Red River College

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The Projector is continually searching for new content and new points of view. If you've got something to say, an opinion or interesting story from on or off campus, or illustrations or photos, contact one of our editors with your idea. See your name in print! Contact The Projector today.

Athletic Activism

LOCAL GROUPS RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

Kimberly Kaschor
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Close to 400 people participated in the Winnipeg Walk for Darfur this past Thanksgiving weekend, with the intent of raising awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

Funds raised for the event were shared between Oxfam Canada and Save Darfur Canada, two international organizations that are responding to what many are calling genocide in Darfur.

"My hope is to get education and to help my people," said Rebecca Deng, a refugee from Sudan who hopes the event will be an effective tool in raising awareness and bringing justice to the people of Darfur.

In the last four years, over 300,000 people have been killed in Darfur, a western region of Sudan that neighbours Chad. Many social activists and aid organizations like Save Darfur Canada have called the killings genocide.

"When you call something a genocide you're supposed to respond," said Matthew Allen, a first year student at the University of Winnipeg.

Allen ran the five kilometres route and hopes the event will bring some awareness to the crisis and pressure governments to do something about it.

"This has already been going on for four years," said Jordan Sloshower, a social activist who is concerned about the lack of media coverage on the genocide. "If educated Canadians don't know about this, it shows how little awareness there is right now."

Sloshower took the event as an opportunity to sell "tiny travelers" – dolls made by women living with HIV in South Africa as an income generating project.

"These little guys connect people in Canada to people in South Africa," said Sloshower.

He likens the devastation of AIDS in Africa to the crisis in Darfur as attacks against human life.

Another display featured artwork by hundreds of students from École Saint-Eustache.

The project was started by 17-year-old Nicole Demeleo, who handed out fact sheets on the crisis in Darfur to teachers and students at her school.

The resulting artwork spoke of concern for the people of Darfur, particularly those suffering in the refugee and Internally Displaced People camps.

Speakers at the event included Mabiur Atem, current president of Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan; Noureddin Suleiman, Winnipeg representative for Darfur Association of Canada; and Michael Nuul Mayan, Winnipeg representative of the African Students Association at the University of Winnipeg.

Representatives from Save Darfur Canada and Oxfam Canada handed out brochures and leaflets that explained the crisis in Darfur, encouraged the signing of petitions, and let people know other ways to take action.

For more information you visit www.SaveDarfurCanada.org and www.oxfam.org

Hollow Water First Nations Speak Out

Julijana Capone
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When Chief Ian Bushie spoke before a packed audience of about 75 people at the Mondragon Bookstore and Coffee house on October 5 about the current roadblocks in Hollow Water First Nation, his sense of humor seemed well intact.

"I have no weapons, no bombs. I am not a terrorist," said the chief. "I'm thirty-five years old. I have a college degree. I've spent my entire life in Hollow Water. I raised a family in Hollow Water...Why roadblocks? Why now? Why not?"

The band council began blocking off roads east of Lake Winnipeg on September 14 in protest of a cottage lot development that is on traditional lands.

The chief said he was ignored when he asked about the project, which involves 120 lots. There is a discrepancy on the number of lots at the Winnipeg Free Press and other local media sources have cited 57 as the number of lots, but the chief stated it's 120.

"We're not saying no to development, but they (the government) need to consult the people who know what's best for the land," said Bushie. "It's very petty to think it's about a couple of cottage developments. The issue is a lot bigger than that. We're standing up here for our area. Is it a blockade when you sit on your front lawn? We're about protecting and preserving what we've got. We finally got sick and tired of sitting back and watching things happen. It's not about money it's about protection."

While speaking, the chief referenced a conversation he had with Conservation Minister Stan Struthers days before the blockade began.

Allegedly, after Chief Bushie told Minister Struthers he was not going to consent to further development, Struthers responded by saying he did not need his consent to go forward, but he would work together with chief Bushie on the next project from step one.

Bushie also stressed that he felt the situation had been inaccurately represented through the media, resulting in the band taking out a two-page ad in the Winnipeg Sun on October 5.

In the Winnipeg Sun ad, Bushie said: "Nowhere in the treaties was it stated that the land was sold, the land was to be shared with the understanding that both ends of the agreement would be upheld. Treaties are in place to benefit both parties, nation to nation, yet Anishinaabe people are constantly defending their rights against the government."

Fagie Fainman, a retired criminal defence lawyer, came out to the event in support of Hollow Water First Nations.

"I feel we're obligated here to stand up for the little bit of rights they have left," she said.

International News Briefs

Compiled by Chris Webb
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U.S. TO DEMAND PASSENGER INFORMATION LISTS FROM CANADIAN AIRLINES.

The Department of Homeland Security in the U.S. has put forward a proposal that would order Canadian airlines hand over personal information about passengers who take flights that go south over U.S. airspace. Although the planes wouldn't take off from or land on U.S. soil, the Department of Homeland Security is proposing Canadian carriers send passenger manifests up to 72-hours in advance of departures to popular winter escapes such as Mexico and the Caribbean. Under the U.S. Secure Flight program, the requirement to transmit data would also apply to northbound return flights from holiday destinations. The broader goal is to "prevent certain known or suspected terrorists from boarding aircraft where they may jeopardize the lives of passengers and others," Homeland Security's Transportation Security Agency said in its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The deadline to file comments on the proposal is Oct. 22, and the Air Transport Association of Canada is gearing up to voice its outrage on behalf of Canadian airlines.

REPORT SAYS MUGABE REGIME TORTURES OPPONENTS

A new report by a leading human rights group in Zimbabwe claims women are being regularly tortured and abused by security forces for their opposition to President Robert Mugabe's government. A spokesperson for Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) said that 75 per cent of those surveyed had experienced insults and humiliating and degrading treatment by police, while half had allegedly suffered assaults and psychological torture. The Mugabe regime, subject to sanctions by the European Union and United States, has been regularly criticised over the treatment of its opponents.

SOLDIER REPORT FINDS BLACKWATER FIRED UNPROVOKED

Evidence continues to mount that last month's killing of at least 17 Iraqi civilians by Blackwater guards was unprovoked. According to the Washington Post, a newly-disclosed report compiled by the first U.S. soldiers on the scene found no evidence Iraqis had fired on the Blackwater convoy. The soldiers also concluded Blackwater guards continued to shoot at Iraqi civilians as they tried to flee the scene. Two civilian vehicles had their back windshields shot out but had no damage to their front windshields -- indicating they were shot while driving away. In another new detail, a vehicle carrying a doctor and her son had not even entered the Nisoor Square traffic circle from where the Blackwater guards opened fire. The soldiers concluded there was "no enemy activity involved" in what they called a "criminal event." The report came as a survivor of the shooting and relatives of three of the dead filed a suit against Blackwater in a U.S. court.

21 KILLED IN COLOMBIAN MINE COLLAPSE

A landslide at a makeshift mine in southern Colombia killed at least 21 people and injured another 18 on October 13 after local residents began digging for rumored deposits of gold, authorities said. Efforts were under way to find about 10 people missing and presumed trapped under the wave of dirt and rock in the open pit mine, located near the town of Suarez, 220 miles southwest of the capital, Bogota. "There are still a lot of people to rescue, and we don't know what conditions they're in," police officer Jose Delgado said by telephone from the mine. "Initially they said there were around 50 people trapped." Officials had recovered 21 bodies and rescued 18 people who were hurt in the morning accident in the open pit mine, Delgado said. The landslide occurred after local residents began digging in the mine following reports that gold had been found underground, Delgado said. He added that many of them appeared to have little experience in tunneling or mining, and that rescue efforts were hampered by the lack of any registry or count of how many people entered the mine.

Sources: Globe and Mail, InterWorld Radio, Democracy Now, Associated Press

Red River College
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Make it yours!

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Up Coming Events

Oct. 22—Nov.5
Gatenight Kegger
(3pm - 6pm)
October 30th- PSC

Halloween Pumpkin Carving
October 31st - NDC

Get Your Creep On @ Silverados
October 31st
Free Tix @ the Ox and the Mercantile

Find us on FACEBOOK "Red River College Students' Association"

CHECK OUT THE SA WEBSITE @ WWW.RRCSA.COM

Message from the Executive

Hello students of Red River College!

Well I'm sure you're all relieved to have midterms over with, I know I am. Ok, well technically, as I'm writing this, I still have an exam tomorrow, but by the time you read it, it'll all be over. By the way, today is my birthday. Not today when you're reading it, but right now, as I'm writing. It's quite exciting. But enough of that...

Other things that are exciting… Halloween events are coming up! I highly recommend attending some of these fun times.

One item that is especially exciting is the upcoming Grand (re) Opening of the Cave Lounge at the Notre Dame Campus. I'm sure you've noticed the area under construction if you frequently walk down the hallway in the mall-level of D building. Well it won't be under construction much longer and it's going to be larger than it was before, and of course, better than ever! This project has been a long time coming. Many of the renovations and projects that have been done by the Students' Association in the past few years became a reality because of the vision and hard work of past executives and current SA staff. This lounge will be a great space for students to use for relaxing and having fun and I hope everyone enjoys it. The date for the Grand Opening will be in November; there will be some entertainment and refreshments so I hope to see many students out to celebrate.

RED RIVER COLLEGE
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 7, 2007
12:00 noon

Green Lecture Theatre
Notre Dame Campus

- Approval of Audited Financial Statements
- Appointment of Auditors

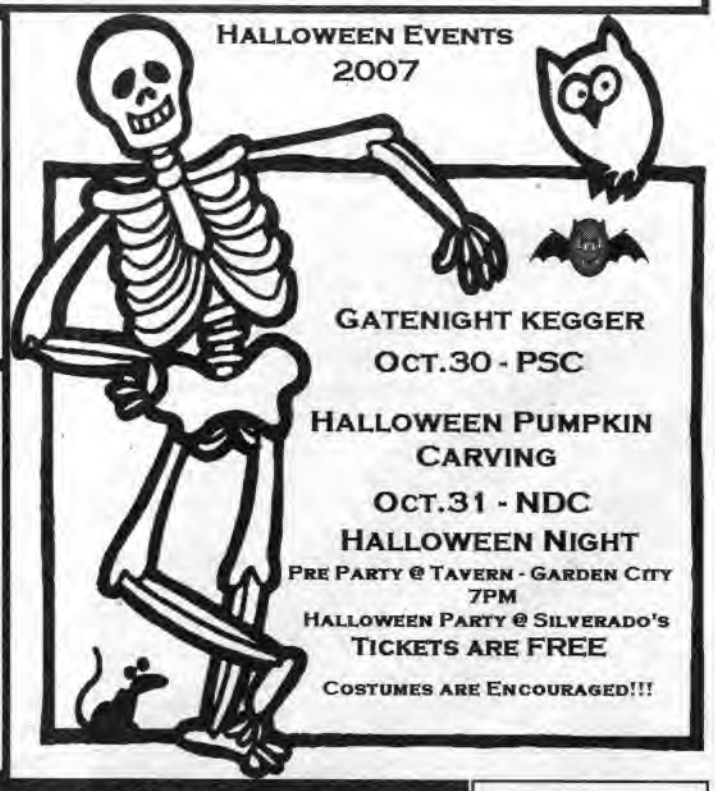
The RRC Students' Association is required to have its audited financial statements approved annually by at least 25 Red River College Students. Your attendance is requested, along with at least one fellow student, to ensure we meet the required quorum of 25.

IT'S FLU SEASON....

GET THE SHOT, NOT THE FLU!!

This year, RRC Health Services in conjunction with Skylark Medical Clinic as part of **Healthy Workplace Week,** Is pleased to offer **free flu shots** to RRC staff and students.

- (Note: You will need to bring your Manitoba Health Card)
- Notre Dame Campus - South Gym: Oct.23 from 8am - 430pm and Oct. 24 from 8am - 30pm
- Princess Street Campus - P105: Oct.25 from 9am - 1pm



Notre Dame Campus
CM20 - 2055 Notre Dame Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Princess Street Campus
P110-160 Princess Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Enterprising Women's Conference Connects Students and Community

Jolene Bergen
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Are you looking for the motivation to get through midterms? Do you need a new basis of inspiration to plough through the piles of assignments and projects you're faced with? Then the Enterprising Women's Conference may have the answer for you.

This year, the Enterprising Women's Conference, held on October 26 and 27, has introduced new initiatives to try to attract more students to the already successful event.

Red River College Development Manager, Christina Barwinsky, is enthusiastic about the increased student focus.

"We also really want to use our conference to bring our students together with people, not necessarily only in the business world, but so they can have mentors for the future and make those connections and learn from them. And it benefits both the student and the participant. So that's a really neat part of this year's conference," she said.

The college is premiering the student ambassador program in hopes of raising student attendance. The program partners each speaker with a student to act as their host for the event, guiding them around campus, introducing them in their sessions and presenting them with a gift for their participation and success.

In return, ambassadors are given an opportunity to explore the paths of these successful women. The program is sponsored by the Winnipeg Foundation, who is also sponsoring a section of the conference titled: I Never Knew I Had It In Me, which highlights young women making a difference in the social landscape of our city.

Alison Kirkland, manager of client services at the Women's Enterprising Centre, believes the ambassador program will be successful.

"It's great for young women to meet and be exposed," she said. Her centre sponsors the sessions on entrepreneurship. This is their second year partnering with the conference, and Kirkland sees it as a great opportunity for women of all ages and experiences to come together.

"There is a different dynamic when it's all women. Women have similar life experiences and can relate on different levels," she said.

Sandra Jones, head of Jones Communications, is excited to speak at the Women's Enterprising Centre's sponsored session: A Day in the Life of an Entrepreneur. Jones believes that more people should explore the option of becoming business owners.

"There are lots of students with great ideas," said Jones.

Both keynote speakers, Sandra Jones and Evelyn Jack, are graduates of Red River College.

The committee also lowered student ticket prices in hopes of attracting more students.

"We slashed the prices for the Friday so students can come for $25," said Barwinsky. "It's wine, cheese and a whole bunch of hors d'oeuvres, crepes, liquor table, and Dessert Sinsation's desserts. It gives you a chance to network. There's a fashion show, and everyone is in a good mood to network a little more."

The conference also acts a fundraiser for the Enterprising Women's Conference Award, a $2,500 scholarship given to a female student entering her last year of studies at Red River College. The award is in partnership with Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative and is given to "celebrate that they are on the road to accomplishing their goals," said Janice Mason, Red River College's events coordinator.

This is the fourth time the annual event has been held. The college initiated the conference to fill a need they saw in the community.

"They noticed when they were going out and doing different campaigns, there wasn't a large representation from women. From that they decided there are a lot of very talented women, and we really do need to showcase them," said Mason.

The intention for the event is two-fold.

"Getting together other women in industry and other businesses to share their stories, but we also want to focus on women entering the workforce, students, there is really something for everybody," said Mason.

Although the conference is tailored to women, it is open to both genders.

The focus is more on inspiration, motivation and relationship building than gender issues.

"We just like to showcase people who are making a difference in whatever category you want to put them. Everyone is making a difference and people can become inspired by what they do," said Barwinsky.

"A lot of the time, especially women, we don't tout our own horn and we're not the ones sitting there saying we do this we do that because we're just doing it. We don't need to have all these accolades, but it certainly is nice and it gives the forum for everybody to do that."

ENTERPRISING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2007

160 Princess Street Campus

Keynote speaker Evelyn Jacks, president of The Knowledge Bureau and national expert on tax speaks at the Enterprising Women's Conference October 27.

Friday, October 26, 2007

7:00-10:00 p.m.
Wine & Cheese Reception and Fashion Show
Hosted by Caroline Hunter
Student Price: $25

Saturday, October 27, 2007

8:00-8:45 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

9:00-10:15 a.m. Session One
1. Enterprising on the Land
2. I Never Knew I Had It In Me
3. A Women's Survival Guide to Starting a Business in Manitoba

10:45-12:00 p.m. Session Two
1. Leading Change
2. Women in Corporate Leadership
3. A Day in the Life of an Entrepreneur

12:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Speaker
Evelyn Jacks

10:45-12:00 p.m. Session Three
1. A Quest for Success
2. Lessons Learned on the Road to...
3. Networking Your Way to Success

Student Price for full event: $135.00
Online: www.rrc.mb.ca/ewc

Students Concerned about Food Services at Princess Street Campus

STREETER

What Do You Think of Tim Hortons replacing the Aramark Cafeteria?

"I think it's a lot better. The cafeteria that we had before was really expensive. I'm a big coffee drinker, so it works for me."
- **James Colonna** (Business Admin)

"I don't go to the new Tim Hortons at all. They don't have any full meals, and all I think of when I hear Tim Hortons is coffee."
- **Annie Lauze** (Business Admin)

"I haven't really used the Tim Hortons yet, but the line ups seem really long. Maybe they could have two line ups to make things faster."
- **Kyla Myran** (Computer App)

"I think it's better, it will generate a lot more money for the College, but I think that there are too many people from surrounding businesses using it."
- **Allan Frandsen** (Computer Analyst/Programmer)

Alisha Paul
alisha.paul@gmail.com

When it comes to feeding a campus full of hungry students, some think choice is a key consideration in keeping them happy and able to get their work done.

However, some at Red River say the administration at the Princess Street Campus is taking away that choice, and making the students the ones who pay for it.

Dale Gledhill, RRCSA's vice-president of the Princess Street Campus said, "One of the major goals of my term in office will be trying to improve the food services situation."

Gledhill has already heard a fair amount of dissatisfaction in regards to the food on campus. "People are complaining about everything from soggy sandwiches to having to pay for plastic utensils. This was brought up by several student representatives in this year's first meeting," he said.

Aramark's exclusivity contract with the college means that the food services giant has control of type, quality, and cost of food for students.

For example, while the Students' Association manages and operates the Mercantile convenience store, the college's operating agreement with Aramark does not allow them to sell specific products, such as coffee.

Stuck in a desperate situation, some students are making do.

"I only have ten minutes between classes, and when you're here for nine hours a day you want to be able to grab something to eat," said Commerce/Industry Sales and Marketing student Angela Austin.

Austin suggested the new full service Tim Hortons as the best, healthy alternative, but said you can't always wait because the "line is so long."

A second year Business Admin student, who did not want to be named as it could impact his job, said he "tries not to eat here" because the food makes him "physically sick."

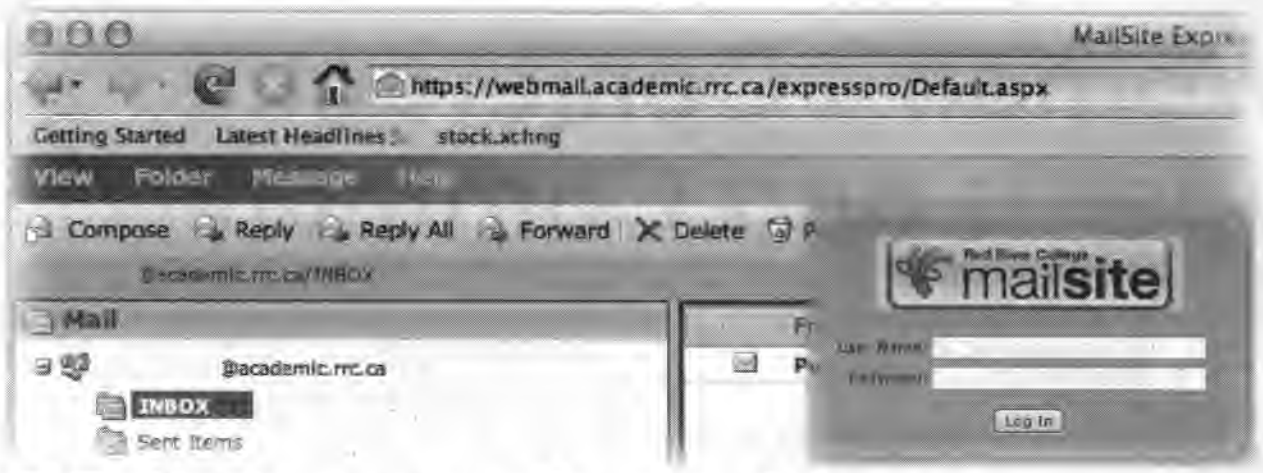
He also wondered about the differences between the Princess campus and the Notre Dame one.

"They should get the culinary students to bring some food here," he said.

In comparison to Princess, the Notre Dame campus has two cafeterias, two formal dining rooms, three cafés, two coffee spots, a java junction, and vending machines.

Gledhill suggested students approach their class representatives if they have concerns about the food services on campus, and added that students are welcome to "drop by his office" to voice their concerns.

As for the future of food services on campus, Gledhill admits that contract renewal is entirely up to the college, but adds that, "It might depend on whether or not student opinion is communicated effectively before then."



RRC Launches New Student E-mail Service

Jennifer Clark
jloric@gmail.com

Red River College launched its new student e-mail service on September 18.

The new service, called MailSite, has significantly improved upon MBOX, the old service, said David Rew, vice-president of RRC Student Services and Planning.

"MailSite has additional functionality that wasn't available in MBOX," he said.

It offers message forwarding to personal e-mail boxes, calendaring, and forwarding to text messaging services – functions that weren't available in MBOX.

MailSite mailboxes will also be accessible through a web interface or a desktop client such as Outlook, Outlook Express, MS Entourage, or Mac Mail.

"It looks more like Microsoft Outlook," said Rew. "It looks more sophisticated."

The new service is also expected to improve communication between the college and its students.

Starting January 2, 2008, Rew said the service will be used by the Registrar's Office to get information out to students about topics like enrollment, fees, and course changes. Also, beginning in the new year, MailSite will likely be used by instructors to keep in contact with students about their classes.

Sheena Gill, a Business Administration student, does not use the RRC e-mail service and didn't know that the college would be sending out information through RRC e-mail accounts in January.

Her main source of college information now has been class outlines and the guide to student services RRC students were given at the beginning of the school year. She thinks that receiving college information through e-mail will be more convenient.

"Yeah, it'd be easier," said Gill.

Business Administration student Maegen Garbutt also does not use the RRC e-mail service and was unaware of the change.

However, she thinks receiving college correspondence through webmail will be useful, even though she already gets information about her classes online.

"I get my college information probably through WebCT. My teachers write announcements through there," she said

MBOX accounts will become inactive on January 2, 2008. Students who are still using their MBOX account will have until that date to move their information in MBOX to their new account in MailSite.

MBOX users will also be required to activate their new MailSite account, so the college can begin directing mail to them.

Instructions for moving information from MBOX to MailSite and activating MailSite accounts are available at www.rrc.ca/email.

Information and tutorials on MailSite are available at the RRC Connect website, at connect.rrc.ca.

Letter To The Editor

I Love The Princess Street Campus

RE: Things I Don't Get About The Princess Street Campus by Dawn Hinchliffe, published October 8.

From Dan Vadeboncoeur, 1st year CreComm
dapperdan29@hotmail.com

I am in my first year here at the downtown campus, and I for one am proud to be a student here. This is one of the most unique collection of buildings that I've ever seen, and I believe it has won some architectural awards. Those two staircases you refer to? I believe the designers made them narrow so as to reduce the space they take up in the hallways that they lead to, duh! I almost never have a problem getting up and down those stairs, most students here are polite and wait their turn.

As for the recycling boxes, it doesn't take a second year BA student to figure out that the reason the various boxes have odd-shaped openings is because the school doesn't want people throwing garbage in them! If you know that the paper bin has a slit, don't crumple your paper! The big bins in the caf have small holes because they only want bottles and cans put in them! Our campus is taking a proactive approach to the climate crisis, and I for one support it and recycle as much as possible.

Tell me, what is the literal sense of the word "retarded?" To me it is a derogatory comment referring to people with intellectual disabilities. If you were trying to say "stupid," then just say "stupid". Don't use a word that could be confused with an offensive slur.

Now you complain about not being able to find a seat along the Princess side of the campus, in the couches and comfy chairs? Well no kidding! I personally don't care who is sitting there, be it student or not. The bottom line is that the good seats are going to get taken first. Now, last time I checked this was a public campus, and we are home to the only Tim Hortons in the Exchange District. We're gonna attract our share of non-students. What, would you rather NOT have a Tims on campus?

Finally, there is our poor security guard - trying to write his novel in his down time. In my opinion, this is the perfect job if you are a writer. Anyone who has worked a security job knows this: there's a lot of sitting around. It doesn't matter how dedicated you are, your ass sits the same way in that chair. You might as well do something constructive, no?

So overall, I found your letter offensive, grammatically incorrect, and extremely ill-informed and unintelligent. It sounds like a 14-year-old wrote it. Next time keep your opinion to yourself.

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or e-mail your resume to vbadiuk@cantalk.com

Public Service Announcements

Trans Day of Remembrance

7pm, Tuesday November 20th
The Red Road Lodge, (formerly the New Occidental)
631 Main St (the corner of Logan and Main)

Transgender Day of Remembrance is a day to remember and commemorate those who have been killed because of their gender expression. It is a time to acknowledge that too many transgender folks face violence on a regular basis.

Following the Candlelit Vigil, there will be refreshments and a celebratory Gender F*#! Dance Party! This is a free all ages event. All are welcome!

I Write What I Like: Security As Ideology

newsprojector@gmail.com

"What are you doing?"
"Can I help you sir?"
"Why does she have handcuffs on? You can't arrest her, you're not cops."
"Yes, yes we can."

Last week I had this conversation with four people holding a screaming woman face-down against the sidewalk on the corner of Vaughan and Portage Ave. She was calling out for someone to help her as a crowd of onlookers gathered around her shaking, restrained body.

Twenty-five minutes later, the police arrived. They handcuffed her again and pulled a plastic bag over her head. One onlooker turned to her friend and said the cops were learning from Guantanamo.

The woman had been drinking and apparently became disorderly at the bus stop outside the Bay. After being detained, in her frenzy, she knocked her head against the sidewalk. She couldn't even stand up—an ambulance wasn't called to see if she was alright.

The four people were not members of the Winnipeg Police or the RCMP. Their website says they're a "goodwill team" that patrols the downtown, offering "directions, tourist information and assistance wherever needed."

It also notes that they "do not make arrests." However, a $1 million programme launched last year allows them to "detain" disorderly people.

So who is this Downtown Watch really providing assistance to? The "disorderly" woman? The nervous onlookers?

Well, their website has a very telling statistic: "72% of downtown businesses say the downtown watch is increasing the public's sense of safety downtown."

It is beyond me how these businesses would prove this, yet they have the audacity to claim that the interests of business and consumer satisfaction are in line with the public's sense of well-being and safety. Which leads me to ask again, assistance for whom?

If businesses are preserving their image by having the homeless thrown from benches, sidewalks and bus-stops, then aren't these "ambassadors" just mall security with bikes, handcuffs and an inflated sense of self-importance? Their brochure even has a praise section, where business tourists and police officers have given rave reviews of their efforts at creating a "safe and cleanly downtown."

But I don't think it stops there. These long-arms of police and business aren't just security guards—they're agents of gentrification for a class that sees the safeguarding of business interests and image as an indicator of a healthy and safe downtown.

While the recent aggressive anti-panhandling bylaw makes it illegal for the poor to even be near many downtown areas, these tactics have only further marginalised and disenfranchised those who have nothing to gain from increased tourism and corporate business interests moving downtown. Interests the Downtown Watch is intent on protecting, even at the expense of civil liberties.

Consequently, these bylaws and ambassador programs have just pushed issues of poverty and homelessness—not to mention the root causes of this poverty—away from those who see them as distractions from the commodity exchange process.

Throwing people out of bus stops isn't going to make poverty, and the substance abuse it spawns, go away. A healthy society is an inclusive one, and purging poor people—in a mental and physical sense—from the downtown area is not a step toward poverty reduction.

One of the main problems caused by this gentrification of the downtown area is pointed out by Jim Silver in his Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report Gentrification in West Broadway?

"The conversion of rooming houses to single-family dwellings and the renovation of apartment buildings to enable the charging of higher rents — defining features of gentrification— have forced many of the neighbourhood's lowest-income residents out," he writes.

It's easy to displace poverty, and apparently it's even easier to cover it up. So before we think about downtown safety and revitalization, we have to ask ourselves who's being protected and who's benefitting?

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AN OLD-TIMEY BAR NATHAN FREQUENTS.

THE RADISH

Doug McArthur

Nathan's Love of All Things 'Old Timey' Goes Way Too Far

A RADISH EDITORIAL

You know, there is a place in this world for nostalgia and a love of all things from the past; things that were once useful and often essential to the day-to-day functions of a person of the era. But my friend Nathan takes it way, way too far.

It was pretty innocent at first. We were walking through the local bargain store, looking for the latest in fake moustache technology. Then suddenly, Nathan's in the cooler checking out Dr. McGillicuddy's Old Timey Root Beer. It comes in faux-glass bottles with labels reminiscent of designs from the turn of the last century.

The contents of the bottle were nothing to gawk about, really. It was your typical root beer, and lacked that authentic taste of stale syrup mixed with weak soda water. If it were anything like the real stuff, you could drink it or use it as hair cream. But not this crap - it was soo obvious it was invented simply to market to people like my buddy Nathan. And like a chump, he fell for it.

But where this story really takes a wrong turn is that not only was Nathan lured into the false promise of authentic old-timey root beer, his love of nostalgic kitsch only escalated from that point forward.

He'd be out every weekend buying up tubes of Brylcreem, hanging out at Ye Olde Tavern in the technlogy district downtown and discussing his love of Jules Verne with fellow Old-Timey enthusiasts. 'Ye Olde' tavern? I think not - it says clearly on the sign outside: Established in 2003. Oh, they try to mask it by putting it in roman numerals - but you can't fool me. I looked it up on Wikipedia. Check it out for yourself, it's item 7 (or VII, if you're feeling awesome).

Where was I. Oh yeah, Nathan's a ridiculous person. He even started wearing suspenders and one of those green translucent visors when he goes to his job as a teller at First National Trust. Sure, it has strengthened his rapport with all the octogenarians who have nothing better to do at 3:30 in the afternoon than to hang around at the bank, but it sure isn't getting him that assistant manager job any quicker. I suppose it is a step up from wearing his Starfleet uniform to work - especially since it was red. Red shirts are like Rodney Dangerfield - they don't get any respect, and they tend to die. It seems Nathan has changed heroes from Lt. Leslie to Mark Twain.

I cringe when I see him riding down the street on his penny-farthing bicycle, or when I come over to his house and he spends an hour explaining to me the intricacies of his collection of turn-of-the-century toys, including the Bilboquette. He insists on calling it Bilboquette, when he knows damn well it's the cup and ball game.

Every spare minute he's talking about making trips down to the nearest dime museum or organizing a burlesque show at the local theatre. Something tells me the girls here aren't into wearing flapper dresses, though.

Nathan, buddy, come back to this century. The simple pleasures of yesteryear have been fun, I know, but seriously. We're planning an intervention soon, and maybe then you will realize the wonders of PVRs, DVDs, iPods, Wi-Fi, and all the other wonderful acronyms of our generation. It's time, champ: let go of this fascination with all things old timey.

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Trevor Suffield

I saw a ghost once, but I wasn't scared.

I was sleeping alone in my apartment when I heard a noise. Usually it's a sexy lady trying to creep into my bed, but this time I knew it was different. The noise was the passing of gas.

I know from my flatulence studies that sexy ladies do not pass gas, so this had to be a burglar—a nervous, or regular, burglar. Funny, I wasn't expecting a burglar.

A minute later, I heard another passing of gas. I was ticked off because I was in the middle of a great dream where Angelina Jolie was an ambassador for UNICEF and I was "in need" of her "assistance."

Now angry, I got up. I took the machete that I sleep with under my pillow and crept into the other room, and to my surprise, there was an uncomfortable looking ghost.

I knew he was a ghost because I snuck up behind him and shouted "boo!" but he didn't flinch. Only a ghost would know all the tricks.

The ghost said, "Oh sorry, is this your place?"

"Der," I said. "What's going on? You okay?"

"No, I'm alright...fine, I'm not alright. I'm all messed up."

"First of all, what's your name?" I asked, remembering my days counselling amnesiacs.

"Mark," replied the ghost nervously.

"What's wrong Mark?"

"Well, my ghost girlfriend just broke up with me, and I really don't know what to do with my life anymore. I wish I was..."

He stopped.

"You wish you were what?" I asked.

"See that's the problem. Usually I would say I wish I were dead, but I'm already dead, so what do I ask for? To be alive? I hate my life."

I could instantly see Mark's problem. He was wanting something that I took for granted: death. Mark went on to tell me that there is no way to kill a ghost, since they're already dead. I could sympathize. I had an imaginary friend, Artur, who I tried to kill, but the bastard kept escaping from the noose.

I tried to tell Mark that there had to be a better way. I suggested ghost porn, but he replied that ghost porn leaves everything to the imagination.

I didn't know what to do, so I recommended he join a support group at the local community centre. I thought there would be professionals on hand that could deal specifically with his problem. He told me he would go.

I was sad to hear that he later began to haunt an empty building. Ghosts like Mark need people, dead or alive, to be around. He needs some direction in his life, err, death. Maybe one day he'll find it.

Strangely, I have become good friends with Mark's ex-ghost-girlfriend, Caitlyn. We are not going "out," but we have a special bond and I think I might be in love. However, I am quite distressed to find that I am now passing gas at an alarming rate.

Science fiction research gets a boost in Alberta

Natalie Climenhaga
Canadian University Press

EDMONTON (CUP) -- When Chester Cuthbert was a boy, science fiction and fantasy weren't considered literary genres. Eight decades later, the Winnipeg man's private collection has been appraised at up to $1 million.

The long-time science fiction fan, who turns 95 this week, has donated his 60,000-piece collection, comprising books, periodicals and a significant personal archive, to the University of Alberta.

"One of the beauties of Chester's collection is we're anticipating it's going to strengthen our holdings in the earlier period," said Merrill Distad, the associate director of libraries at the university.

Until now, he said, the University's science fiction collection had been much stronger for the period after 1955.

Also included in the Cuthbert collection are hundreds of pulp fiction magazines from the 1920s through to the 1950s, as well as amateur publications known as fanzines.

"[Fanzines] are very scarce because few were produced and those are going to have very high value," Distad said.

The entire collection is estimated to be worth between $500,000–$1 million. Distad noted, however, that it will take months, if not years, to properly process and catalogue the entire collection.

This was the largest collection the University of Alberta has ever received from a private individual. It will be sent to the university in small shipments.

"The books aren't here yet because quite simply there's no warehouse space available in Edmonton and we don't have the floor space at the Bard to take more than a dozen or a dozen and a half pallets at a time," Distad explained.

Doug Barbour, professor emeritus of the Department of English and Film Studies, predicted that the collection would offer a wealth of research material.

"Science fiction especially has become an academic subject of some importance," Barbour said.

When Barbour was a professor at the University, he taught upper-level courses in popular culture on science fiction and post-modernism, 20th-century fantasy, and even 20th-century vampires.

Today, Barbour pointed out, PhD dissertations are written and academic conferences are held on science fiction.

"It's become quite an important field," he said.

The fanzines included in Cuthbert's collection will, according to Barbour, be a "gold mine" for students of the cultures of fandom and science fiction. Barbour also stressed that social studies research will reveal the impact of this genre on people as a whole.

"You will find that [when] a huge number of the people who went into science and then ended up at places like NASA or working in scientific careers started, their interest was first formed by reading science fiction," Barbour explained. "And that goes back to the '30s and '40s, a number of the people who ended up in the '60s as young men working in the aerospace industry were people who all said, 'Well, it all started with reading science fiction.' They were all the ones who said, 'We knew we'd get to the moon.'"

"So it will be an invaluable research tool for students of both popular culture and of the history of science fiction and fantasy in the twentieth century," Barbour said.

In the 1970s, science fiction fans in Winnipeg would gather at Cuthbert's house every weekend. Randy Reichardt was one of them and is now a librarian at the University of Alberta.

Nine years ago, he and Distad made the first trip from Edmonton to Winnipeg to express interest in acquiring the collection.

"I gasped a little because I thought I knew how to pack a place with books," Distad recalled of his first visit.

Some questions have been raised about why the collection will not remain in Winnipeg. But according to Reichardt, neither the University of Winnipeg nor University of Manitoba have the facilities to manage a donation of that size.

A MESSAGE FROM RED RIVER COLLEGE PARKING SERVICES.

In an effort to reduce the possibility of receiving a ticket while parked on Red River College property, Parking Services would like to remind you of the following:

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Talking Heads #2

BY MATT URBAN AND AMY RAVENBURG

Local Love: New Zine Unites Creative Arts Community

Chris Webb
newsprojector@gmail.com

Look out for paper-bound love at coffee shops and stores throughout Winnipeg, as a local zine brings together writers, artists, designers, and even microbiologists under a common thread of creativity, passion and expression.

A Paw in my Face is the brainchild of Red River College Instructor Chris Pointon and Educational Assistant Meagan Radford. The duo noticed a void in the Winnipeg creative arts community for an independent publication that brought creative people together to work without set rules, principles or deadlines toward a unique, collaborative composition.

The zine features the writing, photography, design, and illustration of over 35 Winnipeggers, whose abilities make for a visually captivating and poetically fervent mix of words and images.

"We really wanted to work on something outside our jobs that gave us room to be creative and meet other creative people," said Radford.

"Usually these zines fit a certain cultural or lifestyle niche," said Pointon. "We wanted to blur and blend different voices to make the magazine cross cultural and reflect different styles."

The zine's inaugural issue has a love theme, but Radford said the theme was meant as more of an inspiration than a guideline for submissions.

"We talked about current issues going on in the world and how we wanted a way to express these in the zine," she said.

Pointon said the theme was both a spark to inspire contributors and a way to bring cohesiveness to the first issue.

The zine's guerrilla advertising campaign caught the attention of Winnipeggers, with A Paw in my Face stencils decorating concrete barriers and dumpsters around Winnipeg. Posters and leaflets advertising the zine plastered lamp-poles around the city before the launch party at the King's Head Pub on September 28.

Radford said the launch was a great show of support from the creative community that made producing the zine such a joy and the final product such a success.

"Loads of people came out to the launch party—it was beyond successful—everyone seemed really excited about the future of the zine, and we felt like we had really achieved something," said Radford.

Pointon said the zine will continue to be published—hopefully as a quarterly. "We're going to stick with the themed issues—the next one being hate to juxtapose this first one, but the format will stay the same," he said.

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College Horror Movie Clichés

THE BLONDE ALWAYS GETS IT

Andrea Danelak
healthprojector@gmail.com

Cramming for an exam, having your car break down, and finding out that Tim Hortons charges five cents for a fork are all things that induce nightmares, but none are quite as memorable as witnessing a killer shoving a poodle into a frat house microwave and hitting start. Here are some of the best college-themed horror films of all time, in no particular order, as decided by moi:

5. **Black Christmas (1976 and 2006)** – Yes, this movie is bad. Actually, both versions are very, very bad, but there's something about stereotypically ditzy sorority sisters being terrorized by a stranger – who later murders them during Christmas break – that brings a tear to my eye. See, now aren't you happy Red River College doesn't have sorority and frat houses?

4. **Scream 2** – Scream was an instant classic. Scream 2? Not so much. But the movie still has its redeeming qualities – after all, what other movie shows a guy getting stabbed in the ear while going to the bathroom? The not-so-memorable sequel picks up where the original left off, with Neve Campbell's character starting college and still reeling from the events that occurred at her high school. Personally, Scream isn't my favourite franchise, but I heard that studios have just greenlit Scream 4, so what do I know?

3. **Ghoulies III**: Ghoulies Go to College – Okay, despite the majority of my class not knowing who the Ghoulies are (for shame!), this was one of the most popular (albeit stupid) franchises in the late '80s and early '90s. In the third installment of the Critters rip-off, a professor unknowingly unleashes the little monsters, which end up wreaking havoc during a college's prank week. Unintentional hilarity ensues.

2. and 1. – Tie between **Urban Legends: Final Cut** and its predecessor, **Urban Legend**.

My guy friends like Danielle Harris's sex scene in the first film, but I think the film has other redeeming qualities. Where else could you see the aforementioned poodle bursting in a microwave, its entrails sizzling like a wok? Where else could you possibly see Tara Reid displaying some discernible acting skills? True, the sequel isn't as good, nor is the franchise's most recent direct-to-video release (Urban Legends: Bloody Mary, anyone?), but they both have their charm and, if horror ain't your thing, there is some serious eye candy too.

COLLEGE HORROR MOVIE CLICHÉS

1. Most of the students are way too stupid to be enrolled at college.
2. No one ever actually attends class. Instead, students spend the day theorizing as to who is killing everyone and why.
3. The jocks are always the first to go.
4. If you are a blonde with big breasts, don't get naked or you're definitely the next to get axed (no pun intended).
5. Avoid colleges with asylums or prisons nearby.
6. Stick close to the brainy wallflower – she usually ends up surviving.

(Sources: FindCliches.com and Andrea Danelak)

Downtowner turns into a state of the art hostel

Hali McOuat
hmcouat@shaw.ca

The Downtowner motel, located in the heart of downtown at Kennedy and Ellice, is in the middle of being gutted and remolded into a brand new state of the art hostel to be named Hostelling International Winnipeg Downtower.

Kiera Fogg, Hostelling International (H.I.) marketing and public relations manager said "with the renovations in the area, it has improved the surrounding neighborhood, and made it a happier, safer place to hangout".

The new location replaces H.I.'s old hostel, Ivey House, located at 210 Maryland. Ivey House was a small building with eight rooms, 16 beds, and H.I. found that they were turning guests down because they were always full.

When the new location is finished, it will have 40 rooms; half dorm rooms that hold up to six people, and half private rooms that can hold up to two people. The price for a normal dorm room would be approximately $26.00 per night.

The first floor is still under major construction. H.I. is extending the front lobby and reception desk and are gutting the middle of the building and turning it into a greenery courtyard. They are upgrading the restaurant and plan to serve all organic and fresh food on the menu.

Behind the restaurant, there will be a common living/meeting area where boarders can meet and hang out, as well as a common kitchen for them to cook their meals in.

At this time, a free hot breakfast is being served from the restaurant because the common kitchen is not finished. The plan is to continue with the free breakfast when the kitchen is done because it gives the guests a nice start to their day.

The second and third floors of the building are where the 40 rooms are located. Each room has a feature wall, coloured either in green, yellow, pink, purple, or blue. H.I. has brought in a local design team, Number 10 Design, to come up with the layout, and H.I is planning to get furniture from local suppliers, such as Sleep Country and EQ3.

The project was started June 18 and H.I. hopes to have everything done by early 2008.

Mark Klassen, accommodation manager said he "cannot wait for the final opening." He has personally been putting a lot of hard work into the project and can't wait until the whole hostel is open.

As of right now only the second floor is open and ready for guests, and it is already extremely busy

H.I.'s main goal is to get as many local people involved and notified about the new hostel this as possible. They want local everything to be featured in the new building.

The hostel has a pub called Lo Pub + Gallery. There they have local bands and artists come and perform and hang their artwork.

Fogg said, "Having the locals hang around the place will give the travelers a bit of a 'feel like home' comfort."

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THE BIBLIO FILE

The Oprah Book Club Phenomenon

Jennifer Ryan

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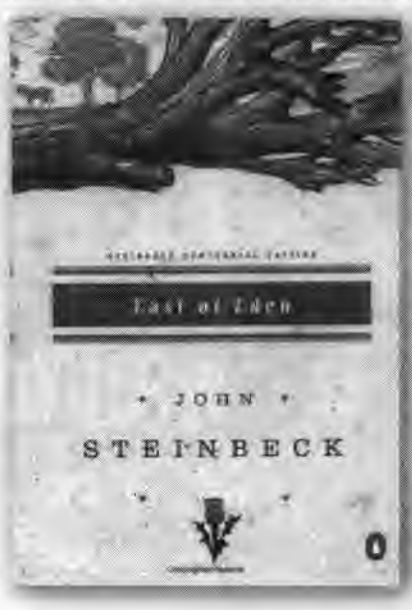
I don't have a favourite book; there are just too many good ones to choose from. But, when I was in grade 12, John Steinbeck's East of Eden was a definite contender for the top spot. I'd never hated a book assigned for school, but I hadn't loved one yet. A year later, I was in university, and it seemed like everyone had read East of Eden. At first, I thought it was a little peculiar that so many people had read it and that everyone raved on and on about it, but I rationalized that it was simply a great book.

But then I found out that East of Eden was one of Oprah's Book Club books. Suddenly, my feelings towards East of Eden changed. I didn't like it as much anymore because I didn't want to feel like I was jumping on the Oprah's Book Club bandwagon.

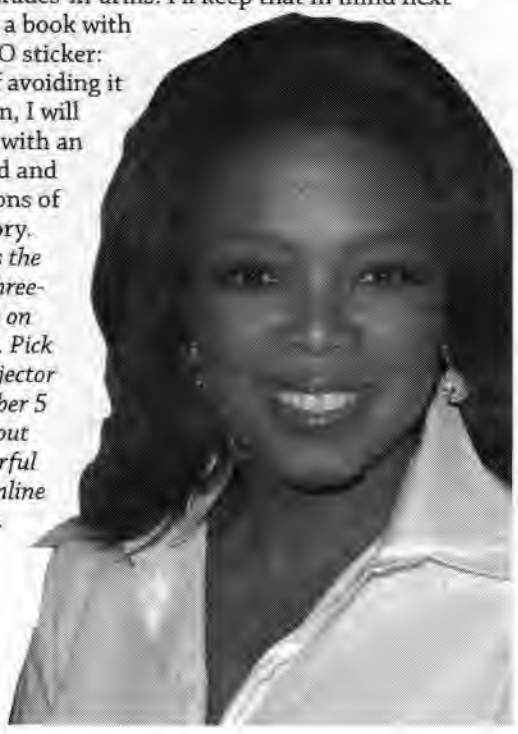
Now I knew that all those people who had read it had only done so at Oprah's bidding. They were brainwashed! They didn't really enjoy this great piece of literature; Oprah was just telling them to like it! Oprah was going to take over the world! OK, while I do think there may be a valid argument for that last point, I am exaggerating a little. But I really did feel like I had been hoodwinked – and that feeling only worsened when I found a list of Oprah's Book Club books.



To my utter shame, I discovered that I had unknowingly read seven of Oprah's Book Club books – and liked them! I began to re-examine why I had plucked those books off the library shelves instead of any of the hundreds of others. Never having seen more than a few minutes of Oprah's show, how was I being exposed to her message? Maybe Oprah's distinctive moniker, the giant O, had been implanted in my brain. Or maybe Oprah just chooses good books.

I have resigned myself to the idea that Oprah is not trying to achieve world domination – at least not by way of the literary stream – and that she is simply a book lover. Just as I am trying to spread a little more book-lovin' with this modest column, Oprah is using her impressive clout to get the world reading. Essentially, we're comrades-in-arms. I'll keep that in mind next time I see a book with the giant O sticker: instead of avoiding it like a toxin, I will pick it up with an open mind and expectations of a good story.

This is the first in a three-part series on book clubs. Pick up the Projector on November 5 to read about the wonderful world of online book clubs.



The Wretched Hive of Scum and Villainy

"My top four strangest, yet awesome DVD purchases"

Shawn Houde

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I usually only buy DVDs based on if I've seen the film (and liked it), heard good things from a friend, or read a positive review. With the percentage of shitty movies out there, odds are good if you blindly buy a DVD you will wind up with a piece of crap you'll never watch more than once.

But every once in awhile I channel my inner Dude and say "fuck it". I buy a DVD on a total whim and discover I've found a hidden treasure – a worthy addition to my collection of DVDs.

Here are the top four strangest, yet awesome DVD purchases I've made.

4. Demolition Man/Over the Top 2-pack

I really only bought the 2-pack for Over the Top – the single greatest film to combine the exhilarating sport of arm-wrestling, the adrenaline-pumping suspense of truck driving, and a heart warming tale of a father (Sylvester Stallone) reconnecting with his estranged son. If you can find an 80's movie with better "working out" montages, I might have to invite you over for a movie/burrito marathon. This one cost me about $12 at Best Buy.

3. Star Wars: Caravan of Courage & Battle for Endor 2-pack

In this DVD 2-pack, fans are treated to two feature-films starring those loveable furry midgets. Follow along with Wicket, the leader of the Ewoks, as he goes on pointless, non-canon adventures that have no bearing on the Star Wars timeline whatsoever. If that's not enough for you, a drunk and pissed off Wilford Brimley stars in Battle for Endor. This one was about $10 at Wal-Mart.

2. Interstella 5555 – The Story of the Secret Star System

Daft Punk's electronic style of music infected me at a young age. So when I found out Daft Punk had essentially created a musical-anime to their 2001 album "Discovery", I had to pick it up. This concept narrative morphs the album into a structured film about love, aliens, space battles and the power of rock! This one is hard to find, so it cost me about $20 on Amazon.

1. The Karate Dog

The title says it all. This epic stars Cho Cho, the karate-fighting dog, and is voiced by Chevy Chase! Remember when he had a career? It also stars Pat Morita (Mr. Miyagi of the Karate Kid) and the legendary Jon Voight as the evil villain – who also knows karate. This film makes Air Bud look like shit, and it only cost me $4.99 at Zellers!

Before you ask, I am being serious. I really do love all of the above movies. I can only hope your next DVD purchases are as magical as mine!

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Connecting on Campus

CHEMISTRY: THE ELUSIVE MYSTERY

Zach Regiec

zachregiec@hotmail.com

Rhiannon picked this topic and I have to admit, it caught me a bit off guard. It's tough to write about something this abstract. Chemistry is obviously a crucial piece to any dating relationship, but how and why does it evolve? Jesus, I sound like a relationship counselor.

For me, I break down chemistry in the dating world into three mostly equal components: the physical, intellectual and emotional chemistries.

Physical chemistry is obviously the chemistry that gets you... I mean, kicks things off. The biggest dating cliché in the book is "looks don't mean anything."

To some, this is actually true, but they are off solving world hunger or meditating in the Himalayas. Looks and physique are the parts of the physical chemistry/attraction that make people like Carmen Electra famous. Seriously, I can't even count how many times I've thought hey, it's a good thing you're hot, because if you weren't, people wouldn't put up with your shit.

What I find challenging to understand is why some guys find a physical trait attractive in a woman, and other men don't. For me, a body part that is unique is the definition of sexy, like a slight scar on her eye or a sexy mole in the right spot.

To further emphasize my point, I'll compare "breast men" to "ass men" (this is one label I accept). For the life of me, I can't figure out why many men prefer breasts to women's bums. A nice rack is a great physical trait, but they really aren't that hard to find. A beautiful bum is much more rare, and that is what drives an attraction for me – distinctive beauty.

Let me be clear – looks and physique are not everything; however, for anyone under the age of 65, they are a major part of the dating equation.

Intellect may be the most underrated of the three chemistries. There is nothing sexier than a woman who is smarter than you. Don't be intimidated. Nurture it, and you will feel the sexual tension increase when she shares her opinion on Noam Chomsky.

As I mature, I realize that surrounding oneself with smart people – never mind just smart women – is one of the clearest paths to happiness. One of my ex-girlfriends used to edit my university papers and man, did that turn me on. Knowledge is sexy and if you can't carry on a stimulating or thought-provoking conversation with a girl, it's not worth it. There are lots of bright, attractive women out there, so go find them.

Emotional chemistry is probably the most fruitful (yes, I just used the word fruitful) of the three chemistries. First, let me start by saying it's by far the most complicated, challenging and difficult chemistry to share or to obtain.

But, at the same time, it can get you through a lot of low points in your relationships. Think about it. Why do so many couples stay together through heartache and sorrow? Chances are, it's because they share similar principles. This is a major part of a healthy relationship, but it doesn't hold as much weight in the dating world.

To wrap up, chemistry between two people is very important in the dating world. Not as important as wearing a condom, but very close. Breaking the three chemistries down and analyzing them may help you reflect on what makes your blood pump, head turn, hands sweat or best of all, makes you laugh.

If you find all three chemistries in a gal, my suggestion is ask her to go on a vacation with you. If you find two of the three, go out for a nice meal, and if you find one of the three, go out for a beer and see if the others develop.

If you're stuck for conversation on any of those adventures, tell her about the bizarre guy who writes a column for The Projector. Explain to her that I think I know a lot about the dating scene in Winnipeg. I'm easy to trash and I have thick skin, so dissecting my column will not bruise my ego.

5 WAYS TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

1. Get in the gym.
2. Buy some nice clothes.
3. Sexy exchanges of texts, emails or phone calls.
4. Go on vacation with her.
5. Do something nice for her.

The Connection

Rhiannon Maskiw-Connelly

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Have you ever met someone and instantly fallen under his or her spell? Have you ever felt that strong, passionate attraction that just doesn't go away?

Let's call it a connection.

There are a lot of people with whom you will have connections – people you get along with really well, people you can talk to for hours about nothing and people you feel comfortable with after no time at all. These kinds of connections are a great start to a strong friendship or relationship, because without them, the basis for a relationship is hard to find. These connections happen fairly often, and don't get me wrong, they're great.

But they are nothing compared to that instant connection, that passionate chemistry that we have absolutely no control over. You can't create it, and you can't get rid of it. I bet millions of people ignore those connections and choose never to act on them. Maybe some people never even find them.

If you never felt it, you would never know how utterly amazing it is to feel that controlled by passion, so you wouldn't miss it.

Now, I'm not talking about falling in love here, and I'm not talking about that comfort zone that falls into place after you've been with someone for a lengthy period of time. I'm talking about when you meet someone for the first time and you melt in their gaze, tremble at their touch and swoon at their words.

I have only met one person in my entire life that has had this effect on me. One. It doesn't happen often. But when it does, that person becomes impossible to forget.

At first, you think that it's no big deal, that the next time you see him or her, the reaction you had will be less severe. But it's just the opposite. The more time you spend with each other, the stronger the emotions and the higher the tension. He or she brushes against your arm, and your whole body tingles. He or she comes up behind you and whispers something in your ear, and the feeling overwhelms you. Everything he or she says makes you smile, and you can't help but be a ridiculous flirt whenever you are in his/her presence. In other words, you've got it bad.

But it's nothing like when you had those silly high school crushes. It's not about being obsessive or about wanting someone you have always had feelings for. It's about meeting someone and finding yourself completely helpless to the attraction and feelings you instantly have towards that person.

Now if you are single, and he or she is single, then you're set.

But what if one or both of you is attached? What if you're both in very serious relationships? What if you have never had this kind of connection before and you want more than anything to see what you could have with this person?

You don't want to act on it, because you don't want to hurt the person you love, but you can't deny the emotions and the feelings that you have towards this person. And so after months of hiding it, you admit how you feel and that you don't feel this way about the person you're with. And then one day, they kiss you and your whole world falls apart.

You can only deny how you feel for so long, and after that, it's you against nature or God or fate or whoever put that connection there. And I'm not so naïve as to think I have power over any one of those things; no one does. So once you accept that you can't deny that connection, what do you do?

If you have an answer, please let me know. Because I am lost on this one.

"Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.
–Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Your Night, Your City

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Your Night Your City (YNYC), a Winnipeg social networking website that started as a proposal for the Red River College Entrepreneurial Program, had its launch at the Exchange District club Alive on October 5.

Ryan Chaves, co-founder and co-president of the website, is quite pleased with the turnout of the website's first gathering.

"The club was maxed out from 10:30 on. There were lineups everywhere. The bar manager said that he had never seen it so busy there on a Friday night," he said.

Chaves was also excited to see that close to 50 per cent of the website's members came to the launch, which means that the social networking site is already achieving its goal – to help young Winnipeggers plan their night.

The website's main feature is a directory that includes bars, pubs, entertainment venues, and restaurants, which are aimed at 18 to 35-year-olds. The places on this directory would only be of interest to young adults, saving countless hours of picking through the yellow pages.

As Chaves said, "It's like the MTS directory on steroids." He added, "In the demographic of 18 to 35-year-olds, we found that a great per cent plan their night with their friends and another majority uses the internet. So we put the two together."

A social networking website seemed the most workable for Curtis Hughson, Graham Chaze, and Ryan Chaves, students in the Entrepreneurial Program at Red River College. The program is an eight-month course in which students are assigned to think of a couple of options for a complete business plan, and then produce the final product based on the feasibility of their options.

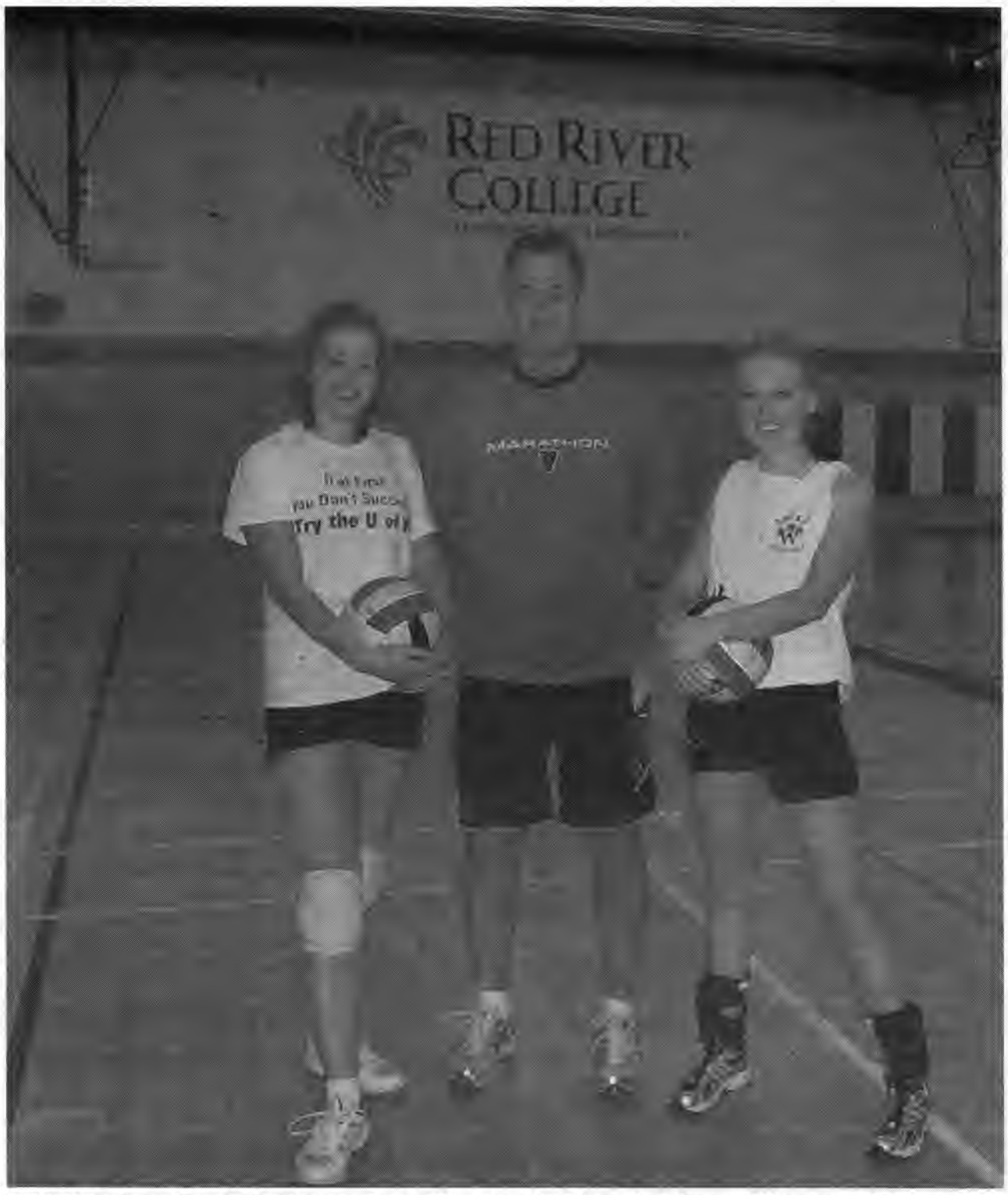
Chaves said there is a great demand for a site like this, even when larger social networking sites like Facebook and Myspace are such a common medium for young adults planning their nights. Chaves said that YNYC is different from those websites because it is making Winnipeg a community. He goes on to explain, saying all of the listings for the website only pertain to Winnipeg, whereas Facebook and Myspace do have local listings strewn about other North American listings.

Although the local website has seen a great response so far, it does not intend to expand beyond Winnipeg.

"We're not trying to take over Facebook or Myspace, we're trying to compliment them, and build our own product" said Chaves.

The website continues to list as many Winnipeg destinations as possible.

"The more information that there is on the site, the more options you have to plan your night" said Chaves



RRC Rebels volleyball players Lana Benton (left) and Joleene Klassen with coach Ryan Ratushniak.

RRC Sports - A Great Start

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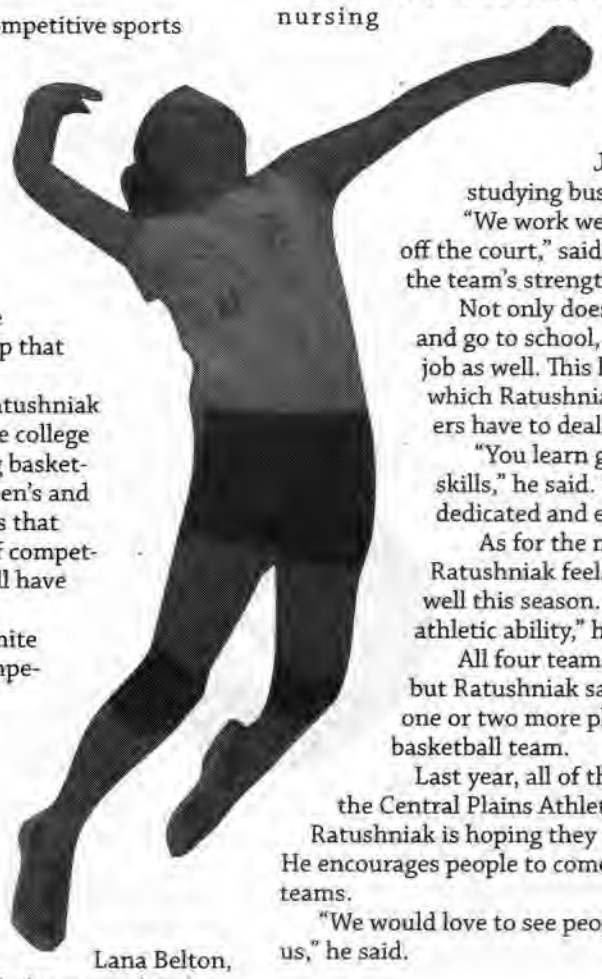
In 2005, after 20 years with no competitive sports teams, Red River College decided it was time to make some changes to the athletic department.

A huge factor in this change came from Ryan Ratushniak, who is currently the manager in the Athletics and Recreation Services department at Red River College's Notre Dame campus. It was with his help that the RRC Rebels were born.

It was two years ago when Ratushniak helped bring volleyball back to the college and just last year, he helped bring basketball. Currently the coach of the men's and women's volleyball teams, he feels that both teams have a good chance of competing this year and believes they will have some big competitors as well.

"I think the Canadian Mennonite University will be our biggest competition," he said.

On the women's side, they have lost some experienced players; however, Ratushniak feels he has enough returning players who, with their experience, will help contribute to the team.



One of these veteran players is Portage la Prairie's Lana Belton, who is starting her third year with the women's volleyball team.

"I love volleyball; it's my passion, as well as a good stress reliever," said Belton, who is enrolled in the nursing program at the Notre Dame campus.

Alongside Belton is another Portage native, first-year player Jolene Klassen, who is studying business administration.

"We work well together both on and off the court," said Klassen about some of the team's strengths.

Not only does Klassen play volleyball and go to school, but she has a part-time job as well. This kind of obstacle is one which Ratushniak feels most of the players have to deal with.

"You learn great time management skills," he said. "You really have to be dedicated and enjoy the sport."

As for the men's volleyball team, Ratushniak feels confident they will do well this season. "We have good size and athletic ability," he said.

All four teams are somewhat finalized, but Ratushniak says they could still use one or two more players on the women's basketball team.

Last year, all of the teams made it to the Central Plains Athletic Conference, and Ratushniak is hoping they can do the same this year. He encourages people to come out and cheer for the teams.

"We would love to see people come out and support us," he said.

The Sports Story

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Nothing quite brings out the freaks and geeks like Halloween. It's the one-day a year when everyone gets to reinvent themselves by dressing up as anything from a ghost to a pirate.

But I'm sick of it.

No, not getting free candy – that part I looooooooove.

I'm sick of everyone dressing up the same year after year. As I mentioned, ghosts and pirates are among the most unoriginal getups out there, so in an attempt to spark some creativity heading into Halloween '07, here are a few costume ideas for you sports fans out there.

The NFL football season is just heating up; why not dress up as former superstar Ricky Williams? All you really need is some dirty dreadlocks, a hippy mindset and a doobie. Just stop by any local middle years school and I'm sure you can pick up a joint quite cheap.

Not your style? Perhaps dressing like your favourite boxer is a better fit. You're not getting off easy going as George Foreman, though, as carrying around a grill is hardly a costume.

I'm talking about the ear biter Mike Tyson. As crazy as he is, you can't help but love Tyson and mimicking him is quite easy. Grab some loose shorts, some boxing gloves, get someone to kick you hard in the junk so your voice gets so high that only dogs can hear it and then add a lisp to it. It'sss real sssimple. Extra points for getting a face tattoo – real or fake.

Don't worry, basketball fans, I haven't forgotten about you. I was going to recommend dressing up as my close personal friend Dennis Rodman, but that's way too easy. Instead, I'm recommending Los Angeles Clippers centre Chris Kaman. Hands down the ugliest man in the NBA, Kaman is a dead man walking who belongs in House of 1000 Corpses.

Impersonating Kaman isn't easy, but I suggest first spending a few hours in a reverse tanning bed so you're so white that Casper doesn't even accept you. Then you have to thin your hair out, ensuring that no two strands touch each other, and voila! You're the worst-looking NBA player ever, a shoo-in for costume of the year.

Pitcher Randy Johnson is another athlete that is quite easy to costumeize (it's a word, trust me).

For the record, I've got nothing against his 100 mile-an-hour fastball, but take this guy out of a baseball uniform and he fits right in with Kid Rock and Tommy Lee. No, he's never gotten with Pam Anderson, which is surprising, but Johnson's look is quite simple. All you need is a greasy mullet, a dirty wife-beater and a bottle of whisky. Then start complaining about how you couldn't find a date at your family reunion and you've got Major League Baseball's biggest redneck down pat.

So there you have it. Hopefully I have encouraged you to think outside the box this year with your Halloween costume, but if you aren't quite inspired just yet, I've got one last suggestion.

You could just go as NFL quarterback Michael Vick. All you need is an Atlanta Falcons jersey, a football and a dog...ah, never mind.

Assiniboine Park goes to the dogs

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Assiniboine Park saw cold weather and cold noses on Sunday, September 30 as the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association held its 13th annual Great Manitoba Dog Party by the Lyric theatre.

Although the weather was much cooler than the unseasonable warmth Winnipeg was experiencing, none of the participants seemed to mind.

"When it comes to dogs, the weather doesn't phase them – especially in a park full of potential playmates," said dog lover Cam Nichol.

Even the humans in attendance seemed too busy to notice the cold air. Aside from ensuring their own dogs were enjoying the park and behaving themselves, they could also watch demonstrations, enter contests, peruse the breeder's showcase or check out the exhibits.

One such exhibit was for Red River College's Animal Health Technology program. A contest for who could name the most celebrity dog owners drew people to the display but what kept them around were the friendly volunteers.

Sarah Dolynchuk, a 2004 graduate of the AHT program, was one of the women behind the table. Although RRC provides this exhibit every year, this was Dolynchuk's first time at the event.

"They don't always get volunteers easily," she said. "So they call on students and previous grads. It's unfortunate because this is a great way for us to raise awareness for the program."

Dolynchuk went on to describe the direct benefits of volunteering at the event for current students of the program.

"We all get into this field because we love animals, but honestly, you end up dealing with the owners just as much, sometimes more. Volunteering at an event like this is the perfect opportunity to get your communication skills up. People skills are huge."

As a student, Dolynchuk tried to volunteer her time within the field as much as possible, partly for personal reasons but also because she knows that volunteering can help her resume. Since the field can be very competitive, any additional activities can be beneficial when being considered for a position.

"The demand is high in this field. There are lots of volunteer opportunities that should be taken advantage of," said Dr. Barb Deviaenne of Machray Animal Hospital, who feels that "anything that shows the applicant is willing to go beyond basic requirements is a plus. Just get involved."

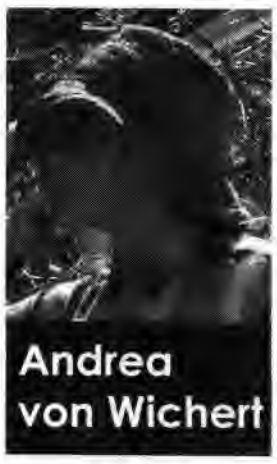
In the end, Dolynchuk said she loved spending the day in a "beautiful park" but admitted that her favourite part was the contests, especially the Best Dressed Dog show.

So will she be willing to give up her time again next year?

"Oh yeah," she said. "I will definitely take part again. No question."

For more information about the Dog Party, visit manitobadogparty.com.

What the heck is she nattering on about now?



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Episode 5: Yeah Me?! Let's just suck, it's easier.

With all the new airport security I've noticed that boarding a plane seems so much faster these days – nobody's fucking around trying to be friendly. But, I need to remember "efficiency has no inherent value." Coming from a cultural and racial background which saw the trains running on time, ushering millions to concentration camps where horror, torture, degradation and death awaited, I try to caution myself about jumping on the efficiency bandwagon.

This was going to be a "yeah me" bit of writing. Start with observations at Winnipeg International Airport security, followed by the trip east to Halifax. I was a participant in this literary performance conference last week. Blah blah. I'd hoped to be enthusiastic, follow a line of uncharacteristic self-praise, and take of moment of well deserved basking in my own accomplishments. But having lived through all this and come back to Winnipeg, I am deflated.

In the context of racially segregated Halifax, the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word turns into a running, impassioned discussion on the language of oppression, empowerment, racism and victimhood. At the root of this whole thing is the question: "Once black communities have reclaimed words of oppression like "nigger" is there any context in which a white person is ever allowed to say the same word?" At what point do people become fascists by insisting that public and private discourse be anti-fascistic?

Here's where my "N-word" comes in. No one has a problem saying the word "Nazi" in public; yet I'm not going to be very popular trying to reclaim it – there is no inherent power or forgiveness here. Yet for thousands of people my parent's age who have gone through life believing somehow that they are responsible for the death of six million people – even though they were still children at the end of the Second World War – this is the issue of race and hatred. The flip side of the coin – how do the oppressors find historical grace, forgiveness so that everybody can move on? Are subsequent generations responsible to make reparations for the crimes of forefathers?

> ***"Are subsequent generations responsible to make reparations for the crimes of forefathers?"***

More so, while in Halifax racial tensions ran down an articulated black/white divide, in Manitoba racism has a different face. You think the housing for black people is bad – you should see the shitholes the government gives Indians! Then we can start talking about apartheid. In Halifax a bunch of writers began the dialogue. How do people of good faith try to encourage equality and fairness? Especially when the legal and political history of this country is built on stealing land and resources from its original inhabitants?

I went to this writers' festival last week and it was all great I guess. Really it depressed the hell out of me – for all our cultural obsession with communications and "connectedness" we don't even manage to come up with a basic universal vocabulary that encourages individuals to take responsibility for the language of their own empowerment.

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SA eyes smoking ban

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Smokers beware: a ban has happened before and it may happen again soon.

That is according to Dale Gledhill, vice-president of the Red River College Students' Association (SA) at the Princess Street campus, who said that the SA has been fielding numerous complaints about nicotine cravers blocking entrances at both main campuses and forcing their pink-lunged colleagues to breathe in second-hand smoke.

Smokers are to light up at the designated smoking areas that are clearly marked and are to remain at least 20 feet from the entrances. Gledhill said that it's the SA's biggest task to inform students about the smoking restrictions.

"If there is no change being made, then a ban will very likely happen," said Gledhill. "There are signs up right now saying 'Stay away 20 feet.'"

Daryl Nielsen is a manager for Environmental Health and Safety and Campus Services at RRC. Any move to ban smoking on RRC campuses would go through him. The last time a total ban occurred, according to Nielsen, was in 1993 at the Notre Dame campus.

"What shot that down was a disabled student in a wheelchair who said, 'You're discriminating against me because I haven't got the physical ability to go out to Notre Dame in the wintertime to smoke my cigarette,'" he said.

Ironically, wheelchair access at entrances crowded by smokers is a major concern.

"We have at least three students in wheelchairs who need a little more space," said Nielsen.

The college's suggested solution is to ask students to police themselves. An outright ban is not something Nielsen wants to see on the agenda. He also said that while security doesn't ignore smokers breaking the rules, for now there will be no concentrated effort to police smoking and non-smoking areas.

"We have much bigger things to do, like prevent violence, than chase smokers away," he stated.

Mike Guarino, a Business Administration student at the Princess Street campus who goes out for a smoke about five or six times a day, said some measures are effective. When he saw the signs asking him to stay 20 feet away from the doors, he complied.

However, those signs have already been taken down and he's back to his spot right beside the door.

"I guess in the winter it'd be inconvenient," he said, shrugging off the possibility of a complete ban.

And this inconvenience might become a reality, as the SA seems intent on taking whatever measures necessary to put an end to this issue.

"If the college is resistant on that, then I guess we'll have to push a little bit harder," said Gledhill.

For now, it looks like non-smokers will have to employ Nielsen's personal solution to second-hand smoke: "If I have to walk through an area like that, I'll just hold my breath."

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The Heart and Stroke Foundation
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For more information, please contact Jennifer Kaufman at 949-2041 or by email at jkaufman@heartandstroke.mb.ca

Curried Pumpkin Soup Recipe

From mom-mom.com

INGREDIENTS

2	cloves garlic, peeled
1	medium onion, peeled and quartered
1	large jalapeno pepper, seeded and coarsely chopped
2	stalks celery, cut into 2-inch lengths
3	large carrots, peeled and sliced ¾-inch thick
2	tbsp. olive oil
1 3/4	lb. pumpkin, peeled, seeded and cut into 1-inch cubes
3	cup low-salt chicken stock
1	bay leaf
2	tsp. curry powder
1	tsp. turmeric
1	Pinch of cayenne pepper
1 1/2	tsp. salt
	freshly ground pepper
1/4	cup shelled, raw pumpkin seeds
2	tbsp. chopped flat-leaf parsley
1	tbsp. sour cream (optional)

Directions

1) Place garlic in a food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add onion and pulse until finely chopped. Set aside. Place jalapeno in food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add celery and pulse until finely chopped. Set aside. Place carrots in food processor and pulse until finely chopped.

2) Heat 1 tbsp. of the olive oil in a medium stockpot over medium heat. Add the garlic and onion and sauté, stirring occasionally, until onion is translucent, about 6 minutes.

3) Add jalapeno, celery, and carrots and sauté for 5 minutes. Add the pumpkin, chicken stock, bay leaf, curry, turmeric, cayenne, 1 tsp. of the salt, and pepper to taste, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook until the vegetables are tender, about 8 minutes.

4) Meanwhile, in a small sauté pan, heat remaining tbsp. of olive oil over medium-high heat. Add pumpkin seeds and remaining 1/2 tsp. salt and cook for about 30 seconds, shaking pan constantly to prevent burning, until all the seeds have popped. Remove from heat and add parsley.

5) Place 2 cups of the cooked vegetables and about 1/2 cup of the liquid in the bowl of a food processor and puree until smooth. Stir puree back into the soup. Adjust seasonings, and stir in the sour cream, if desired. Garnish with roasted pumpkin seeds.

Halloween's secret fruit offers multiple health benefits

Tania Kohut
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I set out on my quest to really become acquainted with the pumpkin, a noble, traditional vegetable. I thought I would eat a few (too many) pieces of pumpkin pie, roast some seeds, cut up a jack-o'-lantern and delicately place a candle behind the poorly carved devil face to proudly display to the displeasure of my neighbours.

Cucurbita, or pumpkins, as we know them, are a fruit from the squash family. The pumpkin's pulp and seeds are versatile, delicious and full of nutrients.

Yes, I know what you're thinking: "I can get pumpkin pie at Safeway, so why would I want to eat that stringy stuff inside?"

The answers are as bountiful as the fall harvest.

"The seeds in pumpkins...have quite a bit of protein in them, as well as calcium," said local gardener Myfanwy Cawley, who grows many varieties of pumpkins in her garden.

A clear complexion, despite one's endless assignments and deadlines, can be attributed to the vital mineral zinc, which is also found in pumpkins seeds, along with iron, which battles fatigue and poor hair growth.

Healthandgoodness.com notes these benefits, as well as those of omega-3 fatty acids, which reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.

Doris Penner holds a master's degree in science with a major in community nutrition. When asked about the benefits of the low-calorie fruit, she listed "vitamin C and potassium, but beta carotene would be the big one."

Beta carotene is what gives pumpkins, along with carrots, their vibrant orange hue. It's also the reason why carrots are good for your eyes – yes, your mother knew what she was talking about all along – and therefore, eating pumpkin will also protect your sight.

Perhaps these health benefits explain why the pumpkin has flourished and remained a North American staple for so many years.

Long before the traditions of Thanksgiving or Halloween were established, the pumpkin was, according to Cawley, "a traditional aboriginal food that kept aboriginal peoples eating healthfully all through the winter. This was one of the things that was grown and then stored."

"You could probably keep (pumpkins for) half the winter," Penner concurred.

Cawley also noted that the fruits "don't need a lot of work when you grow them; they grow pretty well on their own."

Both women agree that pumpkins may be used in soups, breads and many other savoury dishes, not only in the sweets we are accustomed to, so why not try a new recipe this Halloween?

Manitoba's corn mazes busier than ever

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If you're looking for a good scare this Halloween season, look no further, as Manitoba's two corn mazes have something in store for you.

A Maze in Corn, located just 10 minutes south of Winnipeg near St. Adolphe, is Manitoba's original corn maze, celebrating its 10th season this year.

It offers a wide variety of activities for every age group, including a petting zoo, hayride and its most popular attraction, the corn maze, which you can do during the day or dare to try at night with only a flashlight to protect you.

In search of something a little spookier? A Maze in Corn is pleased to present you with its Haunted Forest. This newly created activity is not for those who scare easily. Let one of the resident creatures take you for a walk down the haunted trail. You never know what might be lurking in the deep, dark forest.

"It's so freaky, especially when it gets really dark outside," said Gregory Mitchell, a long-time corn maze visitor.

If outdoor activities aren't your thing, A Maze in Corn also offers a collection of fall- inspired decorations such as uniquely shaped gourds, decorative corn, straw bales and almost every size of pumpkin imaginable.

For those at the north end of the city, there is Murray's Maze, part of Boonstra Farms, which is located 15 minutes north of the perimeter near Stonewall and is quite possibly Canada's largest corn maze, sitting at 10 acres in size.

Boonstra Farms has many Halloween-inspired activities, including the Halloween maze, Tower of Terror and the Headless Horseman Hayride.

New to the farm is the guillotine, which operates every half hour. This new attraction will include the slicing and dicing of pumpkins as well as of "my staff," said Murray Boonstra, owner of Boonstra Farms.

Boonstra jokes that he'll need to hire a few extra staff to make up for the ones "headed" for the guillotine.

On the other hand, there is definitely not a shortage of visitors on the farm.

"We can see anywhere from 250-300 young kids on a Friday night," Boonstra said. This contributes to his nearly 30,000 visitors per year.

Worried that you're too old for the maze? Don't, because, according to Boonstra, the farm is aimed for people "right from two to 60 years old."

So get off the couch and get outdoors. Give one of Manitoba's corn mazes a try!

Bibles and Broomsticks

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I like candy, and I love Halloween. Like all children, I would make the trek to fill my pillowcase with sweets, sneering at offerings of apples and popcorn balls. As an adult, I somehow always manage to buy more than enough candy for the neighbourhood, carefully selecting the kinds of goodies I just happen to like.

I also like Halloween because it's one of the few times of the year when it's socially acceptable to be a little spooky or morbid.

In fact, it's expected.

There's nothing wrong with draping your lawn with a menagerie of monsters and skeletons. Just make sure that it's all cleaned by the time Remembrance Day rolls around, or people will be shaking their heads. But, isn't it funny how nobody seems to mind having holiday lights up well into June?

The roots of Halloween lie in an older time. What we see as Halloween now is a watered down, sanitized sip of apple cider. For some, the day is known as the Wiccan New Year. It's about celebrating the harvest we have sown. It's also about remembering those who have passed on.

We've all heard that this is the time when the veil between the earthly and spirit realms is the thinnest. The window is the perfect time for divination. Although, I must warn you, there is a lot of energy out there, and you need to be aware of how you are directing it.

For those who yearn to hold a séance or speak to a dead loved one through some other way, it can be an exciting and an emotional event. But it's something that needs to be done with a clear head and a strong mind, rather than out of fun and curiosity.

So just remember that even though spiritual doors will be fully open for business that night, it's not as simple as knocking on a door and asking for treats. There will be a lot of ears listening that night, waiting to hear from someone like you. So, I will say, that if you choose to communicate with the spiritually bound, make sure that you are certain of what you want to get out the situation. There's nothing worse than having a disgruntled spirit hanging around the house looking for tricks, not treats.

Don't worry: It's Halloween; you're supposed to be a little spooked out. Now go help yourself to that big bowl of candy.

Company offers up local scares to ghost-seekers

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If you want to get more out of Halloween than dressing up as "hot (insert uniformed profession here)" this year, why not get to know a little about Winnipeg's history along the way?

Heartland International Travel and Tours offers you Haunted Winnipeg 2007. Hosted by sisters Kristen and Nicole Verin-Treusch, this three-hour tour around Winnipeg provides more than a few cheap scares.

Decked out in turn-of-the-century costumes, Kristen, who holds a master's degree in Canadian history, leads the group, while Nicole, a science graduate, documents each tour with hundreds of pictures.

Some of these photos capture what the sisters refer to as "orbs," unexplained circles that appear on camera but not to the naked eye. Guests of the tour are encouraged to take pictures and submit anything strange to the Heartland website.

The tour makes stops at the Manitoba Museum (haunted by the spirit of a dead volunteer), St. Mary's Academy (ghostly nuns cause trouble in the theatre), Elmwood cemetery (to visit the child ghost Arthur) and several other historical sights.

It wraps up at Winnipeg's most famous haunted hotspot, the Fort Garry Hotel, where you can hear all about the various spooky sightings and the infamous room 202, which, according to Kristen, is "most definitely haunted."

If you're feeling brave, book yourself a night in the room and meet "The Lady in White." In many different cases, guests have claimed to experience ghostly phenomena while on the tour.

"I've had a lady say she felt someone tugging on her pants, another who felt someone tap on her shoulder," said Kristen, whose enthusiasm for these ghostly encounters is matched only by her natural storytelling ability and passion for Winnipeg's history. "I've never had a physical sensation myself, but many have on the tour."

The tour offers little in the way of thrills and chills. The guides will not perform séances or anything they deem too dangerous. Of ghost tours in Scotland, for example, Nicole said, "They make you sign a waiver!" There is nothing quite that intense on this tour, but a stroll through the Elmwood cemetery at night did have a few people spooked.

A few cheesy jokes help to liven up the crowd (no pun intended), and the enthusiasm of the Verin-Treusch sisters is contagious. The tour is rated by about.com as one of Canada's top six cemetery tours.

Haunted Winnipeg has nearly sold out all of the remaining tours for the season, but additional nights have been added for Oct. 29 and Nov. 1. Tickets can be purchased online at www.heartlandtravel.ca/ghost-tours.htm.

Need a Halloween costume? Look no further

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The first rule of dressing up for Halloween is to never, ever to go as yourself.

It's not fun, and it's not funny. People don't like you very much, so that's why they asked you to come in a costume as someone else. They were only being polite to you in the first place because they saw you eavesdropping on their party conversation with their real friends.

So, now that you forced them to ask you with a pity invite, you need an actual costume. Here are some suggestions so you won't embarrass yourself.

Madonna: all you need is a fake British accent, a piece of red string around your wrist and an inflated sense of self-importance. You should also have well-toned arms and be able to dance like Elaine from Seinfeld, because that's how Madonna dances in the Like a Prayer video. A nice touch is to steal a child from an African village (you'll look heroic to other celebrities, and it'll make for better pictures).

If you choose the Ben Affleck costume, it means you weren't invited to the party in the first place, you aren't talented, and you're going to be at home for the night changing someone's diapers (not necessarily the baby's).

You could go as me, Trevor Suffield. For this, you need to be really good-looking, the envy of all men and the desire of all women. But like Madonna, I also speak in a fake British accent.

You could go as a loser...oops, I mean you could go as a Winnipeg Jets fan. Sorry – I get those two mixed up. So as a loser – sorry, Jets fan – you believe the Jets will come back to play in the city, they'd be a winner and they would be a financially viable team for more than one year. As well as being deluded, you will need a pair of dirty grey sweatpants.

Finally, you could go as Britney Spears. For this costume, just think about how you'll be doing at the end of the party at 3 a.m.: you're drunk, you've spilled punch (or some other liquid) on your dress, you've made out with three different guys in front of their girlfriends, you've lost your kids, you've shaved your head to distract from the fact that you lost your kids, you're high and you've also lost your panties. Just put on a pair of dirty grey sweatpants, and it sounds an awful lot like a Jets fan.

In the end, go as something you will feel comfortable in. Halloween is all about friends and good times. But even if you aren't invited to any parties this year, that doesn't mean you can't have any fun. Try decorating the people's houses that are having parties with eggs.

Sexy Nurse, Sexy French Maid?

PROVOCATIVE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES LEAVE LITTLE TO THE IMAGINATION

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In case there was any doubt, sexy nurse and French maid costumes will be abundant – but not so big on material – again this Halloween.

Girls are given no shortage of costume ideas come Halloween. There are at least 500 different costumes in the Party Stuff Halloween flyer, and teenaged girls and young women are targeted in most of the ads for such stores. But every costume designed for this demographic seems to have one thing in common.

Sarah Howells, a supervisor at Party Stuff on Regent Avenue, says the most popular costumes this season are "anything that has 'sexy' in the title."

The market for lingerie-like costumes seems to be flourishing, as more and more girls bare it all on this spooky holiday.

Perusing the ads for Party Stuff, one can determine that Howells's answer was somewhat misleading; names or costume titles with the word 'sexy' in them are rare. There isn't a regular nurse or pirate that wears pants and sleeves or more traditional attire. That option doesn't really exist. If you want to be Little Red Riding Hood, she's a slutty Little Red Riding Hood.

There are some costume names that suggest scandal, like the Very Private Investigator or the Corrupt Cop, but most of them just are what they are – blatantly sexualized – and they sell just fine.

"The revealing outfits are probably something portrayed in magazines and will over time be related to negative self-esteem, poor body image and other problems," said Dr. Marian Morry, a social psychologist and professor of psychology at the University of Manitoba.

The manufacturers don't leave anyone out of the fun either. Most costumes come in plus-sizes, and Howells suggests that she sees "everybody and everything" trying on and purchasing the naughty stuff.

And while it may be commonplace for many girls to show a little skin at bars or socials, Halloween seems to take that to a whole new level.

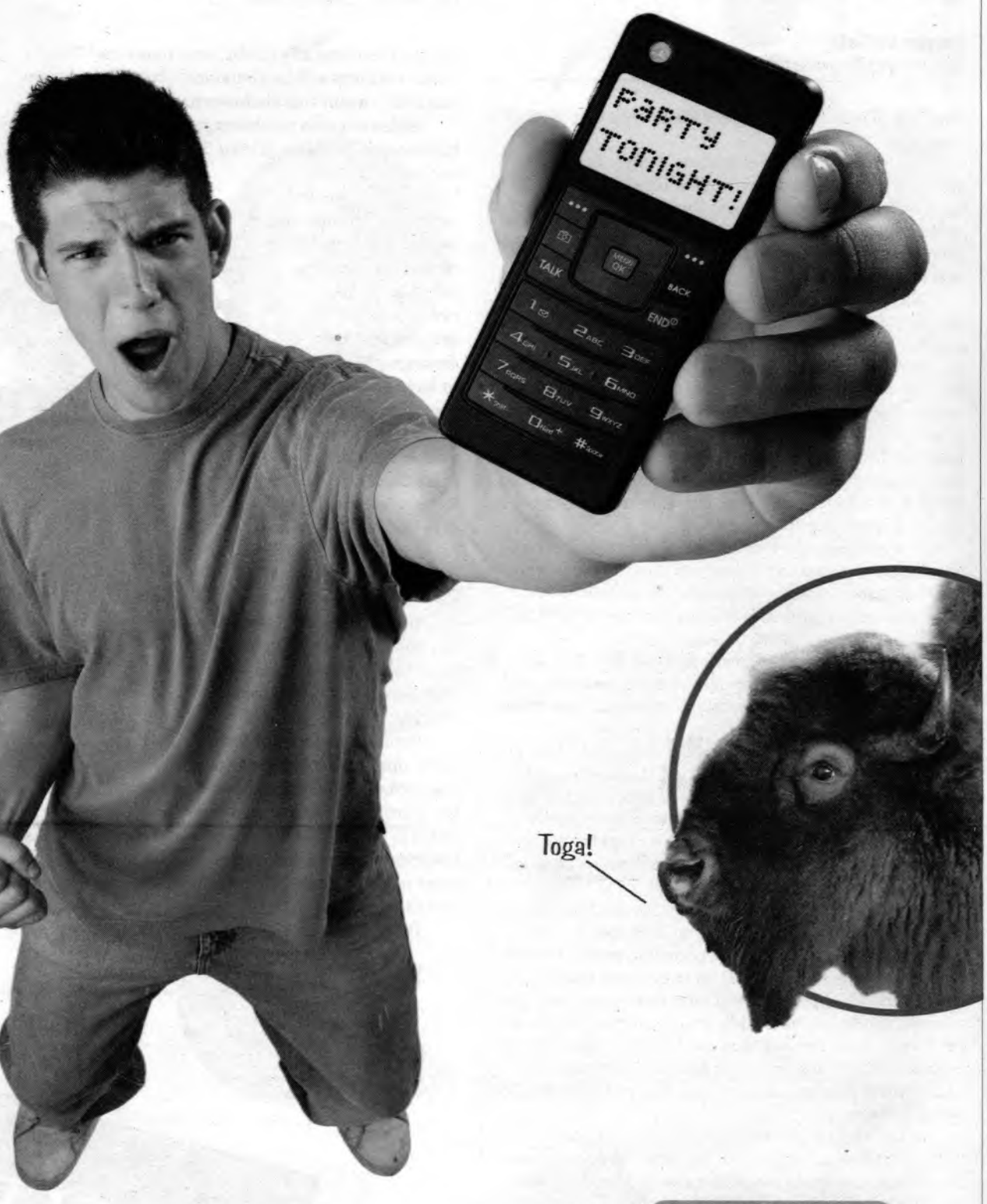
Trisha Siemens, a Business Administration student at Red River College's Princess Street campus, thinks that Halloween has become "a really stupid excuse for girls to be slutty," and added that girls are likely dressing up or down in this way to try to impress men.

Reuben Ramalheiro, also a Business Administration student, suggests that an original or "funnier" costume could be more attractive.

His friend and classmate, Dan Neufeld, reiterates that girls' costumes definitely "aren't very scary anymore."

Not "scary" maybe in the purest sense of the word, but some of the possible reasons or motivations behind the behaviour are a little alarming.

With the money you save you can buy tons of extra books. Right?



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