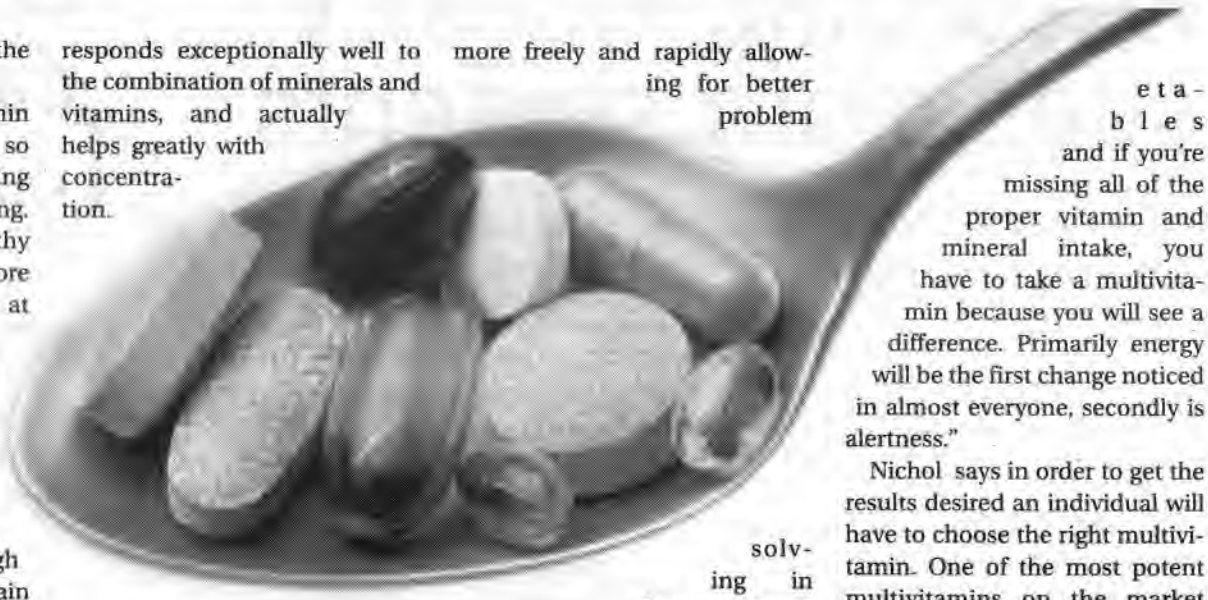
With mid-terms only a few weeks away, that means the late night cramming sessions, and hours of reading are upon us. When studying you don't have to up your caffeine intake to get the results you want; rather you have to stay healthy, and the best way to do that is to start off the day with a high potency multivitamin.

The first step to better studying is to be free of any colds or viruses. Local certified nutrition specialist Nichol Silvaire suggests taking a multivitamin several days before studying and throughout the duration of the exam period.

"By taking your multivitamin it boosts the immune system so that your body is not fighting off any illnesses while studying. Rather if your body is healthy it allows your mind to be more focused on just the task at hand."

Silvaire says that your body will naturally focus first on any illnesses disturbing the balance, therefore taking away from any mental concentration.

However, by taking a high potency multivitamin your brain responds exceptionally well to the combination of minerals and vitamins, and actually helps greatly with concentration.

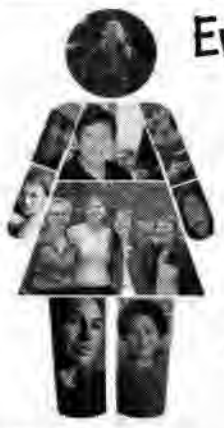


"Your multivitamin increases the rate of speed of impulses in the brain, which are the building blocks of your memory. This also helps in dealing with impromptu questions, because the impulses are allowed to flow more freely and rapidly allowing for better problem solving in shorter spans of time."

If diet is a problem during exams, a multivitamin is essential for students who are eating fast food on the go to save time for hitting the books.

"If you are not getting your daily eight to ten servings of vegetables and if you're missing all of the proper vitamin and mineral intake, you have to take a multivitamin because you will see a difference. Primarily energy will be the first change noticed in almost everyone, secondly is alertness."

Nichol says in order to get the results desired an individual will have to choose the right multivitamin. One of the most potent multivitamins on the market right now are sold at GNC and are in both a men's and woman's formula. There are two sizes to choose from when picking out your two a day multivitamin, the 180 caplet going for $31.99 and a 90 caplet that costs $19.99.



Every woman should know about Pap tests. Have you had yours?

Pap Test Day October 27, 2004

You should have a Pap test at least every two years.

What is a Pap test?
A Pap test is a test that may find changes in the cervix. Treating early changes may prevent cancer of the cervix.

What is the cervix?
The cervix is an opening at the bottom of the uterus (womb). Babies come through the cervix when they are born.

Do I need Pap tests?
If you've ever had sex, you need to have Pap tests.

How often should I have a Pap test?
Most women need a Pap test once a year for three years. If those results are okay, then you need a Pap test only once every two years.

When can I stop having Pap tests?
At 70 years of age you may be able to stop. Talk to your doctor or nurse.

Should I attend one of the October 27, 2004 Walk In Pap Test sites?
If it has been more than two years since your last Pap test, you should make an appointment with your doctor or come to a walk in site on October 27.

When was my last Pap test?
If you can't remember when you had your last Pap test, call (204) 788-8626 or toll free 1 (866) 616-8805. Or call your doctor.

Where can I learn more about cervial cancer screening?
Contact the Manitoba Cervical Cancer Screening Program at (204) 788-8626 or toll free 1 (866) 616-8805.

www.cancercare.mb.ca/MCCSP

Walk-In Sites

For Oct. 27 - No appointment neccessary at these locations

DOWNTOWN/POINT DOUGLAS
Aboriginal Health and Wellness
215-181 Higgins
9am until 4pm

Aikins Community Health Centre
601 Aikens
9am until 4pm

Health Action Centre
425 Elgin
9am until 4pm

Hope Centre Health Centre Inc.
240 Powers
9am until 4pm

Klinic
870 Portage Ave.
10am until 8pm

Mount Carmel Clinic
886 Main St.
10am until 8pm

Nine Circles Community Health Centre
705 Broadway
10am until 8pm

Peace Village
598 Ellice
9am until 4pm

Women's Health Clinic
3rd floor
419 Graham
10am until 8pm

RIVER EAST
Access River East
975 Henderson Hwy.
10am until 8pm

ST. BONIFACE/ST. VITAL
Centre de santé Saint-Boniface
(for Winnipeg Francophones and/or women living in postal codes R2H, R2J, R3X)
D1048-409 Tache
9am until 4pm

Youville Centre
8-845-Dakota St.
9am until 4pm

SEVEN OAKS/INKSTER
Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre Inc.
103-61 Tyndall
10am until 8pm

ST. JAMES- ASSINIBOIA/ ASSINIBOINE SOUTH
St. James Street Medical Centre
1600 Portage Ave.
9am until 4pm

Tuxedo Park Family Medical Centre
250-2025 Corydon
9am until 4pm

RIVER HEIGHTS/FORT GARRY
River Avenue Community Health Centre
385 River Ave.
10am until 8pm

Univeristy Health Service
University of Manitoba
(for UofM students only)
9am until 4pm

Manitoba Cervical Cancer Screening Program
CancerCare Manitoba
Manitoba

Making a difference

Volunteering offers life experience

BY MELANIE DAVIDSON

Eric Maxwell thinks that students aren't volunteering as much they should.

In fact, the first-year business administration student at Red River College wishes he did more, but like many other students, he says it is a struggle to fit volunteering into his schedule.

"Juggling school, part-time jobs, relationships, family and friends is tough, but I love volunteering and should make more time for it," he says.

> "Juggling school, part-time jobs, relationships, family and friends is tough, but I love volunteering and should make more time for it."
>
> - ERIC MAXWELL

Maxwell, an avid believer in giving back to the community, has donated countless hours volunteering for various programs in Winnipeg including: the Optimus Jazz Festival, the 1999 Pan Am games, the Blue and Gold football game, which is a high school All-Star game.

The latest notch on Maxwell's resume is working with the Conservative Party of Canada as a scoutener encouraging people to supporting the campaign. His job was also to target young people to go out and vote in the provincial and federal elections.

"If you plan your schedule accordingly and manage your time then finding time to volunteer is not that much of a problem. In most cases, I only worked a couple hours a week helping out," says Maxwell.

Although many of the events that Maxwell mentioned are only seasonal volunteer opportunities, any student interested in donating some time will be happy to learn that there are many organizations looking for enthusiastic and energetic people willing to donate their time.

Organizations such as United Way located on Donald Street are seeking people, especially students to help in many activities including Shaw United Way Youth Connections, which is a funding program run by young people.

Eric Friesen, United Way Co-coordinator says the main objective of the program is to support young people in giving back to the community and to strengthen the relationship between the community and young people.

Anyone interest in helping out should contact Eric Friesen at 477-5360.

UNICEF is also continuously seeking volunteers for Speakers Bureau, an incentive program that allows people to be guest speakers in elementary and high schools to talk about the activities that UNICEF aids in. This type of volunteering varies in the amount of time required and ranges from two hours a month up to ten hours a month.

Anyone interested in working for UNICEF should contact Andrea Pratt at 477-4600

Maxwell is currently looking through various organizations in need of help, but stresses that volunteering will be a lifelong commitment.

"Volunteering is such an important part of my life, I met tons of new people that I wouldn't have met. It added a lot of variety to my life. One of my goals in life is to volunteer with the Red Cross in Africa to help fight Aids," says Maxwell with a grin.

CUP News

Recording industry sues more students

RIAA wants to make example of students with harsh fines: prof

BY ROBERT HEBERLE
THE HOYA (GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY)

WASHINGTON (CUP) -- A new round of over 700 lawsuits filed by the Recording Industry Association of America targets 32 individuals downloading copyrighted material at 26 universities and colleges across the United States.

The lawsuits allege illegal distribution of copyrighted songs on peer-to-peer networks, such as Kazaa and LimeWire.

One user on the Georgetown University network is a subject of the current lawsuits, according to Jonathan Lamy, spokesperson for the recording industry group.

Lamy said the individual, once identified, would be sent a letter offering an out-of-court settlement. Any settlement would include both monetary damages and a prohibition on further illegal use of copyrighted materials.

Lamy also said the RIAA would continue to prefer settlements rather than potentially long and costly court cases.

"The objective here is not to win lawsuits. It is to send a message of deterrence, demonstrate that there are consequences to breaking the law and encourage music fans to migrate to the legitimate online music services," he said.

The RIAA filings are so-called John Doe lawsuits, which name IP addresses, unique identifiers of computers connected to networks, as defendants rather than actual people. Music industry investigators can determine only the IP addresses of those found using copyrighted material illegally on the Internet.

Identification of individual students requires a court-issued subpoena to be delivered to the Internet service provider -- in this case, the college or university providing network access to a faculty member or student.

Although the Georgetown user's identity cannot be confirmed until a judge issues a subpoena, the large majority of past cases of digital copyright infringement have involved students rather than faculty or staff, according to the university.

Georgetown spokesperson Laura Cavender said the university had not yet received any subpoenas related to the new court action.

She stressed Georgetown administrators' commitment to halting illegal file sharing on campus, and pointed to new efforts such as an online tutorial for new students as indicators of how seriously the university considers the situation.

"Georgetown expects students to comply with the law," Cavender said. "Students who violate the law do so at their own risk."

Beth Ann Bergsmark, director of university information systems at Georgetown, recommended students avoid such lawsuits by using legal music downloading services, such as Apple's popular iTunes software, which sells individual songs for 99 cents.

Bergsmark said popular peer-to-peer networks may also infect computers with viruses that can disrupt an entire computer's hard drive. The only way to repair such damage is to entirely reformat a computer, she said.

She also warned, despite the common belief that only users who share music with others online can be identified, downloading files can also reveal an individual's IP address.

Georgetown law professor Julie Cohen said while most of the cases would likely be settled out of court, the RIAA may want to send a message to students by continuing through the court process and attempting to impose harsh fines on some college network users.

"In some of these cases . . . they might intend to follow the case through to the bitter end," Cohen said. "It probably doesn't make sense to assume the students will just get off with a slap on the wrist."

While a handful of highly publicized file sharing cases have resulted in settlements ranging from around $5,000 to $10,000, the maximum court-imposed fines under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act could technically reach as high as $150,000 per song, Cohen said.

She cautioned, however, the RIAA and associated groups may be reluctant to pursue such results.

"It could very well be that if they did that, it could backfire on them, and they could be perceived as abusive," Cohen said. "If you're the RIAA, it is better to create a cloud of fear and not, in a very visible way, take an individual to the cleaner's."

This is not the first time Georgetown network users have run afoul of the RIAA.

While the overwhelming majority of complaints have been directed at undergraduate students, graduate and professional students have also been implicated in illegal file sharing. One faculty and one staff member were also the subjects of RIAA takedown notices, which threaten legal action if the specified offence continues.

Georgetown administrators recently announced they were considering subscribing to a fee-based online service, such as Napster, which would allow students to stream music online for free and download songs to their computers at a small charge.

Student Alex Bozmoski, who recently switched from Kazaa to the legal fee-based Rhapsody online music service, said the RIAA is right to ask for damages from students who have illegally downloaded or shared music.

"I think every student's aware that it's illegal, and they run the risk," Bozmoski said. "That's the way it works."

But Janine Kamwene, who uses peer-to-peer networks to download music, said the RIAA's actions were unfair to college students.

Kamwene also said the new round of suits would not affect her decision to download music through peer-to-peer networks.

"Everyone knows it's wrong. It's stealing someone's music and profits," Kamwene said. "You really don't think it's going to happen to you. It's only like 36 students across the nation, and that's a really small percentage."

Students meet over campus sustainability

Conference discusses the university environment

BY ROBERT KOTYK
CUP CENTRAL BUREAU CHIEF

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- A national conference at the University of Manitoba brought students from across Canada together to discuss the environment and the sustainability of their campuses.

The conference, organized by the Sierra Youth Coalition and the University of Manitoba student union, brought over 100 students from 35 different Canadian post-secondary institutions to Winnipeg to think about such topics as a university's energy efficiency and planting a community garden on campus.

This marked the sixth year for the conference and the first time it has been held in the Prairies. Last year, the conference was held at McGill University in Montréal.

"Different campus groups from different campuses are all coming in and basically sharing all of the ideas they have, all the initiatives they've taken," said Sarah Cummings, an Acadia University student who sits on the Sierra Youth Coalition's project committee. "I came last year; it was really fun and I got to bring a lot back to Acadia."

Shawn Fraser, a delegate from the University of Regina, said to increase sustainability on campus, the entire student body has to be made aware of the measures that need to be taken.

"It has to be a group effort," he said. "It can't just be the students' union working by itself . . . and saying, 'Here's your recycle bins,' and then nobody uses them."

Conference delegates also worked on a project called Greening the Ivory Tower, in which participants assessed the sustainability of their respective campuses.

Fernando Aloise, co-ordinator of the conference, said energy efficiency remains one of the biggest problems for many campuses.

"Universities are such humongous institutions, and the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that they put out, the influence that they have in contributing to the problem of global warming, is quite large," he said. "And because these institutions are supposed to be leading the way to a better future, they have the responsibility to use the technology that we have already available."

Caley Mulholland, a delegate from Concordia University in Montréal, said her institution's pilot project has become a model for other universities. Over the past two years, students at Concordia have done a full assessment of their campus's sustainability.

Concordia has already begun to implement some of the changes recommended in the assessment, such as reusable dishes on campus and energy retrofits to conserve power.

"There's no one campaign here that we're doing," she said. "Everybody here is engaged in so many diverse projects."

Raph Shay, a student from the University of New Brunswick, said he came to the conference to find out how best to start a recycling program at his school.

"It's like everywhere," he said. "It's your choice if you want to take action or just sit back."

Canadian University Press (CUP) is a national student journalism organization which provides university and college newspapers with daily wire services. As a member, the *Projector* selects several articles from the wire per issue which may interest our readers.

AIDS activists fear apathy

Participation down at AIDS walks; organizers blame desensitization

BY KELLY EBBELS
THE MCGILL DAILY
(MCGILL UNIVERSITY)

MONTRÉAL (CUP) — While thousands of Canadians took to the streets last month for the Walk for Life, a nationwide event that raises funds for the fight against HIV and AIDS, their numbers were much lower than years past.

Participation in Montréal's annual AIDS walk was down to 15,000 people, compared to 25,000 in 1999. In Vancouver, registration was down by 25 per cent.

Mark Wainberg, director of the McGill AIDS Centre, said he believes the decline in numbers is a result of a widespread desensitization that corresponds with a decrease in disease mortality rates.

"People think that we've cured AIDS and we haven't," Wainberg said. "In some ways, we're all victims of the success we've had with the drugs. Just because they have lengthened lifespan doesn't mean we don't have to be vigilant in our fight."

Wainberg said while AIDS deaths may be down, the number of AIDS cases is on the rise, especially among heterosexual young women.

Still, AIDS walk organizers remain optimistic the fight will continue to gain support.

Darren Fisher, national events coordinator for the Canadian AIDS Society, said the decreased numbers of walkers in the larger cities are not a good measure of the overall success of the event, which actually brought out increased participation and funds in smaller communities.

"For a lot of cities, this is the only fundraiser or outreach opportunity," said Fisher.

Until this year, AIDS walks across the country were organized separately in each city. This year marked the first collaborative event, in which regional organizers banded together in hopes of generating more awareness and sponsorship.

Louis-Michel Taillefer, spokesperson for the Farha Foundation, an AIDS fundraising group in Montréal, suggested the decrease in urban participation at the events is the result of increased competition between different charity walks scheduled for the same time of year, such as the Terry Fox Run and Run for the Cure, which benefit cancer research.

"It is always difficult for us to recruit people. People are torn between all these different causes," said Taillefer.

This year's Terry Fox Run in Québec garnered a 30 per cent increase in participation and 18 per cent increase in funds. The run was held at 60 locations across Québec and at thousands of sites nationally and internationally.

Taillefer also attributed the decline in AIDS walk participation to the taboo nature of the disease.

"Because it's a transmissible disease, unlike cancer, there seems to be this general attitude of, 'If you've got it, then you deserve it. You did something wrong,'" he said. "That makes it much more difficult for us to attract people."

Danny Wright, Queer McGill librarian, said he worries the rising desensitization to the disease could hinder the vast amount of research that still needs to be done to find a cure.

"There's kind of a complacency about it now. There's less of an effort to support it. People feel it's dwindling down when it's just as present," he said.

Queer McGill sent 10 people to the walk, and has so far raised $400 to be donated to AIDS Community Care Montréal.

Who's to blame for low turn-out?

SA didn't do research, publicity

BY MIKE UHRICH

A lot of work goes into planning an event, that's why Michael Blatherwick, the program director for the Red River College Students' Association is so upset due to low interest in the opening week campus festivities.

These low turnouts were highlighted by a dismal showing at Old Market Square for a planned concert, as well as the cancellation of a Much Music Video Dance which was to be held at the Notre Dame campus.

But the real question to ask is, is this the fault of the RRSA, or the fault of the students for not supporting the school's activities?

Low interest in the dance is easy and it's probably because we're not in middle school anymore, and although it may seem like a good idea when planning an event to throw the idea of a Video Dance on the table, you have to take into consideration what else people could be doing on a Friday night.

After a hard week at school people don't want to be hanging out in a gymnasium at Notre Dame campus; what they want is to be hanging out with their buddies or their significant others, and let's face it, convincing them to go with you to a "dance" won't win you any points.

The failure of the concert at Old Market Square is also pretty simple to explain. No one knew about it.

First of all, you're basically marketing strictly to the Princess Street campus by placing it in the heart of the Exchange District, which whether intentionally or not alienates the majority of Red River students. Secondly, you have placed the event in the afternoon,

> "I found it shocking to see that both events, but especially the concert, were highly un-publicized"

which doesn't bode well for attendance either. Often people have things to do, or class, or something else that takes priority over being entertained.

However these reasons do not begin to address the biggest issue which is publicity. Anyone can tell you that publicity will make or break your event, and in a school where business and public relations are both taught, I found it shocking to see that both events, but especially the concert, were highly un-publicized.

As event planners, you need to plan events and place them at times and locations that can draw the biggest crowds and the most interest. That's the basic rule of event planning, and sorry to use a cliché, but it's not rocket science.

This brings us to the question of how we improve the turnout for RRSA sponsored events. Well, let's look at college students and see what they like to do. Obviously, looking at the two sellouts of Oktoberfest, which were placed on weekdays and the planning and publicity of any University of Manitoba social that takes place, the way to market to students is to place advertising everywhere.

Don't be afraid to publicize anywhere students might be, and if it's an event that may appeal to people outside of the student demographic like the Old Market Square concert, then definitely take advantage of the broader market.

If you're appealing to the mass population of students, then from my experience all they really want is a place where they can get completely smashed with their friends. This idea seems to turn off certain types of people, like myself for instance, but people like me are in the minority.

The problems that plague the RRSA can be addressed through simple changes to their publicizing as well as acquiring a greater understanding of what students want.

Rappers trippin' to Portage la Prairie this month

BY JORDAN CHALIFOUX

Most people are used to tripping on Portage Avenue, but what is this business of Trippin' to Portage?

When you take a bus full of Winnipeggers, rappers, and DJs to Portage la Prairie, you have Trippin' to Portage, a rap show that one time Portage la Prairie resident turned Winnipegger, Brad Cartman, created.

This is Cartman's first attempt at promotions (there was a stint on the high school dance committee, but no need to go there). Cartman felt he needed more room than the small town had to offer.

"I moved away from Portage, because there is never anything happening there, young people have no reason to stay after they get out of high school," he said.

Socials were once dominant in Portage la Prairie, but this hugely conservative town is losing the sizzle to its snap, he added.

"There wasn't a whole lot going on ever; never had anything come to town, or the hope of anything ever to come," said Cartman.

The idea of bringing entertainers John Smith, Pipi Skid, Yy, N-Deep, DJ Hunnicutt and DJ CO-OP to Portage la Prairie is strictly for the people, comments Cartman. Rappers Yy, N-Deep and DJ CO-OP are all former Portage la Prairie residents.

Cartman explained the notion of Portage la Prairie people and Winnipeggers mixing in a night-life setting is a positive thing.

"We're like some sort of novelty where everyone has to know a Portager," said Cartman, adding that most Winnipeggers have a story of a person from Portage la Prairie.

At $20 per ticket for a ride to Portage la Prairie and back to Winnipeg, this party seems like a bargain-bin wonder.

The show will take place at the William Glesby Centre, which has a capacity of 456 people, and there is a post-party at Sociables Bar.

"Can't get much more content than that; lots of talent," said Cartman.

The original poster created by former Red River College student, Rebecca Routhier, shows Pipi Skid at the wheel of a school bus and Yy, CO-OP, Hunnicutt and John Smith hanging out the bus windows with elementary gestures.

"She did all the work and she put it all together, without her help it would not have come out nearly as good as it is," said Cartman. UMFM program director Jared McKetiak liked it so much that he started plugging Trippin' to Portage even before Cartman approached him.

Rapper John Smith can't make it to Portage la Prairie.

"He's going to be in the studio for the next four months working on new material," said Cartman, who added rapper Gruff will fill in for Smith.

PHOTO | JORDAN CHALIFOUX

Trippin' to Portage promoter, Brad Cartman

Tickets in Winnipeg are available at Custom Culture, Music Trader, Mondragon Book Store and Urban Bakery.

The bus departs at 8 p.m. sharp from Old Market Square on Friday, Oct.15.

Northern trekker showcases stunning arctic scenery

BY HEATHER STEELE

Freezing air, icy cold puddles, hard, slippery snow and bone-chilling winds; this is what most Winnipeggers barely survive each and every winter. But for arctic trekker Jerry Kobalenko, these conditions are not viewed as an obstacle, but a way of life.

On Oct. 5, the Winnipeg Art Gallery welcomed arctic trekker and photojournalist Jerry Kobalenko to deliver his personal stories, photos, and experiences on Canada's most northern point. The Royal Canadian Geographic Society presented the event, entitled Extreme Adventures on Ellesmere Island.

Kobalenko delivered a slide show, descriptive dialogue, and video footage of some of his adventures on the island located 3,000 km north of Winnipeg.

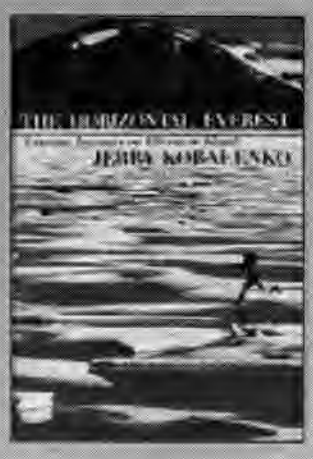
Kobalenko has spent the past 15 years traveling back and forth to Ellesmere. On each visit he pulls a sled, on foot, across the island's rough terrain to experience its beauty and capture its magic in photographs.

Born in Montreal, Kobalenko is a writer and photojournalist with a passion for northern adventure. He is currently a resident of Canmore, AB, but says he doesn't quite feel at home there.

"When I get off the plane in Ellesmere, there is a connection that I don't feel anywhere else," says Kobalenko. "But a traveler can't live there. It only feels like home when you're traveling through it."

As Kobalenko ran his slide show, the audience was silent as they watched the stunning photos. Frozen white landscapes and enormous mountain peeks made the photos look like paintings rather than photos. The virtually unpopulated island featured wildlife,

Arctic trekker Jerry Kobalenko



two small communities of around 100 people, and ice – lots of ice.

When traveling and camping across the island, many conditions altered his pace as well as the danger he faces. Although he says sled travel is best between March and May, Kobalenko has been to Ellesmere in each season but winter – a feat he is still interested in tackling one day.

Kobalenko has endured temperatures lower than even most Winnipeggers have dreamt of.

"At -54 C, your breath falls to the ground in a fine powder."

He has also walked on snow so rough that the dogs of historical explorers needed to wear boots to prevent bleeding paws.

"Not all ice is good ice. Sometimes covering 100 metres takes all afternoon."

But Kobalenko has been lucky. In his 27 years of trekking and traveling in harsh and dangerous conditions, the extent of his injury is a non-related dog bite on his way up to Ellesmere.

When the warmer summer season (-30 C) forms pools of glacier ice, Kobalenko can take a break from traveling on foot and enjoy the short kayaking or hiking seasons in Ellesmere.

Kobalenko will camp anywhere he needs to when he is making his way across the island.

"Camping on an ice burg is lovely. You never know where you are going to wake up in the morning."

Kobalenko's book, *The Horizontal Everest, Extreme Journeys on Ellesmere Island*, gives an even deeper account of the time he has spent on Ellesmere. But in case the book inspires you to pick up and head out on your own expedition this summer, the key, he says, is to do lots of research ahead of time.

"It's something that most students don't want to hear. Do your homework."

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In Theatres October 22, 2004

Art exhibit cuts urban sprawl down to size

BY GRANT BURR

As we sit in an urban jungle, with concrete towers casting shadows and suburbia sprawling out in all directions, it is humbling to be presented with the reality that our control in shaping the landscape around us is for just a moment in time.

In a new photo exhibition at the Winnipeg Art Gallery titled, Marc Ruwendel: Written on the Land, photographer Marc Ruwendel does an excellent job in framing the landscape he has encountered.

His focused attention on creating a "narrative of human activity...pre-history to present" brings a powerful message to the audience.

His exhibition is divided into three sections: Ice Age, Westward the Course of Empire, and Pictures of Hell. Ruwendel is interested in the often brutal sculpting of landscape by humans and technology.

PHOTO | LINDSAY WINTER

Ice Age captures long forgotten trails, ancient monuments, and lost settlements – the barely visible reminders of human activity erased by nature's reclaiming hand.

In Westward the Course of Empire, the pains of westward expansion in the American northwest are displayed by abandoned industrial sites and twisted metal strewn on a parched landscape. Most powerful in this section are images of atomic bomb testing sites in the Mojave Desert. A weathered row of observation benches provide a chilling reminder of technology's effect on the landscape and humanity.

Pictures of Hell explores the naming of landscapes. The rugged American northwest was imposing and terrifying for many who first encountered it and this led many places to be associated with demonic labels like Hell's Gate and Devil's Punchbowl. This final section speaks to fears of the unknown and our need, achieved through the act of naming, to take ownership of these unknown places.

Ruwendel succeeds in his goal of displaying the "exposing and erasing of human histories." His Winnipeg audience exits to a street with Investor's Group towering to the north, the Hudson Bay monolith rising before them, and a golden boy watching over them from the south. The message is compelling – what future does the landscape before them hold?

Marc Ruwendel: Written on the Land will be featured at the Winnipeg Art Gallery until Jan. 2, 2005. A $4 student admission rate is available with valid student identification. WAG is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the exception of Wednesdays when hours extend to 9 p.m.

College hosts women's conference

BY LAURA RUDDOCK

For the first time professional women from across Manitoba will meet to learn about the newest trends in business and celebrate their roles as modern career women, at the 2004 Enterprising Women's Conference Oct.15 and 16.

This year's conference, entitled Navigating Your Way to the Top, began as an initiative to raise money for Red River College's Princess Street campus. Barbara Bowes, *Winnipeg Free Press* career columnist and president of both Bowes Leadership Group Inc., and the Human Resource Management Association of Manitoba, helped develop a fundraiser to get more women involved with the college's campaign.

Put off by the idea of simply asking businesses to make donations, Bowes started thinking about what she could do to contribute to both the college and the community.

"In the world of women, one of the things that, from my perspective, was missing, was an annual conference for women by women," Bowes said.

The conference will be held at the Princess Street campus. Bowes hopes it will help market the school and convince more people to give money to further develop the college's new campus.

"There are over 200 people coming," Bowes said. "Hopefully out of those people some will be inclined to make donations."

She expects the conference will generate quite a bit of money.

"Registration is going very well. We sold out the booths without even trying. Lots of people were eager to sponsor. We even have people on a list to sponsor for next year," she said.

Activities planned are as diverse as the women who will be attending them. A wine and cheese reception and fashion show is planned to kick of the festivities Friday night (Oct.15).

The fashion show will showcase historical outfits dating back to the early 1800s and then will lead into a modern fashion show with outfits donated by The Bay.

"The models aren't 20 year olds with 18 inch waists," Bowes joked. "They are real women of all ages and sizes."

Workshops on important issues facing today's Canadian businesses will take place throughout Saturday (Oct.16). Topics range from women in technology to volunteerism.

Guest speakers are some of the most influential and powerful professional women in Manitoba. MTS president Cheryl Barker, and Annitta Stenning, chief administration officer of the City of Winnipeg are among them.

Bowes said some of the money raised will go to developing new scholarships for young women.

PHOTO | LAURA RUDDOCK

The conference runs Oct. 15 and 16

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Campus stars in Hollywood movie

BY RYAN HLADUN

The Bates Motel, the Outlook, Crystal Lake... Red River College? Well, it may not compare with these classic movie locations, but look for the halls of RRC in an upcoming Hollywood horror film shot last month.

Los Angeles-based Armada Pictures in association with Winnipeg's Buffalo Gals Pictures wrapped up filming on a new horror flick from director Jeremy Haft (*Grizzly Mountain*, 1997). Much of the film was shot at both the Notre Dame and Princess Street campuses. The movie will be distributed in wide release by Lions Gate Films in 2005.

British actor Matthew Marsden (*Anacondas*) and newcomer Jenna Dewan star in *Tamara*, a teeny-bopper thriller about an oddball at a new high school who develops a crush on her teacher. She also happens to practice witchcraft and concocts a spell to make everyone in the school adore her. As per usual horror film-fare, there's a catch – the spell only goes into affect when someone's blood is spilled. That blood ends up being hers when a group of bullies pull a fatal prank. The scares come after her return from the dead to haunt her killers. The screenplay is from *Final Destination* scribe Jeffery Reddick.

Producers Martin Wiley from Armada and Phyllis Laing of Buffalo Gals oversaw the four day production at RRC that filmed Sept. 24 at the Notre Dame campus and Sept. 25-27 at the Princess Street campus.

"We wandered through the city looking at high schools, but nothing could give us everything we needed like Red River College," said Laing.

"We've worked with the college in the past, and they've always been great."

Laing added that Canadian television series *2030 CE* was shot at the Notre Dame campus.

They filmed in the kitchens of the Notre Dame campus, and actually rewrote the ending of the film to go with the location, said Laing. The rewrite features a big fight scene in the climax of the movie.

The television studio at the Princess Street campus was used for the bulk of filming, using elaborate sets brought in by several production trucks. Crew members had the studio blocked off from students, who generally use it for classes.

This was the first time a major film production company used the campus's state-of-the-art studio, which is one of the most advanced in the province.

PHOTO | LINDSAY WINTER

RRC will be seen in an upcoming Hollywood horror flick

Speak Out... by Julie Horbal

The *Projector* asks what's the latest movie you've seen?

Alison Marquez
Business and administrative studies

"The last movie I saw was *Shark Tale*. I liked it. The characters were really entertaining. It was a sort of light movie. I really enjoyed it and I think most adults would enjoy it, but it was probably meant for kids."

Armando Pastorin
Digital multimedia technology

"I watched *Shaun of the Dead* last. It was pretty funny with a bit of English humour, which I like. It was pretty good overall."

Garrett Turner
Digital multimedia technology

"The last movie I saw was *Alien Vs. Predator*. I thought it had a great start, a great storyline – all great up until the ending. Then it kind of just fell apart and I lost interest."

Mike Wachs
Digital multimedia technology

"I saw *Shaun of the Dead* this past weekend. It was a witty comedy. A romantic comedy, if you will, as opposed to a regular one. A comedy of zombie proportions. I enjoyed it."

Brandi Hayberg
Creative communications

"The last thing I saw was *Calendar Girls* on video. My roommate rented it and I thought it was really funny. I didn't expect that because it was all a bunch of older women sitting around naked. The ending kind of slowed down a little bit."

Film event inspires RRC students

Local director does lunch, discusses career

BY ALAN MACKENZIE

A small gathering of Princess Street campus students had a rare chance to have an intimate conversation with an emerging local filmmaker on Sept. 30.

Bevan Klassen, who won a Blizzard Award for his first professional short *Wildlands*, ate lunch and discussed his craft with students interested in the art of filmmaking. The event, Independent Film at Lunch, was put together by campus chaplain Mark Humphries.

Klassen was one of the founders of the now-defunct Catacomb Microcinema, a monthly screening of independent and unfinished films. There he was able to screen his earlier student works which were made with his own money and virtually no crew. He considers *Wildlands* – which won Best Amateur Film at the 2003 Blizzards – his first professional film because it was his first to use a full crew and trained actors, and had government funding.

The event included screenings of *Wildlands* and *Surface Beneath* (his first student film), a question and answer period, and discussed other projects that he is working on.

Wildlands, a story about a father struggling with his ideals, is a dramatic comedy written by Andre Harden. It has traveled to film festivals across Canada, airs regularly on the Comedy Network, and is being distributed by the Winnipeg Film Group and Big Film Shorts from California.

This attention has led to funding for two more films: *On a Sunday*, a short that explores father-son relationships that will be completed later this year; and an untitled feature that was written through improvisational exercises with his cast and will be filmed in 2006.

The two films shown were different in tone, but were thematically similar, dealing with masculinity and spirituality. Klassen says that he doesn't write his films, but chooses scripts that he feels he "can add something to."

Klassen, a computer analyst, has not attended film school, but learned through workshops offered by the Winnipeg Film Group. *Surface Beneath* was created in one of those workshops. He has made some money off the Comedy Network deal, but certainly not enough to quit his day job.

"Everyone has something unique to say," he said. "Filmmaking is how I choose to say it."

He adds that he would love to direct for a living, but he is still happy just to have it as a sideline and told students that it is important to do what you love – even if they have to make it happen on their own.

Copy-cat film stands on its own

The Return captures Russian landscape, realism

BY RYAN HLADUN

The Return
***1/2
Oct. 8-14
Cinematheque

Film is very much a copycat medium. One director does something extraordinary and new and he inspires hundreds of films for decades later. Rarely do the replicates surpass the originals in the minds of critics, but to get it close on the first try like Andrei Zvyagintsev and his *The Return* is a remarkable feat.

The Return is inspired by the expressionist art films of the 60s and 70s, specifically Andrei Tarkovsky (*Solaris*), whose films were visually beautiful and emotionally profound. But Zvyagintsev manages to craft his film to become less of a copycat and more of a striking modern work with shades of Tarkovsky's eye.

In *The Return* we're brought into the lives of two young brothers, Ivan and Andrey (ages 13 and 15 respectively). Ivan is timid, but inquisitive and is the outsider of the group of his brother's friends. Andrey is a self-professed tough-guy but a follower by nature.

When their father makes a mysterious return after a 12-year abandonment, the boys' playful and innocently mischievous lives are completely changed. The father takes them on a strange trip by car, then by boat to an island, with the only explanation being he has "something to take care of."

Throughout the trip, tension mounts as the boys reluctantly learn lessons with them and sometimes uses physical abuse to keep control and never truly talks to them as a father should. This drives the boys to fury; more so Ivan, whose constant sour expression and difficult demeanor is maturely portrayed by then 13-year-old actor Ivan Dobronravov, and they'd otherwise never be exposed to. In one scene, the boys are robbed by an older teenager as the father makes a phone call inside a diner. The father comes out, tracks down the thief, and brings him in front of his sons with the instruction to hit him.

Characters Ivan and Andrey in the award-winning film, *The Return*

The boys struggle with this new authority that has been absent their entire lives. The father is harsh in dealing with them and sometimes uses physical abuse to keep control and never truly talks to them as a father should. This drives the boys to fury; more so Ivan, whose constant sour expression and difficult demeanor is maturely portrayed by then 13-year-old actor Ivan Dobronravov, and provide the substance of the film's powerful emotional force.

In one of the highly shocking scenes in the film, Ivan is left on a bridge in the pouring rain, after complaining that he wanted to go fishing. And Ivan furiously questions his father's purpose for dragging them on the miserable trip, just before the chilling climax of the film.

Tarkovsky's inspiration is seen in the stunning photography of the Russian surroundings, but unlike his idol, Zvyagintsev captures a dark, monotonous atmosphere to reflect the subject matter, and uses digital video for some scenes (particularly close-ups of the boys in the wilderness) to absorb its realism.

The winner of the top prize at the Venice Film Festival in 2003 and named European discovery of that year, *The Return* is a powerful film by a promising director, who leaves many unanswered questions, but questions which perhaps are best answered by the audience.

director's cut

RYAN HLADUN
Columnist

Asian film market growing

It's perfect timing that the Cinematheque is putting on a Japanese film festival this month because the North American market is currently eating up Asian films – and rightfully so as the year's best films are oriental gems.

Robbed of the top prize at Cannes in May, *Oldboy* is 2004's best film so far. Made in South Korea by visionary director Chan-wook Park, *Oldboy* tells the disturbing story of a man's quest for revenge after he was imprisoned for 15 years without reason. His path leads him to love, bloodshed, and shockingly twisted discoveries. Graphic scenes of violence are enough to make the strongest of stomachs squeamish. But the fight scenes aren't typical martial arts fare – they are innovative and encapsulating. Lead character Oh Dae-su uses anything to fight off attackers – from an axe to a toothbrush. The film's strongest point is its stylish editing and risky shooting, which pays off in giving the film a fresh, sharp look and feel. Unfortunately, *Oldboy* has yet to see a wide release in North America, only screening at the Toronto International Film Festival.

And thanks to Quentin Tarantino for influencing Miramax to distribute *Hero* in North America (however, it's unknown how much he actually contributed). The Chinese film starring action star Jet Li dominated the box office upon its release here and went on to gross over $50 million. In *Hero*, through different flashbacks, we are taken to when one man defeated three assassins out to kill an emperor. Using stunning color displays, and the beautiful walk-on-water choreography made famous in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, director Yimou Zhang turns a pure action film into a masterpiece of filmmaking art.

Look for a Chinese trilogy to begin to make waves in North America. *Infernal Affairs* is China's *Godfather*. Three films of the series have already been released in Hong Kong, and the first has recently seen a limited release in the US. The basic premise of the first film is a cat-and-mouse game between two undercover moles who have risen to prominence – one in the police department and one in the mob – with both trying to find out who the other is. The film is a pure adrenaline rush with intense action and thrilling suspense. Hopefully the film will see a wider release, as well as the second (a prequel) and the third (taking place a year after the first) seeing releases down the road.

Other decent Asian films this year include Ping He's *Chinese Warriors of Heaven and Earth*, a story about an assassination mission through the Gobi desert; Japan's highly-anticipated and beautifully animated *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence*, which draws similar parallels to the *Matrix* philosophy; Beat Takeshi's *The Blind Swordsman* which saw great success in Winnipeg at the Globe; and Zhang's Chinese revolution film *House of Flying Daggers* which will hit theatres in December.

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PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Japanese horror flick scary-- sort of

BY MIKE UHRICH

Ju-On: The Grudge
**
Oct.16-20
Cinematheque

Remember when *The Ring* came out in theatres a couple of years ago? After that, a DVD surfaced in video stores called *Ringu*, which was actually the original Japanese film the American version was based on.

Well, Hollywood has taken from the booming Japanese horror market again. This time with *The Grudge*, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar, which will be released on Oct. 22. It's actually a remake of a film called *Ju-On*, the third in a series of Japanese films, but the first to be released in theatres (making over $4.7 million US in Japan).

Takashi Shimizu directed both versions, so before you spend your money on the American version, you may want to check out the original.

Ju-On is the story of a family who is killed in their home and leave behind an evil spirit that inhabits the house. The main character, Rika, is a volunteer home care worker who is sent to the house to check on an elderly patient. After her arrival she releases a demon behind a door, which is sealed with duct-tape.

Police investigations begin led by detective Izutni Toyama, who discovers that many people have gone missing from the house.

The "Ju-On" spirit begins to kill outside of the house and Rika realizes that unless something is done, she may be the next victim.

The problem with *Ju-On* is the film is divided into numerous segments that follow a different character's connection to the haunted house. Unfortunately, what happens is that you don't know if the film is going backward or forward in time. You don't know if scenes are happening at the same time as others. And ultimately you find yourself somewhere between being moderately to very confused at most points throughout the film.

Ju-On has the potential to be scary; however that greatly depends on the person who is watching it. I didn't care for Shimizu's scare tactics, which were highlighted by a Ring-like scene where a spirit is caught on video camera, and is staring at the person watching the tape, as well as a trio of possessed schoolgirls stalking one of the characters.

You get the feeling that Shimizu really wants to be scary, but just when you think he's going to get you, you end up bursting out with laughter instead of screaming in terror, which doesn't bode well for this Japanese horror machine.

Japanese Film Festival

The Japanese have a strong film following, and through the release of more mainstream films, the following is getting a lot stronger. It's no surprise that Cinematheque is presenting a Japanese film festival Oct. 15 and 16.

The festival is part of a touring film program presented by the consulate general of Japan, which features four films being shown over the two days. The program is celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Canada.

Friday October 15

Yuji Nakae's *Nabbie's Love* (1999) 7 p.m. The story of a woman's reunion with an estranged lover in a small community through the eyes of her granddaughter.

Kaneto Shindo's *A Last Note* (1995) 9 p.m. An aging actress escapes to a retreat and spends time with two other women contemplating life and getting old.

Saturday October 16

Takeshi Kitano's *Dolls* (2002) 2 p.m. Three beautiful stories of undying love connected by the pain of sadness.

Yojiro Takita's *Onmyoji: The Yin Yang Master* (2001) 7 p.m. A special effect-laden trip into the land of swords and magic.

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FROM THE PRESSBOX...

The team no one wanted

MATT PACKWOOD
Columnist

For a sports fan to watch his favorite team move to another city is like watching ones hopes and dreams go down the toilet.

Here in Winnipeg, we experienced this feeling in '96 with the loss of our beloved Jets. The people of Quebec City saw it with the Nordiques. At the end of the baseball season, Montreal fans felt this with the loss of their Expos.

Most Winnipeggers can remember what it was like to see our much-loved team take the inevitable leave of absence, but for the last months leading up to the Jets demise, we were in a collective fight to keep them. We were almost in a sense of denial trying to hold on to our boys.

The biggest difference between Jets fans and Expos fans is they never really appeared to care. Expos fans never fought the way we fought to keep our team.

When the league decided to play half of the Expos home games in San Juan, Puerto Rico this year, the people of Montreal didn't even notice.

All this said, it makes me wonder what lead to the Expos downfall.

It doesn't seem as though it was that long ago when the Expos where on top of their division. They had a roster full of young talent, and the people of Montreal were proud of their team.

In 1994, the Montreal Expos had what could have been their greatest season ever, winning their division with a measly $18.5 million payroll.

The season was cut short due to the strike, but the question of what could have happened has always loomed.

The last ten years have pretty much been a steady decline in winning percentage, and the number of fans in the seats has steadily decreased as well.

In terms of money, baseball is no different than any other sport for Canadian cities. It's hard to make a profit in our market. That is an old lesson that we know all too well here in Winnipeg.

For the few die-hard Expos fans out there, my heart goes out to you. My advice for you now is to find a new team to cheer for as your old team embarks on the road trip they won't return from.

With all this said, I can also tell you that I won't be holding my breath waiting to see a "bring back the Expos" website.

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cd reviews

Social Code
A Year at the Movies
*

Social Code makes Sum 41 look like The Ramones.

The Edmonton-based band give a very weak performance on their debut *A Year at the Movies*. The album is mediocre at best; essentially 12 songs that sound very much alike, and are very much ready for radio. They do, however, follow all the rules – there is no shortage of screaming, power chords, or angst here (not that there's anything wrong with power chords).

Social Code try hard to convey the pop-punk spirit like what the Orange Country California bands did in 1994. But Social Code forgets to have fun with it. OC bands like The Offspring and Green Day came up with catchy, power chord shout-alongs as a contrast to the grunge scene happening up north in Seattle. These bands gave birth to pop-punk.

Social Code, however, lapses into the same old, ho-hum, "life sucks and girls are evil" template that bands like Simple Plan and Good Charlotte like to follow. Their whiny singers all sounds the same and say the same things.

And for some reason, they sell records – a lot of records. This is why, perhaps, Social Code will make a buck or two as long as their target audience is around 14 years old. Their lyrics are not difficult to understand, they aren't musically advanced, and they have that "rebel yell" quality that the early teen set seem to enjoy. They fall right into the little niche, because it's much easier to be another one of the same, and make some money doing what you've seen is successful, rather than facing the big scary world of making music.

This isn't much different behaviour from a 14-year-old who needs to stay on top of what is or is not cool. So, if we look at punk like a trend, Social Code hit the mark. But if you're not a 14-year-old with ink anarchy symbols scrawled all over your Chuck Taylors, this album isn't for you.

-JEN ZORATTI

Skye Sweetnam
Noise From the Basement
** 1/2

(The teenage girl in me gives it: ****)

I first heard about Skye Sweetnam while flipping though the pages of last month's issue of *Blender* magazine. She was the featured artist in their monthly piece "The Next Big Thing."

Looking back over the years, I remembered artists like 50 Cent called the next big thing in *Blender* so I figured she can't be that bad. Besides, I don't really mind Avril, so how different could this be?

The Bolton, Ontario native opened for Britney Spears on her Onyx Hotel tour this last spring and has been drawing comparisons to another young Canadian rocker, Avril Lavigne.

The debut album *Noise From the Basement* features 13 tracks of teenage bubble gum pop. Many of the tracks on the disc like It Sucks sound a lot like Good Charlotte were playing as her backup band.

At first listen, I was not very impressed by the album, and to tell you the truth the second time around was nothing too special. But the more I listened to it, the catchier it got. Now it didn't change the fact I found the lyrics juvenile, but then again I'm not a teenager anymore, and I'm not a girl (at least not on the outside).

In a time where the music industry has Lindsay Lohan and Hilary Duff battling it out for the queen of bubble-gum pop, it's nice to see Canada throw its hat in the ring.

It was a relief reading the CD booklet and seeing that Skye Sweetnam actually had top billing in the writing credits for the majority of the songs. The only song she had nothing to do with the writing was track six, Heart of Glass, the classic Blondie hit from 1978.

I guess I'm just getting too old to be into this type of music. However, for what it's supposed to be, it hits the mark. It's catchy, and it's so sweet that I went to the dentist and found out it gave me three cavities.

- DAVIDE CAPONE

currently kicking my ass

SHAWNA FORESTER | *Columnist*

A Winnipegger in Hickville

Welcome to the gong show kiddies. No not a students' association social; Western Canadian Music Week.

I met some really cool, dorky people, slept far too little, ate lots of free cheese, and even took a road trip to Canmore just for the hell of it.

I learned everyone who owns an indie rock label looks like my boss who also runs an indie rock label. I learned it's not cool watching men my dad's age partying like a bunch of drunken frat boys. Unfortunately, there weren't too many horn-rimmed glasses-touting cuties. But I managed to take in an eardrum-wounding amount of live music.

Keeping in the tradition of great bands with crappy band names from Calgary, I have discovered yet another at Western Canadian Music Week. Vailhalen is just about as bad a name as one could possibly pick, but this kid can rock. Lead singer Chris Vail won me over at the Saved By The Radio showcase with a super-enthused live show. I picked up a copy of the EP *Becs D'Oiseaux* and it's pure synth satisfaction.

Hot Little Rocket also blew me away with their 50s-themed attire and burlesque dancers. This culminated in a sold-out show that saw more than one person getting chained and whipped. Since when did post punk rock get so freaky? The kids were all over it dancing like mad and shouting along to the lyrics. I can't get Now Your Upright out of my head. Hot Little Rocket is my favourite live act ever, and I wish they toured more often. Everyone should go see them.

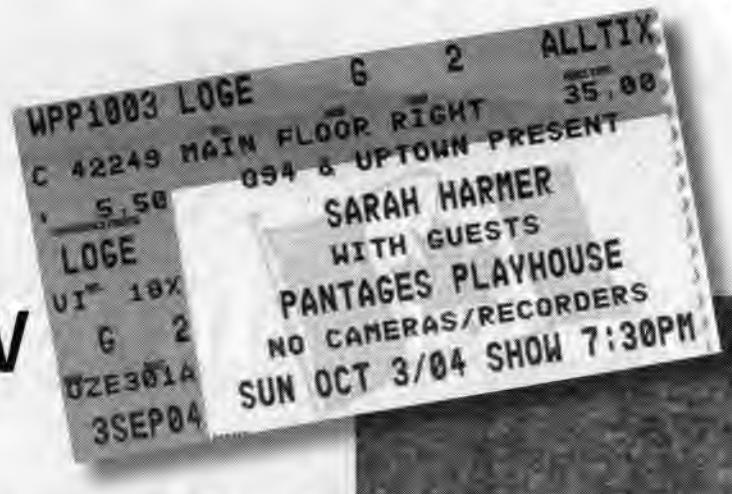
I must admit I always secretly hated the band Po'Girl. I couldn't get past the awful name (and no they aren't from Calgary). I caught them at the Nettwerk Records showcase and they tuned me in. I was eating my words. Featuring members of the Wailin' Jennys, they are part of the alt-country-pop-folk junket that is pretty popular. The songs are really deep and it isn't just trendy pap being released to jump on a trend. The Nettwerk showcase also had a really kick-ass cheese plate – and everyone knows I love cheese. Plus it was non-smoking.

See in Calgary kids it's illegal to smoke outdoors on a patio but is legal to smoke inside (say a bar or restaurant). Yeah. That sure makes a whole lot of sense. But they hope to have a full smoking ban in place by 2008 (they're on the cutting edge of health care prevention there). I've saved the lump of coal that I blew out my nose this morning. Perhaps it will be worth something someday if I ever get famous. Maybe I'll trade it in for a Po'Girl CD. It makes a handy paper weight.

Did I mention it's 12 a.m. Monday and I haven't slept since 9 a.m. Saturday? I'm going to shut up now and head to bed.

But before I do I implore you to go see Calgarian Lorrie Matheson on Thursday Oct. 14 at Shannon's. Lorrie is one of Calgary's hottest commodities. Don't worry you won't need to bring your gong – I promise.

Harmer puts on poetic, powerful show



Pantages Playhouse Theatre
Oct. 3, 2004

BY SHANNON MARTIN

From the moment she sauntered on stage Sarah Harmer gripped the audience by the palm of her pale hand, haunting the crowd of over 1,100 Winnipeggers with her poetic lyrics and powerful 21-song set.

Quickly becoming one of Canada's top female performers, the petite singer/songwriter stopped in Winnipeg Oct. 3, along with her five-piece band, as part of her cross-country tour.

Clad in a retro blue dress (which she picked up earlier in the Exchange District at Ragpickers) and poor-boy hat, Harmer sipped red wine and poked fun at the weather between songs.

She kicked the night off with a round of radio hits, like Around the Corner, Basement Apartment, and Hideout, songs from her 2000 album *You Were Here*. Following were songs from this year's *All of Our Homes*, including crowd pleasers such as Pendulums, New Enemy and Almost.

Easily one of the best parts of the night was when Harmer serenaded the crowd sans band part way through the set. Illuminated by a single spotlight, Harmer owned the stage with her vulnerable voice and acoustic guitar, singing confessional songs like Capsized.

"I'll play by my lonesome now. I feel like a hobo," joked Harmer.

Another highlight was when smoke filled the stage and mirror-ball-like lights transformed the aisles into a pre-teen dance as Harmer sang Open Window and invited couples to waltz. Four couples stepped up to the plate, bashfully dancing in the dream-like atmosphere.

Much to the crowd's pleasure, the ambitious set lasted nearly two and a half hours staying way past the band's "curfew," laughed Harmer, before launching into a powerful version of Lodestar—the third and final encore, and the one song everyone was waiting for.

Shaggy red-headed Josh Ritter, decked out in a black suit and converse sneakers, opened the show with feel-good folk songs about growing up in Moscow, Idaho. With a voice like caramel, the American songwriter struck a chord with the audience about the "American electoral process."

He wrote Tryin' Hard to Love You But You Don't Make it Easy Babe, after learning Arnold Schwarzenegger had been elected the governor of California.

Before leaving the stage, Ritter broke two guitar strings and encouraged the crowd to pick up his record, *Hello Starling*.

"I've got a record that's young and naïve. It'll go home with anyone."

Harmer played for over two hours

Aboriginal Students, get to know the supports and services at RRC

Notre Dame F209 and Princess P407

Upcoming events

The Story of Creation with Traditional Teacher Gary Raven
October 15 1-3PM.

Tee Pee Teachings with Traditional Teacher Gary Raven
October 21-22, and weather permitting they will be in a Tee Pee,

Medicine bags October 22 from 12-1 in F209 at Notre Dame campus.

Aboriginal Centre Coordinator- Sara McIvor-Prouty coordinates events and activities at both campuses. Call 632-2106 for information.

Aboriginal Student Support Representative- Rhonda Klippenstein looks after our student focused programs offered throughout the year, call 632-3773. These are Rhonda's scheduled days at Princess St. campus for the month of October.
Tuesday, October 12 (A.M. only)
Thursday, October 14
Tuesday, October 19
Thursday, October 28

Counsellor- Jay- Lynne Desilets-Makinauk is a Counsellor who offers support to Aboriginal students at both campuses. Feel free to give her call and get acquainted, 632-2418.
Notre Dame campus Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Princess Street campus Tuesday and Thursday.

Keep Informed (Aboriginal Students Distribution List) - We want to be sure you are receiving all the valuable information you need about awards, bursaries and scholarships, jobs, events, volunteer opportunities, conferences, community events, the time out program, etc. Send us your e-mail address, name and College program to smcivor@rrc.mb.ca or rklippenstein@rrc.mb.ca.

Check our website for more events and information at **http://www.rrc.mb.ca/aboriginalcentre/**

don't forget
next story meeting tuesday october 12. noon. W102 princess street campus

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tuesday. oct. 12 noon. newsroom