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News in Brief

RRC's Steinbach Regional Campus To Host Open House

An open house will be taking place at RRC's Steinbach Campus on Tuesday, Sept. 12th from 5pm to7pm. The event will present an excellent opportunity for the community to check out the new campus and find out program information whether they are a new or returning student.The new campus will fill 12,000 square feet of the Eastman Education Center with more space for students and new courses.

RRC Student Wins 2006 Garfield Weston Merit Scholarship

Second-year RRC accelerated nursing program student, Terri Wiebe, was one of 48 recipients to be awarded the 2006 Garfield Weston Merit Scolarship. The annual award given to students who demonstrate leadership, dedication to their studies, and are active within their community.

Wiebe has worked in underdeveloped regions, traveled to various inner cites and South Africa. She recently led a group of ten teens to work at an orphanage in Haiti for over a week.

As part of the award, Wiebe will receive funding for tuition and for a summer project including the options of travel-study and internships.

Way to go Terri! You make us all so proud!

Safewalk Patrol

Always keep you wits about you, especially when staying at school late. If you would an escort to your car, Safewalk provides that service for students, staff, and visitors.

To reach the Safewalk Patrol/Security call 632-2555 or they are accessible through any of the 20 Safewalk phones located on the campus. Safewalk is always looking for volunteers and if you are interested in joining the Safewalk program (paid position) please apply with the SA.

Volunteers Needed

The Heart and Stoke Foundation of Manitoba is looking for volunteers to assist with various positions such as face painting, route escorts, parking patrol and meet and greeters for the Walk for Heart on Sunday, September 24 at the University of Manitoba. The Walk for Heart is a one-day event where communities across Canada come together to raise funds for research into heart disease and stroke.

Please contact Jennifer Kaufman, Volunteer Coordinator at 949-2041 or by email: jkaufman@heartandstroke.mb.ca

Leave The Car Behind, Fatty!

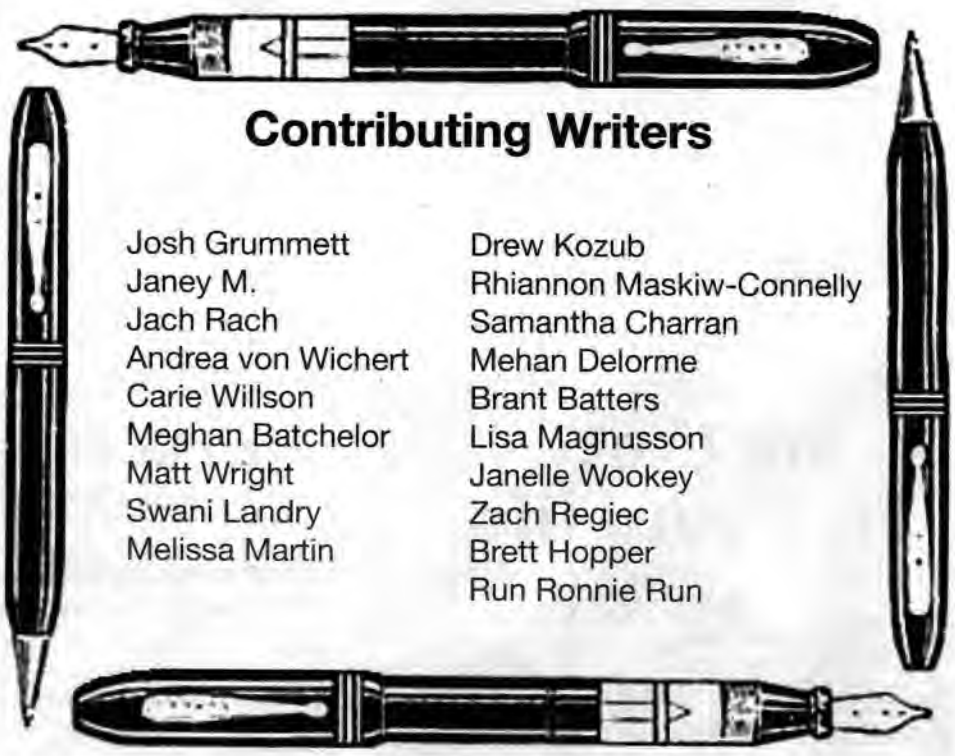
The RRCSA and Resource Conservation Manitoba want you to take part in the Campus Commuter Challenge during the week of Sept. 18 to 22.

The Commuter challenge is an event showcasing the use of sustainable transportation – participants are encouraged to walk, bike, take public transit, or to use any other form of green transportation.

Prizes are awarded at the end of the week to the school with the most participants, and the school with the highest per capita number of participants.

As an added bonus, RRC will host free bike workshops on Wed, Sept. 20 and Thurs. Sept. 22 in the Multi-Purpose room at the Princess Street Campus.

For more information, call the SA or visit www.resourceconservationmanitoba.ca. And remember- exercise puts the 'stud' in student.



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Winnipeg Deemed Unsafe... Again

By Joanna Fultz, News Editor

Many people have experienced it, a shaky moment of vulnerability, walking alone in the late evening on an unusually quiet street. Senses run on high alert with the occasional flitting shoulder check, an accelerated heartbeat, and fast-paced footsteps.

Regardless of what city one resides in, citizens are always susceptible to feeling threatened when in a potentially dangerous situation, but usually one can usually rest assured they are safe walking on a busy downtown street in broad daylight. This was not the case for one Calgary couple visiting Winnipeg this summer.

On Aug. 29 during late afternoon rush hour, former Winnipegger Les Hiebert and his wife Wendy were walking past Portage Place when they were assaulted by two men who tried to shove Wendy into traffic and physically assaulted her.

Hiebert was quoted in the Winnipeg Free Press on Sept. 1 saying, "The Winnipeg I remember was very safe. You could shop downtown and expect civility, not violence. For Winnipeggers to have accepted this, I think it's ridiculous. It means the thugs rule the streets."

This incident has not been the first to tarnish the outside opinion of Winnipeg as an unsafe city. Winnipeg has been widely publicized as having some of the highest crime rates in the country per central metropolitan area [CMA].

According to the Statistics Canada website, www.statscan.ca, "Manitoba's rate of 4.27 homicides per 100,000 population was the second highest in that province since data were first collected in 1961. With almost double the number of homicides in 2004 from the previous year, Winnipeg recorded the highest rate, 4.89, among the nine CMAs with populations over 500,000."

The city's reputation as an unsafe metropolis has flawed the opinions of some outside residents, but those who visit the city regularly share a different opinion.

Jon Lloyd, a 20-year-old business student at the University of Guelph who has family in Winnipeg says that the city can be intimidating, but is overall a safe place to be.

"Winnipeg can be a scary place, and I always feel a little weird walking around downtown at night. But every city is dangerous in some parts and Winnipeg has just gotten a bad rap."

In contrast, the city has started to take serious initiative in developing programs to cut down on crime such as Operation Clean Sweep [OCS] and efforts to bring more people back into the downtown area.

OCS is making progress, since its inception on Nov. 21, 2005 to July. 31, 2006 the OCS officers have made 873 arrests.

Outlaws Celebrate

By Jack Rachmanalogue@gmail.com

Outlaw Booksellers celebrated its one-year anniversary recently by opening a temporary location at 284 William Avenue – a few paces away from RRC's Princess Street Campus –attempting to capture an additional student market. Outlaw's main location at 48 Stevenson Road is also only minutes away from RRC's Notre Dame Campus.

The expansion can be seen as somewhat controversial. Co-owner of Outlaw, Brenden Dreger, 22, was a business administration student at RRC until he took a position with the college in the accounts payable department.

He moved into a position at RRC's bookstore at the Notre Dame campus and saw an entrepreneurial opportunity to help students. With the help of a silent partner the original Outlaw store opened on Aug. 15, 2005.

"I know a lot of students were cheesed because of the poor service the bookstore offered," says Dreger. "I thought I could do a better job."

Dreger says he prides himself on serving students. Outlaw sells many used books – $100,000 worth this semester alone.

Low overhead costs also allow Outlaw to keep book prices down.

"To open the store by the Princess Street Campus I just swept the floor and put up some shelves. I'm so burned out though," says Dreger, who works by himself up to 12 hours a day.

The William Avenue Outlaw store closes on Sept. 29. Students at the Princess Street Campus can still order their books online at outlawbooksellers.com and buy books from the main store or either RRC campus bookstores.

According to Dreger, Outlaw has enough resources to serve up to 30 per cent of RRC students.

"I'm not in business to run the RRC bookstores under," says Dreger. "I love Red River College and I think the bookstores should be a part of the campuses. I know they're an important part of the school."

Alison Letourneau has managed RRC's bookstores since November 2005. She agrees that the friendly competition is good for students.

"The staff is proud of the college and the bookstores," says Letourneau. "The competition allows us to excel and improve; it inspires us to be better."

PHOTO: JAMES TURNER

Letourneau says since the opening of Outlaw, the prices of books at the campus bookstores have dropped slightly.

"We list the ISBN numbers online and encourage students to compare prices," says Letourneau.

The bookstores have the advantage over private businesses by working directly with instructors and administration at RRC. Letourneau says the bookstores had 90 per cent of the books required for this semester on shelves in the first week of classes.

"We are in the process of implementing an inventory management system that will decrease the time it takes for students to order books. With this system students will also be able to order used books online."

Projector Meeting

The Projector is looking for writers from all ends of our college. Every program, from each campus are eligible to express themselves in this paper – it's your voice. We welcome any willing participants to join us at our next story meeting on Friday, Sept. 22, in room W102 at the Princess Street Campus.

Bring some good ideas for what you'd like to write about, or listen to some of ours. If you have an idea which just can't wait, email us!

Who Controls The Remote?

By Drew Kozubjamin_86@hotmail.com

The RRC Students' Association [SA] has recently installed three brand new flat-panel televisions in the cafeteria at the Princess Street Campus.

Despite being wired into the college's cable receiver, many students have noticed that the televisions aired CNN almost exclusively during the first week of classes. Richard Girouard, who is in his first year of business administration, hopes this will not be a trend.

"They should be showing CTV Newsnet instead of that American crap," he says.

While everyone may not want to watch more news, it seems that many students have their own ideas on what sort of programming should be aired, leaving electrical engineering student Chris Downey wondering who is really in charge.

"Who has the remote control?" asks Downey.

Jesse Wilson, vice-president of the Princess Street Campus SA, is the man who handles all programming in the cafeteria. The televisions were a gift to the college from the SA in 2006, and there are big plans for their use. Wilson says that for the time being, the TVs are running "generic programming," but only until they hear from the student body what should be shown on the public monitors. After the student opinion is determined, Wilson plans to devise a programming schedule that reflects student interest and will include not only television programs, but movies as well.

The SA is looking for students to stop by their office in room P110 (in the south side of the atrium, though the big green doors) with feedback and suggestions for programming. The televisions were donated for the students, and Wilson wants to make sure the students get to see what they want.

Some students say they're relieved that when they have a break between classes or are eating lunch in the cafeteria, they have a chance to kick back and relax for a while.

Crystal Sandul who studies commerce, industry, sales and marketing at the college says she enjoys the luxury of the new televisions.

"It gives [students] a break from learning, so we feel like we're at home," she says.

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Feel Free to contact us at:

Rex Masesar

President

(204) 632-2474

Michael Cochrane

Vice President Academic

(204) 632-2477

Helena Herrera

VP Support Services

(204) 632-2480

Jesse Wilson

Vice President Princess Street

(204) 949-

Up Coming Events

Sept 11 - 22

Student Oktoberfest @ Coyotes

Tuesday Sept 19
RRCSA Nite

Wednesday Sept 20
Engineering & Agriculture Nite

Thursday Sept 21
Commerce Student Nite

Tickets only $8 plus tax. Includes complimentary draft

Join the SA Events Email List.
saevents@rrc.mb.ca

CHECK OUT THE SA WEBSITE @ WWW.RRCSA.COM

Message from the Executive

The executive from your Students' Association would like thank you all for coming out to the events that we had during dis-orientation week. It was a great time for us to know who we're representing. It always helps us out when we are able to personalize who we work for.

If you are interested in representing the student body or your class, we encourage you to come out and get involved. You can come down to CM20 at the Notre Dame Campus or our office located next to the Mercantile at the Princess Street Campus to get the nomination forms for the Student Advisory Board or you the Class Rep forms. It is a great learning experience that will further benefit you for future jobs and careers.

We have heard great ideas from some of the students at the dis-orientation week events and are looking forward on further development on these ideas. Remember if you have any interesting ideas that you think would benefit the students of Red River College, we are more than happy to hear them out.

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS ON HOW THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION CAN BETTER SERVE THE STUDENTS OF RED RIVER COLLEGE?

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Princess Street Campus: SA Office P-110 (Reduced Hours)
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Class Reps Needed!

Meet with Mike on the first Tuesday of every month at Notre Dame, or with Jesse on the first Wednesday at Princess Street. to get information on the upcoming month.

Also, voice any concerns you or your classmates may have and we will try to resolve them for you.

Oh yah,
You get free pizza!

TENTATIVE S.A.B. SCHEDULE

Sept 28. 4:30 PM
Notre Dame Campus

Oct 5. 4:30 PM
Notre Dame Campus

Oct 26. 5:00 PM
Princess St. Campus

Nov 16. 4:30 PM
Notre Dame Campus

Dec 7. 4:30 PM
Notre Dame Campus

Jan 18. 4:30 PM
Princess St. Campus

Feb 15. 4:30 PM
Notre Dame Campus

Mar 22. 4:30 PM
Notre Dame Campus

Apr. 19 4:30 PM
Princess St. Campus

Notre Dame Campus
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Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2H 0J9 (204) 632-2375

Princess Street Campus
P110-160 Princess Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1K9 (204) 949-8466

EDITOR'S DESK

Canada is boring.

For those who bite their nails over a perceived lack of a well-defined Canadian identity, here's a clue as to why.

By and large, Canada and its social underpinnings are borrowed and dull, and don't have the capacity inspire people to greatness.

Since the birth of the nation in 1867, we as a people have been struggling with who we are, wandering ghost-like through the wilderness of values stretching across our vast country – sharing a past borrowed from another civilization which did all the hard work for us.

And there's nothing like hard work to ingrain in people a sense of ownership in their surroundings.

Even today, Canadians from all walks of life trudge the streets, each looking to find their own version of the authentic Canadian life, unconscious to the fact there's no such thing to be found.

There's no national dream looming on the horizon, or captivating personality to voice one – the best we can seem to do is, well, change governments every lump of years or so, because that national push might be just the thing we need to get Canada back on track.

We're a country of transients, by and large – of people who wound up here by historical accident or some other unfortunate circumstance belonging to someplace else – and are, to this day, manifestly destined to feel as if there's still no place like back home – even if home is ravaged by war, corruption, or other ill beyond our safe, U.S. guarded borders.

The best things to be said for Canada are that we're inoffensive to most, largely ignored by many, and the pension plan's not bad.

People often suggest we're more like polite Americans than anything else, and to be quite honest, Americans have a right to be insulted when they 'ear such things'.

Yes, we border on the U.S., and do plenty of business with that country, but let's get a few things straight.

We, as a people are far more like the British in attitude, minus the ingrained sense of hard-won freedoms, ingenuity, historicity, or world-weariness to bolster our own national attitude.

Yes, dear reader, when we close our collective Canadian eyes, we think of England.

Despite efforts right up until 1982 to formally sever ties with The Empire, the U.K. influence couldn't be signed away – and to this day, we still have the currency, the public broadcaster and the skeleton of the national health (to call out but a few choice trinkets) to remind us of who we really are, and where we came from.

And this, friends, reveals the truth about the boredom one finds while looking for the Canadian identity.

Canada: the world's been there, done that.

Next.

The Life of Stephen

Harp: talk persistently on a particular subject
er: expressing hesitation

Seeing as this column is supposed to follow what's happening on Parliament Hill, I suppose that I should start from the top down.

Sometimes knowing a little bit of someone's past helps us to understand his or her behaviour in the present. So here's a quick backgrounder.

Stephen Joseph Harper was born in 1959 in Toronto and was an asthmatic child. He is the eldest of three sons born to Margaret and Joseph Harper. His father was an accountant for Imperial Oil. Hmmm. Growing up, young Stephen was obsessed with hockey, particularly the Flames - no not the Calgary Flames, but the Atlanta Flames (who eventually moved to Calgary in 1980). Apparently there were no Canadian teams at the time that deserved his recognition. Hmmm.

In high school he joined the Young Liberals Club. In 1978 Stephen led his team in the national high school game show Reach for the Top. His team lost. That same year he moved to Alberta to work in the energy business.

Angered by Trudeau's National Energy Program, Stephen left the Liberal Party and became an aide to a Tory MP in 1985. He entered Preston Manning's radar at the time and subsequently joined the Reform Party in 1986, unimpressed by Brian Mulroney's populist views towards the country. Let's see, that's three parties by the time he was 27.

Stephen won his first seat in Parliament in 1993, two years after receiving his Master's degree in Economics from the University of Calgary. In 1997, after many tumultuous years at odds with Manning, Stephen resigned the same day he was appointed vice-president of the National Citizens Coalition (more on this organization later), a conservative think tank and lobbying group. Within a year he was its president.

Stephen resurfaced on the national political scene in 2002, winning the leadership of the Canadian Alliance Party, the successor to the Reform Party. That year he became the official leader of the opposition on Parliament Hill. Two years later, he won the leadership of the newly synergized Conservative Party of Canada.

It took three tries, but Straussian Stephen finally did reach the top in the 2005 election, becoming the 22nd Prime Minister of Canada. The rest, as they say, is histoire.

You can reach Matt at mattwright82@yahoo.ca

To The Editor

We Rant, You Decide

While I duly note the concern Mr. Turner expresses over the supposed 'brain drain' Manitoba is experiencing, I fear that his comments touch a deeper social issue which affects not only Manitobans who obtain PSE but the working class throughout this country.

The naïve notion that a provincial government should be given the right to coerce its citizens to remain within the province, simply because they have received taxpayer money to further their personal education borders on totalitarian militarism. It is in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that any Canadian has the right "to pursue the gaining of a livelihood in any province."

The concern that Manitoba is losing its 'cream of the crop' talent from graduating classes is not an unwarranted concern. Although to me it has the ring of narrow minded concepts of provincialism and a disregard for national unity; which I believe is quite pertinent when this country is awry with separatist movements.

When Mr. Turner identifies the province as 'you and I' and takes exception to the fact that we pay to educate these people only to have them leave – it seems that the editor is not concerned with the interests of the working class anywhere else in the country aside from Manitoba. In fact, he has no regard for the welfare of working class Manitobans and their right to pursue decent wages in the free market wherever they choose!

Mr. Turner, it seems your idealism and good intention has been supplanted by something known as the free-market, supply and demand, going where the bucks are, call it what you will.

I am not a citizen of this country, but I am astounded by the lack of national unity when it comes to the betterment of working class Canadians. It seems the competition between provinces has not only prevented the development of significant working class movements on a national level, but has developed some form of artificial rivalry which promotes such insular editorials.

Christopher Webb, RRC

If there is one city most vital to our national identity, it would arguably be Toronto.

With its massive economy, vibrant urban landscape, and cosmopolitan culture, it's hard to imagine the metropolis lacks anything. But if you spoke Huron, you'd know right away what's missing: trees standing in water, which is what the word 'toronto' meant to the people that first lived there.

Don't bother looking for a native speaker to elaborate. Huron, one of the magnificent Iroquoian tongues, fell silent forever at the end of the 19th century.

It wasn't the first of our aboriginal languages to die; it won't be the last. Of the 53 aboriginal languages spoken in Canada, no less than 50 are in decline or on the brink of extinction. Only Cree, Ojibwe and Inuktitut are robust enough to survive the next few decades. Others, like Tsimshian and Seneca, will likely join Huron, Beothuk and eight others in the academic graveyard where dead languages are laid to rest.

To combat the decline, in 2002 the Canadian government pledged $172 million over 11 years to its task force on Aboriginal Languages. That sounds like a lot, until you realize the Liberals injected $750 million into promoting English and French bilingualism in Canada the very next year.

Where's the justice in that? While Quebecois French is a unique dialect and Canadian English has a certain charm (eh), neither of them are categorically ours. Both are colonial imports from a continent millions of Canadians will never see.

By contrast, every one of our 53 aboriginal tongues was born in Canada and shaped by its environment. For thousands of years, these languages were the only ones to describe the patterns of Canadian weather, the diversity of our wildlife and the size of our maples.

Does this mean every Canadian should run out and learn Mohawk? No. But it does mean we have a responsibility to honour and protect the tongues that are so intimately related to the country we claim to love.

Safeguarding aboriginal languages is also our international duty. As UNESCO's endangered languages commission says, "the loss of any language is a loss for all humanity."

To non-linguists, this concept is usually a foreign one. But despite what grammarians want to believe, language is more than mere verbs and nouns. Every living tongue is a repository of a society's history, social and cultural values and environmental and ecological knowledge.

Encoded in our aboriginal languages are clues about our country's history and pre-history. It allows us to follow patterns of migration, gives clues to ancient trade routes and sheds light on historical or spiritual significance of certain landmarks.

When a language is lost, that wealth cannot be reclaimed. Though many linguists spend their careers tediously reconstructing dead tongues, languages cannot truly be brought back from the dead. If no-one has grown up thinking, loving, arguing, and spinning fables in a tongue, its subtleties are lost.

To illustrate that effect in English, consider the word home.

If English were to die, so would the twinge in the heart that differentiates it from house. The distinction can be explained in any language, but phrases like "childhood home," "home is where the heart is," and "homeward bound" would never feel the same to someone who hadn't lived with the emotional resonance of home.

Take a look again at a map of Canada. There may not be any Huron speakers left to explain the meaning of Toronto, but we are lucky enough to have a handful of Salish who can tell us that Penticton, British Columbia, is "a place to stay forever."

And there are yet some Montaignais Cree who know that Chicoutimi, Quebec, is "the end of the deep water."

If we decide as a nation, to commit to preserving and enhancing our aboriginal languages, those words may echo throughout their Canadian homeland for generations to come.

You can reach Melissa at Off_message_chick@yahoo.ca

Kudos to Smith

I am an instructor in the child and youth care program at RRC. I was very pleased to see (David Smith's) article on the leniency of sex offenders' sentencing. I was also pleased to see that you interviewed a youth care worker.

Paula DaCosta is a recent graduate of the RRC child and youth care diploma program.

Thank you,

Dawne Mackay, RRC

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE:

Canadian Women in Politics

Carie Willson cariewillson@hotmail.com

On a winter's night in late Jan. 1914, spectators packed the Walker Theatre to watch Nellie McClung and the Political Equity League stage a mock parliament.

The play, A Women's Parliament, protested Premier Rodmond Roblin's refusal to listen to arguments by Manitoba's suffrage movement. Turning reality on end, it provided a glimpse into a female dominated world – one where men fought for their right to vote.

The play addressed the reasons for refusing women the vote and many took notice, but it wasn't until Jan. 28, 1916, that Manitoba women became the first in Canada eligible to vote. And, it took another four years until Manitoba elected their first female MLA, Edith Rogers.

The early part of the 20th century was a social reform and Manitoba women made their mark on the political landscape. Pioneers like McClung, Rogers, and many more braved comments of "nice women don't", leading the charge and providing role models to today's female candidates.

While we may think character assassination, an interest in a female candidate's style and a lack of women in politics were limited to the early 1900s, we only have to look to recent years to see the lack of change.

In May 2005, Tory MP Belinda Stronach crossed the floor, joining the Liberals. At the time, she was called a dipstick (albeit a pretty one) and a whore, while her male floor-crossing counterpart, Scott Brison, was left unscathed.

The strength of the language may have changed, but the general idea remains the same – women in politics are often still judged differently.

Senator Sharon Carstairs, in her book Dancing Backwards: A Social History of Canadian Women in Politics, comments on just that.

"The public was interested and the media wrote and discussed in great detail the appearance, clothes, personality traits, physical attributes, and hairstyle of the new minister (Ellen Fairclough)…At the same time, there was the general suspicion and resentment surrounding a wife and mother who worked, especially at something as high profile and time consuming as politics," wrote Carstairs.

Carstairs should know. As the first elected female leader of the opposition and the first deputy leader of the senate, she was subjected to intense scrutiny and comment.

Politics is a male dominated world, and attempts to rectify this have largely had no impact.

During the 2003 Manitoba General Election, of the 199 registered candidates, only 59 were women. Of that, only 14 were elected.

People question why parties can't convince more women to participate.

While no one has the ultimate answer, many provide suggestions on the cause and how we can rectify the problem.

"There is a percentage that participate, but I would say that it's basically a small percentage, and I suppose it's because a lot of women, if they do get involved, are not assertive enough," said Meryle Lewis, a long-time political organizer.

After organizing several election campaigns, Lewis also sees a cultural difference in participation.

"For people coming from different lands, where often it's a male dominated society and totally different cultural society, there's a general fear to be involved here," said Lewis. "It's a difficult learning process."

Tina Keeper, MP for Churchill, doesn't see her gender as an obstacle because she came from a group of Canadians who have faced many obstacles in their history. But she still sees many issues facing women entering the political realm.

"It comes down to that we are the primary caregivers of our children; we are the primary caretakers of our home, and, because of that, people don't want to step too far out of those roles because they're really important roles," said Keeper.

Keeper, who gave up a career in television to spend time with her children, says the decision to run was difficult, but ran to lend her voice to the mix.

"I thought it would help raise the profile of women in politics - that it would say to young women that you can do this too," said Keeper.

Lewis and Keeper both see government education and mentoring as the way to deal with growing disenchantment from the female electorate.

"When they talk about the fact that 52 per cent of the electorate is women, I think that's really important for people to hear and it makes you realize what a significant part we have to play in the process," said Keeper.

Years after Manitoba's suffragettes won the vote, no one knows exactly why women fail to engage more in politics, but there's still pioneering women, like Lewis and Keeper, to help mentor new faces along.

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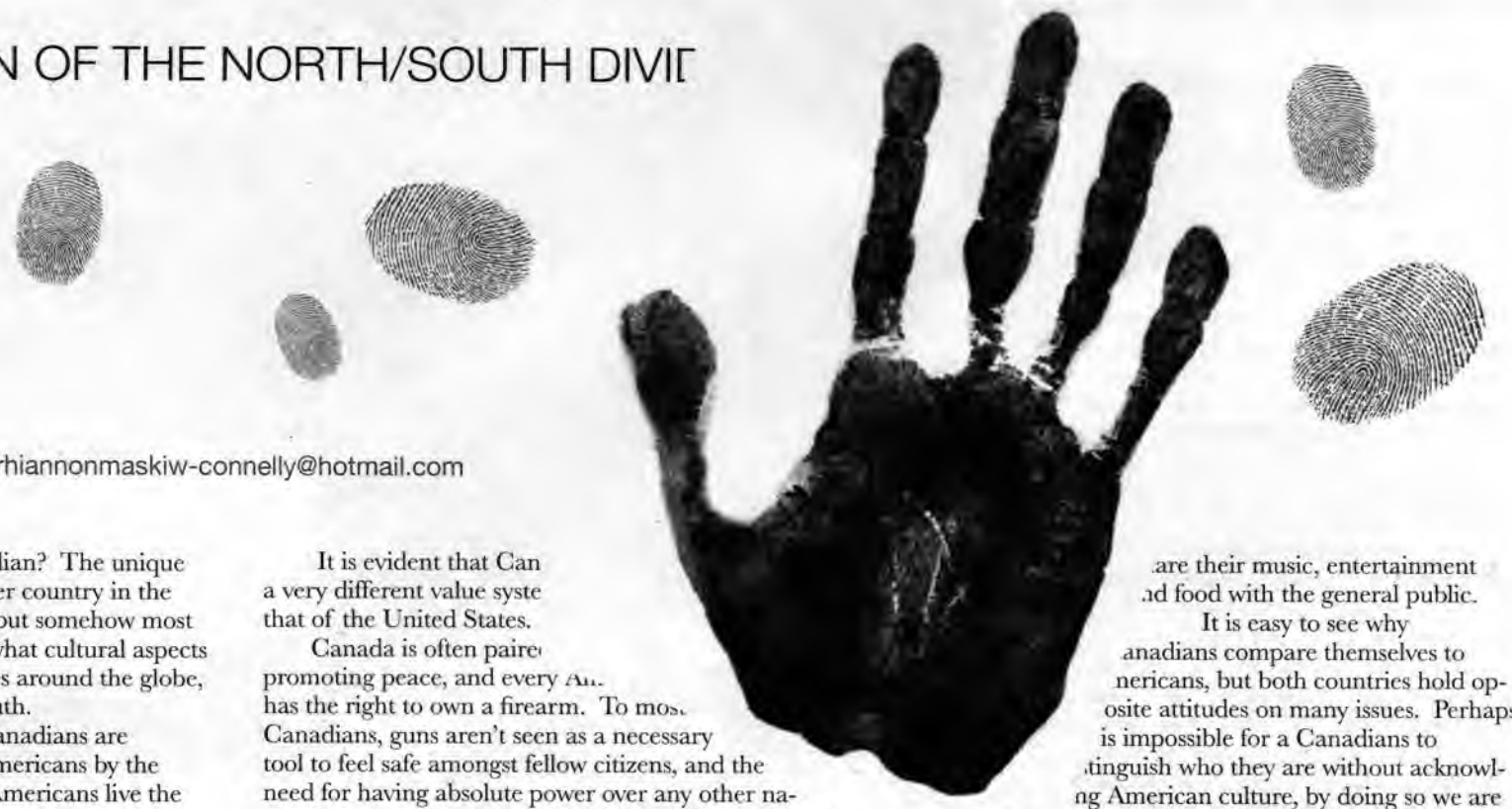

By Rhiannon Maskiw-Connellyrhiannonmaskiw-connelly@hotmail.com

What does it mean to be a Canadian? The unique cultural features of almost every other country in the world can be more easily identified, but somehow most Canadians find it difficult to define what cultural aspects distinguish them from other countries around the globe, especially their neighbours to the south.

From an outside perspective, Canadians are commonly grouped together with Americans by the preconceived notion that all North Americans live the same western lifestyle, an assumption that upsets many Canadians.

Why do Canadians sometimes use the United States to explain who they are, is it because they are flooded by American culture in so many aspects of life?

"Immediately after arriving in Canada eight months ago, we were surprised to see how much impact the Americans have on this [Canadian] culture. Their news and television programs seem to dominate our channels, and it seems impossible to ignore their influence in every aspect of life here [whether it be] fashion, news, [or] politics," says a recent immigrant to Winnipeg, who wished to remain anonymous. "Their products and labels are pushed in our stores, their films and music are promoted more than our own, and their media and news bombards ours until [all] we are left with is their concerns and events," she adds.

This does nothing to promote a feeling of individuality or strength as a positive identity should, instead it suggests that Canadians do not have a strong shared sense of culture or of the unique traditions and beliefs that set them apart from Americans whom they try so hard to differenciate themselves.

It is evident that Can
a very different value syste
that of the United States.

Canada is often paire
promoting peace, and every Ar
has the right to own a firearm. To mos
Canadians, guns aren't seen as a necessary tool to feel safe amongst fellow citizens, and the need for having absolute power over any other nation is not promoted within their government. Canada has created a welfare and public health care system, and the in the U.S. health is dominated by privatized hospitals and monopolies. Acknowledging that Canadians live a similar lifestyle to Americans is a positive thing, establishing that both North and South live similarly, but at the same time distinguishing the very different values and priorities of each country, thus setting Canadians apart from Americans.

One of the most unique things about Canada is the fact that it is a truly

multi-cultural society. Immigration lends to further developing Canadian culture as the society prides itself on embracing and encouraging people who immigrate to Canada to learn about and experience the country's culture, while encouraging new residents to maintain their own traditions and values.

"This unique blending of cultures and geography has created one of the most diverse, harmonious and successful societies on earth," said Stephen Harper, in his address to the World Urban Forum in June 2006.

We promote all cultures by holding events such as Folklorama, which create a pavilion for each country to

are their music, entertainment
ıd food with the general public.

It is easy to see why
anadians compare themselves to
nericans, but both countries hold op-
osite attitudes on many issues. Perhaps
is impossible for a Canadians to
tinguish who they are without acknowl-
ng American culture, by doing so we are
sing our attitudes and cannot ignore their contrasting ones.

"Although Canada is greatly affected by other cultures, we are still unique in our own way. We do have values which separate us from many of the power-hungry nations of the world, and as a Canadian I feel that we are a unique nation which accepts and embraces other cultures and encourages cultural diversity amongst our country. We do compare and contrast ourselves to the United States, but only in a way that promotes our stance on important issues and sets us apart from our neighbors to the south," said Jenna Penner, a lifelong Winnipegger.

Canadians need to embrace their culture and recognize what makes them unique to promote their values and beliefs in sharing them with the world. Regardless of their methods of doing so, it is evident that Canadian culture is not comparable to any other, and that they will stand behind their cultural values no matter what perceptions may challenge their ability to stand strong as an independent nation.

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TURNING A NEW LEAF:
Harper and the Conservative government's First Eight Months

By Carie Willson cariewillson@hotmail.com

Elections tend to bring out the best and the worst in politicians and their parties.

Campaigns slam other candidates, focusing on their competitor's negatives instead of talking about party platforms. All the while, parties make election promises that few follow through with or dramatically alter once elected.

On Jan. 23, 2006, Canadians kept in mind the best and the worst they'd witnessed during a lengthy federal election campaign and voted for a change. A small change - but still a change.

On that day, Canada elected a minority government led by Stephen Harper's Conservative Party of Canada.

Now, eight months later and days from the start of a new parliamentary session, Canadians can see whether change has in fact occurred.

A minority government is a precarious position for a governing party with a mandate to implement, one push too far and down tumbles your fragile house of cards.

Early on Harper set out five mandates for his government: accountability, GST and tax reduction, crime, childcare, and health care. Many continued the promises the Conservatives set out intheir election platform.

Since taking office, the Conservatives have put forward several of their promises in the house, with several already going into effect. Granted, remaining in power might not be as difficult with the main opposition spending 10 months looking for a new leader.

Working with the U.S. to rectify the softwood lumber issue, the Canadian government accepted a deal that will largely put an end to the court decisions and debates. In a somewhat controversial deal, the government accepted a settlement many in opposition feel is below what is owed to Canada.

On July 1st, with the celebration of Canada's birthday on everyone's mind, money was being put back into the pockets of Canadians.

Shoppers were slightly richer with a 1 per cent reduction in the GST – a Conservative election promise. But, while stores struggled to adjust their tills and remind their staff, few consumers seemed aware of the change. Many were simply confused at the change in price of their Tim Hortons double-double.

Families with children began to receive their cheques for the Conservative childcare subsidy - $1200 a year for each child. Intended to provide parents with control over their children's care, the government has kept payments to the provinces provided by the former Liberal government for the first year.

The Federal Accountability Act now sits in the Senate. The act proposes further limits to political donations, further protect whistleblowers and changes to appointments, contracts and auditing to create a more transparent system.

Other changes won't be seen by Canadians until tax time when changes to income tax levels and tax credits, such as for transit passes and employment costs, can be used by the public.

While the Conservative government has implemented several of their campaign promises without major challenge, a few gaffes have been made along the way.

Thanks to party policies, the suppressing of radical party voices and a faltering competitor, Harper and the Conservative party were able to avoid the fatal missteps that plagued them in the past. Instead, Harper's closest competition, the Liberal Party of Canada, was left looking like the Conservatives of the past few years.

With the announcement in early February of Harper's cabinet, it appeared the Conservative's well-oiled election machine was again floundering, but was able to pull it back together. While Harper and his party had been on record against an appointed Senate and alliance changes, Harper openly welcomed both into his cabinet.

Although Harper and many in his party were critical of former members Belinda Stronach and Scott Brison, Harper openly courted B.C. Liberal MP David Emerson to cross the floor. At the same time, Harper appointed party organizer, Michael Fortier, to Senate and a spot in his cabinet. Speaking on his reversal of ideals, Harper and his party backtracked on previous statements, attempting to downplay the issue.

Harper has also been criticized for his stance on Lebanon, not attending the 2006 AIDS conference in Toronto and allowing an increase in benefits to sitting MPs.

The success of keeping issues to a minimum can be found in Harper muzzling of cabinet ministers since becoming prime minister. In order to keep his cabinet ministers in line, Harper issued an email stating events and official statements must be approved by the prime minister's office.

Even with these issues, thanks to the restructuring of their opposition's leadership and the muzzling of ministers, the Conservative government has been able to deliver several of their election promises to Canadians.

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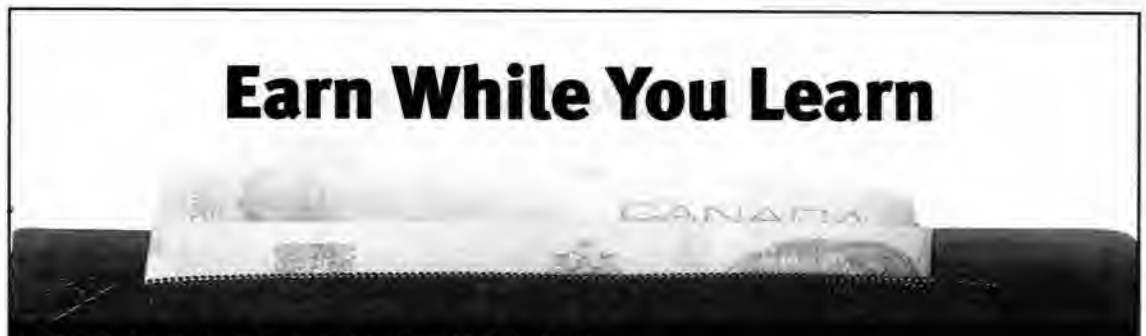

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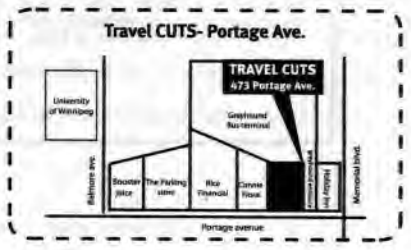

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Brandon University Says "No" to Maclean's Rankings

PRESIDENT QUESTIONS VALUE OF RANKINGS, METHDOLOGY

By Maryann Buri

BRANDON (CUP) — Brandon University is joining a wave of universities planning on adding their names to the list of schools that have withdrawn from Maclean's magazine university ranking surveys.

For many years president Louis Visentin has protested the way the rankings are done, and after much discussion, the school has decided to withdraw.

"We've lead a bit of a wave across the country, we've been talking to other universities."

On Aug. 14, presidents from 11 of Canada's universities sent a letter to Maclean's magazine indicating that they would no longer fill out the questionnaire required to create the magazine's annual university rankings issue, due to what they called an "oversimplified and arbitrary" methodology.

Since then, four schools, including BU have joined the boycott, and another five say they are planning to do so.

A poll recently appeared on the Brandon University website asking students whether they thought BU should withdraw or not. The current results show 65 per cent of students polled are in favour of a withdrawal. This helped Visentin make the final decision that BU should withdraw.

For many years, Visentin has been very unhappy with the very idea of ranking universities with numbers.

"This whole notion of ranking is bogus," he said, adding he feels it is a demeaning practice. "The methodology, yes, is flawed, but the whole notion of a ranking . . . like we're toothpaste. What does it mean to be ranked?"

Specifically, he feels that Maclean's benefits a small group of schools, as he calls them, "the small Gucci schools in the east." He feels that the whole process is very biased in favour of Ontario. "I don't need a guy from Toronto telling me what he thinks is the number one school," he said, citing personal experience in a number of different universities as more valuable than what can be learned from a single set of rankings.

So, considering these strong objections, why did Visentin wait so long before withdrawing from the rankings?

"It's the only time the universities get any attention at all," he said. "The fact that Maclean's even talks about universities, I always thought yeah, that's a good thing."

He feels that generally across Canada, and specifically in a place like Brandon, the university hardly gets any attention at all.

"If you drive here, on the highway, you would never know there's a university in this town," he explains.

Therefore, he thinks the idea of getting information out is a good thing. "If I was working for Maclean's and I was a shareholder in Maclean's I'd say keep doing it," he said. "Focusing on universities is a good thing."

Visentin believes that there could be other ways of presenting information about universities to the public. "We don't have to rank, we can say the good things about the universities," he said, "a different way of saying stuff about qualities."

He thinks that it would be a good idea for universities across Canada to join together to produce information on different schools, highlighting the individual strengths of each university.

Visentin also thinks that the idea of ranking universities based on such narrow criteria is unfair. He feels there is a lot more to being a good university than attaining a good ranking.

"There are lots of other factors that help you determine where you want to go," he said.

"A good school should actually educate you, actually teach you something. You should walk out with the ability to think critically."

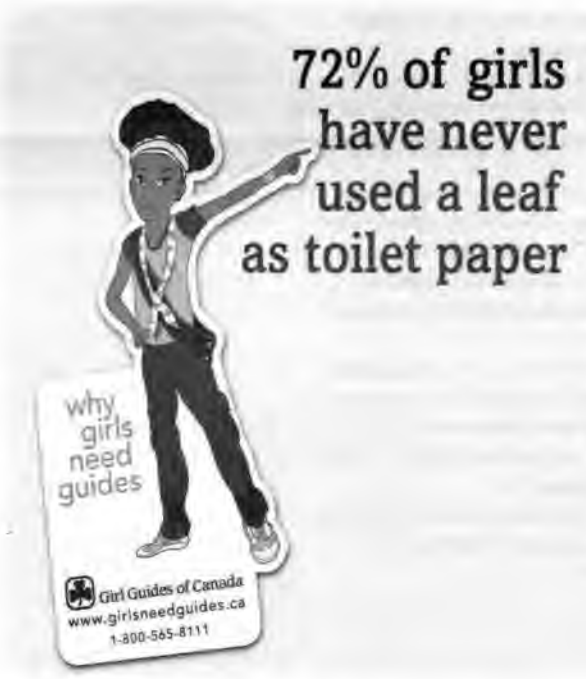
Girl Guides Get Dirty

SICK COOKIES

By Abbas Somji

SCARBOROUGH (CUP) — In a bid to boost recruitment figures, the Girl Guides of Canada (GGC) have kicked off a new ad campaign that has come under public scrutiny in recent weeks.

The new campaign, which made its debut midsummer, features a series of risqué, graphic images that critics say come in stark contrast to the wholesome cookie-vending Girl Guide persona.



One particular ad depicts "Candi," a fictitious pre-teen songstress, posing provocatively for the camera, with a list of overtly sexual album tracks, such as "Taste Me" and "Naughty Girl" printed on a side tab. At the bottom of the ad, a strategically placed cartoon girl looks on, and points at the tagline that reads, "Why girls need guides."

Another ad is a web banner for cellulite cream, urging young girls to use it to prevent cellulite before it starts. One final ad looks like a magazine cover called "Modern Girl" with titles of articles, such as "Make His Interests Your Interests – it's okay to pretend!" splashed across the front.

"The idea behind this campaign is just to turn the mirror back on society and say: 'If this is what your daughter is being exposed to on a daily basis, wouldn't it make sense to put her into Girl Guides?'" said Angus Tucker, creative director of John St. Advertising, who designed the ads.

Not all former Guides are fond of the new ad campaign.

Ashley Chin, a second-year Queen's University student, said the new Girl Guides ad campaign uses an inappropriate and misleading recruitment strategy.

"[Is Girl Guides] a means of preventative action? Or is it really an organization that offers an opportunity for girls to foster teamwork, leadership skills, and to learn and grow?" said Chin.

"The GGC program has always been about leadership development, self esteem, taking risks, making friends and having fun in a safe environment," said Shauna Klein, marketing and development manager of Girl Guides Canada.

She said the campaign has been successful in bringing the Guides back into the public eye, and that the general public has responded positively to the advertising campaign.

Klein said the goal of the ad campaign is to make parents realize that impressionable young girls are now, more than ever, in need of strong mentors to direct them through the barrage of negative messages transmitted through the media.

Another reason for this new marketing tactic is a steady 20-year decline in GGC membership, due to competition from other organizations, clubs or community centres that offer recreational programs or activities.

Klein said the placement of the various ads — all at discounted rates — cost Girl Guides of Canada $500,000. The creative portion of the campaign was donated by John St. Advertising, as part of their pro bono work with not-for-profit organizations.

Klein said she expects an increase in membership during the fall Guide registration because of the eye-catching advertising campaign.

Hookers Should Get Pensions: Report

By Kevin Tilley

BURNABY (CUP) -- Prostitution should not only be decriminalized, but sex workers should be afforded the same rights and protections as other employees, says a report from Vancouver-based Pivot Legal Society released June 20.

Entitled "Beyond Decriminalisation", the report examines the legal ramifications of decriminalizing sex work in B.C., and proposes that sex workers be entitled to Employment Insurance, have the right to unionize, and be subject to all health and safety regulations currently in place for other employees in the country.

Katrina Pacey, a lawyer with the Pivot Legal Society and one of the authors of the report, argues that the proposal of decriminalizing prostitution in Canada was insufficient because "we realized that there was a whole wide range of legislation that would become applicable because [sex work] wouldn't be a black market anymore."

Rather than impose a heavy licensing scheme and restrict sex work to a "red light district" — as in Amsterdam — the authors of the report advocate for a more liberal program where brothels would operate like other businesses and sex workers like other employees.

The society claims that this would offer greater protection for both sex workers and their clients.

This is the Pivot Legal Society's second report on sex work and law reform. In 2004, they released a report arguing that sections of the Criminal Code concerning prostitution should be repealed because they violate the human rights of people involved in sex work.

"Our laws are killing people [because] they've created the social and legal milieu in which predatory, misogynist men can prey on women," said John Lowman, one of the authors of the report and a professor in criminology at Burnaby's Simon Fraser University.

Lowman pointed to the steady rise of deaths in the sex industry in the last few decades as evidence.

Robert William Pickton, who has been charged with killing 26 women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, is one of the manifestations of this trend. Sex-industry serial killers are suspected to be operating in Edmonton and Niagara, and hundreds of women are missing from the Prairie provinces. Violence against sex workers, meanwhile, continues to be a problem across the country.

"I think the urgency is so overwhelming in terms of the extraordinary situation we're seeing in many Canadian cities . . . We're beyond the words 'urgent action is needed,'" said Lowman.

While numerous models exist around the world in terms of dealing with sex work, the Pivot Legal Society is looking specifically to the model recently introduced in New Zealand as the one closest to the ideal.

"It's a model that is being strongly supported by sex workers internationally. [New Zealand] decriminalized it in 2003, but didn't impose really heavy regulation as a result of the law reform," explained Pacey.

The result, they say, has been an environment that is relatively safe and open to monitoring, while protecting the human rights of the sex workers at the same time.

The need to look for alternate models with regard to sex work is all the more urgent given the 2010 Olympics, which will be held in Vancouver.

Other Olympic host cities such as Athens experienced an upsurge in sex work during the games, while the 2006 World Cup in Germany has attracted a reported 40,000 sex workers into the country to meet the increased demand during the event.

The authors of the report were puzzled by Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan's conspicuous absence from the launch of the report, especially given his claim that sex work would be one of his primary issues as mayor.

Should the report fail to elicit the appropriate response from government, Katrina Pacey and the Pivot Legal Society have an alternative strategy in mind: "One thing we're working on is going before the court with a group of plaintiffs and constitutionally challenging the criminal laws in Canada [concerning prostitution]."

A successful constitutional challenge would have the courts strike down the sections of the criminal code concerning prostitution.

No Gold Medal for Olympic Ecology

By Amanda Stutt

VANCOUVER (CUP) --What was a short time ago a rare but thriving ecosystem is currently a construction site being developed as part of the plan to improve the Sea To Sky highway in anticipation of the heavy traffic that the 2010 Olympics will bring.

For some parties involved, the loss of the Eagleridge Bluffs is not an isolated incident, but a microcosm for a larger environmental legislative issue that needs public attention.

According to University of British Columbia ecologist Dr. Diane Srivastava, Eagleridge Bluffs contains "one of the most unique and threatened areas along the entire [highway] . . . because of the combination of plant species . . . as well as other individual species." Some species are threatened with extinction and are listed in the province's "Blue List."

However, the ecosystem of the Eagleridge Bluffs is on the "Red List" — the highest classification of endangerment.

Srivastava explained that at the moment, B.C. has no legislation to protect species that are on the red or blue lists. "We know they're threatened," she said, "but there is nothing we can do."

While federal legislation exists under the Species at Risk Act, the government has not matched this legislation at a provincial level to protect endangered species.

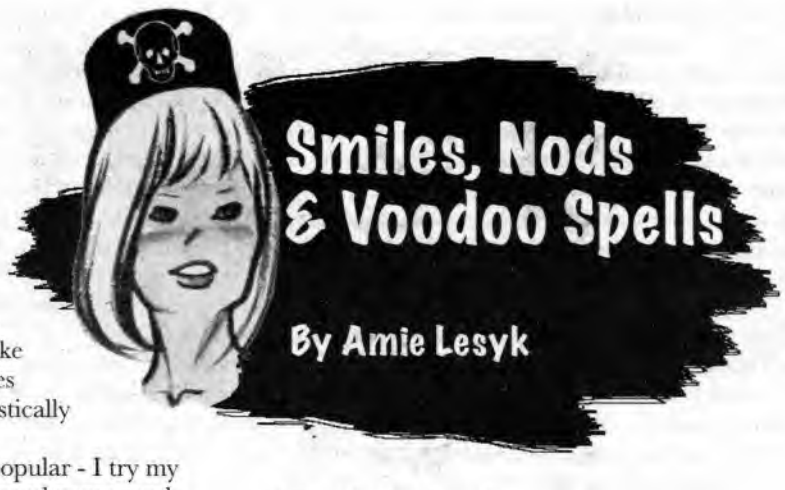
Srivastava explained that public citizens generally are unaware of this. "I think Canadians in general are under the illusion that we have some great environmental legislation," she said.

"Unfortunately we don't," she continued. "While we have a lot of endangered species . . . we have some of the worst environmental legislation."

According to Srivastava, the destruction of the Bluffs will result in habitat fragmentation and over time the entire area will be lost.

Mona Benge, a resident of West Vancouver and communications volunteer for the Coalition to Save the Eagleridge Bluffs, said there were plans to implement a tunnel rather than an overland highway, which would have posed less of a threat to the sensitive ecosystem of the Bluffs and was supported by West Vancouver residents. Federal and provincial environment agencies also supported the tunnel option, she added.

Joining the Cellular Generation



My fight to not become a cell phone owner had been holding strong for years. It ranked up there with my fight against gmail, myspace and god knows what else. Now it looks like I have lost all those battles - not that they were realistically reasoned anyways.

Anything that gets popular - I try my hardest to avoid. From brand names and emo to Bar Italia and The Urban Bakery. But my personal dislike for cell phones is not strictly about trends but about manners and use of time. I find them invasive, unnecessary and contributors to bad habits.

All the time I see people engaged in loud social conversations in public on their phones. My reasoning is that if this person and conversation is so important, why not visit them and talk face to face or at least, have the conversation somewhere a bit more private.

There has also been countless times when I and others get cut off mid-conversation because someone's phone rings and they rush to answer, physically turning their backs on the people they were talking to without so much as an excuse me.

I realize that sometimes people need to be gotten a hold of for important reasons and I have no qualms with that. My qualm is with the lack of respect developing along with certain technology, that people seem to think is acceptable. Manners and politeness are necessary, age old qualities, that don't need to be forsaken just because technology is making everything, even thinking, easier for us.

And aside from all these points another reason for my dislike of cell phones is their tion to the never-ending circle of debt lifestyle progressing with the 21st century. People who can't afford it sign onto these contracts and end up paying tonnes for these phones. It's just another toy, along with SUVs topped with high-end rims, the excessive suburban mini-mansion and the however many inches plasma screen televisions. The list never ends of what "we need" to be a productive part of this society.

But after shopping around and debating for a few months I finally bundled my Internet with a new cell phone for a really good price and have become a part of the cellular generation. Frankly I am never home and professionally a home answering machine with my roommates name and mine does not cut it.

So here's hoping I can keep my cell manners under control so that I don't look rude and self-absorbed and that I don't end up paying more than I bargained for.

Ode To Summer

By Swani Landryswanilandry@hotmail.com

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phonography

This summer's over but there's always another one next year.

I didn't point this out in the last issue but each column represents a piece of life's soundtrack. It's rather presumptuous of me to think any readers would enjoy the small moments I share, but I'm hoping you'll find parallels in your own lives. To do so I encourage you to buy or download the tunes mentioned and send me suggestions – just make sure it's techno or some sort of robotic disco.

On August 29 I celebrated my two-year anniversary in Winnipeg. I moved here for a beautiful girl – how cliché I know. We have a lot of history – most good, but there have been some unhappy times as well. Mutual friends of ours introduced us in the summer of 2003 when we were both living in Vancouver. Earlier that same year Montreal DJ / Producer Tiga released a mix on !K7 with the *DJ Kicks* series. He received quite a bit of media attention in Canada and the rest of the world prior to that from his remix work, particularly his stripped-down electro version of Nelly's "Hot in Herre" – a tune I still cannot stop playing.

This girl and I loved Tiga – we still do. The *DJ Kicks* mix and the many remixes Tiga did bring fond memories of the summer of 2003. Much of it involved barefaced drunkenness and naked pajama parties – oh and dancing until our faces fell off. I romanticize how quickly we fell for each other and despite the garbage that happened (that I put her through), we're still together.

Tiga was introduced to underground dance culture in the 80s by touring with his DJ father who played Goa trance in of all places, Goa, India, a techno-hippie Mecca with huge drug-fuelled beach parties that lasted for days. Back in Montreal about a decade later, Tiga opened a record store (DNA) and started his own record label (Turbo). To date, he is one of the most successful Canadian DJs playing neon parties around the world.

This summer Tiga released his first full-length record, *Sexor*, and yes, that girl and I dance to it in our living room. Both of us particularly enjoy the campy nostalgia of one of the recent singles, "Far From Home." Tiga's carefree vocals bounce the sugary pop along buoyant synth and bass lines.

If you get a chance, check out the remix by Digitalism. Like most work from Digitalism, the synth work in the track skips to a glitchy beat but still crushingly pounds low-end frequencies with tonnes of machinery.

You can reach Jack at Manalogue@gmail.com

Pin Up Girls & Confederate Flags

By Josh Grummettnecronomicom@shaw.ca

A pair of 2005 films coming to Cinematheque this September - The Notorious Bettie Page and C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America - share common ground in the zeitgeist of American nostalgia that they tribute. Or skewer, as the case may be.

Gretchen Mol stars in The Notorious Bettie Page, a biopic about the legendary alternative pin-up star of 1950s America. The release of The Notorious Bettie Page - and its return to Cinematheque "by popular demand" - comes on the heels of a broad resurgence of counterculture interest in Page herself.

From Dark Horse and Eros comic books in the 1990s to the popularity of modern burlesque models such as Bernie Dexter and Dita Von Teese, Bettie Page is cemented as an alternative icon in American nostalgia.

The film itself has alternately been criticized for not criticizing the early pornography industry, and praised for its juxtaposition of black-and-white cinematography with more traditional Technicolor-style explosions of light and colour.

The colour scenes themselves are rare, but add accents of flash and wonder to a movie that consists, by and large, of exacting and human black-and-white cinematography.

Directed by Mary Harron and written by Guinevere Turner, The Notorious Bettie Page runs from September 11th to the 14th, at 9 pm.

C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America, by director Kevin Willmott, takes an entirely different approach to American nostalgia.

Praised by BET.com as "a new, great filmmaker on the horizon," Wilmott takes us through a documentary on the rise of the Confederate States of America after their victory in the Civil War, from 1865 all the way through to the early 21st century.

C.S.A. is presented as if airing on a channel in the CSA, so commercials break up the broadcast and themselves provide a different, incisive, wedged look at the C.S.A.

C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America is a fictional documentary, presenting an alternate history of America. Kevin Willmott's clever presentation seeks to answer the question "What if the South had won the War?" with scenes where Harriet Tubman leads a disgraced Abraham Lincoln through the Underground Railroad in blackface and commercials that tout the values of staying at Coon Chicken Inns. Thought-out and controversial, C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America, runs from September 15th to September 19th, at 9 pm.

Tickets for The Notorious Bettie Page and C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America are available at the Cinematheque box office in the Artspace building, 100 Arthur Street.

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Winnipeg Skins

By Janey M.janeym@gmail.com

Photos by Janey M.

Multi-cultural Canada still has a lot of close-minded attitudes. From sheltered small town kids to more threatening people like neo-Nazi skinheads.

For some Manitoban neo-Nazi skinheads, power seems to be in numbers. Their boots, braces and shaved heads speak volumes but it's the racist declarations, threats of hate crimes and raised-arm, heil Hitler motions that tell the real story.

Alone they are never as lippy but once they get together with beers in hand, they boast loudly about weaponry, slander aboriginals and make lewd comments about women.

"I got throwing knives I carry on me all the time," says Josh, a skinny young guy wearing a dirty white wife-beater tank top.

"Look at that," another says pointing to an aboriginal man coming down the sidewalk. As the man draws nearer tension builds amongst the group. The man, limping, slowly walks by and Jack yells something racist at the man.

It's a cool night and they are sprawled across their front steps feeding off each other's racist slurs. Their voices echo through the quiet night. They haven't lived in this house in Winnipeg's central area for very long and ironically they moved into an area dominated with non-white ethnicities.

These guys boast about their hatred towards gay people, "gooks" and "squaws," and use typical arguments like immigrants taking jobs away from the white man. They even go so far as to reference a well-known skinhead film, where all the skinheads die, Romper Stomper.

But when they are apart, these skinheads have vulnerability. They know they are not kindly looked upon and keep quiet when strolling the streets – they rarely go to music shows around the city, knowing that they would get beat up if they tried.

The skinhead subculture has split into mainly two different areas: sharps and skins. Both dress similar with minor differences. The skinhead outfit typically has boots, braces, a bomber jacket and shaved head. Some even follow a colour code for laces – white means white power. Black means you're a "new cut" (new skinhead).

The skinheads who refer to themselves as sharps - skinheads against racial prejudice - are opposed to neo-Nazi ideals. The difference is usually found in behaviour.

Though these guys give off the image of being tough and proud, they hate being probed about their beliefs. They refuse to enter into a political conversation unless it's with each other. Perhaps this is because of past experiences.

The Internet is proving to be a growing forum for skinhead groups across the world. These organizations have full websites, message boards and even magazines dedicated to the white power cause.

Heritage Front, a worldwide racial group, has affiliated organizations all over Canada. There are nine contacts listed for Ontario and one, Sigrdrifa ABC: Aryan Beginnings for Children, listed for Winnipeg.

Joe says he has a baby on the way now, "I guess you gotta start populating the army sometime," he says, scratching his shaved head.

PROJECTOR MEETING

The Projector is looking for writers from all ends of our college. Every program, from each campus are eligible to express themselves in this paper – it's your voice. We welcome any willing participants to join us at our next story meeting on Friday, Sept. 22, in room W102 at the Princess Street Campus.

Bring some good ideas for what you'd like to write about, or listen to some of ours. If you have an idea which just can't wait, email us!

Winnipeg Ska & Reggae Festival

By Amie Lesyk, Arts & Culture Editor
Press Photo

Winnipeggers will have one last chance to pretend they live somewhere tropical when the Winnipeg Ska & Reggae Festival (WSRF) takes place Sept. 14, 15 and 16. The festival should prove to be one last hurrah as it caps off one of the hottest summers on record in Winnipeg.

With leaves falling slowly to the ground and the once-hot summer nights starting to chill, it's time to sip that Red Stripe and soak up a reggae-doused weekend laden with ska and reggae all stars like the legendary Mikey Dread to local ska acts The Afterbeat and Subcity Dwellers.

The festival's organizing committee came together last November to start planning the festival, which is the second reggae themed festival to hit Winnipeg this summer.

"The last two or three years there has been a few of us who wanted to put on a festival," says WSRF's organizing committee chair, Matt Henderson. "Especially since the absence of Black-O-Rama. With support from local venues like King's Head Pub, Pyramid Cabaret and the West End Cultural Centre, WSRF has organized a weekend of shows and events that target all types of people.

"We're pretty broad with our programming, so there is something for everyone," say Henderson who hopes to see everyone out, from families to punk rockers, to enjoy the mix of traditional and modern ska and reggae.

The WSRF hopes to make this an annual event and has collaborated with other ska and reggae festivals across Canada in order to come up with a suitable plan for Winnipeg. This collaboration is what brought WSRF's attention to Mikey Dread and when Henderson contacted the musician, Dread was more than happy to help out.

"He's making it affordable for us," says Henderson who aimed to start on a small scale since the festival is in its first year. "We didn't want to overextend ourselves."

Mikey Dread, WSRF's headlining act, has been a part of reggae culture and music for over thirty years. According to Dread's website, he got his start as a radio personality in Jamaica and quickly went on to record and produce chart topping music and perform live throughout Jamaica. Dread worked with well-known British punk band The Clash and received international recognition for his music and producing throughout the years.

He has also continued to work in different areas of radio and television as a personality, researcher, news photographer and so on. This man's resume is pages and pages long, so to have him as a headlining act is something of a coup for the festival.

"The feedback we've received from the media has been phenomenal," says Henderson of how things are shaping up for the festival. He says that judging from the success of events like Ska Night at the Winnipeg Jazz Festival, the support for ska and reggae in Winnipeg is obvious.

"People in Winnipeg are educated about what ska and reggae are all about," says Henderson.

Denis Guadry, brass player for The Afterbeat, is looking forward to the festival and is no rookie to these types of events.

"I've been doing the ska thing now for close to 15 years and I'm really glad that Winnipeg is finally doing something like this," says Guadry. I'm hoping it's going to get bigger and bigger over the next few years."

The Afterbeat will be playing opening night, Thursday, September 14 with The Invisible Man and Rebel Force. The shows carry on through the afternoon and long into the night for the rest of the weekend at various venues.

"It's good to see the support from so many influential groups such as the WECC, Sideline Productions, UMFM and the Mod Club just to name a few," says Gaudry.

WSRF hopes to join forces with ska and reggae festivals in Victoria and Calgary in order to share resources for upcoming festivals.

"We played at the Victoria Ska Fest in July which is the biggest ska/reggae festival in the country and one of the biggest in North America," says Gaudry of his other band, The Wedgewoods.

Trudy Turner, executive director for the West End Biz (WEB), says that the First Annual Soca-Reggae Festival that happened in Winnipeg July 22 and 23 was a success and will be making a return next summer as well. WEB co-sponsored the event.

"It was very well attended, approximately 2,000 people throughout the weekend, including many of the Central Park area residents as well as the Caribbean community from all over Winnipeg," says Turner.

Oh and you may notice the WSRF logo, which Henderson says has been the unofficial logo of ska in Winnipeg for the last six or seven years. "Hopefully we don't get sued," he says.

For more information and the weekends schedule you can check out WSRF's myspace at www.myspace.com/wsrf and upcoming issues of Uptown and TAB magazine.

Taking Back Turf in a Creative Way

By Andrea von Wichertavw@mts.net

Local filmmaker David Evans was looking for a venue to show his short films and get feedback from an audience when he met Marcie Fehr at a poker game last February. Fehr was the administrator of the Gas Station Theatre. From that chance meeting, Length: meaty shorts, no filler! was born.

"It was a great moment for me to show my work to a general audience at the Gas Station, and I wanted to offer other directors that opportunity," says Evans. The two are co-producing the sixth screening of short films from independent Winnipeg filmmakers, that happens on Saturday September 16.

The screenings are part of what Osborne Village Cultural Centre (OVCC) executive board member, Shirley Grierson, describes as a "commitment to make the Gas Station an active, completely used community theatre."

The event has been moved to the theatre's licensed outdoor patio for the summer.

Fehr is excited about bringing local film to an area where many filmmakers live.

"Osborne Village has a huge arts community, and the Gas Station is the only venue here for this type of thing," says Fehr.

And it's not just the art scene that Evans is hoping to attract. Because the shorts are shown on a large screen facing the corner of River and Osborne, the work is made accessible to foot traffic "walking by who might not normally have the opportunity to see something like this," says Fehr.

It's also part of a larger community presence that the theatre has been asserting with its outdoor programming. For years the infamous circle at River and Osborne has been the centre of a turf struggle between the theatre, drug dealers and street kids.

Technically OVCC property, Fehr sees events like Length: meaty shorts, no filler! as a way to "take the circle back" and says that it puts a mark on the space and uses it in a positive way without excluding anyone who might happen to be there.

The evening features a broad spectrum of local film from new talent to world renowned filmmaker Guy Maddin's Odilon Redon. Comment cards will be available so viewers can let Fehr and Evans know what they liked or didn't. They are also soliciting new films for future screenings. Anyone wishing to participate can contact them at marciefehr.ovcc@gmail.com.

Admission is free. The evening begins at 8 p.m. with music and drinks on the patio. Films start at 9 p.m.

Biting Into The Big Apple

By Samantha Charranscharran@shaw.ca

New York is on the opposite end of the spectrum when compared to Winnipeg.

Viewing the city from the seat of a descending aircraft New York's bright lights hit you like a bolt of lightning and the fear that the buildings run into the clouds becomes a possibility. The buildings are so close together that it resembles the houses and hotels on a Monopoly game. Open space is considered a luxury.

In comparison, when flying over Winnipeg the lights sparsely dot the night sky and appear to be nothing more than mere fireflies, the landscape is vast and uninhabited with a boxy appearance bearing resemblance to enormous postage stamps scattered about. Only two, perhaps three, tall buildings stand out at the corner of Portage and Main.

More than 30 million tourists visit New York City annually and with its numerous cultural institutions, impressive architecture, vibrant night life, and extravagant shopping this number will continue to rise.

Mitra Singh, a law student at St.John's University would not trade life in New York for anything. "I don't want to sound pompous but this is the capital of the world; it is where everyone comes to share their intellectual as well as cultural views...living in New York is great."

The city oozes with charisma starting in the depths of its subway tunnels and flooding on to the streets in the form of individualistic art, music, and fashion. Even though Winnipeg boasts a rich heritage and is home to a culturally diverse population it still lacks spunk. In Winnipeg being different is almost taboo whereas in New York self expression and eccentric behaviour is a way of life.

Winnipeggers are considered to be kind and friendly – at least that's what it says on the license plate – Friendly Manitoba. On the other hand, New Yorkers have earned a bad reputation for being somewhat ignorant and self-centered.

In typical New York fashion Singh defends his city with a mixture of arrogance and aloofness that is synonymous of New Yorkers. "Usually the only people who say that we're ignorant are country hicks whose tallest buildings are as tall as mud-hut technology will allow them. They're all jealous."

Life in New York could not possibly more different that life on the prairies; however, eventually the stench of garbage becomes familiar, the rattle of the train overhead is no longer a novelty, the honking of car horns gives little cause for alarm and the chatter of different languages becomes music to your ears.

It's almost impossible to go to New York and not fall in love. Coming home to the flat prairie land, the fresh country air and pleasant smiles from Winnipeg commuters - all of which you once yearned for- is replaced by an empty feeling inside as Lady Liberty bids you farewell.

Ride (Slightly) Above It All

By Amie Lesyk, Arts & Culture Editor

Earlier in the summer I headed out on the road for the all-American road trip - without the car. I chose to ride Greyhound the whole way. Yes, from the east coast to the west coast I ventured through the dirtiest of downtown bus depots and smelliest of buses to experience Americana trash culture.

Though you might here nightmare stories about Greyhound, it really depends on the person travelling. If you have time and not a lot of money and can handle a couple days without a shower than you might be able to handle it.

If you buy your tickets ahead of time than Greyhound is dirt cheap. My one way ticket to New York was around $120. All the way through Ontario I watched movies on the little screens provided and most of the way to Toronto I had two seats all to myself, so napping and sleeping was possible. The bus only started filling up as it got to more populated areas, like the suburbs of Toronto.

Once the bus gets fuller, it gets louder, smellier, and sometimes impossible to sleep on. You should bring a pillow to support your neck for semi-upright sleeping, a bag of toiletries and clothes to change into if you are going to be on the bus for awhile.

Once you cross the border you see that the Greyhound, unlike in Canada, is widely used in the States. In Canada the major cities are so far apart that most people fly. In the U.S. there are so many major cities and so many suburbs that the bus system is used frequently.

"The facilities with regards to Greyhound in the US are substandard," says Szymon Skalka, 27, an Australian who has travelled in the U.S. "If I had to use Greyhound again it would only be for short trips, no longer than 6 hours."

If you plan on hitting up a lot of different cities than you might want to get a bus pass that gives you unlimited North American travel for a pre-determined amount of time. Also in the States, it is sometimes cheap to fly from one major city to another. So if your ticket buying is last minute this may be a comparable option.

On my trip from the east coast, through the south, to the west coast and then home I spent a frightening amount of hours on the bus - somewhere over 200 I believe. It was cheap, I met some great people (and some crazy ones) and I survived the ride. The overall experience was positive, and honestly, I would probably do it again.

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MON 06E	8PM	OCT 30	NOV 20	JAN 22	MAR 5
THU 09E	8PM	NOV 2	NOV 23	JAN 25	MAR 8
FRI 10E	8PM	NOV 3	NOV 24	JAN 26	MAR 9
SAT 12E	8:30PM	NOV 4	NOV 25	JAN 27	MAR 10
MON 13E	8PM	NOV 6	NOV 27	JAN 29	MAR 12
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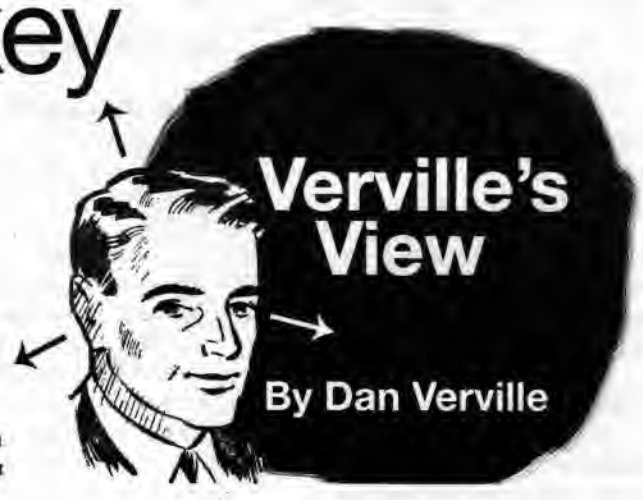
An Identity Based on Hockey



While other countries' national pride is built upon turmoil, civil war, revolution and bloodshed, it's safe to say that who we are as Canadians was decided over the course of eight hockey games in September of 1972.

For those of you, like myself, wh weren't around for the whole Summit Ser thing, here's the Coles' Notes version of what transpired. An eight game hockey series was played between the Soviet Union and Canada. Four games on Canadian soil, four games on theirs. The Soviets weren't even supposed to put up a fight. But they did. Thanks to a goaltender name Tretiak (a name that still instills fear deep in the hearts of many Canadians) and a new approach to the sport, the Soviets were ready for us. It was an even series that featured many memorable moments along the way. Between Bobby Clarke breaking Kharlamovs ankle with a two-hander, a spirited speech by Phil Esposito to all of Canada after game four, and finally the amazing climax in game eight, this series is engraved in the collective conscious of every Canadian who witnessed it.

Ask any Canadian where they were in '72 and you'll get a variety of locations but the same response. Whether they were in a school gymnasium or a corner bar, we were together, huddled around our television sets and watching history unfold. At the moment, when Foster Hewitt exclaimed "Henderson! Henderson has scored for Canada!" half a world away, we were reassured. "The Goal" brought us together closer than before. With the flick of a hockey stick, a moment defined us.

Despite being as multi-cultural as we are, why is our identity as Canadians mainly built upon the foundation of hockey? From the soggy streets of Victoria, British Columbia to the rocky coast of Newfoundland, hockey binds and brings us together. It's a language every Canadian can understand. Amid the confusion on the ice, between the body checks and the slap shots, we find ourselves, emerging through the commotion as one. Canadian.

You can reach Dan at dan.verville@gmail.com

A Sport With Canadian Integrity

By Zach Regieceditor@theprojector.ca

Imagine playing basketball with a soccer ball and peach baskets for hoops. That is how the first game was played when Canadian Dr.James A. Naismith invented the sport in 1891.

"The YMCA was the deliverer of physical education at that time, James was an instructor for the YMCA .They needed an indoor game because in the summer they would play outdoor soccer and football, and in the winter they would do calisthenics," states University of Winnipeg's Athletic Director, Bill Wedlake.

So Naismith created the team game to keep his students busy in the winter. The first official basketball game consisted of nine players on each side, since Naismith had eighteen students in his class.

"The peach baskets were hung at ten feet because the track's floor that circled the gym was ten feet above the level that Naismith's students were playing on," explains Wedlake.

In today's game the rims still measure ten feet above the gym floor and many of Naismith's 13 original rules are still used.

But, some things have changed over the years. The original basketball rule sheet had just over 600 words whereas some current rule books for the sport have over 30,000 words. And basketball has more depth to it than just being a way to stay in shape during winter months.

"The game of basketball teaches its students about having an intensity which produces a work ethic that can help in other aspects of their lives," states Wedlake.

"The biggest things that it taught me are hard work and being consistent," says former player Sherwin Vasallo who is now the athletic therapist for the Wesman basketball team. He agrees the sport can teach valuable life lessons.

Adam Wedlake, Executive Director of Basketball Manitoba, also says the game of basketball can teach participants important values such as "dealing with winning and losing in an appropriate manner," along with having "respect for your opponents."

Uzo Asagwara, a fifth-year starting guard for the women's team at University of Winnipeg says the game has taught her both tolerance and acceptance. "I have met so many different kinds of people through the sport. I've learned to accept people, and we have the game of basketball as a common ground."

Naismith, who was regarded by many as a man with strong morals and integrity, would likely be pleased to hear such positive commentary regarding the values and camaraderie learned while playing his simple game of shooting hoops.

The Flip Side Of The Banjo

By Brett Hoppereditor@theprojector.ca

Regina. Just saying the name may make you feel just a little bit dirty. It's a city in the middle of nowhere with a fairly bland urban appeal. So why do hundreds of Winnipeggers make the six hour trek westward every Labour Day?

Football is the name of the game, and every year the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers do battle at the recently renamed Mosaic Stadium. The 31,000 seat venue plays host to an epic crusade between two rivaling factions that keeps Winnipeggers driving out to the Saskatchewan capital year after year, no matter how poorly the Bombers perform.

This year was no different. In the hours leading up to the game, Bomber and Rider fans lined the streets of Regina, hoisting their banners and flags for all to see. The trash-talk was flying before the war even began. It was a game before the game in an attempt to see who could rattle the other enough to show some sort of weakness.

Steve Hall, a student at the University of Regina said, "It's fun to get everyone all riled up, you know… it's all part of the game."

It was a matter of hometown pride, which in essence is what the whole Labour Day Classic weekend is all about - displaying your hometown pride in a way that hasn't been done before.

The actual football game this year was rather one-sided with the Roughriders coming out on top with a score of 39-12. The Bomber offence never really got up and running, scoring only one touchdown in the game from Kevin Glenn's pass to Milt Stegall in the second quarter. The Bombers were stunned in the second half failing to score any points against the Riders defense as the Roughrider offense literally ran away with the show scoring a total of five touchdowns.

With all this in mind, you can imagine the heyday that was had by the Saskatchewan fans. Every missed opportunity by the Bombers or a major gain by the Roughriders was met by cheers from the better part of Mosaic Stadium. It's supposed to be all in good fun and it is for the better part, but there is always a chance of someone taking it one step too far. A beer can tossed in the wrong direction, or an unintended push in the crowd could turn what is supposed to be a fun weekend into a nightmare.

"I have to watch my back sometimes, depending on who won," Mike McLean, a Red River College student explains. "I'll probably keep coming back every year, but it's hard when some people just act like idiots."

It's cool to show your hometown pride, but it's best to keep things in perspective and remember — it's just a game.

Baking Plans For The Boulangers

By Janelle Wookeyjanelle_wookey@hotmail.com

As a French pastry chef, your well on your way to success with a last name like Boulanger. Boulanger means baker in French and is also the last name of the newest owner of Le Croissant bakery-café in St.Boniface.

Fabienne Boulanger worked as a fine pastry chef with her husband Jérôme, a chocolatier, in Paris before moving to Winnipeg in June of 2005.

In Paris, the Boulangers worked out of luxury hotels serving various international celebrities, including Zinedine Zidane (whom she says she is still a fan).

"We gained a lot of good experience working in Paris, but ultimately we wanted to open up our own shop," explains Fabienne.

While working in Paris, she noticed an ad in the paper from the CDEM looking for French entrepreneurs to establish themselves in St.Boniface. The CDEM is a Manitoban organization whose role, according to their website, is to "co-ordinate the implementation of major economic development projects, in close co-operation with the bilingual municipalities and their community development corporations."

She and her husband jumped at the opportunity, and two months after arriving in Canada, on August 3rd, 2005, they gained ownership of Le Croissant.

Le Croissant originally opened its doors 13 years ago. Business had been good until a short while before the Boulanger's arrival. People in the community say the previous owners (also from France), had grown tired and grumpy. "Going to Le Croissant was actually becoming unpleasant," says Suzanne Andre, a St.Boniface resident.

"I can understand how this type of work can become tiring," says Fabienne. "The hours are long. The previous owners were worn out and anxious to retire."

Business at Le Croissant has gone up since the new owners have taken over.

The menu, mostly reflective of French cuisine, now includes cheese, pâté, fine pastries and chocolate, in addition to various types of bread, baguettes, desserts and, of course, croissants. (Although this is not a restaurant review, it has to be said that the croissants served up by the Boulangers are the best this journalist has ever tasted. They were worth the mess I made in my car on my way home. They were definitely worth spoiling my dinner for, and when the cute guy next to me at the red light caught me stuffing my face, they were still worth it. Heck, they were even worth the carbs.)

The Boulanger's plans for the future include distributing their products to other stores and someday offering baking classes to people in the community.

"What I like most about Winnipeg," said Boulanger, "are the people. They're very welcoming and friendly. They've been so supportive." She also enjoys the open spaces, as Paris, she said, often feels cluttered.

H2O Still A Safe Bet

By Lisa Magnussonhealth@theprojector.ca

Health Canada has issued a warning against drinking hydrogen peroxide for medicinal use.

One month prior to their warning, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sent out their own warning, dated Jul. 27.

Each stated: "ingestion of hydrogen peroxide can cause serious harm or death, as well as irritation or ulcers in the stomach or intestines."

However, the difference in the two warnings is that the Canadian version does not target nor mention they are trying to stop companies from selling high-grade hydrogen peroxide for medicinal purposes.

When the FDA sounds the whistle, Canadians stop, and pay attention immediately – give or take a few weeks.

Many of us know how much command the FDA has, given the fact that they have a law stating that only a drug can cure a disease – or is this a law made by the pharmaceutical industry, which has even more clout?

Hydrogen peroxide (or h2o2) is used in most households, typically used for minor cuts and abrasions. This solution is usually of the 3% drugstore variety. You definitely would not want to ingest, nor gargle with it, as it contains stabilizers and additives – save it for the cuts.

In Canada, there are products authorized for sale of high-grade hydrogen peroxide, available as "health products for professional use only."

One of the companies the U.S. FDA is targeting sells 35% peroxide.

They are accused of touting the product as "intended to prevent, treat, or cure disease conditions or to affect the structure or function of the human body."

This seems quite a substantial claim for the little water and oxygen molecules.

Donald Worden, the owner of the company which is located in Texas, says his personal experience suggests the warning won't interfere with his own peroxide ritual.

"I take five drops in a glass of water every morning," Warden says.

Worden adds he has been doing so for seven years, and has not been sick.

However, one of the problems he had to clear up was in a disclaimer, which he did comply with and has had no further response from the FDA.

Certainly, the peroxide warning comes at a time when many people are becoming fed up with the whole drug industry, and the promise of cures in the "latest drug" that made its way through the expedited review process.

That being said, how many folks would go out and drink hydrogen peroxide? There are many who have been down the road of conventional medical treatments and have become more ill due to the side effects.

In a desperate attempt to relieve their illnesses, people turn to the Internet to inform themselves on other therapies.

As for the "cure all" in 35% hydrogen peroxide, always take your concerns to a health care professional, whether it is a mainstream medical doctor, homeopath, or naturopath.

According to the Canadian warning dated Aug. 21, 2006, "to date, no adverse reactions suspected to be associated with the ingestion of hydrogen peroxide have been reported to Health Canada."

FALL FITNESS CLASSES
NOTRE DAME CAMPUS

FUSION
Tuesdays 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm, South Gym Sept. 19 – Nov.28 (10 Classes)
Fridays 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm, South Gym Sept. 22 – Dec. 1 (10 Classes)
Instructor: Sharon McAuley
Fusion Fitness Training is a non-purist approach to traditional forms of training. It is a perfect blend of Yoga, Pilates and Fitness Conditioning that challenges strength, balance & flexibility, increases stamina, focuses the mind and cleanses the spirit.

FITNESS FIX
Mondays 4:00 pm – 4:50 pm, North Gym Sept. 18 – Sept. Dec. 4 (10 Classes)
Wednesdays 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm, North Gym Sept. 20 – Nov. 29 (10 Classes)
Thursdays 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm, North Gym Sept. 21 – Nov. 30 (10 Classes)
Instructor: Eleanor Tsang
This class offers a variety of fitness modalities to increase your strength, endurance and overall physical health. A combination of muscle sculpting and some aerobic activity using equipment and methods such stability balls, dynabands and calisthenics will be included.

PILATES
Tuesdays 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm, F209 Sept. 19 – Nov. 28 (10 Classes)
Instructor: Sharon McAuley
With an emphasis on breath, core conditioning and body awareness, PILATES exercise is a safe and highly effective way to stretch, strengthen and streamline your body without building bulk or stressing your joints.

YOGA
Thursdays 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm, F209 Sept. 21 – Nov. 30 (10 Classes)
Instructor: Sharon McAuley
Yoga consists of a series of poses or asanas that facilitate greater breath awareness and release muscle tension while building muscle strength and flexibility of the joints and spine.

Registration Costs:
1 Class = $45 2 Classes = $80 3 Classes = $110 Each additional class = $30

Registration payments may be made at the Student Service Centre, D101. Registration deadline is Friday September 15.

SAVOUR THIS

Stock Up Before Winter

By Joanna Fultz, News Editor

While enjoying the last few days of sunshine at the lake and catching up on the latest news about celebrity nipple slips, I was unexpectedly assaulted by a missile attack of falling acorns launched from the shadowy oak branches above. Curious as to if this were just a squirrel with sore nuts or a natural phenomenon, I consulted the handy online Farmer's Almanac at www.farmersalmanac.com which states, "An unusual abundance of acorns is one sign of a hard winter. How early they fall is a factor."

Quickly recalling the past winter of extraordinarily balmy temperatures, my mind was sent racing as to what brutally cold weather the upcoming season may have in store for Manitobans. Our traditionally thick hides have become soft and malleable in the warmth of last winter and it is time to firm up our outer layers in preparation for the good possibility of a long, cold road ahead.

The Canadian fall harvest is a guarantee for some fresh, earthy autumnal produce and hearty recipes are easy to come by during this season of abundance.

Winnipeg does not always receive the freshest produce during the winter months, and after taking this into account, it may be a wise idea to shake our bushy tails and start stock piling what we can now, before it's all green bananas and Mr. Noodles.

The St. Norbert Farmer's Market is an excellent place to get farm fresh produce at student savvy prices every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. until Thanksgiving weekend.

"Oh my god, the corn there is unreal. The freshest, creamiest cobs you've ever tasted. It all is totally right out of the farmer's field and straight to you, and it's cheap," says Laurel Ripely, a 24-year-old University of Winnipeg student.

There truly is nothing like the taste of food planted, nurtured and harvested by the same set of toiling hands, and the St. Norbert Market is a great place to give support to local farmers and give your body nutrients the way they were intended – straight from the ground up.

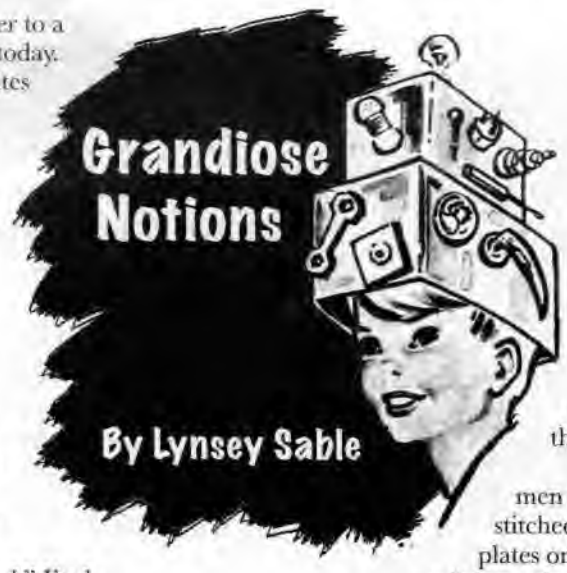
Fall vegetables like beets, potatoes, parsnips, onions and squash are good investments for the coming season, as they all love cool dark places and are perfectly content to hang out in your cupboard for a while before growing friends or getting a mean slime on.

Tomatoes and apples are also at their prime this time of year, but they only last for so long unless made into preserves. The St. Norbert Market also offers up rows upon rows of portly glass jars glowing with sweet, salty and colourful preserves of all varieties.

Don't be a grasshopper this season, start squirreling away now before it's -35 outside and you're eating Zoodles out of the can.

To find out more about the farmer's market, check out www.stnorbertfarmersmarket.ca.

Furby Fred And The Politics of Polite



So I gave my phone number to a crazy man on Furby Street today. He's about 65 years old, writes books and carves wooden crosses. When he asked me to sit and have a smoke, I thought, why not. He shook my hand, said his name was Fred, and told me I looked like a doe.

Fred spoke of a Ukrainian woman he knows who gets beaten. He theorized about the thieves in his building. He pondered the intricacies of what women truly want. He asked me for my phone number.

"I want to be your friend," Fred said.

And where most people would say, "Sorry dude," I said "Sure." It was the point where good manners become bad judgment. When you know you know better.

Because Fred may be kind. Fred may be interesting. But Fred is also a 65-year-old man sitting on Furby Street with a stack of cigarette butts, a fetish for wooden crosses and now, a piece of paper with my phone number on it.

After tucking my phone number into his pocket, Fred mentioned he likes to bite – like a horse.

They say Canadians are among the most polite people in the world.

Today I did something I thought was being polite.

But was giving my phone number really about being polite, or was it just about feeling bad? Are Canadians truly polite, or are we just afraid of looking like assholes?

This past summer I lunched with two American Air Force pilots. They were funny, gracious and pleasant. The younger one had a boyish sparkle and rolling drawl, like in his spare time he hauls buckets of milk from the barn.

Politically, for me, these men were the enemy. The badges stitched to their chests, the license plates on their cars, what they did for a living – their existence was the antithesis of mine. For the next hour we talked about Afghani wildlife and Canadian coffee. I didn't say what I wanted to say. The young American with daft sweetness mentioned how polite Canadians were.

Until today, I assumed I didn't bring political passions to the table because it wouldn't have been polite. After feeling bad for Fred, I realize that leaving the Americans to eat in peace had nothing to do with being good company and everything to do with pity.

I felt sorry for Fred for being crazy, so I gave him my phone number. I felt sorry for the Americans for being ignorant, so I didn't question their motives.

Perhaps Canadian passivity isn't about keeping the peace. Perhaps we're so sure of our superiority, we take pity on everyone else. A sprawling country not of subtle warmth, but one of quiet condescension.

You can reach Lynsey at ladylynsey@gmail.com

Gratis

Tired of seeing words like behaviour, valour, and traveller underlined as incorrect on your computer screen? Most of our computers are set to the default English U.S. language setting, but you can change the default settings in Microsoft Office to Canadian English and have it apply to all the Microsoft products such as Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint.

You simply need to adjust the default dictionary.

Here's how: On the Windows start menu point to all programs, then point to Microsoft Office, and finally point to Microsoft Office Tools. Next, click on Microsoft Office Language Settings. Click on the Enabled Languages tab (if not already open). In the default version/behaviour of Microsoft office menu (located at the bottom) select English (Canada), and then click OK.

If another message appears describing the effects of the change just click Continue and close.

Voila! Watch those red underlines disappear and enjoy the freedom of being Canadian in the digital world.

FALL FITNESS CLASSES
PRINCESS STREET CAMPUS

FUSION
Mondays 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm, P107 Sept. 18 – Dec. 4 (10 Classes)
Instructor: Sharon McAuley
Fusion Fitness Training is a non-purist approach to traditional forms of training. It is a perfect blend of Yoga, Pilates and Fitness Conditioning that challenges strength, balance & flexibility, increases stamina, focuses the mind and cleanses the spirit.

FITNESS FIX
Wednesdays 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm, P107 Sept. 20 – Dec. 6 (10 Classes)
Instructor: Eleanor Tsang
This class offers a variety of fitness modalities to increase your strength, endurance and overall physical health. A combination of muscle sculpting and some aerobic activity using equipment and methods such stability balls, dynabands and calisthenics will be included.

Registration Costs:
1 Class = $45
2 Classes = $80

Registration payments may be made at the Student Service Centre, P107. Registration deadline is Friday September 15.

Call Recreation Services for more information at: 949-8499

Hard to Take

Got a prob? Email Brant and Meghan at bmadvice@hotmail.com

Dear Meghan & Brant,

I met a guy from my class, and we hooked up. But I was very drunk and I'm not sure if he remembers or likes me. Class is very awkward now. What should I do?

- *Distressed in Dakota*

Meghan

eats toast and remembers all of my drunken mishaps I think if you have to question whether he remembers or likes you, the answer is no to at least one of them. As for class, it will continue to be awkward unless you acknowledge to him outside of class.

Let's take a look at this: if he liked you, he would have said something by now. He most likely remembers, thus the awkwardness. I think you need to let him know in person that it was a mistake. (If it wasn't a mistake then that's also up to you to let him know). Make a joke to break the ice and decide to be friends. It's just best that way while you're in school. And if after graduation you want to ravage him and he says no at least you'll probably never see him again. It's win-win.

Brant

I disagree that if he liked you he would have said something by now. If he likes you, he may be caught off guard by your less amorous personality now. Is it awkward because he's avoiding you or you're avoiding him?

If he's avoiding you, and you think it was a mistake, just learn to live with the awkwardness. Not everything in life can be resolved. If you don't think it was a mistake, I hate to throw one of my fellow brothers under the bus, but he may be an ass. Avoid drinking around him.

If you're avoiding him, suck it up and talk to him. Tell him how you stand, and if you can't be friends after that, you probably weren't that good of friends in the first place.

And by the way Meghan, quit eating all my toast.

Dear Meghan & Brant,

I'm having a hard time juggling work, school, and fun. I have to work as I live on my own. What can I do?

- *Stressed in St. Vital*

Brant

Sadly, fun may be the ball you have to set down.

I'm all about fun, but you have to set your priorities. You have to work a crappy job to pay for school. You have to go to school so you can get a great job to work at. You have to get a great job so you can pay for all the fun stuff you want to do.

You can't have fun to go to school or get a great job. If you can, please email me here at bmadvice@hotmail.com, so I can do it too.

I realize how hard it is to live on your own, and trying to get everything done can drive you crazy. That's when you pick up the fun ball.

Meghan

Put down the fun ball, Brant? I think it is possible to juggle all three if you BUDGET.

Let's take myself as an example: I work a crappy retail job and have for years now. Granted I don't live on my own, but my phone and visa bills are enough for a month's rent at a mid-scale apartment. Does that stop me from having fun? NEVER!

Go out and do it cheaply. Go to the cheap seats on cheap night, watch television or play board games with friends, and pre-drink before going out so you don't have to pay those nasty bar tabs. Also having a flask shaped like a cell phone helps immensely. I'm not saying it's the mature way to handle your problems, but it's the student way.

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EASY RECIPES FOR EMPTY FRIDGES

Spaghetti Squash Thyme

1 large spaghetti squash
4 cloves fresh minced garlic
½ cup good olive oil
1 tbsp Kosher salt
1 tbsp cracked black pepper
6 sprigs fresh thyme
1 tbsp butter

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Take one spaghetti squash (large, oval and pale yellow). Cut into two halves. Hallow out any seeds inside. Rub flesh with olive oil, kosher salt, cracked black pepper, minced garlic, thyme and dot with a small amount of butter. Put on baking sheet on tin foil face down.

Let bake for 40 – 50 minutes. Once soft to touch, scrape out flesh with fork (will resemble strands of spaghetti).

Serve with extra butter, salt, and a glass of red wine.

*Spaghetti squash is also a waistline friendly replacement for pasta, try it smothered in a good tomato sauce – yum.

Have *you* mastered the art of four ingredient meals?
Drop us a creative recipe at health@theprojector.ca.
With your help, we can save a starving student's stomach, today.

Bacon'd Apples

4 large apples
8 slices of bacon
2 Tbsp of vegetable oil
2 Tbsp brown sugar

Peel apples and cut into cubes or slices. Sauté the bacon in a frying pan until it is crisp. Set cooked bacon aside. Drain grease from pan leaving about 1 Tbsp behind. Add vegetable oil to frying pan. Add apples, sprinkling them with brown sugar, and sauté until apples are tender. Serve apples with bacon.

Things Momma Never 'Splained

Last issue we asked: What is Grimace and how does it promote McDonald's? Here is what you answered:

Grimace is a fat blob of unhealthy grease. He represents the fact that if you really understood what you were eating you would surely grimace. He is promoted directly to children in an effort to develop acceptance at a young age of the grease and fat being fed to them, and as a representation of what their future bodies will look like after many years of "happy" meals.

— Purple People Eater

McDonald's answered:

Thank you for writing to McDonald's about Grimace.

Grimace personifies the child in everyone. He's a big, fuzzy, purple fellow, and is Ronald's right-hand man and closest friend.

Everyone in McDonaldland loves Grimace because of his innocent, loving nature. He's enthusiastic, eager and easily pleased. Grimace walks with a rolling gait, and can't be classified as any particular kind of animal.

Again, thanks for thinking of Grimace. We look forward to serving you for many years to come.

— McDonald's Customer Response Center

Send us your unanswered questions to health@theprojector.ca. We may feature your question and seek out the true answer.

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