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THE PROJECTOR
RED RIVER COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER
October 14, 2002

No home Internet for RRC students

By Jeanne Fronda

Red River College can't offer students Internet access from home because the College doesn't have the money or the equipment.

"The college doesn't have the resources," says RRC's Dean of Student Services Pat Bozyk.

She says providing students with access to the Internet from home was considered, but doing so would mean buying and maintaining a large amount of telecommunications equipment.

Bozyk says the bottom line is the computer services budget for computer technology isn't big enough to provide students with a package.

There would be an additional fee over and above tuition costs if such service was provided to students, according to Bozyk. She predicts it's not likely that the college's grant would be increased to arrange for Internet access service at home.

"The onus is on the student to get an Internet service provider," Bozyk says. She claims there's a trend in Winnipeg and perhaps in other post-secondary institutions as well that more institutions are leaving the choice up to students.

The problem with the quality of Internet access on campus has priority over offering students Internet access from home.

RRC Students' Association President David Lyman says the Internet service at the Notre Dame campus only works half the time, and this problem needs to be fixed before the College offers dial-up Internet access to students.

As long as the College provides Internet access on campus that allows students to maximize their time, Bozyk says that should be satisfactory to meet students' Internet needs.

She adds she's aware of the problems with Internet access on the Princess Street Campus, and says the college needs to put resources into improving the quality of Internet access on campus before adding new services.

Lyman said he is "skeptical" about the College offering students an Internet package anytime soon.

"Last year lockers were free and this year there is a fee, so students are being charged more fees for fewer services," he says.

If students can't have free lockers, then it's unlikely that the College will provide students with free Internet access from home in the near future, he adds.

There are other practical reasons why the College won't provide an Internet package to students.

If more computers can access a network, it's more likely the network can be bogged down and exposed to computer viruses. Students expect a particular level of Internet service, so taking a step back to dial-up access may be more frustrating than accessing it by faster means such as high speed.

If students wanted an Internet package, Lyman says the SA can lobby on students' behalf, although doing so would put additional pressure on the construction of the Princess Street Campus.

Lyman also says no students have asked the SA about why students don't have dial-up Internet packages similar to those offered to students at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.

University of Winnipeg's Students' Association President Larissa Ashdown says offering Internet access to students was "never a struggle," and it didn't significantly affect students' fees.

Unlike other institutions, offering students access to the Internet from home isn't feasible considering the lack of resources. If the college can't guarantee high quality Internet service on campus, then students can't expect the college to provide Internet access from home.

photo by Aaron Cutler

Red River College students get the online shaft as the city's other post-secondary institutions offer free Internet access.

Butting out at campus not a priority

By Rebecca Routhier

The current policy on smoking for the College is about due for a change. There have been numerous complaints to many associations about smokers congregating outside building doors on Notre Dame Campus, something that has been an ongoing issue for a few years now. SA President David Lyman says that the smoke itself is only part of the issue.

"It's more so that it's tough to walk through a crowd," says Lyman.

As well, cigarette butts prove to be a bother, gathering on the concrete and making their way indoors through wind and shoes.

Manager of The Ox Store, Todd Buchanan, estimates that about 30 percent of the student population is smokers. The monthly sales of cigarettes account for between 12 and 15 thousand dollars per month, one in 10 transactions involving the sale of cigarettes.

When the College implemented a clean indoor air policy eight years ago, an attempt was made to ban smoking on campus grounds altogether. This led to smokers gathering on the sidewalk on Notre Dame Avenue. The city quickly complained about the mess, and the College renewed its allowance of smoking outdoors on campus.

Attempts have been made in the past to deal with this issue. Ashtrays were moved away from the doors, which resulted in a mess of butts where they once stood. At one time, there weren't ashtrays at all. When they were finally put in place, they became pseudo garbage cans, leaving smokers with the option of potentially starting a fire, or butting out on the ground.

This past summer, Natalie Seaba, Recycling Coordinator for the College, was one of many asked to present possible solutions to this problem. She suggested the designation of smoking and nonsmoking doors, but the implementation of this rule has yet to take form.

"There have been problems deciding which doors to designate," said Bill Miller, Director of Facilities, noting that visitors, and some students who don't attend during the day, might not know which doors are the designate.

"No matter what you do to change a policy, you need security and management to enforce it," Seaba added, mentioning this as one reason the rule hasn't been passed.

The issue remains. Smokers continue to gather outside the doors, and students continue to complain.

"It hasn't gone passed the point of offering possible solutions," Bill Miller adding that his door is open for suggestions.

Pop can tabs can make a difference: wheelchairs in motion

By Elaine Richards

With Red River College's help in collecting approximately $20 million pop can tabs, another child has received a special Power Wheelchair through the tabs project.

"People should know these tabs are going somewhere," says Bob Lechow, security supervisor at Red River College's Notre Dame campus. Lechow strongly encourages continued participation in the project. It only takes a few seconds to bend the tab off and toss it in the bin, and the result is well worth the effort.

Librarian Gwen Buccini of Holy Cross School in Winnipeg started the project four years ago after another group dropped the idea. Gwen researched the project and started a network of tab collectors by initially phoning seven private and public schools in her area. The story was publicized in a neighbourhood paper and "it took off after that," Gwen states excitedly. Schools, businesses, church and social groups began phoning Gwen to get involved with the project. To date, 137 companies and groups, along with 91 schools (including Red River College), have come together to help kids get special chairs.

The wheelchairs purchased by the collection of pop can tabs are above and beyond the type of chairs supplied by the Province of Manitoba. Used wheelchairs are loaned to all disabled children in the province to cover basic mobility needs. The tabs program raises funds for power and sports wheelchairs, as well as specially designed chairs to meet specific needs.

Each tabs project takes 18 to 24 months, unless additional cash donations speed up the process. The tab collections from each site are brought to Holy Cross School where they are transferred into large bags for storage. Peguis Publishers has also donated storage space, as three hundred sacks of tabs take up a lot of space. Reimer Express Lines donates its services by picking up the tabs and taking them to a recycling plant, which pays for the tabs. The money is put into a fund for the next wheelchair recipient.

The next person to be sponsored is a 16-year-old Dakota Collegiate student named Kalvin Kristiansson. Kalvin has cerebral palsy, a permanent motor function disorder caused by a brain defect present at or shortly after birth. (The disorder is characterized by tremors and uncontrolled contractions of the skeletal muscles). Like many guys his age, Kalvin enjoys watching sports on television and attending Winnipeg Goldeyes' games. He also likes playing computer games and reading. He would love to get a Quickie 525 Power Wheelchair, which costs approximately $9,300. Kalvin could have his chair by the spring of 2004, or sooner, depending on how quickly everyone can collect tabs.

The collection bin at the main campus is located outside Java Junction and arrangements are being made to put a bin at the Princess Street campus, so keep your eyes open for the "Tabs for Kalvin" sign. Students can also collect tabs at home and bring them into the campus. A couple of simple steps are all it takes to make a big difference in the lives of others.

Princess students diagnosed with outbreak of royal fever

Prince briefly visits Princess Street campus on a chilly October morn

By Sam Thompson

There was more clowning than crowning when His Royal Higness Prince Philip toured Red River College's new Princess Street campus.

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, was in good spirits and seemed much younger than his 81 years as he was led through the college's state-of-the-art newsroom, ad agency and Phase Two's unfinished atrium.

The Duke, well-known for his bizarre and often offensive comments, joked with students and staff and even cracked wise while unveiling an official plaque dedicating the new campus.

"What a pleasure it is," he said. "To come and inaugurate...or whatever it is I'm supposed to do."

Although The Projector was denied official media accreditation to follow the Prince's entourage around the campus, local political and media personalities mingled with excited onlookers and students both inside and outside of the college.

Manitoba Premier Gary Doer gave Prince Philip an official governmental welcome to the new campus, but he spent some time beforehand checking out RRC's new digs himself before joining the royal tour.

"This new campus is a symbol of downtown renewal and a symbol of education," said Doer.

"The Duke of Edinburgh's programs on education and training have brought business and education together for a number of decades."

RRC Students' Association President David Lyman was on hand to watch the festivities and to get a front-row seat among various other dignataries for the Prince's official entrance.

"It's always good when people are talking about post-secondary education," said Lyman.

"It's good to see Red River College in the news in a positive way."

The Prince was in town as part of Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee tour of Canada. The Queen herself was initially planning a visit and tour at the new campus, but stayed away due to safety concerns related to Princess Street's ongoing construction.

Only Princess Street students were permitted entry into the college during the Prince's visit. The college security force was in full effect at the new campus and the proceedings were carefully watched by dozens of uniformed and plainclothes police officers, security guards and the Prince's personal bodyguards.

A media frenzy surrounded Philip as he was escorted from his car into a conference area in an unfinished part of the school. Eager students, flag-waving Royalists and curious passersby swarmed the area for a chance to get even a glimpse of Queen Elizabeth's husband.

Amid all the dark suits, the extra security, the bomb-sniffing dogs, the seriousness and all the pomp and circumstance, Premier Doer could hardly contain himself.

With an enormous toothy grin, his expression like that of a pre-teen girl at a Backstreet Boys concert, Doer abandoned his slick political image to tell the Projector how he really felt about the Prince's visit.

"It's very, very exciting!"

THE PROJECTOR

RED RIVER COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

Red River College's Newspaper for over 30 years.

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http://everything.at/projector

If you have an opinion about something you've read in The Projector, or would like to address an issue concerning Red River College, please write to us.

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CULTURAL INSIGHTS COLUMN

Women in Canada - Did you know?

1) Women have made significant gains in education. Overall, in 1996, 12% of women had a university degree compared to 14% of men, almost 18% of women had a certificate or diploma and 15% graduated high school. Women represented 55% of all full-time university students in 1997/98. They are the majority in most fields of study and their numbers are growing, even in male-dominated fields.

2) Women's life expectancy is higher than men's but they also report long-term disabilities to a slightly greater extent than men. The leading cause of death for women and men is diseases of the circulatory system, although women may have different symptoms and reactions to drugs and other treatment.

3) Women's incomes are increasing along with their education and labour force participation. In 1997, the earnings of full-time, full-year female workers were 73% of men's. When all women are included, their earnings were 54% of men's that year, up from 45% in 1986; their after-tax income ratio was 63%, up from 52% in 1986.

4) Women are increasingly active in public life at all levels. In the 2000 federal election, 62 women were elected to the 301-seat House of Commons. Women also have extensive representation in the provinces and territories, and at the municipal level on city councils and school boards. As of 1999, women held 26.9% of executive positions in the federal public service. For the first time, we now have a female Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

5) Over the past few decades, governments and non-governmental organizations have made concerted efforts to address violence against women. On the legal front, criminal harassment legislation, training for police and Crown prosecutors and specialized domestic violence courts have been developed. Shelters for battered women have been created, along with other community-based counseling and assistance services, including sexual assault services. There are now co-ordinated interagency committees in many communities.

6) Looking ahead - improved policies to increase women's economic autonomy and security, to promote women's human rights and to address violence against women continue to be priority issues. The task ahead is clear: to continue initiating change and ensure that policy-makers at all levels maintain their efforts to advance gender equality at national and international levels.

Statistics provided by Statistics Canada

For more information, please contact the:
Student & Community Advisor –
Diversity & Inclusive Initiatives Office
Room F214 · Ph: 632-2404

Recycling 101 for college's idiots

By Lynsay Woollard

When you are finished reading this paper, be careful what you do with it. If, by chance, you were planning to throw it away, think again. There are recycling bins all over campus just waiting for your paper, plastic, and aluminum.

At the Princess Street campus, however, a lot of people are confused about what they are allowed to put in the small blue bins in each classroom.

"Do you put glass, paper, and plastic all in one?" asks Kenton Larsen, an instructor at the new campus. Although the large bins in the halls are clearly marked, the small bins are unlabeled, which is inadvertently causing some of our recycling efforts to be in vain.

Natalie Seaba, the head of the recycling department at Red River College, says you can only put paper in those small bins; anything else will end up in the garbage.

So for all you who are putting bottles or cans in the small bins in a valiant attempt to save the earth, stop. Take the extra few steps out to the hall and save the planet out there.

Please don't resort to putting recyclables in the tiny garbage cans found in the classrooms. This isn't helping, but instead causing another problem.

There have been several complaints at the new campus about the size of the garbage cans in the classrooms. Students say the garbages are full by lunchtime and trash ends up on the floor.

Staff members have also expressed frustration with this issue.

"Every time I put my (chocolate milk) container into the garbage, it's full," says Larsen.

If everyone makes an effort to put our recyclables where they belong, hopefully we can curb the problem of overflowing trashcans.

Even if that solution doesn't work, we are still doing a huge service by recycling. Every time you throw a can or a bottle into the green and blue bins, not only are you recycling (something that benefits all life on earth), but also helping to support a non-profit organization.

Versatech Industries is an "organization that benefits directly from our recycling" says Natalie Seaba. Everything we recycle produces earnings for Versatech, who then puts all that money back into their company. Both crews work with a program that puts people with developmental handicaps into the workplace.

There are many people around campus who are doing their part to recycle. Some even take the trouble to bring the same water bottle to school everyday.

Unfortunately there are those who do not take the time to recycle, and do not seem to be concerned with the issue. What many of these people don't realize is that they are doing the earth, and our community a great disservice with their casual indifference.

Recycling is an important issue: let's not take it lightly. In our lifetimes we are given very few means to preserve our planet. Take the extra few steps, take the extra time; make use of a method we are given. Students can all access the Environmental Management Website at: www.rrc.mb.ca/environmentalmanagement.

photo by Aaron Cutler

The college's recycling bins, carefully disguised as Blue Boxes.

Fitness club working out

By Jeff Peters

Sometimes ya just gotta pose baby!" These are the words of Jesse Ventura quoted by Red River Fitness Club secretary Ethan Stock as he enthusiastically explained the club in an interview earlier this week.

The Fitness Club in the North Gym at the Notre Dame Campus was started two years ago and is still gaining momentum. New equipment, memberships offered with incentives, draws and discounts at such stores as Flex Appeal, Myers Drugs, Fabutan and General Nutrition Centres are some of the reasons why students should check the club out.

Students' Association President David Lyman and Stock said the club is a great place to meet new people and get involved around the school. If you're intimidated by the equipment or other users at the gym, don't worry: the club is more than happy to help out the new members by showing them around and introducing them to spotters and people who are familiar than equipment.

"It'd be nice to know that someone can tell you if you're gonna drop a weight on your head," said Stock while talking about new members getting to know people around the gym.

There are monthly meetings that students can attend to get more information on what is happening at the club and how he or she can get involved. Over 100 members have joined the club in its brief history.

"There's always room for more. The club's also looking into getting personal trainers for this year," said Lyman. Personal trainers are able to show new users how to use equipment properly and regiment the right work out for them.

Lyman and Stock are both urging more students to give the club a try.

"You can make a difference," Lyman said when asked about why students should go to the gym.

Contributing to the purchase of new equipment through a five or ten dollar membership is one way of making a difference. Students are encouraged to visit the gym for opportunities to make new friends, meet contacts, and learn more about the equipment and how it works with the help of a spotter.

A pizza Wednesday is being planned for Jan. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of DM20 at the Notre Dame Campus but Stock says not to wait until then.

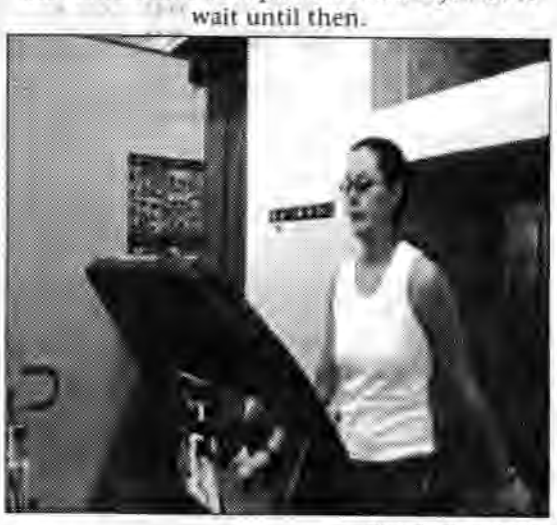

photo by Aaron Cutler

Survival of the fittest at RRC

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Got a need for speed? DSL High Speed Internet service lets you experience lightning fast downloads and the luxery of unlimited monthly access. And since it doesn't tie up your phone line, you're free to talk and surf at the same time. Visit Powerland Computers and find out how you can leave dial-up in the dust.

Visit us at our booth in the RRC Library hallway OR Call 237-3800 OR sign up on-line starting at: www.powerlandcomputers.com

* Service available in select areas. $19.95 offer available to new DSL High Speed Internet customers only (defined as customers who have not had DSL Internet Service in the past 3 months) and is only applicable to plans regularly priced between $35.95 and 49.95 a month. After the first 6 months of service, the price reverts back to regular pricing on the chosen plan. Offer expires October 31, 2002.

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Workshops for ESL Students

The Student & Community Advisor - Diversity & Inclusive Initiatives office is pleased to present two free workshops for ESL students. Students can drop by F214 or call 632-2404 to sign up to attend one or both of the following workshops. Students must pre-register, as seating is limited.

Academic Writing for ESL Students

Attend all three 4-hour workshops
Dates: Saturday, October 26th, November 2 & 16th, 2002
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Improve your Pronunciation Skills

Attend all three 2-hour workshops
Dates: Tuesday, October 29th, November 5 & 12, 2002
Time: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

RED RIVER COLLEGE
OF APPLIED ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

U of M Health Sciences Centre

INTERESTED IN A NEW TYPE OF BIRTH CONTROL??

Are you sexually active and currently using or taking birth control?

You may be eligible to help test an investigational transdermal contraceptive, otherwise known as a

"BIRTH CONTROL PATCH"

If you are a woman...

- In generally good health and between the ages of 18 - 45

You may qualify to be in a clinical research study to evaluate pt. preference and satisfaction for a new transdermal contraceptive compared to your previously used contraceptive method.

If you qualify, you will receive study related physical exams by a physician and you will be supplied with study medication for approximately 9 months. No bloodwork or other tests will be done (unless a pregnancy urine test is requested).

For more information about this study, please call the study nurse at 975-7723 (Confidentiality assured)

RED RIVER COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

STUDENTS ARE OUR BUSINESS

Blood Typing Test

2 Minutes

Wednesday, October 16

11 AM to 2 PM

IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY

Must be 17 and over to participate

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

Blood. It's in you to give.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Last week the Red River College Students' Association conducted its second Class Rep meeting in both the Notre Dame Campus and Princess Street campus.
We were quite pleased with the turnout and are excited about this year's student leaders. Here are some highlights of what was brought up and discussed at these noon hour meetings over a slice of pizza:

Notre Dame
- Locker Fees
- CAT Students Book Fees
- Car Pool Lottery

Princess
- Resting Areas with Furniture
- Bulletin Boards by RRCSA
- Access/Schedules of Instructors
- Representation from DMT and GD Students

Class Reps, we look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting on November 7 and 8.

IMPORTANT DATES TO ADD TO YOUR WEEKLY PLANNERS!!!

Friday, October 18

MYSTERY PUB BUS
Departure at 8 PM
South Gym

Tuesday, October 22

NOONER

Wednesday, October 30

CLUBS' PIZZA WEDNESDAYS
(Near the CAVE)

All the Best during Mid Terms!

YOUR NEW 2002-2003 STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

THE MOST DIVERSE REPRESENTATION IN YEARS!

Jeffrey Bull	- Business Administration	Lora Johnston	- Business Administration
Thomas Chwist	- Electrical Engineering Tech	Colleen McKenzie	- Aboriginal Education & Inst. Div.
Leah Conway	- Automotive Tech	Geoff Moen	- Computer Analyst Programmer
Cosette Dorge	- Creative Communications	Daisy Murillo	- Business Administration Access
Tanya Dupasquier	- Tourism	David Paul	- Aboriginal Education & Inst. Div.
Gordon Ellis	- Creative Communications	Michelle Scott	- Computer Accounting Technician
Mandy Godin	- Aboriginal Self Government	Becky Turner	- Business Administration
Emma Goncalves	- Computer Analyst Programmer	Jennifer Van Winkle	- Graphic Design
Mitch Huyghebaert	- Continuing Education Bus. Admin.	Chris Vermette	- Commerce & Industry Sales
Marek Jakabek	- Industrial Technologies	Donna Vincent	- Information Systems Tech

RRC Students entitled to free tutoring

By Gillian Leschasin

Looking for homework help? Then take advantage of the tutoring services that all students enrolled at Red River College are eligible for. Students are entitled to eight free hours of tutoring per term, which is paid for with their student fees.

Running for its second year now, the tutorial services are jointly sponsored by the RRC Student's Association in response to students needs.

Students can request peer tutoring on any subject, whether it be for a specialized computer program like Java, or for some general help with writing essays. To find a tutor, students should head to the Tutorial Centre, which is located in the Educational Support Centre (D104) at the Notre Dame campus. Students at the Princess Street campus are reminded that all of the tutorial services are available to them as well. The Tutorial Centre is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The facility contains a few sectioned off meeting areas for tutoring sessions, but is looking to expand in the future.

All students requesting any tutorial service must see Ron Hamerling, the friendly co-ordinator of tutorial services and the only person employed full-time at the centre. Hamerling is responsible for matching students up with an appropriate tutor to fulfill their needs. He will give the person requesting help a list of phone numbers of suitable tutors to contact, but it's up to students to set up a time to meet with their tutor.

Already "a lot of students are asking for help in Business Math and Accounting 1," Hamerling pointed out. If there is a huge demand for tutors in a certain subject area, small groups of three to five are set up for group tutoring sessions or workshops are held. Two weekly workshops have been set up and run from noon to 1 p.m. in room D111 every Monday for Accounting 1 and Wednesday for Statistics 2. Other tutorial services include several educational resource materials, and materials on study skills and test-taking tips.

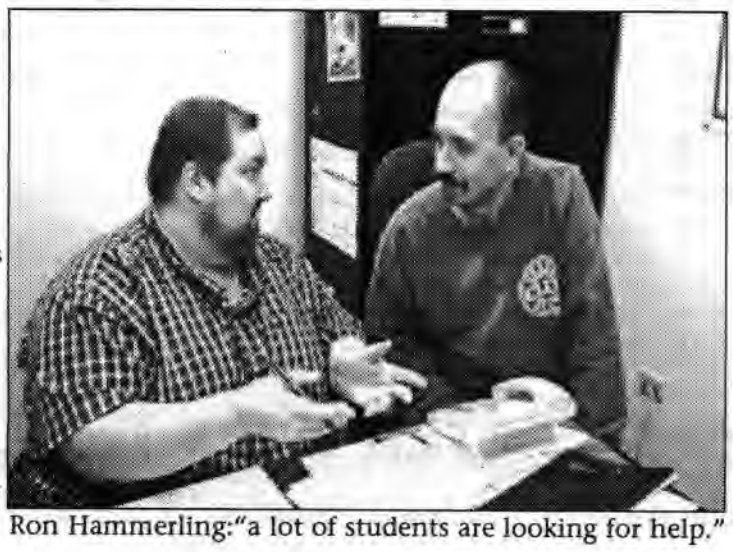
The increasing demand for student tutors is an issue that Hamerling faces at the centre as "we are always looking for specialized tutors." Tutors are paid $10 an hour for one-on-one sessions or $15 dollars an hour for small groups. Some benefits for tutors, as Hamerling mentioned, are that "peer tutoring looks really good to an employer on a resume," and "students really benefit by better understanding their subject from teaching." Hours of tutoring can range from five to 20 hours a month.

Anyone interested in a tutoring position is encouraged to see Ron immediately as he is "always looking to hire more tutors."

Hamerling says the purpose of the peer tutoring is "to offer students help on trouble spots." One student enrolled in the Business Administration program, who wishes to remain anonymous, is a perfect example of a student benefiting from the peer tutoring service.

"It helped me quite a bit. The tutors were very helpful," he said. He also commented on how flexible the peer-tutoring program is. "If I have to be somewhere else for my session with the tutor, I can switch it around." Students have the option of meeting in the Tutorial Centre during regular hours, but the flexibility of the peer tutoring system allows students to meet outside of the centre's hours of operation, in any location they choose.

Students can further their academic success by taking advantage of the tutoring services and employment opportunities available through the Tutorial Centre. Contact Ron Hamerling about any inquiries. arding peer tutoring or additional tutoring services at 632-2251 or by e-mailing rhamerli@rrc.mb.ca .



Ron Hammerling:"a lot of students are looking for help."

National Waste Reduction Week

October 21-27, 2002

Too Good to Waste!

Take a Tour of the Canadian Waste Recycling Facility!
This massive facility processes all the recycled material from the City of Winnipeg. The tour takes approximately 45 minutes. You have the option of going in the RRC van (maximum of 6 people) or joining us with your own vehicle. We will depart the College Shipping and Receiving area at 11:45 a.m. sharp to ensure we are back by 1:00 p.m. The address is 60 Bunting Street (off Inkster) if you would rather meet us there.

Tour dates:
Monday Oct 21st – Friday Oct. 25th

Call 632-3075 or email nseaba@rrc.mb.ca to sign up for a tour by **Thursday Oct. 16th**

Composting Seminar - Monday October 21st Boardroom A137
Come and get your composting questions answered. This 1-hour home composting workshop includes discussion on the basics of composting, composting methods and bin-types and concludes with how to use the finished product. It's informative, it's interactive and most of all, fun! Plus – See a real live worm-composting bin! (Optional)

Presented by: Maire McDermott
Compost Action Project - Resource Conservation Manitoba

Energy Efficiency Presentation – To Be Confirmed

Thursday, Oct. 24th – Paper Efficiency Campaign Kickoff

Student Carpools eligible for 5 prime parking spots in West 3!
(Courtesy of the Student Association)
All carpool partners **MUST** be registered with www.carpool.ca
All carpools **MUST** be registered by emailing nseaba@rrc.mb.ca with the list of carpool partners.
Lottery Draw on October 23rd!

Library Hallway displays will include information on Hazardous Waste & waste reduction techniques for **Home, Travel, Work, School, Play, Shopping, Community**

WASTE REDUCTION PLEDGE

WHEREAS the generation of solid waste and the needless waste of water and energy resources are recognized as global environmental problems and,

WHEREAS educational institutions have an important role to play in the education, research, policy formation, and information exchange necessary in creating an equitable and sustainable future

I, _____ pledge to practice a minimum of one waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting or any other conservation measure I can during Waste Reduction Week with the ultimate goal of incorporating these practices into my daily life.

~ If you wish to be included in a pledge count, cut this out and drop it off in the Environmental Display suggestion box located in the hallway between the Buffalo and the Ox.~

For More Information. Call 632-3075

WASTE REDUCTION QUIZ

Prize: $25.00 gift certificate for Prairie Lights Restaurant

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, October 23rd. Drop it off in the Environmental Display suggestion box located in the hallway between the Buffalo and the Ox.

1. Households in Canada generate a total of approximately how much garbage and recyclable stuff every year?
a) 50 million tonnes b) 100 million tonnes c) over 150 million tonnes

2. Of that amount, how much does recycling and composting divert from landfill?
a) 5 per cent b) 10 per cent c) 25 per cent

3. Let's say you replace a standard 75 watt light bulb with a 20 watt compact fluorescent bulb. Over the life of the bulb, you'll save
a) $25 b) $40 c) $55

4. The average household produces how much toxic waste (paints, pesticides, cleaners, prescriptions, batteries) per year?
a) 35 litres b) 50 litres c) 85 litres

5. Every person in Canada uses how much water a day?
a) 150 litres in winter; 200 litres in summer
b) 200 litres in winter; 275 litres in summer
c) 350 litres in winter; 450 litres in summer

6. Making recycled paper consumes how much energy compared to making 1 tonne of virgin paper.
a. 60% more b. the same amount c. 60% less

7. The largest component of the average Canadian's waste is:
a) kitchen & yard waste b) pop cans c) plastics d) newspapers

The Projector's OPINION

October 14, 2002

A prediction from The Projector or: What's news with you?

What I worry about most when writing editorials for this biweekly paper is shelf-life: trying to ensure the topic will be relevant two and a half weeks after I write about it. Granted, some of my musings have been irrelevant, even to myself the day after I write them. In ideal circumstances, myeditorials would address subjects in the news and would discuss matters relevant to students.

Topics that are both interesting and current are easy for daily papers to go on about.

Firstly, they decide what is is newsworthy for their readers, and secondly, if the topic becomes immaterial the day after the paper is printed it doesn't matter; another paper is already on the stands.

One topic that I don't think will be irrelevant in two and a half weeks is that sniper in Maryland.

Evil people just seem to hang around longer, especially those who are smart and evil, a bad combination. Kind of like nasty relatives, for example, like the one aunt who you could never please.

Newspapers that make predictions are asking for trouble, but I'll make one anyway. I don't think they'll catch the perpetrator soon.

I guess there are bad people everywhere, but the reason I am writing about this has more to do with the media's role in covering issues like the sniper than about thedebate over good and evil.

As usual, CNN etc. can't get enough of the elusive sniper: it's the

station's bread and butter. Hey, I can't get enough of it either, tuning in with relish to the endless live commentary each time there is a new shooting. Oh the horror, but it pays the bills, right CNN?

Death and destruction, and the worse the better, are what sell papers and

air time. Just as long as it's happening somewhere else and to someone else Jane Q. Public says. Sure, I am, and plan on, being as guilty as any other journalist, but you readers are the ones who guarantee me a job.

Why is all news bad news? As a matter of fact, all news isn't bad news.

What qualifies as news is something significant, interesting, and new. What the World Trade Center fell down, that event was all three qualifiers. But when grandma saves her grandchildren from a burning building, that's also news.

But more about the sniper. I was watching the head cop complaining about media coverage of the situation. He said releasing too many details of the incidents could jeopardize the investigation. Maybe he's right. I have a lot

of respect for cops and other rescue/safety jobs.

Their entire jobs centre around protecting people. The top police officer, in fact, is probably right, but people want to know details.

The public is the ultimate news director. The news is here to serve the people, journalists telling the public what they want to know and about what's important to their lives. If the people want more happy puppy and kitten

stories, speak up. If you want more 4-H Club prize winning pig stories, speak up. Until then, I've gotta go, I think CNN is broadcasting live from

the school where the eight victim was shot. I heard Connie Chung has the little boyds best friend on. Psst, channel 15.

N. Pona

Change needed for panhandlers

No, I can't spare a dollar. I don't have any spare change. I don't care what you need it for. I didn't have it last week, I didn't have it yesterday, I didn't have it five minutes ago, so I certainly don't have it now!

As someone who works and attends school in Winnipeg's downtown area, I've noticed a disturbing trend. Aggressive panhandlers are plaguing the centre of our city and it needs to be stopped.

I'm not talking about your average old, withered, looks-like-he-just-crawled-out-of-a-sewer homeless beggar who sits quietly with a cup in front of him. I'm talking about the angry, aggressive, usually inebriated kind of panhandler; the one who refuses to take 'no' for an answer.

I'm not talking about buskers either. I think live performers are an integral part of any high-traffic urban area. They add colour and flair to downtown and are for the most part very professional in their attitudes and methods of begging for money.

However, when large groups of intimidating panhandlers invade the area, legitimate street performers are lumped into the same category as the offensive, irritating drunks that scour the neighbourhood in search of spare change.

Certain areas of the downtown seem to be overrun by these scoundrels, and it's time to do something about it. A recent news story reported that the city and its police were thinking about cracking down on these people. I support their decision 100 per cent.

One simple solution would be to provide official licenses for buskers. If someone is serious about street performing, they certainly won't protest a small fee to make their trade officially sanctioned by the government. Any beggar found without a license would get three warnings from John Law and then they'd be thrown into the cooler for a night. Now, I've never been to jail, but I know a night in the clink would make me think twice about re-offending.

Unfortunately, there are a number of socio-economic reasons for homelessness. A harsh system like the one I've just suggested would result in the detainment of hundreds of innocent people who were just down on their luck, or those panhandlers with mental disorders that put them on the street.

I'm not quite sure what the solution is. I've (fortunately) never been so down-and-out that I've needed to beg for my lunch, but I can imagine that degrading yourself to having to ask a complete stranger for spare change is one of the hardest things for someone to do. The people who are causing the problems are the ones who are past any degradation. They have absolutely no shame and will gladly harass you five times a day if that's how they can leech money out of you.

Despite what some people say, homelessness is not a racial issue, nor a gender issue: it has nothing to do with anything like that.

I've seen aggressive, drunken beggars of all shapes, sizes and colours. People who work hard for their money don't need to throw it away to someone trying to get a free ride.

That goes double for impoverished college students.

I don't have a concrete solution to the problem, but if the government wants to revitalize downtown, they need to rethink their strategy and start at the city's roots: the street.

Bushleague bullshit gets to some

For some reason, I don't think Alfred Nobel had him in mind when he created the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Peace Prize is one of the five prizes mentioned in Alfred Nobel's will, along with literature, physics, chemistry and medicine. In his will, Nobel stated thatprizes be given to those who, during the preceding year, "shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind," and "shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

But there I was, sitting in the Red River College's Princess Street library, listening to cafeteria voices drifting over and through the walls between the neighbouring rooms, when I saw what I immediately thought was a column from The Onion, or something equally satirical.

Last week, before the winners were in, The Globe and Mail reported George W. Bush, along with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Afghan Premier/Firewalker Hamid Karzai, were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

While nominating Karzai could be considered acceptable I refuse to believe the other two cowboys could be even considered. It must be a joke. With Bush trying as hard as he can to start a war with Iraq and Saddam Hussein by flexing the mighty muscle that is the United States of America, I don't feel he accurately represents the vision Nobel had of his nominees.

With profound statements such as "The suicide bombings have increased, there's too many of them," illustrating Dubya's peacekeeping genius, it's a little difficult to understand why he was even nominated.

According to recent numbers in The National Post, the U.S. is responsable for 40 per cent of the planets military spending and almost 80 per cent of the world's research and development spending.

While Dubya may be contributing toward the "abolition or reduction of standing armies," I don't think bombing the crap out of these armies is the best way to promote peace.

It's hypocritical of Dubya to threaten other nations, most of them smaller and less powerful on a global scale, as most nations are compared to the U.S., with the prospect of war simply because they possess weapons similar to America's.

It also escapes me how Tony Blair can be nominated along with Dubya. All he seems to do is sling his thumbs in his pockets and play sidekick for Dubya as he rallies political leaders around the world to avenge his father's Desert Storm failures and get more oil for his country, two issues he masks in his all encompaing "fight against terroism" quote.

"I want to have a ballistic defence system so that we can make the world a more peaceful place and at the same time reduce our nuclear capacities to the level commiserate with keeping the peace," Dubya said in October, 2000.

Yup, that's just the man I want to be seen as the symbol of peace for the planet.

I don't even know what "a ballistic defence system," is but I'm pretty sure the world would be a more peaceful place without one. I also think reducing nuclear capabilities to keep the peace could be better accomplished by eliminating them altogether.

Red River Students raise funds for reading and walk in traffic

By Jeff Belyk

Approximately one in every four people will have difficulty reading this article, according to Cindy Dowse of Global TV.

To help the fight against illiteracy, Red River College instructor Eric Crone recruited some enthusiastic students to join Global TV staff and celebrities in collecting donations from motorists and pedestrians.

CanWest Global Foundation's Raise-a-Reader fundraising campaign ran nationally from 7 to 9 a.m. on the brisk Oct. 3 morning.

Winnipeg's CanWest employees and volunteers commandeered numerous street corners with the help of other organizations, including RRC students and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, hoping to raise funds for literacy in Manitoba.

Global personnel and the adventurous RRC students handed out copies of the Winnipeg Sun and The National Post in return for donations at the corner of St. Mary's and St. Annes Road.

The papers went quickly as hundreds of motorists bestowed their meter money and coffee change to support the cause.

Students ran into traffic, dodging cars and obscenities from some morning commuters who chose not to participate in the charity drive.

Most commuters, however, were willing to cough up some change while some people went the distance by offering bills rather than coins. Once all papers were dispensed motorists continued to donate as both students and the Green Drop mascot, encouraged people to give to the cause.

"Who would have thought hawking papers would be so much fun," said Cindy Dowse, Global TV's promotion manager.

Cindy taught RRC students an alternate form of public relations by jumping on buses and stopping city police to solicit funds. Most RRC students were still green and not up to her unorthodox methods.

The group raised almost $2,000, which was added to the Winnipeg total of $13,500.

All proceeds go to literacy programs for children in Manitoba.

The national total, according to Dowse, is an astounding $439,072. All money raised in Canada is exclusively for literacy programs across the country.

CanWest Global Foundation's President Gail Asper thanked volunteers by buying the hundred or so participants breakfast at the Fairmont Hotel.

"All the help is appreciated and we thank the Red River College students who got out of bed at 5 a.m. to help us with an important cause," she said.

Cindy acknowledged her appreciation to students, adding "And yes! I will keep you on file for the next round."

Students were glad to offer their assistance and once the charity work ended, networking began.

RRC appetites save downtown

By Lindsey Wiebe

Students aren't the only ones reaping the benefits of Red River College's new Princess Street campus. Since the influx of students at the beginning of the school year, businesses in the Exchange District have been profiting from the increased customer base as well.

Among those gaining the most from the extra bodies are the area's restaurants. The Pita Pit, located on Albert Street, has been enjoying a renewed lunch rush since classes began Sept. 3. Kristian Sullivan is one of the managers of the Pita Pit. He's excited about the rise in business since the campus's opening.

"We get 30 to 50 students a day," says Sullivan. "We're looking forward to it being fully opened."

Jason Holland, a manager of the nearby Mondragon Bookstore & Coffeehouse, agrees.

"We've noticed an increase in people, definitely." Holland says. "As a business owner, I'm very happy it's here."

However, some businesses in the Exchange District have yet to feel the benefits of the 250 nearby students. The King's Head Pub at 120 King Street is a prime example, still awaiting a significant rise in business. Bethal Boulton, bartender at the King's Head, cites only a slight increase in business since the campus's opening.

Those businesses still waiting to benefit financially from the new campus may not have to wait long. While property disputes caused some changes in the original Phase

photo by Aaron Cutler

Hot eats, cool treats for students.

One of the project, the issues were resolved in enough time to ready the school for the 250 students currently studying there. More students will soon be on the way. Phase Two of the Princess Street construction is set to be completed in the summer of 2003 and Phase Three only a few months later. At this time the student body will rise increase to 2000 potential customers fro area restaurants.

The overall consensus among business owners seems to be one of unanimous approval for RRC's venture into the Exchange District, as well as the increased trade it's brought to the areas businesses.

"It's definitely bringing more people downtown," says Boulton.

In light of downtown Winnipeg's efforts to revitalize and attract young people, the new campus may be just what the area and its businesses are looking for.

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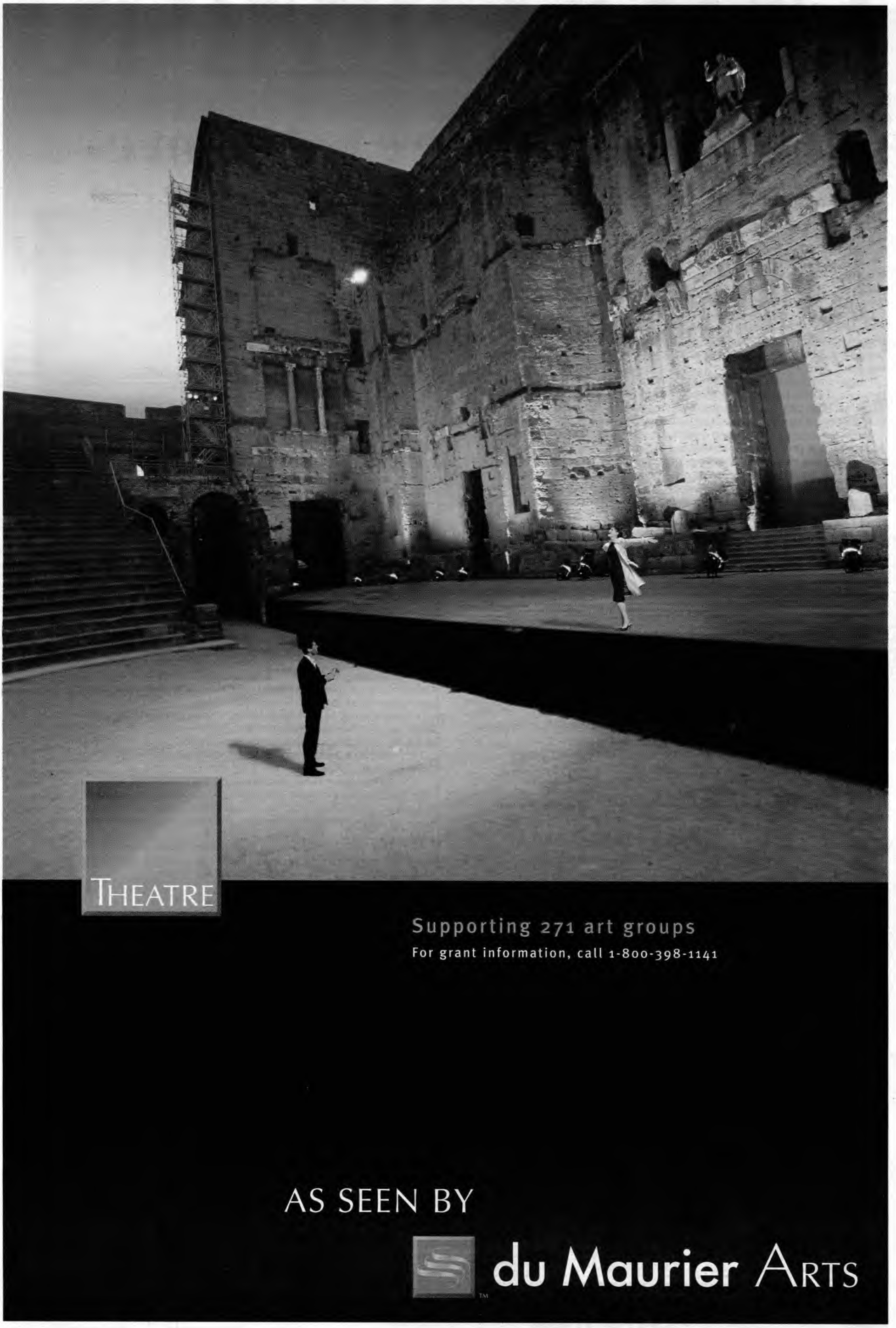
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ENTERTAINMENT

Home Sweet Home

By Rhea Parker

MOVIE REVIEW
Sweet Home Alabama
Starring Reese Witherspoon
**** out of 5 stars

Okay, I'll admit it. Sweet Home Alabama is a chick flick. Not that guys won't or can't enjoy it, but it's obviously aimed at a primarily female audience.

Reese Witherspoon shines as Melanie Carmichael, an up-and-coming fashion designer with a hidden past. After a proposal most girls can only dream of from the ever-handsome Patrick Dempsey at Tiffany's, she heads home to tie up loose ends; namely getting a divorce from her estranged husband Jake, played by relative newcomer Josh Lucas (another handome leading man).

The film focuses on her dilemma in coming home and finding herself torn between the life she now leads in New York and the life she left behind in Alabama. The plot starts to move when Jake yet again refuses to sign the divorce papers and she can't quite figure out why.

After spending a few drunken days there and having an embarrassing scene in a bar, she is forced to re-examine her life and why she left the way she did. After obtaining the signed divorce papers, she decides to make amends before leaving and takes off to find everyone. She apologizes for her behaviour and finds out some interesting things, most importantly that Jake went to New York shortly after she had left to bring her home, only to realize he had to better himself before he had anything to offer her.

He has gone on to start a new life and business, be she is too self-absorbed to notice until she finds herself at his workplace, not knowing it's his. The motivation for his business was actually from an experience they shared as kids, but nothing registers until she finds herself there, face to face with Jake again.

The movie definitely has its funny moments, as Melanie finds herself surrounded by the stereotypical country bumpkins who attempt to steal the screen. Ethan Embry goes sadly underused as the in-the-closet former best friend, Bobby Ray, who even after being "outed" by a drunken Melanie, still comes to her aid when her new beau shows up in Alabama to find out what the delay is in coming back to New York.

Although the characters are overly stereotypical, (they re-enact the civil war, a crazy old cotton farmer re-enacts explosions from his days as a colonel, the locals have all married each other and take their babies to the bar) they remain humourous.

The movie has plenty of laughs and a good plot that moves fairly quickly. As for the choice between Patrick Dempsey and Josh Lucas...if only every girl was so lucky! The bottom line is, there's plenty of Southern charm to make this movie worth the money. A great date flick.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Sweet Home Alabama Soundtrack
Hollywood Records
*** /5

The movie's called Sweet Home Alabama, but you won't find any trace of Lynyrd Skynyrd on this soundtrack album. The classic title track is given a new spin by folkie Jewel, in what is likely the most soulful, rocking song of her otherwise mellow career. Despite the track's legendary heritage and Jewel's relatively impressive performance (this is Jewel we're talking about here!), a singer from Alaska extolling the greatness of the South seems a little fake.

The soundtrack to this "chick flick" starring Legally Blonde's Reese Witherspoon is full of the usual suspects, many of whom add a Southern twang to their tracks. Sheryl Crow goes into full-out "O Brother" mode with Long Gone Lonesome Blues, a bluegrass-influenced tune and even pop-punk Canuck Avril Lavigne unfortunately abandons her edge for down-home balladry with Falling Down.

Indie-rock "it boy" Ryan Adams makes an appearance with Gonna Make You Love Me and Southern-fried rap-metal moron Uncle Kracker fails miserably in his brutal attempt at country music. The predictability of this CD isn't really a surprise, since all 13 tracks are pretty standard, non-threatening romantic comedy fare.

Sweet Home Alabama's soundtrack only really gets adventurous with Weekend Song, an absolutely brilliant dancehall/hip-hop track by London group the Freestylers. As the one upbeat, edgy tune on an album made up of mainly singer-songwriters, Weekend Song seems almost out of place.

When you take the target audience for Witherspoon's movies into consideration, however, what seems like a sappy, boring, predictable collection of country-pop is likely set to become a best-seller.

-Sam Thompson

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GET OUT YER PENS, SUCKAS!!

Hank Williams' sun refuses to set 50 years later

Country star gets revived with new stage show

By Angela Dyck

I've never been institutionalized," says born-and-raised Winnipegger Gene Pyrz. Of course, what he's referring to are institutions of education; more specifically, schools of performing arts. Despite his lack of formal training, Pyrz has enjoyed more than a 20-year career in acting and singing. This month his career takes him to the stage at the Royal George Hotel in a concert/cabaret show about legendary country singer Hank Williams.

With aspirations of becoming a rock and roll star, a young Pyrz formed a band and hit the road. Eventually, the band broke up and Pyrz hit the job bank. He auditioned for Pursuit of Happiness, a show seeking someone who could both sing and act. He got the job, and has been involved in theatre ever since.

Over the years he has performed Shakespeare with various theatre companies, including Manitoba Theatre Centre and Shakespeare in the Ruins. He has also played major roles with other theatres including Theatre Projects Manitoba, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Alberta Theatre Projects, Popular Theatre Alliance of Manitoba, and Blyth. Besides being involved in theatre performances, he has also done plenty of film and television work.

Although he has established quite an extensive acting portfolio, his singing and songwriting ambitions have not been forgotten. He has collaborated with fellow songwriters Ken Pinchin, Paul Scarnati, and Buck Harder, and they have developed compositions that have been commissioned and performed for theatre and other artists including Rocki Rolletti and The Rowdymen.

It's hard to label Pyrz as either a singer or an actor, because he feels the two vocations are so closely linked. "One couldn't exist without the other," says Pyrz. To him, singing and acting are not that far removed, particularly in his upcoming performance.

Pyrz plays the role of Hank Williams, the notorious country singer who died in his Cadillac on the way to a gig on New Year's Eve, 1952. Hank Williams: The Show He Never Gave takes audiences back to that day. The concept of the show, written by Maynard Collins, is a flashback to the mind of Hank Williams at his time of death. The show is based on some known facts about Williams, but a few legends concerning his life and death are explored as well. In the last moment before his death, Williams' relives moments of his life, not only remembering them as they actually were, but also as they might have been.

One thing Pyrz finds that he and the title role in the show have in common is their love of performing. "[Williams] was a constant performer," says Pyrz, "The place where he felt most at home was on stage." In this show Pyrz shares the stage with the Drifting Cowboys: Paul Scarnati on bass; Ken Pinchin on steel guitar; Vic Scarnati on electric guitar; Dan Barr on drums; and John Sedor on the fiddle. Pyrz and the band dedicate themselves to playing Williams' music as authentically as possible. "[Williams fans] are very loyal," said Pyrz, and he aims to give audiences what they come for.

Audience response to this show at times has been overwhelming. "It's pretty dynamic, some of the reactions I've gotten," said Pyrz. He recalled a time after a show when a woman told him that when she was a child, her family would listen to Hank Williams' music around the breakfast table. She went on to say that when she heard Pyrz singing those songs, she could smell bacon frying. "There's a sensed memory thing that happens to a lot of people," continued Pyrz, "I've had grown men crying in the audience."

It is exactly this visceral reaction that keeps Pyrz coming back to this role. He enjoys seeing the looks on people's faces when they watch the show, and he is amazed at how far people have come just to experience Williams in any way. More than 25,000 people attended Williams' funeral when he died fifty years ago, but his legend lives on. Pyrz believes that throughout the course of the show, audiences come to feel like they know the country singer. "Hank becomes their friend," he says.

Cobblestone Runway takes off

By Ruth Shead

Two things happened to me this summer: I discovered Ron Sexsmith and I fell in love. Because these two things happened to me simultaneously you have to understand that I have a particular attachment to Ron Sexsmith's music. I don't want that to interfere with anything I am about to say about the quality of Ron's new album, Cobblestone Runway, or his September 24th concert, but maybe I accidentally gave him one more star than he deserved in both cases.

Part I: The Album ****.5

Cobblestone Runway was released at approximately the perfect time. Michael (see: I fell in love) had just left for Slovakia and I had spent most of my September exhausting the collection of Ron Sexsmith CDs he had left behind. Other Songs, Whereabouts and Blue Boy didn't excite me nearly as much as his self-titled album, so embrace this as a frame of reference when I say that Cobblestone Runway places a very close second.

A funk influence and "grooves" add tasteful garnish to Sexsmith's familiar folk-rock style. "Dragonfly On Bay Street," takes a bit too much advantage of this approach for my taste, but "These Days" and the remix of "Gold In Them Hills," featuring Coldplay's Chris Martin, seem to find an agreeable balance. Cobblestone Runway continues to display Ron's superior ability to write lyrics that are both torrid and adoring and could stand-alone if they had to.

The album itself does not stand-alone. Just like this review, you get two for one: Cobblestone Runway comes as a double CD, which includes Ron's first album, Grand Opera Lane.

Part II: The Concert ***

Recently I had the opportunity to attend my very first Ron Sexsmith concert. Because the concert took place on September 24th, which happens to be the day before September 25th, which marks the birthday of Glenn Gould, I thought that I would confuse everyone by mixing excessive unrelated cultural references to explain myself. I call it:

32 Short Statements on Ron Sexsmith and concert at the West End Cultural Centre.....continued on pg.12

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Good Girl not a bad career move for Aniston

By Sabrina Carnevale

Friends star breaks down her popular image with new role

MOVIE REVIEW
The Good Girl
Starring Jennifer Aniston
*** 1/2 out of 5 stars

To be in love and to crave lust are two very different and distinct feelings. However in The Good Girl, Jennifer Aniston experiences both emotions at the same time. Justine Last (Aniston) is a frustrated 30-year-old woman working as a makeup consultant at Retail Rodeo, a store comparable to a lower class version of Wal-Mart. Her husband, Phil (John C. Reilly), is a house painter by day and a pot-smoking couch potato by night. Phil spends most of his time alongside his smoking buddy, Bubba (Tim Blake Nelson).

In this film, Aniston has broken her "Friends" image with her radiant portrayal of a small town Texan born wife torn between the lust of a young man and the security of her family. Director Miguel Arteta (Chuck & Buck) brings a dark comedic impression to the movie while centering on the drama that plays out in Justine's life.

The Good Girl is a dynamically beautiful film that incorporates the passion and desire of forbidden love with the anguish and pain of sins and redemption.

Justine is discouraged by her routine life and yearns for a child with Phil, whose ability to provide her with one is questioned because of his heavy marijuana use. Justine goes to work everyday and continuously listens to her tiresome and less than interesting co-workers.

Justine is frustrated and depressed with her life's trials and tribulations. She soon meets Holden (Jake Gyllenhaal), an angst-ridden young writer who dropped out of college and has a drinking problem. She is intrigued by Holden's perspective on life and finds similarities in both of their simple, miserable existences.

The time she spends with Holden relieves her of her worries and their friendship quickly evolves into a romantic and sexual relationship. With Holden, Justine feels she can release her inhibitions while unleashing indulgences, but Holden's need for affection soon creates problems. He craves Justine's love, but when she begins to question their affair, he acts irrationally, telling her she should leave her husband and run away with him.

Gyllenhaal's portrayal of Holden is remarkable and his depiction of a troubled and anxious young man who desires affection is brilliantly represented.

During one of Justine and Holden's numerous encounters, Phil's friend Bubba catches them together at a motel. Bubba blackmails Justine, and in return for not telling Phil of her affair with Holden, Bubba demands she have sex with him. Justine eventually succumbs to Bubba's demand and is later shocked to discover she is pregnant. Soon thereafter, she realizes that her affair with Holden is deceitful and has had enough of his child like behavior, viewing him as "at best a child and at worst a demon." Justine's world soon comes to a halt, while Holden remains suspended with his fascination of Justine and their ideal life together.

Justine's adulterous sin seems to have no end and her attempt to reclaim her old life results in more disaster.

The Good Girl is fused with several dark themes such as deception, betrayal, adultery, and blackmail. A negative aspect of this film is how it seems to slow itself down in the middle. The viewer is kept guessing, fumbling ideas back and forth regarding which path Justine will choose: her husband or Holden. However, the concluding scenes make up for the film's lagging middle. Arteta's superb directorial skills present irony combined with emotional chaos and portray an illusion-filled world in which Justine and Holden cannot rid themselves of.

Not only a sitcom actress: Jennifer Aniston shows dramatic depth in new film.

Ron Sexsmith continued from page eleven

1. The concert was neither thrilling nor engaging; I felt like I was sitting in a living room listening to a stack of CDs.
2. The number of Fort Garry Dark I consumed during the living room session.
3. The number of stars out of five I give the concert. (A Projector review requirement.)
4. The number of additional beverages I had post-concert, while trying to digest my disappointments.
5. The guy who sold me the FGD told me that there were 150 people at the show.
6. Most of these people appeared to be over 25, including Ron who was born in 1964. (You do the math.) (Hint: The answer is 38.)
7. Ron introduced the audience to some of his new songs off of Cobblestone Runway.
8. Ron wore a green tuxedo shirt.
9. He told us that his girlfriend picked it out for him.
10. He told us that she is trying to make him "look snazzy."
11. He also said: "It's nice to be playing these new songs. It's the only way we're going to learn them."
12. Everyone laughed.
13. This guy couldn't hire a more accommodating audience.
14. The drummer isn't just the guy who hangs out with the band; Don Kerr added subtle decoration to the otherwise mediocre show.
15. Jason Mecer and Tim Bovaconti also played with Ron.
16. Jason had on a red plaid shirt that Ron called "Canadian Tartan."
17. "Promises are made to be broken, haven't you heard?"
18. That's a lyric.
19. Or maybe a disclaimer?
20. Ron mentioned that he was feeling a bit sick.
21. Another disclaimer?
22. I felt like the show was in fast forward.
23. The number of songs Ron played according to my finger count.
24. The number of songs Ron played according to the set list his sound technician gave me.
25. None of these songs was "Wastin' Time" and he wasn't wasting any.
26. Much to my surprise, he got a standing ovation.
27. Some people even whistled.
28. I feel like a jerk writing an unfavourable review.
29. If you were at the show you probably have your own 32 opinions.
30. If you weren't there, I wouldn't worry about it too much, but I would update my Ron Sexsmith library with his new album.
31. Buy his album because he is really great.
32. And he's not great because I said so, or because Elvis Costello said so, or because Paul McCartney said so. And no, he's not great because Sarah McLachlan said so. Ron Sexsmith is great because he's talented. His lyrics say things like: "I'm off to find the words we never use." He sings them with his enchanting voice. He uses more than three chords when he plays his guitar and sometimes he even plays piano. And because I can't give him a five star review, I want to give him that.

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Hotter than the Beatles: the Perms

By Sarah Hodges

Local band the Perms can tell you their key to success. "We're four hot young guys. Hotter than the Beatles," they assert. But all kidding aside, there are plenty of reasons to like the Perms, besides their great sense of humour.

The four-man band currently features Shane Smith on bass and vocals, his brother Chad on guitar and vocals, Nick Kolisnyk on trumpet, and Ian Feist on drums. Although you may remember the Perms as a band from Brandon who released their debut CD Tight Perm in 1998, don't be surprised if you can't quite recognize their sound these days.

After a relocation to Winnipeg and shuffling of members, the Perms are back with a brand new album and a brand new sound. Clark Drive, the new album, features Chad helping to pen the tunes.

"The new album is more diverse and professional sounding. The songwriting and musicianship have improved."

Chad also emphasizes the impact of adding a trumpet to the band. Not only does it add a unique dimension to their sound, but the trumpet is a favourite among audiences. The Perms also use a great formula to keep their audiences happy. They write catchy tunes that people can sing a long to. Oh, and don't forget "songs that people can make love to," Chad adds with a sly grin.

Recently, the Perms have been winning over Canadian audiences as they tour venues across the country. To gain dedicated Canadian fans, the Perms themselves have to be very dedicated, managing to survive long drives, breaks from their day jobs and finding the funds to support a tour.

"But," they admit with a shrug, "you just find a way. Touring has to be done to reach other cities. If you keep going back, your audiences grow."

The band may be in the midst of preparing for their upcoming Eastern Canada/Ontario tour, but they are more excited about a recent invitation to play in New York City. The Perms have agreed to participate in "International Pop Overthrow", a travelling music festival that features pop bands from around the world, taking place in the Big Apple Dec. 3-13, 2002.

A self-proclaimed mix of Blood Sweat & Tears and Sloan, the Perms will be reaching an ideal audience at the concert in New York. Besides an outlet to sell some records and swag, the festival should bring the band one step closer to realizing some of their goals; hopefully setting them up to begin touring the U.S. and connecting them to some great record labels.

To succeed, the guys will have to use the savvy business sense they've developed over the years in the music industry. Usually just a laid-back rocker, Chad morphs into a top-notch executive when he's in the band's office talking business.

"Music is pretty important," he advises, "but so is business. Treat your band like a business and learn from your mistakes"

Although they've had to learn as they go, the Perms are now handling all their own management and public relations. They've connected with media both locally and abroad, and Shane has started booking all the band's tours.

But have the Perms found the key to success? Although he'll admit he's no psychic, Chad dreams he'll be "running the Gentlemens' Club" five years from now. His fellow band members just hope they'll have the freedom to keep on making music.

With their singles hiting the airwaves on local and national radio stations, the Perms may be a band to keep an eye on. In any case, their music will keep your toes tapping and their jokes will keep you laughing. To learn more about the Perms or their upcoming shows, check out www.theperms.com .

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Diamond's mind still yields riches

C-note a reasonable price for classic show

By Croft Petersmeyer

CONCERT REVIEW
Neil Diamond
Winnipeg Arena
*** 1/2 out of 5 stars

Neil Diamond professed to be on "a mission of love" at his Winnipeg Arena concert Sunday Sept. 29, and judging from the capacity crowd's reaction to the over two-hour performance, the 61-year-old singer-songwriter admirably answered his calling.

Offering up hit after hit from a career spanning more than 35 years and exceeding 115-million album sales, Diamond demonstrated time and again the consummate professionalism that still allows him to sell out major venues all over the world.

He and his impressive 17-piece band kicked off the night with a well received but fairly conventional rendition of America, from 1980's The Jazz Singer, followed by the equally upbeat A Mission of Love, from last year's release, Three Chord Opera.

From the outset, Diamond's light banter set a tone of easy familiarity he built on as the evening progressed. "You're the squeaky door, I am the lubrication," he quipped early on. "Wherever I hear noise, that's where I go."

And the noise did come, somewhat reserved and scattered at first, but by the time he launched into his sixth tune, the 1966 top-10 hit Cherry, Cherry, he had clearly begun to convert the faithful. This momentum continued with the Diamond-penned I'm a Believer, a tune both The Monkees and more recently Smash Mouth covered to great success.

When it was time to slow things down, he fittingly joked to the men in the crowd: "Put away your hockey sticks for a minute, will you guys?" Play Me, Love on the Rocks, and a spirited Soolaimon followed suit.

Diamond continued this effortless rapport by punctuating his performance with several entertaining, if suspiciously rehearsed bits. Girl, You'll Be a Woman Soon saw the singer serenade a grateful fan by gradually reclining horizontally onstage, then kissing her on the lips at song's end. "Oh my God," he confessed. "Do you have a cigarette, darling? I'm exhausted."

And three-quarters through the 26-song main set, Diamond offered up a pulsating Sweet Caroline, prompting the crowd's most enthusiastic response to that point, and allowing Diamond to utilize yet another showbiz standard. "I'd love to, but I couldn't possibly sing it again."

He could and did sing it again, of course, but this time with the proviso that the audience sing along according to specific instructions he happily provided. Schmaltzy to a fault, sure, but pristine Diamond nonetheless.

However, the evening wasn't all fun and games. Diamond dedicated a reflective Captain Sunshine to his longtime friend and band mate, Vince Charles, who died last year after a brief illness.

And the Brooklyn-born entertainer also paid a touching tribute to the "true heroes in this world today" by acknowledging policemen, firefighters, and military personnel with an appropriately sentimental He Ain't Heavy...He's My Brother.

In the hands of a lesser performer, moments like these might have come across as an awkward homage, but Diamond's resonant baritone and confident commentary carried with it an air of audience-appreciated authority.

The two-song encore included a vigorous Cracklin' Rosie, but it served only to whet appetites for the even more animated Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show, complete with evangelistic melodramatics even Jimmy Swaggart might envy.

By the time the house lights went up, Diamond eloquently delivered a musical sermon worthy of the $100 tickets some in his congregation were charged.

Like most services, though, it had its dry points. You Don't Bring Me Flowers, a duet with backup singer Linda Press, failed to reprise the evocative 1978 version with Barbra Streisand. And the midpoint offerings from his newest album did little to stir the largely over-40 crowd to action.

Perhaps the worst that can be said about his performance is that it seemed a little too polished, too formulaic, too deliberately climactic. But with an enduring talent like his and the song catalogue to match, it's a sacrifice most seemed willing to make for a chance to bask a while in the light of Diamond's musical brilliance.

The Hip get the place hoppin'

Canadian rockers' performance anything but Tragic

By Angela Drul

CONCERT REVIEW
Tragically Hip
Centennial Concert Hall
***** out of 5 stars

The Centennial Concert Hall was a great place to hold a concert. It was nice to go to a concert where you didn't have to deal with slimy mosh pits and crazy, rambunctious crowds. Don't get me wrong, the crowd didn't just sit there. We were on our feet for the entire concert. I'm just saying it was nice that there was a smaller crowd. It gave me a chance to see a band in a more comfortable setting and appreciate the Tragically Hip's music and performance.

The Hip were the focus of the concert, since there weren't any stage props or raging fireballs shooting up behind the drummer. The amount of room on stage was a little too sparse for props. With no props, having the Hip as the main attraction made the concert more personal. The Hip provided a light show that created a solid backup for their tunes and really added to the excitement in the crowd as they sat mesmerized by the craz lights. The acoustics sounded so fabulous, I thought the band sounded better live than on their CDs. They served alcohol at the concert, but didn't allow ticketholders to bring their drinks into the concert area. I appreciated not having drinks spilled on me or drunken slobs falling all over.

Sam Roberts was the opening act for the Tragically Hip, and he kicked off the concert witha great performance. It took a little while for the crowd to get into the music, but Roberts' band caught the crowd's attention when they played their hit Brother Down. Their upbeat performance raised the excitement in the Concert Hall, getting the crowd riled up and ready for the Hip.

It was Hip singer Gordon Downie who truly caught the crowd's attention the moment he stepped onstage. His upbeat, crazy personality was contagious, making the crowd go wild as Downie "swam" during New Orleans Is Sinking. The Hip mixed a few new tracks from their most recent album, In Violet Light, with a steady mix of fan favourites like Wheat Kings, Ahead By A Century and Gift Shop. Downie threw the crowd off by changing the lyrics to the songs when the crowd tried to sing along, but the entertainment didn't stop there. The crowd cheered louder and got more hyper as Downie showed off some of his dance moves and continued dancing until the concert ended.

With a sold out concert of approximately 2,200 people at the Centennial Concert Hall, the Tragically Hip demonstrated why they are one of Canada's greatest rock bands. Despite the Hip's popularity, it's good to see they are still willing to play for small crowds. This was the best concert I have ever gone to and I'd pay $67 to see the Hip again. This was money well-spent and I would strongly suggest to others to take the opportunity to see the Hip live if they have the chance. This was my first time going to a Tragically Hip show and it was a great experience for me. It's for these reasons that I gave the Hip five well-deserved stars.

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DANIEL BEDINGFIELD
Gotta Get Thru This
Polydor/Universal Records
**/5

With his recently released breakout album, Gotta Get Thru this and the first hit single by the same name, London-born Daniel Bedingfield has struck a chord in North America.

Reading his lyrics, in which the entire album describes love and relationships, you might be confused as to the intent of the writing when you hear the beats attached to it.

Although his wide vocal range assists his catchy lyrics, the music sadly bastardizes Bedingfield's talent.

One of the best songs on the album is the acoustic version of Gotta Get Thru This, where the melody, thankfully, takes a backseat.

The album seems to be lost in its genre direction, creating clutter and confusion rather than the self-described 'heartfelt' prose that Bedingfield intended. The record is best described as a poorly blended mix of pop (He Don't Love U), soul, R&B (Honest Questions), dance (James Dean) and hip-hop (Blow It Again).

Overall, inconsistency defines this album. While the songwriting is well written, the confusion lies in the improper category he's been placed and the distraction it creates.

Truth be told, it takes everything in you to "get thru" this album.

-Becky Block

BECK
Sea Change
Geffen
****/5

Ah, Beck. The type of musician who always leaves his fans confused about what's coming next, Beck Hansen is equally known for his bizarre, funky experimentation as he is for folk-hop hits like Loser. A quick listen to the groovy insanity of his last record, Midnite Vultures, would make the listener naturally expect Beck to bring the funk once again with his next effort.

Sea Change, in fact, is nothing like Midnite Vultures or even Beck's Odelay album. Relying mainly on acoustic guitars and his deep, expressive voice to get his message across, Sea Change is a bit of a departure for Beck. It's a return to his Mellow Gold-era roots; just without the drum machines.

To be honest, I had convinced myself I wasn't going to buy into the hype about this album. Spin magazine gave it five stars, every rock critic from here to Botswana has labeled it a masterpiece and Beck seems poised to take over the music world....again. I was all set to prove the critics wrong. Unfortunately, I can't. Sea Change is a GREAT album. It shows a much more mature songwriter than the guy who sang "I'm a loser, baby, so why don't you kill me." Although I'm a much bigger fan of Beck's off-the-wall, experimental zaniness, his sleepy, Leonard Cohen-esque voice proves he can deliver the goods without all the bells and whistles.

It would've been nice to hear the expected turntables or horn section add some soul to a few of these tracks, but the aptly-titled Sea Change is almost a welcome change from Beck's usual eclectic output. Acoustic guitars and string arrangements are fine for now, but I'm waiting to see what Beck has in his bag of tricks when the tide rolls out again.

-Sam Thompson

THEORY OF A DEADMAN
Theory Of A Deadman
604 Records
*/5

As someone who grew up listening to grunge music the first time around, you'd think I'd welcome this "neo-grunge" renaissance. I love the idea of bringing grunge back, but just because a band sounds like early-90s Pearl Jam, Soundgarden or Alice In Chains, it doesn't necessarily make them any good.

You see, the problem is that although the new crop of grunge acts can parrot Eddie Vedder's voice perfectly, they lack the intensity, musical talent and songwriting ability that made Pearl Jam an international success story.

One of the worst offenders is Prairie Music Awards no-show Nickelback. The Alberta group's frontman Chad Kroeger (the bastard behind Hero, the most obnoxious song of the summer), now that he's a superstar, has decided to bring his friends along with him. Theory Of A Deadman is a four-piece band that not only sounds EXACTLY like Nickelback, but got Kroeger to co-write five of their record's ten songs.

My question to Kroeger is this: why bother? Why not just save the songs for a new Nickelback record? Being a second-rate ripoff band is bad enough, but a second-rate ripoff of a second-rate ripoff? That's just plain disturbing.

To give Theory Of A Deadman some credit, their angst is quite believable and singer Tyler Connolly obviously knows how to write a chorus hook, but Chad Kroeger has left his ugly mark on too much of this album for it to be even remotely interesting.

I'd like to see Theory Of A Deadman escape Kroeger's tyrannical grip and try for their own sound. Unfortunately, by the time that happens, the grunge 'revolution' will be dead and gone. It's already like Connolly's mustache; it's gone on far too long.

-Sam Thompson

SPARTA
Wiretap Scars
Dreamworks
**1/2 /5

OK, so these are the three guys from At The Drive In who DIDN'T have afros. I'm not sure if the hairstyles had anything to do with it, but these were obviously the three untalented members. Wiretap Scars is a lot better than their last effort, but now that I know that they're ex-ATDI members, I almost expect more out of these guys. They're still very emo, but they've thankfully abandoned a lot of the "artistic" nonsense that plagued the earlier album. Going from the masterful challenge of ATDI's Relationship Of Command album to Sparta's whiny moaning is definitely a step in the wrong direction, although the band seems to have realized that playing unintelligible crap for artistic purposes is NOT going to win them any new fans.

As opposed to Austere's noise-rock gobbeldygook, Wiretap Scars features songs with discernable verses, choruses and lyrics, but this type of thing remains a really acquired taste that seems to be eluding me. Call me old-fashioned, but I'm still a fan of the old type of music; the kind that doesn't try to be so cerebral it becomes obnoxious and pretentious.

One of the most surprising things about this record is the remake of the track Echodyne Harmonic, one of the stinkers from the group's last album. With clear vocals, soft piano and 75% less random guitar noises than its predecessor, Echodyne Harmonic has become one of the most palatable tracks on the album.

I'm sure someone understands what's going on here, but it's not me. Where are the guys with the afros when you need 'em??

-Sam Thompson

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Frosh 5
Universal
** 1/2 /5

There's a certain sound everyone has come to expect from the Frosh series, and number five is no exception. Running the gamut from sugar-coated pop-punk to thugged-out hip-hop, Frosh 5 fulfills its goal of providing a collection of "party" music that should appeal to everyone at your beer bash.

Although most of these songs can be found on the radio at any time of day, the inclusion of groups like the Ramones, New Order, KISS and Flock Of Seagulls is somewhat surprising. The all-inclusive concept of the CD is a good one, but this has been done so many times that Frosh 5 is basically an inventive way of advertising hit singles from a variety of bands.

Still, I'll give Frosh 5 some 'props' for the Ramones, Sublime and Ice Cube. The song selection, however, leaves something to be desired. I think a more effective way of promoting the acts on this sampler would be to include non-single material. One can only hear Ja Rule's Put It On Me so many times without projectile vomiting. Some of these songs have been overplayed to the point that they cause brain aneurysms, but the CD still achieves its goal.

No matter what style of music you're into, there's bound to be at least one track on Frosh 5 that will appeal to you, and that's all they need to sell copies of the disc.

-Sam Thompson

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