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the PROJECTOR
red river college students' association newspaper september 11, 2000

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This is YOUR newspaper.

If you have an opinion about something you have read in *the Projector,* or would like to address an issue concerning RRC, please write to us.

The Projector
c/o RRC Students' Association
DM20-2055 Notre Dame
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3H 0J9

Lower tuition fees raises RRC enrollment

photo: Katie Chalmers

A drop in tuition fees is bringing in more students to Red River College

By Kathleen Hodgson

The NDP election promise of affordable education is putting the squeeze on Red River College resources as more and more students take advantage of reduced tuition.

In the fall of 2000 the NDP made good on its election platform by offering all post-secondary students in Manitoba a 10 per cent tuition cut.

This has resulted in increased enrollment at all of Manitoba's post-secondary institutions, including Red River College where increases in full-time students is estimated to be 500, a 12 per cent increase over last year.

"There has never been a better time to attend a post-secondary school in Manitoba than now."

Drew Caldwell

According to Statistics Canada and the Manitoba Government, Manitoba students are enjoying a decrease of tuition fees while the rest of the country is struggling with an average increase in tuition of 3.3 per cent.

Drew Caldwell, Minister of Education, says he is pleased with Manitoba's standing in Canada.

"There has never been a better time to attend a post-secondary school in Manitoba than now," says Caldwell. "This trend of supporting education is going to continue. It is the mandate of the provincial government to invest in the future."

Caldwell says he predicts the future with a simple formula. Increased enrollment in colleges and universities as well as increased participation from the government equals economic development. He says the government plans on working with schools and students to ensure the success of this plan.

RRC president Jaqueline Thachuk says affordability of education is a high priority.

"Every year it's a real struggle to keep tuition fees down so obviously it's something I would welcome as long as we could provide quality programming for our students."

Thachuk says her concern is balancing the books at RRC with a decrease in tuition and an increase in students. She says the costs of running the school are large and inflation is increasing those costs.

The delicate balancing act has forced the college to be particularly resourceful, including transforming a washroom into a classroom in A Building.

According to Thachuk there are subtle differences between how the province and the college can best utilize the monies they have available.

"It means going a little slower," says Thachuk.

She says there is a vision of how the college wants to move into the future with the Arts and Technology programs at the school. Thachuk says they are still committed to these ideas but with the reduction in tuition revenue they are forced to prioritize their goals.

(With files from The Winnipeg Free Press)

the PROJECTOR

Red River College's Student Newspaper for over 30 years.

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Towering inferno hits close to home

RRC student worked for Russian TV station blacked out by fatal fire

photo: Katie Chalmers

First-year Creative Communications student Olga Safroshkina spent two-and-a-half years working as a journalist for the Russian television station ORT which was knocked off the air by a fatal fire at the Ostankino tower

By Cheryl Miki

First-year Creative Communications student Olga Safroshkina spent two-and-a-half years working as a journalist for ORT, one of Russia's largest television networks.

ORT, along with its competitors RTR, STATE, and NTV, were knocked off the air August 27 when the Ostankino Broadcasting Tower, the world's second tallest freestanding structure, was destroyed by fire.

The Moscow region was left without television, radio, or emergency broadcasting for three days, and it may take months to completely restore services to the area's 10 million viewers.

Safroshkina was shocked when she heard about the disaster.

"It was a very, very powerful tower. It was a symbol like the Statue of Liberty," she says. "The tower was a symbol of ORT, of Russian TV."

Three men died during the Ostankino fire. A fire official, an elevator operator, and a plumber became trapped in an elevator during the blaze that spread downward from the top of the tower to 115 metres above ground. It took almost 200 firefighters 26 hours to extinguish the flames.

The Kursk

"I'm really sad about it," says Safroshkina, "I always think about the families who will have to live without husbands or fathers."

The Ostankino disaster comes at a time when the country is still grieving the loss of 118 sailors who died aboard the Kursk nuclear submarine which sank just four weeks earlier.

The tragedy surrounding the Kursk sparked much debate over the state of Russia's military, and Russian President Vladimir Putin was criticized both internally and abroad for not returning from holiday during the crisis.

Safroshkina spoke angrily about what she says is the cause of both disasters: the government's lack of money and failure to maintain safety standards.

"Standards are lower than a few years ago," she says, "everyone is rushing to make more rubles. They just don't take things seriously, they don't think about safety."

Catastrophe

Initial reports about the causes of the Ostankino tower fire say that a short circuit in newly installed paging equipment near the top of the tower was to blame. Safroshkina says the responsibility lies with the government.

"They just don't care. If the Government will not take care of the people," she warns, "they will have a catastrophe in a few years."

"I'm really sad about it. I always think about the families who will have to live without husbands or fathers."

Olga Safroshkina

Built in 1967 as a testament to Soviet technology, the Ostankino Tower stands 540 metres high, twice the height of Paris's Eiffel Tower, and is surpassed only by Toronto's CN Tower.

Housing a restaurant and an observation deck, the tower was also a major tourist attraction, receiving over 200,000 visitors each year. It supported state-of-the-art equipment and broadcast signals for 11 television stations, 12 radio stations and 17 satellite programs.

While still maintaining its impressive height, because of the fire, the 33-year-old tower now leans about two metres off-centre. Efforts are now under way to install new equipment on the salvageable lower portions of the tower to get broadcasting signals back in the air as soon as possible.

(With files from the Winnipeg Free Press and The Globe and Mail)

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RED RIVER COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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GREAT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

What a better way to start off the year than to get involved. Getting involved in the Students' Association is a great way have fun, meet new people and pad your resume. The SA offers many opportunities to volunteer including the Student Advisory Board, the Activities Board and the Class Rep System.

Student Advisory Board
The Student Advisory Board or SAB is the governing body of the SA, and helps to set the direction of the association. By getting involved in this committee you'll have a chance to voice your opinions, while representing the students. By joining the SA you'll also have the opportunity to make positive change within the organization, as well as knowing your right as a student. Not only is this a great way to pad as resume, but you're also involved in deciding how your student fees are spent, and get the occasional free meal. To get involved in the SAB drop by our offices at DM20 and pick up an application form. To be eligible you must have 50 signatures from students, be available at least one night a month for meetings, and go through an interview process.

Class Rep System
Both day and continuing education classes can choose at least one student to be a representitive. As a representitive you are an advocate to students when they have a concern or problem. As Class Rep you also act as a liason between the Students' Association and the students to give them information on upcoming programming and services. Class Rep Meetings occur once a month and you even get free pizza! Other than the free food, benefits include getting deals for SA beer bashes, meeting new people, and padding your resume.with the experience you've gained. By getting involved you can also get a participation transcript which includes all of the work that you've done in the SA over the year.

Activities Board
By being on the activities board you are helping to plan socials and bashes for the SA. This is a great way to use your organizational skills for something fun.

So you do want to get involved in the SA? Stop by room DM20, we would be happy to give you more information about our volunteer information, and services offered to you. The SA will also have a booth the week of September 11-15. This is a great chance to meet your executive, find out about this years up coming events, how you can get involved, or even where your students fees go. We would love to see you, and we will have a bunck of prizes to give away, so you won't want to miss it!

MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE

Want a chance to meet your executive, get free coffee, donuts, candy, and win free stuff? Stop by, and say Hi on any one of these days. We'll be looking forward to seeing you.

Monday, September 11
Library Hallway
8 am to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12
Otto's 10 am to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, September 13
Library Hallway
8 am to 1 p.m.

Thursday, September 14
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September 14, 2000
11-1 in Tower Lounge
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Tim Chimuk, CFP
Greg Klassen
Sarah Strome, SA VP of Finance
Financial Awareness Booth
in Library hallway from 10-2

Your Students' Association at work for you!

Hail to the bus pass

New discounted bus pass gets mixed reviews

By Carly Peters

If you are a post-secondary student who takes the bus on a regular basis Winnipeg Transit wants to give you a break.

Transit has introduced the Post Secondary Monthly Pass (PSMP), which gives university and Red River College students 20 per cent off the regular Monthly Pass price.

The PSMP will cost you $47.75 instead of the regular $59.70 when you show your student I.D. and receive a validation sticker.

But despite their good intentions Transit's new pass is receiving mixed reviews from some RRC students.

"Twenty per cent is dick-all," says Troy Deda, a pre-employment carpentry student. "When you take the bus as much as students do it should be 40 per cent."

"High school students pay half of what we pay and they're not the ones paying for school, tuition, and books," says Magda Pokora, a RRC physics student, who also feels 20 per cent, is not enough.

"If you drive a car it's even more expensive with parking and gas. It's a no win situation," says Pokora.

Others see a more positive side to the new pass.

"It's excellent", says Christopher Marko, a RRC IST student. "It will save a lot over time. I choose to take a 30-minute bus ride rather than pay for parking and gas and car maintenance."

Darcy Gauthier, another a RRC student agrees with Marko.

"It's very reasonable, compared to the regular adult fare. It's a good start. Hopefully the pass will continue next year," says Gauthier.

Robyn Osmond, Red River College Students' Association vice president of Student Affairs, says the reduction has been in the process for a long time.

"They have been working on it for over two years," she says.

Despite the effort to reduce the fares Osmond says Transit can not guarantee the pass will be available for the following school year.

Its continuance depends on how many passes are sold this year.

Winnipeg Transit has placed restrictions on who can purchase the Post Secondary Monthly Pass. You must be a full or part-time student to be eligible for the new pass. This means the PSMP is not available to Continuing Education and Apprenticeship students or for Handi-Transit service.

It is also restricted to Red River College, University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba and College Universitaire de Saint Boniface students only.

Validation stickers for your student cards and the PSMP are available at the Crazy Ox bookstore.

The PSMP is a trial run for the 2000/2001 school year to see if Transit use amongst post-secondary students will rise.

Out of service

By Leif Little

A strike by Loomis Armored Car Service Ltd. is causing some disruptions to the CIBC instant teller between the Cave and the Red River College Students' Association office.

Loomis is in charge of depositing and withdrawing cash from bank machines in Winnipeg, including the only bank machine on campus. The strike currently affects Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

RRC Auxiliary Services director Cliff Packer, who is in charge of getting Loomis to stock the bank machine, says the students were not overly inconvenienced by the strike.

"We have Interac machines set up. We are able to accommodate students with cash advances and I have had no individual come to my attention and complain," says Packer.

Students' Association receptionist Fay Wilken says the empty machine did generate frustration among students who tried to access it.

"We had lots of complaints about it. A lot of people weren't even aware that Loomis was on strike," says Wilken.

Wilken did try to direct cash-strapped students to other facilities in the college where they might get money.

"I told students they could get money from the Crazy Ox with their Interac card," said Wilken.

The Crazy Ox tried to accommodate students who were making a purchase, says Ox manager Todd Buchanan.

"Cash back is something we've always offered students. Food services charges a dollar, but we don't charge anything, as long as the student is making a purchase," said Buchanan.

Buchanan is expecting more students asking for cash back as the CIBC machine is empty once more.

An angry RRC student, who had attempted to withdraw cash says not being able to upset him.

"There was no money in the machine, it made me angry."

Loomis employees are on strike for higher wages, increased job security and seniority rights.

Canada Student Loans

Important News About Your Canada Student Loan

As of August 1, 2000 there are important changes to the Canada Student Loans Program.

If you already have a Canada Student Loan or plan to get one, make sure you get the latest information now.

Call 1 800 O CANADA
or visit www.canlearn.ca

Canada

Time to roll up your sleeves

Shots aimed at stopping epidemic

By Andrew Buck

Red River College staff are preparing to roll up their sleeves in an effort to combat influenza.

The Health Centre is offering flu vaccinations free of charge to RRC staff members as part of a preventive health measure. The vaccinations, which cost RRC about five dollars each, will be administered Monday to Friday during the weeks of October 23 and October 30 in the Health Centre, HM08.

"We have seen the effects of a flu epidemic at Red River before. It affects staff health and student services," says Shane Wood, Health Centre manager.

"If a staff member goes down with the flu we don't have any substitutes to take over the class. It becomes important to protect instructors."

Wood noted staff often catch the disease from students, especially during the peak flu months of December and April.

"Studies have shown the vaccination is 70 per cent effective in keeping people from getting the flu, and can lesson symptoms if the disease is contracted. The vaccination has proven to be safe, and the only side effects I am aware of are tenderness in the injection site, and a heavy feeling in the arm for 72 hours," Wood says.

This is the second year RRC has offered the vaccinations free of charge to staff members.

Last year, 230 staff members took advantage of the service. Wood says feedback from a post-immunization survey distributed last year was positive. Of the respondents, 97 per cent said the vaccination protected them from the flu and they would use the service again.

photo: Katie Chalmers

First-year Developmental Service Worker Candice Thornson valiantly demonstrates how RRC is planning on stopping a potential influenza epidemic at the college this winter

One of those staff members is Naomi Krasovec, Health Information Technologist program leader.

"I'm taking advantage of the service again, for my own protection. Anybody in a crowded institute is vulnerable," she explains. "You reduce the wear and tear on yourself."

"I'm taking advantage of the service again, for my own protection. Anybody in a crowded institute is vulnerable."

Naomi Krasovec

Krasovec sees the vaccination as a preventive move, adding it is clear everyone, not just the elderly and those with chronic health problems, can benefit.

Wood agrees. RRC's immunization program is running independently of the Manitoba Public Health influenza campaign recently announced. The province plans to distribute 255,000 flu vaccinations at a cost of $637,000 in an attempt to prevent future sicknesses among high-risk patients who typically fill Manitoba hospitals during winter months. This is a funding increase of 50 per cent from last year.

RRC students who are health care workers are advised to contact their doctors for information about receiving the vaccination free of charge.

People with allergies to eggs or egg products, a sensitivity to the preservative timersol, active neurological conditions, who currently have fever or infection symptoms, pregnant, or think they are pregnant, are advised not to receive the flu vaccination.

"A flu shot is a small price to pay for the alternative to coming down with the flu," Wood says. "The responses are flooding in, I'm anticipating 300 staff members."

The Health Centre requests interested staff call the Health Centre at 632-2583 before September 29 to set up an appointment.

Feds and banks fail to agree on student loans

By Wendy Shupenia

While you may get your student loan at a bank, it is the federal government who is now responsible for lending the money to students.

Contract renewal for the Canada Student Loan program was not achieved by the July 31, 2000 deadline between the federal government and the four lending institutions: Royal Bank of Canada, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia, and les Caisses populaires du Manitoba.

Although the five-year contract with these chartered banks expired July 31, 2000, they will process Canada Student Loans until March 31, 2001.

"Despite unfavourable contract negotiations, continued processing of Canada Student Loans is good relations with students," says Dustin Carlson of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Because the five banks are extending their services by processing Canada Student Loans until March 31, 2001, students should not experience any difficulties.

The C.I.B.C. says students must remember Canada Student Loans processed after July 31, 2000 are with the federal government and no longer with the bank.

To maintain interest-free status there are two options:

If borrowing from the same bank who processed previous Canada Student Loans, submitting Copy 22A which is part of the Certificate of Eligibility is sufficient.

If processing a Canada Student Loan after July 31, 2000 with a bank different than previous loans, students must complete a Confirmation of Enrollment and Continuation of Interest-Free Status Form (Schedule 2) within 30 days of the date on the Certificate of Eligibility.

The Canada Student Loan office declined to comment how loans will be processed after March 31, 2001.

For more information call 1-888-432-7377 or view the Human Resources Development Canada web-site www.canlearn.ca.

Thievery Corporation
The Mirror Conspiracy

The Mirror Conspiracy is the hotly-anticipated new 4AD album from Washington DC-based Eric Hilton and Rob Garza, aka Thievery Corporation. Their bounty is an endless treasure chest of ideas old, new, borrowed and cool. The Mirror Conspiracy skips through Asian and reggae dubplates, lounge, breaks, beats, and bossanova along the way.

Paul Van Dyk
Out there and back

One of the most eagerly awaited dance albums of recent years, Out There And Back is the third long player from Germany's Midas-touched Paul van Dyk.
In the three years since his last album Paul has grown in profile and status from a respected DJ, remixer and producer to one of the biggest names in the world of dance music. From Berlin to Miami Beach and most parts in between, Paul's distinctive strain of electronic music is continually expanding the horizons of an ever-growing dance culture. The sound that Paul pioneered has now taken the world by storm - making it impossible to have a night out anywhere in the world without hearing his influence.

Out There And Back is an album that clearly decrees where dance music is headed; towards a tougher more inspiring club sound of which van Dyk is the master. The album starts with the serenely emotive "Vega" then smoothly develops into the massive "Alive," saturating the pumping beats with a lavish vocal, entirely capturing the spirit of Paul's music by finding a perfect balance between power and emotion. As he continues to grow more and more popular with every waking hour, that spirit appears to be a universal language, becoming understood by music lovers of every nation in every part of the world.

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RANCID

Punkers Rancid are back with a fresh dose of relentless punk rock music on their 5th CD, sneakily titled "Rancid". Rabid Rancid fans have been waiting two years for this shattering new effort, and they won't be disappointed. With tracks like "Let Me Go", combining melody, punk rock intensity, and surprising wah-wah guitars, Rancid deliver upon expectations and then some. "It's Quite Alright" - blasts through an almost 60s-pop melody sucked of sweetness by Tim Armstrong's hoarse, Marine-on-duty voice.
The band has also added a few new elements to their songs, but mostly on "Rancid" they ratchet up the speed and turn up the volume. You'll even find they added a dose of ska to their punk rock for an addictive combination.

SINCLAIRE

Attention Teenage Girls

Emerging from the shackles of the London, Ontario hardcore scene in 1997, Sinclaire quickly found a solid fan base amongst both sweet young girls and sensitive, sweater-vest wearing lads alike.

Growing up quickly on the Southern Ontario hardcore circuit, it often seemed as if Sinclaire were the odd band out on most bills they appeared on. Looks, however, can be more than a little deceiving. Equally at home in front of Hardcore and Backpack kids alike, the band bent to the task of perfecting their live show and writing some incredibly catchy, not to mention incredibly good, songs. With the release of 2 EPs behind them, Sinclaire entered the studio this past April to record "Attention Teenage Girls", their full-length debut release. Bringing to mind the music of the hook-filled early 80's, when Cheap Trick and Rick Springfield were king, mixed with the pop-rock sensibility of Jimmy Eat World and Knapsack, it is certain that Sinclaire is going to be the band that will grab a hold of the place in your head that loves music and will refuse to let go.

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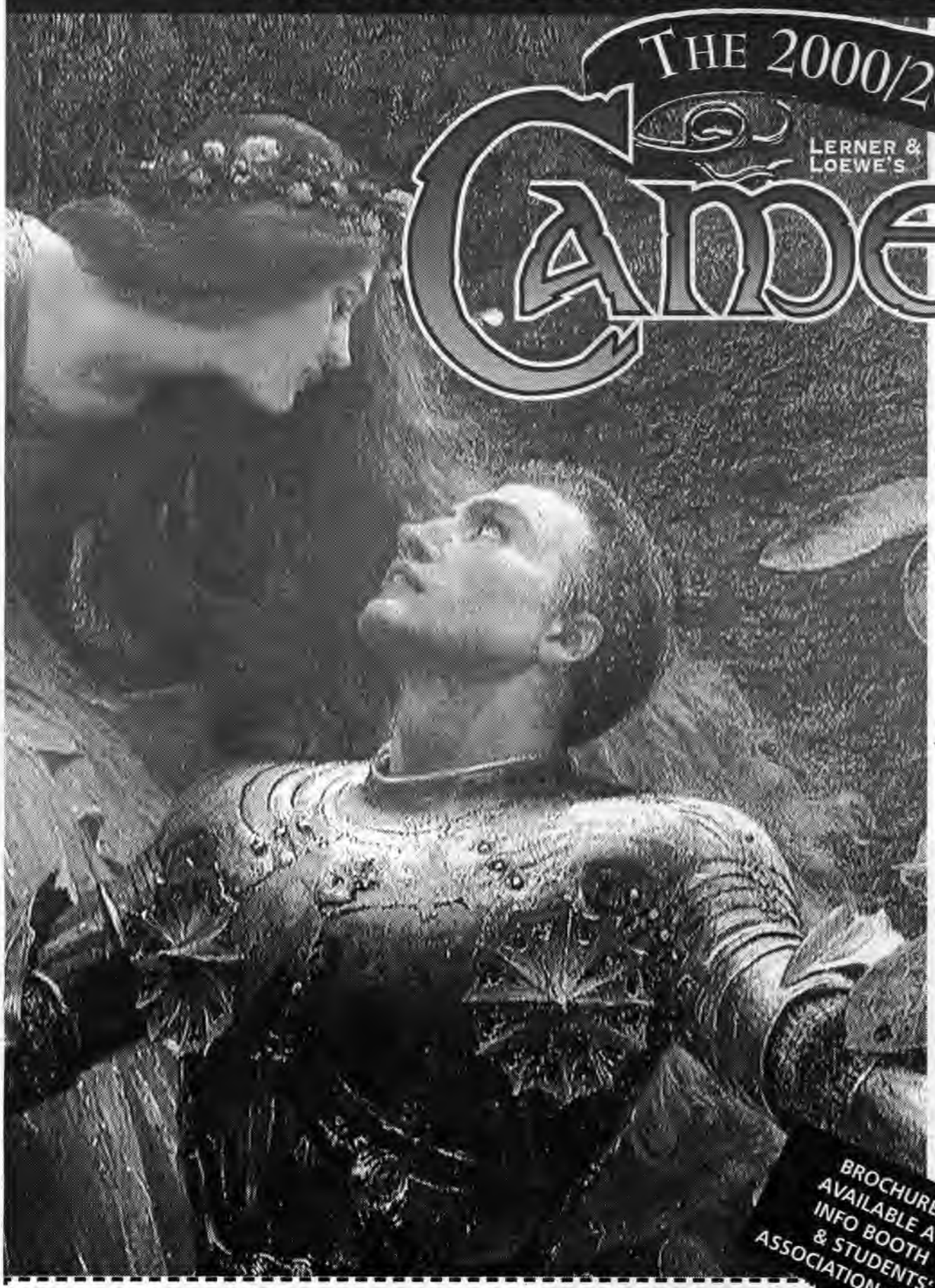

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Mon E 07 ⊘	8pm	Oct 23	Nov 27	Jan 8	Feb 12	Mar 19	April 23
Tue E 08 ⊘ T	7:30pm	Oct 24	Nov 28	Jan 9	Feb 13	Mar 20	April 24
Wed E 10	8pm	Oct 25	Nov 29	Jan 10	Feb 14	Mar 21	April 25
Thu E 11	8pm	Oct 26	Nov 30	Jan 11	Feb 15	Mar 22	April 26
Mon E 15 ⊘ M	8pm	Oct 30	Dec 4	Jan 15	Feb 19	Mar 26	April 30
Tue E 16 ⊘ T	7:30pm	Oct 31	Dec 5	Jan 16	Feb 20	Mar 27	May 1
Wed E 18	8pm	Nov 1	Dec 6	Jan 17	Feb 21	Mar 28	May 2
Thu E 19	8pm	Nov 2	Dec 7	Jan 18	Feb 22	Mar 29	May 3
Mon E 23 ⊘	8pm	Nov 6	Dec 11	Jan 22	Feb 26	April 2	May 7
Tue E 24 ⊘ T	7:30pm	Nov 7	Dec 12	Jan 23	Feb 27	April 3	May 8
Wed E 26	8pm	Nov 8	Dec 13	Jan 24	Feb 28	April 4	May 9
Thu E 27	8pm	Nov 9	Dec 14	Jan 25	Mar 1	April 5	May 10

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Two left feet ok for new club

By Sara Williscroft

Instead of dancing on the buffet tables, students with a flair for dancing will have the opportunity to show their rhythm as part of the Red River College Dance Club.

In the Voyageur Cafeteria this year, students will be dancing the Conventional North American Style Tango and West Coast Swing as part of the RRC Dance Club.

Dale Watts, Dean of Industrial Technologies, spearheaded the club, modeling it after the University of Alberta's dance program.

Last year as a pilot project, the RRC Dance Club gained support by both the faculty and the student body.

Watts has seven years of dance training, with a total of four competitions on his resume. While Red River College's program will not include competitions, Watts says he hopes the program will get to the competitive stage one day.

Purely for fun

"I think the program will definitely head in that direction, but for now it's purely for fun."

Watts says the Dance Club requires no experience for involvement. He encourages anyone from pro to novice to take part.

People who like music, who like to relieve stress from their hard academic schedules, and who like to meet people, will find themselves at home in the program, he says.

Watts stresses learning the dances, not trying to keep up with the professionals.

"The object is to learn the steps. You have to recognize that experienced dancers have been dancing for years."

No partner needed

Watts says both genders are welcomed. A partner is not mandatory. The program is open to all staff and students as well as the general public. He encourages students and staff to participate because of the special discount made possible by the Staff-RR-Us organization.

"The Staff-RR-Us organization involves students and staff and provides discounts and seed money for new programs. Everyone who is a Staff-RR-Us member which includes every student and staff member at Red River College, will have the $15 membership fee waived at registration," Watts explains.

He says to pay for staff and other services, students and staff will pay a course fee of $60 which will translate into a mere $3 an hour for 10 weeks of instruction.

Each class runs two hours from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday nights starting October 3, 2000. RRC students and staff interested will be asked to fill out a registration form available in room C116 or phone 632-2408. Watts says there is a minimum number of 12 students per class, so be sure to register early.

photo: David Cooper for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet

The Conventional North American Style Tango and West Coast Swing will be gracing the floors of the Voyager Cafeteria.

Watts says he believes leisure dancing will lead to stronger social skills, improved confidence, and insists it will be something to hold on to.

Life lesson

"If you learn something new in this stage of your life, it'll stay with you forever."

Watts says his dream is to someday have a club comparable to the University of Alberta's.

"The University of Alberta has 2,000 members, while the University of Calgary has 1,400," he says.

Watts says he is confident one day the RRC Dance Club will have these kinds of numbers.

Looking for a home away from home

By Lisa Thomson

Red River College students still looking for a place to live can drop their bags and find affordable housing with a few clicks of a mouse.

A new housing directory has been created by the Red River College Students' Association to aid students looking for a place to hang their hats.

Located online at www.rentmb.com/rrcsa the directory features reasonably priced housing for students in a user friendly format.

It features the location, rent, and type of living space, as well as some more detailed descriptions.

Sarah Strome, RRC Students' Association vice president of financial and support services, says the new directory is a great alternative to the old directory which consisted of a flyer that was often out of date by the time it was printed.

"I had people coming and telling me that out of the first 20 numbers they tried, 16 had already rented the place or decided against it", says Strome.

She says, the idea of an online directory was first discussed in April of last year, but at such a late point in the school year it was put on the back burner.

The idea was finally implemented this August after it was promoted to possible renters. The Students' Association promoted their project in community newspapers to people who were looking to rent out rooms, studios, apartments, and houses to students at student-friendly prices.

Strome says the result of this campaign has been beneficial to both students and landlords.

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Disappointed

Each and every day I am disappointed by the contents of my mailbox in the Students' Association office.

Sure, I get the usual junk mail, press releases which fail to make any point and annual reports -yawn. The one thing I look for as my hand scrapes the bottom of the mailbox is not there.

There are no letters-to-the-editor, again.

Not one student has taken 10 minutes to transfer their rage onto a piece of paper and drop it off in my mailbox at the SA office.

Apparently, there are only three people in the entire student body at Red River College who have opinions and are not afraid to express them. Their columns appear in every issue of *the Projector* on the Opinion page.

Surely there are more than three people who care about what is happening to them when they are at RRC. By the contents of my mailbox, I would think the students at RRC are drones marching to classes and habitually taking their brown paper-bag lunch to the Buffalo Cafeteria at noon.

The contents of my mailbox leads me to believe nothing ever bothers RRC students, they just continue on their merry way without noticing what is happening at the side of the road.

This is Canada and the last time I checked, you could still say whatever you wanted to without serving some serious jail time or being gunned down by the government.

Despite the assumptions my mailbox leads me to make, I constantly hear students complaining about something in the hallways.

Here is my message to them - shut up and write it down for crying out loud.

The power of words is unmeasurable and RRC students do not realize the potential of an intelligent letter to the editor. If it is printed, your peers, teachers and administrators, not to mention countless others, all read your point. They become aware of your issue and they may agree or disagree.

Heck, they might even write a letter-to-the-editor in response.

You, a lone student who came out from behind your student number to claim yourself a free thinker, has started a chain-reaction.

Ah, the sheer beauty of an intelligent expression of opinions. The thought brings a tear to my eye.

The fact of the matter still remains. Students at RRC would rather keep their opinions to themselves, be them good or bad. For what reason, I can only speculate.

Maybe students at RRC feel no point in getting involved in anything since they are only at RRC for two or three years.

Two or three years is quite a chunk out of a student's life.

Why not get involved, express your opinion, send me a letter-to-the-editor.

Once you finish at RRC, no one is going to invite you to share your opinion. Now is your chance RRC, do not let it pass you by.

~ Kyla Duncan

photo: Katie Chalmers

We want to hear from you!

If you've got an opinion about something and can sum it up in 350 words drop us a letter with your name, department and phone number to:

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A Liberal tragedy

As was widely reported, a MP in town for the federal Liberal caucus meeting had a hair-raising experience at the Fort Garry Hotel last August.

Ontario MP Brenda Chamberlain says she demanded another room after she felt a creepy presence climb into bed with her one night.

But while Chamberlain was busy adding to the 87-year-old hotel's colourful history, Winnipeg was beset by its own phantom menace - the aged, skeletal remains of the Liberal dynasty.

There seems to be little doubt the Liberal empire is ready to crumble, and last month's caucus meeting played out like one of the final acts of a Shakespearean tragedy.

There was Jean Chretien, the mad king, babbling something about "Blockwell Day," like a pathetic King Lear begging to be heard.

Often plotted against, always maligned, King Chretien is the epitome of the bloated Liberal oligarchy that has ruled this nation, for the most part, since the heady days of Trudeaumania.

Hovering around him were Paul Martin's forces, keeping their mouths shut and their eyes open while dreaming of the day their conniving Macbeth can steal the throne.

While there may have been a ghostly spirit wandering about the Fort Garry Hotel last month, the scariest thing about the Liberal caucus meeting is it reminds us of the fact that Canada is facing at least five more years of Liberal tyranny.

Sadly, with the only alternative being a loose-knit yet oh-so tightly wound alliance of gun nuts and fiscal conservatives, it seems Canadians will have little choice but to watch the Liberal playbill of wasteful spending and unparalleled hypocrisy be extended a few more acts.

The virtual destruction of the Progressive Conservatives in the 1993 federal election combined with the rise of the useless rump aptly dubbed the Bloc Quebecois means the Liberal empire will be able to reign for years to come while remaining completely unaccountable to the electorate.

This tragi-comedy has gone on long enough.

Down with the king.

~ Adam Clayton

Winnipeg tax cuts

Sometimes it's amazing, simply amazing, to sit back and watch our government hard at play with our money.

The mayor was elected, in part, on a platform which promised weary tax drunk Winnipeggers a 10 per cent reduction in civic taxes by the end of his mandate.

It's funny how 'tax cuts' become a reality in this city.

At the prompting of Murray's executive policy committee, city bureaucrats are drawing up a proposal to institute a user fee system for garbage collection to replace the $75 charge on the property tax bill.

The proposal, if adopted by city council, would see homeowners paying $1.50 for every bag that is put to the curb.

Doing the math, a household would have to throw out less than 50 bags of garbage in a year in order to reap any hint of a tax saving.

That's approximately one bag of garbage per household per week, any deviation and city coffers begin to swell with new money.

You should almost be able to hear the drewl flowing at city hall as the autumn leafs turn colour and fall from their lofty branches, destined to be raked in by the city landfill.

While Ontario is busy hacking away at the provincial income tax and Alberta is cutting cheques for everyone over the age of 16, Winnipeg has found away to eliminate a tax and still have residents pay more money.

The only thing more bizarre than how a tax cut works in Winnipeg is how it will be enforced.

To prevent an onslaught of subversive garbage tax revolutionaries, the city will be forced to hire a secret squad of garbage police, as have other cities who have implemented simular schemes.

Under the cover of darkness they will rummage through garbage bags like starving raccoons to make sure people aren't using oversized bags or tossing their garbage a curb farther than they should.

There you have it.

The Winnipeg tax cut.

Guaranteed to either have homeowners shelling out more money or on the lam from the dreaded garbage police.

~ Sean Thiessen

PROFILE

Colin Mochrie

Struggling with celebrity

Star of Whose Line is it Anyway? jokes around with the Projector

By Catherine Ogloza

With the addictive hit Survivor recently ending its successful stint as the biggest voyeuristic TV show in history, comedian Colin Mochrie already has a sequel in mind.

Sort of.

Sustaining the stride maintained by the talented panel of skilled satirists on the ABC hit show Whose Line is it Anyway?, Mochrie's mission was to name the world's worst idea for a voyeuristic television show.

"I think that would be 50 days in a closet with Martha Stewart," Mochrie chuckles. "You would have to go in there and, using only the things you find in the closet, make your clothes, and survive for 50 days."

The quick-witted Mochrie didn't realize the comedic skills he possessed until the latter years of high school. It wasn't until the subdued, shy student entered a school play on a whim that his hidden talent emerged and his career path surfaced.

"I was studying to become a marine biologist," Mochrie explains, "and on a dare, I got into a school play and I got my first laugh, and that was it. I thought, this is what I want to do for the rest of my life. I want to hear those laughs."

And he has. The Vancouver-raised Mochrie joined the local Theatresports improv group after high school, which led to theatre school, which led to his inevitable meeting with his future Whose Line co-star Ryan Stiles.

In addition to multiple appearances in TV commercials and films, Mochrie can also add The Comedy Network's Improv Heaven and Hell, Supertown Challenge, Black Fly, George and Martha, and the Second City improv group to his resume.

When a spot opened up in Toronto, Stiles recommended Mochrie to fill the position. This is where Mochrie met his future wife, comedienne Deb McGrath.

Mochrie has also appeared on the U.K. version of Whose Line (a part he auditioned for and initially didn't get). It wasn't until a second audition, and, thanks again to Stiles, that Mochrie became a permanent fixture.

In Black Fly, a Canadian historical sitcom scheduled to air on Global this fall, Mochrie plays Entwhistle, "a likeable yet befuddled soldier of the British Crown."

Mochrie, along with his wife, also does voice-over work on the cartoon series George and Martha, where he lends his voice to a hyena as well as a sexually ambiguous alligator.

Finally, Mochrie appears in the upcoming John Travolta flick Numbers.

But aside from scripted performances, Mochrie identifies improv as his primary passion

because of the instant gratification it provides.

"When you do well, you get a laugh right away, and there is no feeling like that. And the thing with improv - it's the most death-defying I'll ever get without having to put my body at risk.

I like the fact that we're in charge of our destiny. If it sucks, it's because we didn't do very well, and if we did do well, it's because we're on top of things," says Mochrie.

"In improv, there's no one to blame except yourself, and that's what I really enjoy about it, having that autonomy," he adds.

He must be doing something right. Mochrie was the recipient of the Canadian Comedy Award for Best Male Improviser a mere few months ago. But what could have prepared Colin for a life of laughter?

"I once had to dress up as a chicken for a chicken franchise called Uncle Fred's Chicken in Vancouver," laughs Mochrie as he reminisces on the oddest job he's ever held (aside from improv).

"It was brutal! They used to drive me around - and I'm not quite sure what the logic was behind this - I would be dressed in this chicken outfit, the publicist would drive me around in her VW Rabbit, and take me to various radio stations, and I would come on and cluck while the DJs made fun of my legs!" says Mochrie.

"I'm not really sure why I had to dress up for that," says Mochrie, "but they made me! I had to hand out pamphlets, kids were crying, I got attacked by a Doberman - it was not one of the better jobs I'd had."

Those days of donning poultry ensembles and making babies cry are far behind him, although Mochrie admits that, on the surface, they do bear a resemblance to his more recent days on Whose Line is it Anyway?

"I get paid much better for one thing," he snickers, "and all the humiliation is actually at my hands. I have some control over it."

The self-described "very polite" Toronto resident is currently entering his third year as a regular on the American version of Whose Line, and according to Mochrie, it's the best possible life for him.

"We're having a great time. I'd love to do it for as long as I can," he says.

"For a lazy guy, it's the best job in the world, you just show up and do it. You don't have to really know anything, you just have fun. And as long as the bones are holding up, I don't see why we can't do it well into our 70s."

Aside from the grandeur of being a celebrity, there are also some downfalls.

"I don't look as good as I think I do when I look in the mirror!" he laughs.

"Whenever I switch the channel and I see the show I go, 'My God, I have more hair when I look in the mirror. Why don't I have that on television?'" asks Mochrie.

"And I look a little pudgier!" he adds. "I'm svelte, I have a lot of hair, and I'm really tanned - but it just doesn't show up on television! I don't know what to do about that. If you could just spread the word!"

But just as some other popular personalities use their celebrity for the goodness of others, Mochrie says he has a plan on how to unite countries at war.

"I'm trying to teach the world to use improv to make the world a better place," Mochrie states. "If four men with such different backgrounds and likes and dislikes can get together and make the world laugh, then why can't countries get together?"

In a serious tone, he continues. "It would be interesting, like instead of wars, the leaders had to get up and do a hoe-down. Whoever did the worst one, well, then, they'd be the losers!"

"Y'know, that'd solve a lot more problems, and people would be willing to work things out more," says Mochrie. "If they knew that they were facing having to do a hoe-down, they would go out of their way to try and maybe bend a little, compromise."

Concluding with a chuckle, and after having tagged the hoe-down as his least favourite of the Whose Line improvs, Mochrie adds, "Believe me!"

Of course, the idea of having to spend 50 days in a closet with Martha Stewart may work just as well in ending global warfare.

Livid set to become all the rage?

RRC student's band hopes Frosh Week gig leads to bigger, better things

By Kelly Stifora

You may not have heard of Livid yet.

After all, the five member rock band hailing from Neepawa, Manitoba, have played only four shows since they formed in 1996 (one of which was at Red River College on September 8th).

However, if lead singer Nick Martin has his way, that is going to change.

Martin is a first-year Creative Communications student at RRC and one of the band's founding members.

"It's lame when a band just stands there playing their instruments. Something has to happen on stage if you want people to come back," says Livid frontman Nick Martin.

"We didn't want to bother getting any gigs until we had our own songs to play," says Martin. "Right now, we have to play covers at the longer shows, but our Red River show was all original."

Livid is also working on their debut seven-track CD, Daylong Apathy. Recorded at Studio 10 in Brandon, the disc is currently being mastered, and will be available at Livid shows as soon is it's finished and pressed.

Martin and fellow band members, Scott Kasprick (lead guitar), Cory Pritchard (bass), Kevin Schmidt (drums) and Paul Baker (rhythm guitar) will also begin sending the album to major record labels and radio stations. The aim is to build a reputation in the local scene, but a record deal offer would definitely be welcome.

photo: Katie Chalmers

Creative Communications student Nick Martin says getting signed is Livid's "major goal."

"To get signed, of course, is our major goal," says Martin. "But it's also important to build a solid fan base, and never leave them disappointed."

Martin, who once played drums and sang for the band, also plays guitar and bass and is now Livid's dedicated front man. He says he also believes in the importance of putting on a good show.

"It's lame when a band just stands there playing their instruments. Something has to happen on stage if you want people to come back," says Martin.

So what can people expect from a Livid show?

"We play heavy, guitar-based rock, and now that I'm not playing drums anymore, I jump around a lot and try to get the crowd going. That's why the band agreed that I should be up front, and not behind the drum set."

The songs are written collaboratively by the band. "Someone will bring in a riff, and then the song will take shape through jamming." He writes the lyrics at the end of the process," says Martin.

"We get compared to bands like Tool, Finger Eleven, Pearl Jam and Creed a lot," he says.

A sampling of song titles includes Pathetic Sympathetic, T-Bike, and Reassurance.

"Most of them are written from a first person perspective, they're observations on people and behaviour," says Martin.

Livid plans to play as many shows as they can around Winnipeg this winter, and Martin is hoping people will come and check them out.

"What makes us different from other bands, I think, is that we not only enjoy playing music - we have an appreciation for what it is and what it can do for other people," says Martin.

Audience the real loser in Highlander: Endgame

By Rayna Anderson

Christopher Lambert proves in the fourth Highlander movie two heads are barely better than one.

Highlander: End Game brings together the immortal Scottish kinsmen Connor and Duncan MacLeod.

Connor MacLeod (Christopher Lambert) is the rough and tortured Scotsman who made the original movie a cult classic.

After two sequels, it was spun off into a television series staring one of Connor's ancestors, Duncan (Adrian Paul), whose finesse and accent made him believable.

If you didn't know this already, you should not see the movie.

The producers seem to assume everyone going to see this movie is a fan and they know what being an immortal is all about. There are a lot of crucial facts a person needs to know that the movie doesn't explain. For instance, why Connor suffers so much from Heather's death and who the Watchers are and their link to the Immortals.

The look of the movie will be very familiar to fans of the series. It has the same grainy, tinted appearance as the show. In fact, it looks eerily like the show. You get the feeling this 82-minute movie is a two-part episode that never aired.

The producers didn't even spring for fancy pyrotechnics for the fight scenes. All you get is the same low-budget excess of sparks when metal hits metal.

Also, the only way an immortal can die is to have his head chopped off, a process called the Quickening. Even these momentous moments seem to be the same computer-generated ones seen on the TV series, only now on a big screen.

There are some beautiful, and dizzying, fly-bys of the Scottish Highlands, castles, and lochs, but they seem somehow out of place. It seems the shots are the only part of the movie that received a fair slice of the budgetary pie.

Bruce Payne steals the spotlight as the delightfully evil Jacob Kell. His gang of rogue Immortals look out of place, like something out of A Clockwork Orange.

The frequent sword fighting scenes are beautifully choreographed. They are spoiled only by the fact they are obviously sped up a bit too much.

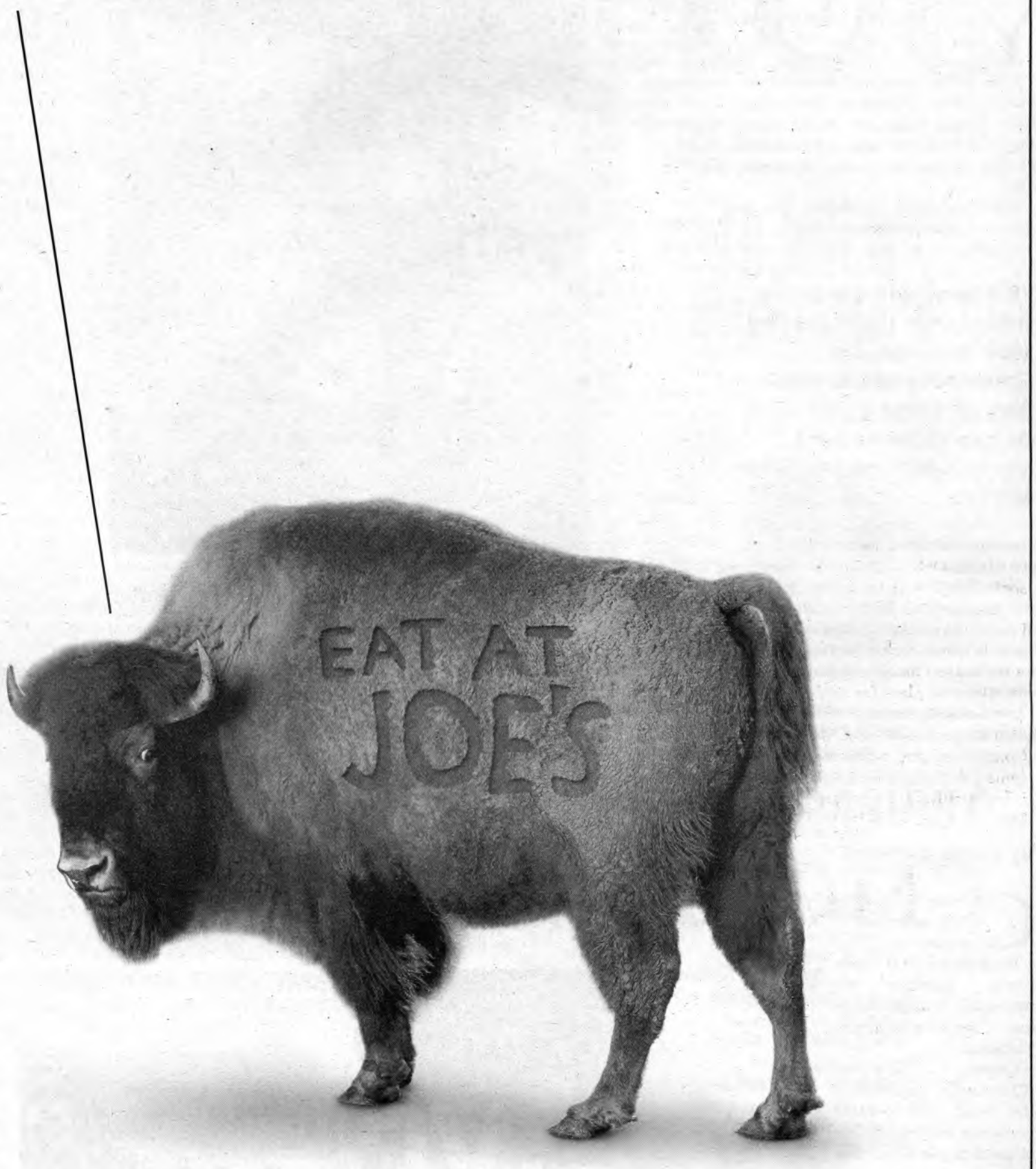
Also, halfway through the film we are subjected to the required love-scene-in-an-action-film. It moves cheesily between the past, with Harlequin novel-style lace and long hair, and the present, with neon lights reflecting off sweaty bodies.

Even though the title, End Game, seems to suggest that the film's producers are finally ready to stop beating this dead horse, they leave it wide open for more sequels and spin-offs.

The writers should have followed their own often repeated motto, "there can be only one" and left the first movie as a cult classic.

A little product placement, anyone?

Anyone else feel a draft?



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Yin & Yang

By Tamara King

Initially, the great halls of Red River College can seem a little bit frightening, with all those determined second-year Business Administration students striding confidently down the halls, so sure of where Building D is.

After the initial shock of registration day, navigating the halls of RRC wasn't so bad, and getting around the college became easier still. I began to discover some interesting places to hang out, buy lunch, and meet some more people like myself.

Personally, I was drawn to the mall level. Any place that claims to be a mall automatically wins my attention. It provides a temporary distraction from a busy life of study.

The Cave is an attractive meeting spot, reminiscent of a roller rink, with loud music and the smell of overcooked hot dogs hanging in the air. There's even a couple of pinball machines. The only thing missing is the actual roller rink. But at least you can listen to all the latest hits over the speakers.

If the thought of hot dogs is too overwhelming, there's always the pre-packaged goodness available at the Crazy Ox. Not only is it the junk food capital of the college, the revenue goes directly back to us, the students. And you can buy just about anything there, from coolies to used books to bobby pins. What a relief, having this store set up as a convenience for all of us. If you're ever in need of a fleece vest or some breath mints, you don't need to go very far.

Another source of junk food and inspiration: the Coke machines. And there are plenty of them. They are tucked into every corner of the college. Not only do we have cans, but bottles too. Compared to high school, where one machine serviced an entire school of 1200 people, these machines are a Godsend. Only a week into school, and already I noticed a Coca-Cola representative stocking up the machine.

Those seeking comfort and relaxation need look no further than the Tower Lounge. Home to 14 futons, the Lounge is a central meeting place for all those people who were awake far too late typing an assignment due far too soon.

Without so much as a glance at its academic standing, RRC can be seen as an attractive place for students. If you get lost, just head to a stairwell, and keep walking down. Eventually you'll hit the mall level, and then you can distract your poor, lost self by engaging in some mindless consumerism. Consider buying a hot dog, have a seat on one of those futons, and watch some TV.

Eventually, all those airport-like signs in the hallways will start to make sense, and you'll realize you're truly home.

By Andrew C. Langendorfer

OK, I admit it. I'm confused. In fact, I'm desperately, utterly, most inconceivably lost.

I'm a needle in a haystack, Stockwell at Folk Fest, and Joe Clark in Canada's political scope all to the power of 10.

At first, Red River College campus didn't seem that bad. I found the bookstore, after all. Mind you, the six-block lineup was probably helpful.

'I'm new," I thought. 'This will all work itself out in the end. I'll know this place like the back room of Movie Village before long.' Ha!

The signs are an experience. The arrows point up, left, right, left, down, right again, slantways, and everywhere except the direction of your destination.

Trying to find Building E is fun. Once you find the sign pointing the way, all you need to do is go up two flights of stairs and you're in building JQX42CXBLAH!

All signage aside, I manage to find my classrooms every day. I just leech onto one of my classmates and ride their soft, unsuspecting underbellies all the way to room E210.

Washroom breaks during class are fun, too. I always seem to try and pick the washroom with the greatest number of cross-legged polka dancers waiting for the cold sweaty porcelain lovin' of that lone-star pee receptacle we all hold so dear. Then I try to beat that record. It's always more challenging when one instructor runs five minutes into the 10-minute break.

But I think my personal favourite is the twobicle. For the gals who may not be familiar with the twobicle, it's found in a guy's washroom in the Mall Level near the book store. There are two toilets held therein: a poop toilet and a urinal. The kicker is that they're in THE SAME STALL. I'm sorry, but you'd need one helluva buddy system for that little arrangement to work out.

One final word about the washroom situation: look out for the guy's can that was recently converted to a classroom. It's kind of embarassing to have to take a whiz in front of an entire class of first-year Business Administration students.

I could delve into all of the college's architectural foibles that I've discovered thus far, but space simply doesn't allow.

Instead, let me just say that I feel like a mouse in a creepy, '60s-coloured, poorly planned maze.

Sometimes the fountains make it feel like an outside maze, but mostly they just spur my burning need to avail myself of the twobicle.

CMOR falling on deaf ears?

Damaged, missing speakers pose problem for RRC's radio station

By Andrea Slobodian

CMOR may once again be heard across Red River College when damaged speakers are replaced and disconnected speakers are turned back on.

"Some speakers have worn out, some we have disconnected on request by staff, others have been taken out of the walls by students, and maybe even staff members," says CMOR manager Jarred Nolan.

He says CMOR has to cut through administrative redtape in order to get the speakers fixed.

Owen Desnoyers, executive director of the RRC Students' Association, estimates 15 speakers are malfunctioning.

Desnoyers is currently working with the dean of student services to fix the speaker problem.

"We want to work in cooperation with the college," Desnoyers says.

Pat Bozyk, dean of student services, says she believes there needs to be a balance between the needs of the radio station and those of the students, which she describes as "two competing interests."

She says it is important for students to be provided with quiet study areas as well as a place for them to enjoy CMOR.

Desnoyers agrees.

"We want to give students a choice. If they want to hear loud music, they can sit in the Cave," he says.

Students will be able to find quiet places as well. Most speakers are currently on the mall level, far from upstairs classrooms.

Desnoyers and Nolan estimate it will be a month and a half for the speaker repairs to get started, and Nolan says he hopes to change CMOR's afflilitate station by that time as well.

CMOR is looking to replace current affiliate station HOT 103 with POWER 97 to better suit the demographics of RRC. A Students' Association census done last year shows RRC's popluation is on average males aged 18 to 29, the target audience of POWER 97.

"It is important to please the majority of students, to apply them with a service which will please the entire whole," says Nolan.

Currently, HOT 103 is on-air all day, but that will change once student DJs take over CMOR on September 11. HOT 103 will be heard between 4 p.m. and 8 a.m.

If POWER 97 becomes the affiliate sooner, then HOT 103 will no longer have the night shift. Nolan has spoken with POWER 97, and says the station is very interested in being CMOR's affiliate, but they have not yet worked out a deal.

"Being a real radio station, they have higher concerns with their paying advertisers. They are very interested, it is just a matter of dealing with their actual business matters, before CMOR," he says.

Some speakers have been "disconnected on request by staff, others have been taken out of the walls by students," says CMOR manager Jarred Nolan.

The Fake News

Tiny fingers on the trigger

War Child concert hopes to recruit kids as mini-soldiers

By Sean Thiessen

The Department of National Defence is busy shining its medals after announcing that Canadian content filler The Tragically Hip have agreed to perform at the department's latest recruiting drive in Winnipeg.

The Hip confirmed they will be performing at the War Child Canada concert at The Forks September 16 alongside other CRTC prodigies like Winnipeg's own Chantal Kreviazuk.

Kingston, Ontario's The Tragically Hip

"They said we would receive the Order of Canada, a date with Rita MacNeil with a guarantee she'll put out, and the number one spot on the MuchMusic countdown," says lead singer Gord Downie. "But in the end it's about the kids."

Announced by Defence Minister Art Eggleton over the summer, War Child Canada is a new initiative by the DND to increase the combat effectiveness and financial efficiency of Canada's fighting forces through the recruitment of child soldiers.

Eggleton praised the program during a recent round of NATO war games in Brussels.

"B-4? B-4! Why you rotten son of . . . you sunk my battle ship," says a defeated Eggleton looking beyond four red pegs.

"The recruitment of child soldiers is the perfect answer to Canada's defence needs," says Eggleton. "Their small size doubles our now thin transport capabilities while simultaneously halving our food and lodging expenses, and let me tell you nothing cleans a gun barrel like an 11-year-old girl's pinky finger."

Future of Canada's Armed Forces?

Eggleton says child soldiers have proven themselves time and time again in conflicts around the world. Test cases in Uganda, El Salvador, Cambodia, and Afghanistan have shown child soldiers to be cheap and easy to train and mould into deadly killing machines, proving themselves dispensable both during and after the conflict.

"Charlie's in the lights! Charlie's in the lights," says Eggleton from under his desk.

"They expect me to conduct over 23 missions around the world while cutting my budget 23 per cent over the last 10 years? Damn it Paul, I'm an accountant not a general!"

Eggleton pointed to his tattered game of Risk, essential to determining Canadian Forces deployment, as an example of the rough times that have befallen the Canadian military, the $2 price tag from the garage sale from which it was bought still taped to the box.

He says in addition to recruitment squads patrolling the War Child Canada concert, bilateral agreements have been reached with all provincial and territorial child welfare and education departments.

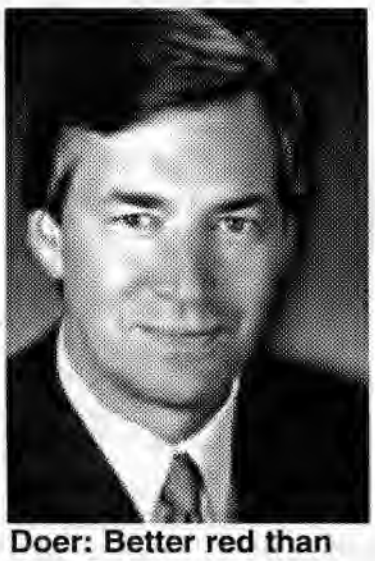
"They terrorize our schools and malls," says Eggleton, nervously measuring the purity of essence of his natural bodily fluids. "Their parents don't want to take care of them and the taxpayers don't want to pay for them. The Young Offenders Act can't reform them so uncle Artie will put them to good use. History will see it as panacea to all our nation's ills."

Doer proclaims 'communism now, communism forever' for Manitoba

Jubilant premier praises Marx, Lenin in wake of Bill 44 passing

By Adam Clayton

Premier Gary Doer says he's only a few steps away from transforming the province into a "worker's paradise" after his NDP government passed Bill 44, making it easier to form unions in Manitoba.



Doer: Better red than dead?

Doer says while there is still much work to be done before Manitoba's "capitalist oligarchy" is completely dismantled, his government "will easily crush any reactionary forces" who oppose future legislation.

"Transforming a province - a nation, is no easy task, my comrades," Doer told NDP supporters from the steps of the legislature. "But before long, we will purge the city of its bourgeoisie and the streets will run red with blood. Today Manitoba, tomorrow the world!"

Does the NDP have Lenin smiling in his grave?

Graham Starmer, who headed the Coalition of Manitoba Businesses in its opposition to Bill 44, calls Doer's comments "harsh and disturbing."

"Doer's pro-union rhetoric has always been over-the-top," says Starmer. "But when you start talking about 'hanging capitalist pigs from lampposts,' that's just going too far. I think he's become drunk with power."

With giant, Soviet-era banners of Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin hanging behind him, Doer thanked the communist demagogues for the "endless inspiration" they provided him during Bill 44's turbulent passing.

"You might say that every bill our government enacts has been co-written by the two great fathers of communism," says Doer.

When pressed for details on what this NDP manifesto means to Manitoba residents, Doer shouted "communism now, communism forever!"

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

Higher Learning?

A survey of RRC students yields some interesting results

By Katie Chalmers

Question: "Who is the Premier of Manitoba?"

Jennifer Lemay, first-year Administrative Assistant Program
A: "Gary Filmon . . . Is Gary Filmon still here?"

David Lemoing, first-year Computer Analyst Programmer Program
A: "I used to know that."

Holly Friesen, first-year Tourism Program
A: "What's his name . . . Gary. It's not Gary Doer is it?"

Answer: Gary Doer

Question: "Who are the two main U.S. presidential candidates?"

Johanne Beaudry, first-year Tourism Program
A: "I should know this and I don't."

Megan Deaust, first-year Tourism Program
A: "Is Hillary running?

Cory Brownson, second-year Greenspace Management
A: "Bush and Dole?"

Answer: George Bush Jr. and Al Gore

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2. Going "down under"
1. Nude Pole Vault

- by Kelly Stifora

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Drumming up success in Japan

By Connie Tamoto

For Makoto Ono grooving to the beat of a different drum is nothing new.

Last month the 22-year-old member of Manitoba's Hinode Taiko was the first ever Canadian to compete at the Japanese taiko drumming festival, Otaiko Hibiki 2000.

The festival, the largest of its kind in Japan, was a test of strength and ability, says Ono, who viewed the competition as an opportunity to assess his drumming abilities.

Placing third was only an added bonus.

"I was not expecting anything, I was surprised," says Ono. "I thought my drumming was good and I thought I did well."

The drum of choice for Ono was the Odaiko drum, the largest of the taiko drums, measuring two and a half meters in diameter (comparatively the size of a minivan).

Ono said he had never played on a drum that size before the competition, and was amazed at the sound which resonated from it.

Since he started drumming nearly nine years ago, Ono's abilities as a drummer and his passion for taiko music have grown stronger, and last year Ono took a chance at composing taiko music.

"I enjoy composing because I can express myself through the songs."

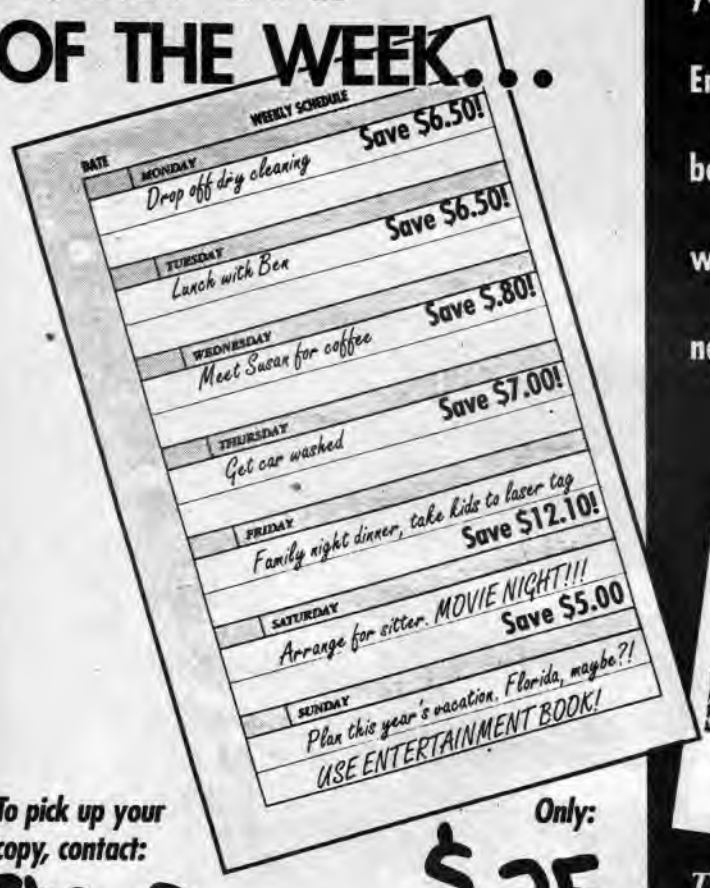
Ono says he hopes he will someday be able to have a solo concert, but for now he is more than satisfied with being part of the Hinode Taiko group.

Hinode Taiko is a volunteer group of avid taiko drummers who have been banging up a storm in Winnipeg for 18 years.

With the competition behind him, Ono says his focus is on Hinode Taikos' concert on November 4th to 5th at the Franco-Manitobain Culturel Centre.

However, if given the opportunity, Ono says he would like to go back to Japan to compete.

SAVINGS FOR EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK...



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Northern Pikes guitarist muses about new solo effort

By Catherine Ogloza

An indefinite hiatus experienced by Saskatoon's The Northern Pikes in 1994, combined with a dissolving marriage, caused Pike'r Bryan Potvin to slight his creative characteristics and disregard his songwriting and guitar playing.

"I really began to feel a void in my life," Potvin, who penned many popular Pikes tunes such as She Ain't Pretty and Dream Away, recalls.

"I felt as though my gift as a songwriter was either a fluke or that anyone could do it."

But the recent release of his debut solo album, Heartbreakthrough - a project on which Potvin spent most of last year recording - emanates his realization of how "humbling it is."

"The whole record is not all about just that kind of pain of a relationship ending," explains Potvin.

"The band also decided to desist working together," says Potvin.

"When a relationship with one person ends, there's sort of a ripple effect. It's usually just not that one person that you're not going to see anymore, there's a whole pile of people that you're not going to see anymore," says Potvin.

"That was, basically, the crux of the record, lyrically, and I think that first single (Read Between the Lines) sums it up," says Potvin.

Heartbreakthrough is indeed a personal breakthrough for Potvin, who prides himself on the fact he did this album on his own.

"Essentially, the difference between this record and a Pikes record is that I composed all the material, and I assembled a different cast of musicians."

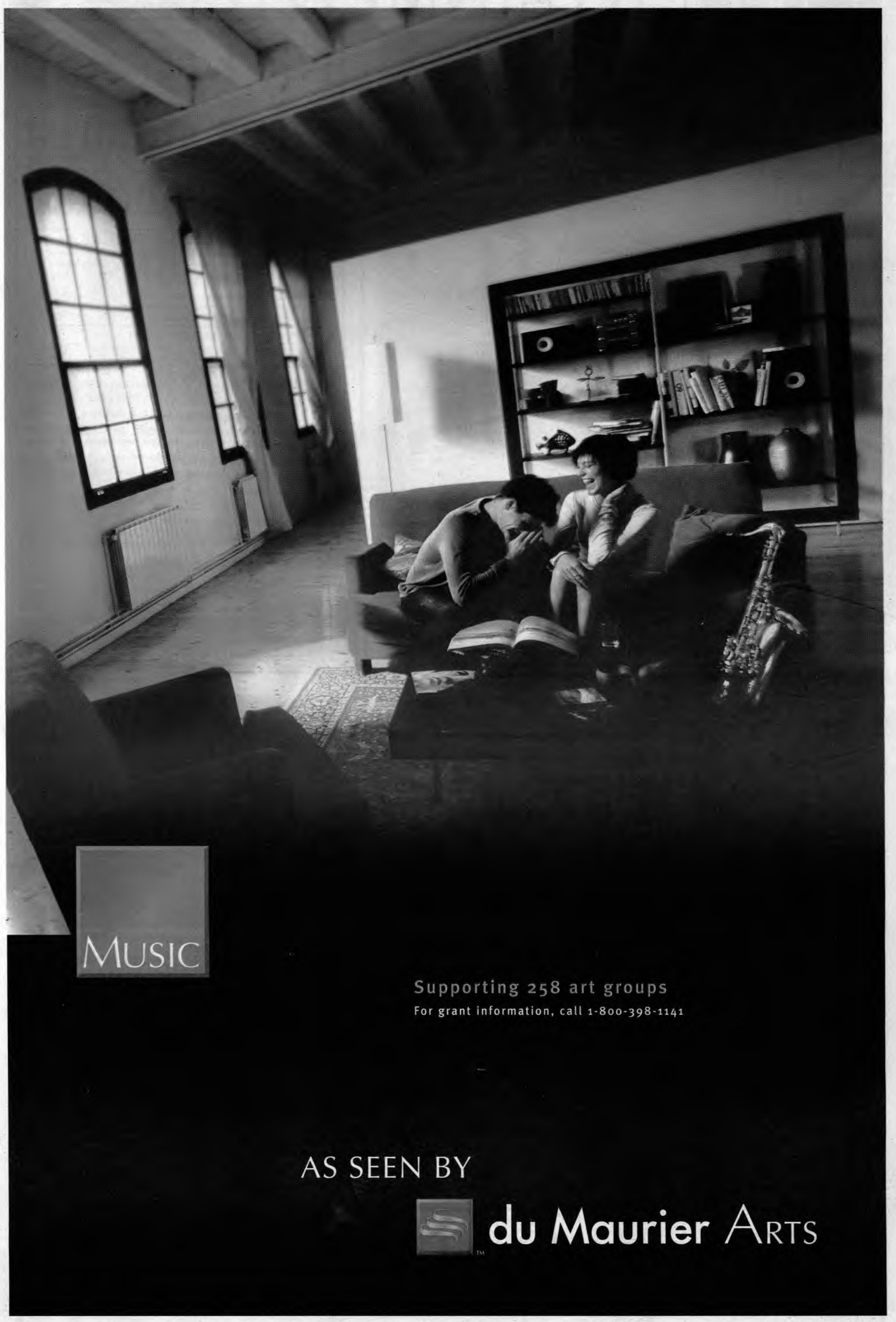
photo: Ann Gillespie

Produced by Terry Brown (Rush, Blue Rodeo, Moist), Heartbreakthrough is an emotional journey, both lyrically and musically.

"Music is very interpretive," Potvin says.

"Some people don't get it at all, and the people that do get it, I think, will understand it in their very own personal way."

Read the Projector!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