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The Projector
Red River College Students' Association newspaper
September 17, 2001

Time runs out on Airport Road

photo by Ravna Anderson

Students parking on Airport Road will notice the new two-hour time limit put in place this summer.

Days of free parking over

By Andrew Buck and Andrew Langendorfer

The clock is running. Back in the good ol' days (or perhaps last year), one could park all day on Airport Road.

Now students who leave their vehicles here run the risk of being ticketed, as the city has placed a two-hour parking limit on the road.

In addition to being a prime make-out spot, Aiport Road has for a long time served as a handy parking place for Red River College students without parking passes.

Its close proximity to the College – located south of Notre Dame Avenue by Omand's Creek – and ample space made it the next best option to parking on campus. Not to mention it was free.

On any given day upwards of 50 vehicles lined the road. Facing ticketing and a search to find a new place to park, some students are upset.

"It totally sucks, because most days I get a ride with someone else, and I don't want to buy a parking pass for 200 bucks so I can park there maybe one day a week," said second-year Computer Analyst Programming student Scott Laing.

"It's not fair. I don't have enough time in between classes to go move my car so I don't get a ticket," he said. "This is bullshit."

RRC director of Facilities Bill Miller says he understands that some students are upset with the new time limits, which came into effect over the summer.

"The students don't want to have to pay for parking," he said. "I don't blame them, they're not rich people. They're just like me: if I didn't have to pay for parking, I wouldn't either."

While some students don't buy parking passes because they can't afford them, other students are left out in the cold when the passes become sold out.

Parking Services co-ordinator Lydia Shirtliffe says that as of last week both West and North lots were completely sold out. However, as parking passes become available they will be sold to students.

"In any particular year, (the lots are filled) about the first two weeks in September," said Miller. "Then it slows down when students determine what time they need to be here."

As well, some programs only run for four to six weeks, while some students drop out of their classes.

Miller says College staff conduct daily surveys of the lots to determine the number of open stalls. A certain percentage of open spots are then put up for sale to students.

In the past, students who were unable to get a pass could use Airport Road for parking. That led to problems for local businesses, who contacted Miller about the problem.

"In early May I received a phone call from a local business on that road," he said. "Their first concern was lost business. There is also a danger when cars are parked at entrances where large trucks needed to get in and out."

The businesses were also losing customer parking.

"At that point in time he asked me to do an investigation to see if the College had enough parking," said Miller. With the exception of the first few weeks of the school year and one-day events, Miller says there is enough parking on campus to accomidate students and staff.

The businesses contacted the city, who proceeded to place a time limit on the road. According to the city's Traffic Services department, ticketed vehicles face a $15 fine that will increase to a maximum of $65 if not paid.

Miller says the time limit seems to be working.

"The businesses haven't contacted me again," he said.

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Prior learning assessments credit life experience

By Kelly Stifora

A growing number of Red River College students are seeking diplomas and certificates without going to class.

And these students at RRC, which has offered Prior Learning Assessment services in some programs since 1980, are in a good position to do so.

"We're widely recognized," says RRC's PLA facilitator Deb Blower. "Red River is involved in local, provincial, national and international training in prior learning assessment systems. And it's because of the work that's been done by the different programs in the college."

PLA programs, such as the one at RRC, seek to offer credit in college courses for the learning gained in one's life experience. Of course, transfer credits for courses completed at other colleges and universities have always been available, but PLA offers many methods of assessment and takes into account all forms of work and life experience.

In addition to seeking credit for other college and university courses, students may seek credit through the assessment of training courses taken through employers, by submitting a portfolio document that proves a student possesses the learning that they would attain in a given course or by undergoing a challenge process, which could include any number of methods from oral or written examinations to practical examinations and simulations.

Blower cautions against attempting to use the PLA program as an easy way out, however.

"If you don't have most of the learning in a course, we don't recommend that you acquire learning assessment. Because what you're saying as a student is 'I already have this learning and I want a prove it. I don't need to go to class, I don't want to relearn what I already know.'"

If you're not sure what you already know, the RRC PLA department can probably help.

photo by Kelly Stifora

Deb Blower (left) and Lauren Waples run the College's PLA department. The department runs tri-weekly orientation dates throughout the year.

Lauren Waples, RRC's PLA Advisor (recently hired to help keep up with an increasing demand) can help you navigate the PLA process and figure out what your knowledge is worth. If you're not yet a student, but know that your knowledge is worth something, Blower recommends the PLA's portfolio development course.

"The portfolio development course has a lot of benefits if you're not a college student, you're looking at exploring where you want to go in your life, or you're looking at what you've already done and taking inventory of that and making some major career and educational goal decisions," says Blower.

"That's when the portfolio development course can be a very useful course."

If you're worried that you might not be successful in gaining credit through the RRC PLA system, think again.

In a study that was conducted by the the PLA department at RRC between 1993 and 1998 (which contributed to a larger study involving seven colleges and universities across Canada) that surveyed 3,500 students, Blower says 94 per cent were successful in proving prior learning and gaining credit.

"We think that's not just because they have the learning," said Blower, "but partly because of the support and advice that they get before they decide they're going to do this."

RRC currently offers PLA in many of its programs, and more are always being considered. Recent pilot projects include PLA systems for the Manufacturing Technician and Hotel and Restaurant Management programs.

For more information, contact Lauren Waples (D104C) or Deb Blower (A142).

The Projector
Red River College Students' Association newspaper

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

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

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Creative Arts department applies for radio licence

By Andrew Buck

Red River College has taken the first step in carving out a place for itself on the FM dial.

Last Wednesday, the College's Creative Arts department submitted an application for a radio licence to the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission.

"We know that the CRTC has made a call for commercial licences," said Creative Arts chair Bob McGregor. "If you apply alone you face a three to four year wait for a hearing. There should be a hearing within six to eight months, so the timing was good."

CRTC hearings consist of a quasi-judicial process, where the commission reviews application requests. If accepted, much of the station's content would be determined at the hearing, said McGregor.

"We'll have to work it out with the CRTC," he said. "It would be curriculum-oriented and give students the opportunity for hands-on experience on the mics and behind the scenes."

McGregor said students would essentially run the station, working broadcast, traffic, production and sales positions.

The timing of the application also coincides with the Creative Arts department's move to the new Princess Street campus.

"In moving downtown the theory is there will be more advanced equipment on-site," said McGregor. Most of the equipment needed to broadcast an FM signal is already in place.

"The good news is we can start transmitting fairly cheaply," McGregor said. "The cost of a transmitting tower as well as legal and engineering fees is about $50,000."

A radio station would also be the perfect place for Creative Communications students enrolled in the new broadcast major to get their feet wet.

"In an ideal world broadcast students would do most of the running of the station," McGregor said. Creative Communications journalism, advertising and public relations students would also have a hand in various aspects of the station relevant to their major.

Much of the station's development still needs to unfold, but McGregor says the logistics and structure of the station will come together as a potential on-air date nears.

Hospitality department heading to Mexico

By Scott Prouse

The Hospitality department at Red River College, the Instituto Tecnol-gico de la Costa Grande and the Ixtapa Hotel Association have joined forces in creating a tourism management and technical support-training program in Mexico.

The project identifies a need for a formal training program for those in need of upgrading and further education to stay on top of current hospitality trends in the highly competitive 'Mexican Riviera' tourism destination. It will help expand economic opportunities and meet the demand for management and labour personnel in Ixtapa, Mexico.

The project will start sometime in 2002, with an instructor on their way down this year to begin work on the program.

"This is a unique and exciting opportunity for the College to share its expertise in curriculum development and delivery in hospitality and tourism management," said David Rew, Chair of RRC's Hospitality department. "It's basically a decision based on the duty of global citizens in sharing knowledge with those who are interested," he continued.

"In Mexico they have more of a connection with other countries such as Europe and South America, therefore the hospitality industry has a slightly different feel to it, information the Ixtapa Hotel Association will in turn educate the College on."

The four year, $335,000 project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency under the Canadian College Partnership Program and is administered by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

It also involves participation from the Manitoba Tourism Education Council and the Manitoba Hotel Administration in assisting the Instituto to develop new opportunities for their students.

"This $335,000 knowledge exchange project developed and submitted by the International Education office and the Hospitality department is Red River's fifth active overseas development project," said Terry Lewycky, director of International Education at the College.

The new project joins others currently under way in the Philippines, China and Vietnam. As one of 20 colleges selected for this funding from over 70 applicants, Red River is carrying this torch of international development straight through to Ixtapa, Mexico, and possibly even further.

photo by Rayna Anderson

Red River College's Hospitality department has created a new program that will start in Mexico next year. The program is a partnership between Canadian and Mexican forces.

Students shocked by 'unreal' attacks on U.S.

By Andrew Langendorfer

The skies were empty of aircraft for the first time in decades.

Images of carnage unheard of in America were flashed across our television screens and forever burned into our minds Sept. 11, 2001.

Hijacked commercial jets crashed into the Pentagon, a field in rural Pennsylvania and both towers of the World Trade Center, levelling the twin skyscrapers. At press time, no official numbers had been released regarding casualties.

Across Canada and the United States, millions of people shut down their daily operations and glued their eyes and ears to news sources, and Red River College's population was no exception.

As soon as the news of the attacks trickled, then gushed through the news wires, College students and staff snapped to attention.

"I was in the Students' Association office when the secretary came in and asked if we'd seen what was going on. That was at about (8 a.m.)," said Todd Buchanan, manager of The Ox student store.

"I was shocked. We put it on the TV right away, and we've been switching it between CNN and ABC all day," said Buchanan, who controls what is shown on the projection TV screen in the Tower Lounge, where scores of students congregated to watch a piece of the Manhattan skyline crumble and burn.

"It's a pretty important day, for bad reasons. We'll have it on constantly," he said.

Chantal Chartier, a second-year Advertising Art student at the College, settled in computer lab FM-72, where staff had set up a projection screen and two television sets for students.

"We had about half an hour of class this morning, but our teacher was too disgusted with the whole situation, so I've been sitting here watching for the past few hours," said Chartier. "It's just unbelievable. It looks like graphics from a movie almost. This is unreal."

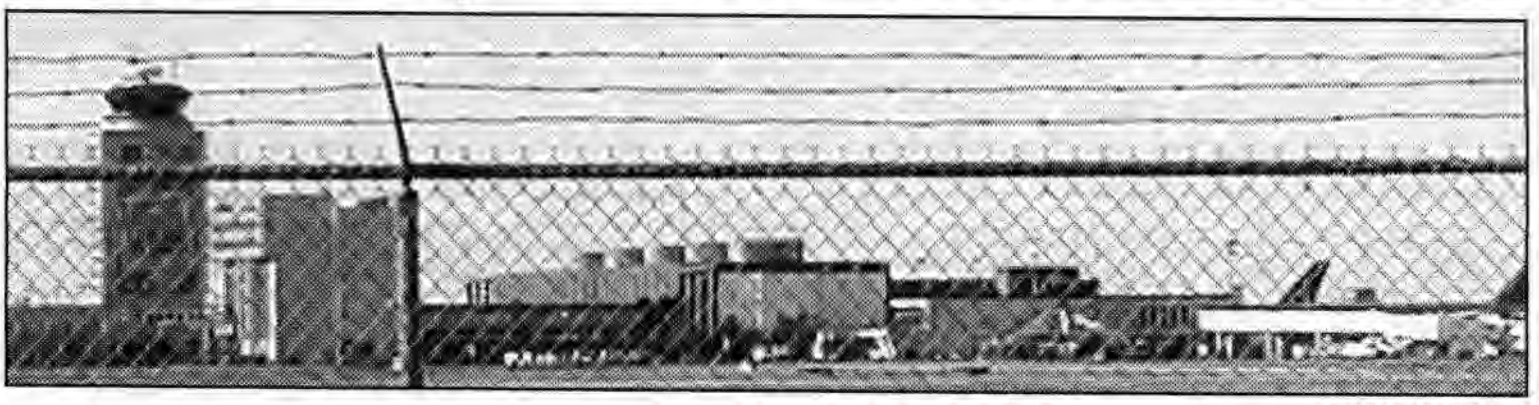

photo by Andrew Buck

A total of 17 American-bound flights were rerouted to Winnipeg International Airport because of futher threats.

Earlier in the morning, the SA made the call to start rounding up television sets.

"It's hard to concentrate on work when such a big event is happening," said SA President Robyn Osmond. "The students want to hear what's going on, so as long as they're reporting we'll be watching it," she said. RRC's radio station CMOR did not carry regular programming, but rather kept locked on CJOB all day to keep students informed of developments.

The vicious assault also affected some RRC students more deeply than others.

First-year Advertising Art student Marsha Robb spent most of her day trying to get through the traffic jam of phone lines.

"One of my cousins works at Goldman & Sax, which is within walking distance of the towers, and another cousin works in the burn unit of a hospital there," she said.

"I called my mom right away when I heard, and we've both been trying to get through but all the phone lines are down. Right now I'm just waiting and trying to get updates on what's going on," said Robb, who later heard that her family was safe.

Asked if she will remember in 20 years where she was on Sept. 11, 2001, Chartier emphatically agreed.

"Oh yeah. Definitely. Right in that blue chair in the TV room at Red River College, watching it."

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Attended the Congress of Canadian Student Associations allowing us to polish our skills in our related positions and network with students throughout Canada

CASA
Attended Canadian Alliance of Student Associations AGM to prepare for national lobbying, set the budget for the upcoming year, and organize a new national campaign

www.rrcsa.com
Constructed Red River College Student Associations' own website. Maintained and updated material

Housing Directory
Constructed a new directory for students on our own website. Check out www.rrcsa.com

Hiring
Worked with our new Program Director in hiring a new Events Co-ordinator, Dave Rittberg

Clubs
Handled day to day operations of the 2001 – 2002 clubs of RRC. Organized information on clubs from the past year

Donations
Gathered donations for RRCSA' Frosh Week. Sent out a mass mailout, packaged all the prizes up. Over 90 Prizes will be distributed within the next week

Class Rep System
Reorganized class rep binders and packaged them. Constructed information for the chairs of the college to distribute to the instructors

Appeals – Constructed a new appeal process with the college. Worked on academic appeals and complaints

SA Booth – Planned the booth, gathered giveaways and free shwag for students

Microwaves – Bought 4 new microwaves for student use

Projector – Designed ads for student employment opportunities and SA initiatives

Princess Street – Consulted with the college on design plans for student areas at the new campus

Job Fair – RRCSA took on RRC's job fair, date is tentatively middle of march

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NDP taps into youth with planned forum

By Jess Irvine

The National NDP party wants to hear what youth have to say, and aim to get more of them involved.

With their National Convention slated for Nov. 25-26 in Winnipeg, NDP MP for Winnipeg North Centre Judy-Wasylycia-Leis has a plan that attempts to do just that.

As host of a Youth Forum to be held at the Filipino Seniors Hall (49 Euclid Avenue) Sept. 21, Wasylycia-Leis is looking to generate new interest in her party.

Elected as an MLA in Winnipeg in 1986 and then as an MP in 1997, Wasylycia-Leis said she hopes "to draw on the energy, ideas and experience of youth in the rebuilding of the NDP."

After being reduced in the last federal election from 20 to 13 seats (or eight to nine per cent in the polls), her party has held several meetings across the country to strategize on how to regain popularity at the polls.

Intended to reach out to younger Canadians, the Youth Forum will begin with a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a panel of youth speakers who attended the Quebec Summit, a round table discussion, and live entertainment.

Though the NDP has held many forums in the past, Wasylycia-Leis believes this is the "first forum that has actually organized around young people."

With no costs associated except for a request that participants bring something to share for the potluck supper, Wasylycia-Leis has tapped into youth in the NDP party to help her organize the event.

There are three things the MP would like to see come out of the evening.

"We would hope to encourage young people to get more involved in the political process generally, and to see the NDP as a political avenue for effecting change," she said.

She also wants her "party to get a whole other perspective on where our policies fall short and why we're not appealing to a broader group of Canadians." Stating that the NDP has "failed to present themselves as a vehicle for change at the national level," Wasylycia-Leis said she hopes the forum will attract youth who haven't necessarily thought of attending something like this before and encourage them to look into the party's national convention.

The third item Wasylycia-Leis notes about the evening is the three youth speakers "with first-hand knowledge about what happened at the Quebec Summit," which she hopes will "spark a renewed effort to be a stronger voice on that front."

While she knows there are young people involved in social justice movements locally and nationally, she hopes to channel some of that energy to her party and welcome those who want to be more active as citizens.

For more information, call Judy Wasylycia-Leis' constituency office at 984-1767.

photo by Jess Irvine

Speaker Rob Altemeyer and partner Phoebe Burns conduct research in preparation for the Sept. 21 Youth Forum to be held by the NDP.

New ocean of concrete in West Three parking lot

photo by Andrew Buck

Red River College Facilities director Bill Miller says the newly paved parking lot boasts increased lighting and an updated power supply for vehicles.

By Ali Wilson

Before cars and students could go missing in its growing potholes, the West Three power parking lot at Red River College was repaved this summer.

Located off Lorimer Lane and Northeast of Building E, the lot was the final third of the West power lot be completed, with the adjoining West One and West Two lots having been repaved in 1999 and 2000 respectively.

CGA Rentals and Contracting Ltd., in conjunction with Wardrop Engineers completed the project in five weeks at a cost of about $450,000.

The project posed no major inconveniences for most students, as it was completed over the summer months when a minimal student body was present.

Those who were attending classes at the time were simply relocated to spaces in either the West One or West Two lots for the duration of the construction.

Other than some minor upgrades and regular maintenance, Cam Asher, Technical Officer in the Facilities department at Red River College, said that the parking lot has remained untouched since its construction in 1968.

The lot had numerous locations of crumbling asphalt that were deemed potential hazards to both students and their vehicles and also had substandard lighting and an inadequate power supply for the vehicles. These issues were also addressed during construction.

According to Bill Miller, director of Facilities at the College, the newly paved lot boasts increased lighting coverage, an updated power supply for vehicles, a handful of new parking spaces and a pedestrian crosswalk from the West Three lot to the West Four lot (its non-power neighbour to the north). Miller also estimates that with proper maintenance the lot should last the college about 30 years.

The proposed longevity of the lot is due to the type of concrete chosen for the project. The concrete is called portland cement concrete pavement, or "white topping". The same material has been used in the construction of all three recently paved lots at the college.

The relatively new and unique concrete contains fiberglass, which serves as a bonding agent, replacing the need for the traditional sub-level rebar poles during construction.

Miller pointed out that although installation times for the two processes are approximately the same, in the long run the white topping will be more durable because of its absence of the rebar poles. This is because the poles have a tendency to rust over time, eventually affecting the structural stability of the lot.

The Facilities department plans to pave other lots surrounding the College in the future as funds become available.

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Lights, camera, infraction: stoplight cameras

By Jeff Bromley

They say a picture is worth a thousand words.

Picture this. Tentatively beginning Oct. 1, 2001, the Winnipeg Police Service will be testing the effectiveness of a pilot program in which a camera will be installed at the Sherbrook St. and Broadway intersection.

The program, scheduled to run over the course of six months, is aimed at reducing the amount of collisions and the speed of city motorists – specifically targeting those who are caught by the camera running red lights.

According to Winnipeg police Traffic Division Sgt. John Butcher, the program is a test to monitor the camera for accuracy, effectiveness and also to get a sense of the public's opinion before the cameras become commonplace in the city.

"What we're doing initially is conducting a pilot project to evaluate the material (hardware and technology) and to also give the public a sense of how (the camera) works and ensure that it is fair," Butcher said. "If it's not accurate, fair, and legal then we shouldn't be doing it at all. These are the issues that we are going to examine."

When asked at what point during the light change the camera would come into play, Butcher replied, "For you to qualify to be charged under this system, you would have had to be outside the intersection when it turned red, and then enter the intersection following that."

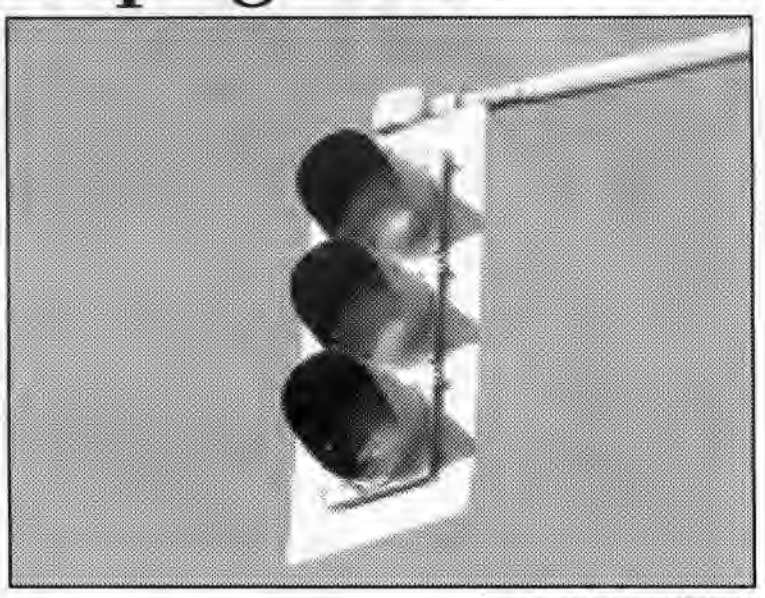

photo by Rayna Anderson

The Winnipeg Police Service's stoplight camera pilot program will be up and running Oct. 1.

Despite some negative feedback from concerned motorists who are questioning the accuracy of a camera which is not manned by a police officer but rather a sensor, Butcher feels confident that the project itself will reveal whether it is a viable option or not.

"This is a safety initiative, not unlike anything else we do. We just want to reduce the amount of collisions and save a few lives," he said.

In the event that the project is a success, Butcher indicated the location of the cameras would be revealed to the public via special signs posted at each designated intersection to allow drivers reasonable warning.

Although legislation was passed in 1997, the province has not yet given police the authority to ticket motorists caught by the camera. However, police are hoping that should the project prove effective, it would help sway the province to give them the go ahead.

The project was launched in response to public outcry, where citizens identified speeding and running red lights as major concerns at a number of forums hosted by Winnipeg police Chief Jack Ewatski.

In the following months, the Winnipeg Police Service will also be targeting motorists who don't wear their seat-belts as well as cracking down on impaired drivers.

Red River College Students' Association

Events

5 WAYS TO FINDING OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AT RRCSA

1. Visit the RRCSA office at room DM20
2. Email sa_events@rrc.mb.ca
3. Visit our website www.rrcsa.com
4. Check out the poster and white boards located in various buildings.
5. Listen to CMOR on campus.

The RRCSA and the Activities Team look forward to seeing you at the next event.
Stay Tuned!

CANADIAN

Coca-Cola

POLAR ICE VODKA

SA benefit plan gives students pay direct card option

By Suzan Goritz

This year the student benefits plan provided by the Red River College Students' Association and Gallivan Associates includes a dental plan.

Also available is extended health coverage, which includes prescription drugs and physiotherapy.

Gallivan Associates, a division of Canada Life Assurance Company, has been working alongside Red River College since January 2001 providing a comprehensive health package for students to complement the Manitoba Healthcare Plan.

The decision to work with Gallivan Associates was made by the Students' Association because the cost per student was reasonable. The company was willing to provide an office on campus and a paid representative to answer students' questions in person, as well as the use of a pay direct card.

David Lyman, SA Vice-President of Finance, said the pay direct card was influential in the SA's decision to choose Gallivan Associates.

Presenting the pay direct card to a health care provider automatically produces a claim and passes the savings on to the student immediately.

Opting out of either the extended health or dental coverage is possible if the student can provide sufficient evidence of comparable coverage elsewhere, such as a dental bill or a letter stating coverage from a present insurance company or employer, said Christa Gobin, a Gallivan Associate representative on campus.

photo by Rayna Anderson

Smile! You've got dental plan coverage.

"Opting out can be done 30 days after the program start date. A waiver form and proof of coverage is necessary," said Gobin.

As well, a spouse or unmarried dependents can opt into the program within 30 days of the program start date at an additional cost.

All students are automatically enrolled if they are members of the SA, in an acceptable full time program, and reside in Canada. The cost per student is $70 for the extended health plan and $106 for the dental plan.

Students who need to make a claim or have any questions about the plan can go to FM-66, the SA benefits plan office. The office is open Monday to Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Gobin hopes the pay direct cards will be in shortly for students who started their term in August or September.

Important Notice

Regarding Your

STUDENT BENEFITS PLAN

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Student Benefits Plan Office
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The Projector

Opinion

September 17, 2001

Anger isn't the answer to terrorism

I'm not a religious man. I never have been.

I was raised by an agnostic parent and decided at a rather early age that I didn't believe in an omnipotent entity – that I was an atheist. Since I've been old enough to articulate my beliefs, I've chosen to put my faith in humanity; to believe that somehow, sooner or later, we will all learn to respect each other (I'm not naive enough to believe that the entire world will ever 'get along').

Last week my faith was shaken. And reinforced.

Judging by the throngs of people crowded into the tower lounge and the televisions lining the library hallway on Tuesday, I don't need to recount the events that took place that day. Everybody knows that it was horrible, and that it will take some time yet to sort out the loss and the worldwide impact. This is an event that will affect us forever, changing the nature of air travel and the approach to national defense, and possibly adjusting America's position as the most powerful and fearsome nation in the world.

These changes will only be made more harsh, and more difficult to adjust to if we ride into this new era on a wave of anger.

Already the anger can be seen and heard on every radio, television screen and front page. America and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have declared war on terrorists, and by the sound of it, many of North America's citizens support that call for more violence.

But should we be calling for more blood even before the blood already spilt is cleaned up?

War begets war. And by calling for more violence we are only propagating what is already a millennium-spanning vicious cycle.

Don't get me wrong, whoever is responsible should be punished, but not until we can be reasonably sure who did it. And why.

That's the real question: why did they do it? What has America done to inspire such hate? And what can be done to prevent not only future violence, but also the spread of this type of all-consuming ire?

Rather than teaching our younger generations a thirst for revenge, why not teach them a process of understanding, or at least an attempt at understanding?

The terrorists, when discovered, will be punished swiftly, no doubt about that. And then there will be more to replace them. The only thing that will stop these kinds of actions and these attacks, are adjustments to the worldwide culture. It's time for people to start trying to understand each other, instead of ignoring each other or snuffing each other out.

Every time we think we've learned this lesson, we're proven wrong.

Our security has been violated, rendered impotent, perhaps.

Our sense of security has taken an even more lethal blow.

Instead of being angry, try to comfort someone, help out a stranger, let a slight slide.

It's these types of action that will restore our faith.

Kelly Stifko

True north strong and free?

A few days ago I was thinking there is no place I'd feel safer on than Canadian soil.

This came in the wake of Sept. 8 War Child Canada Concert and a conversation with Our Lady Peace guitarist Mike Turner (see page 10).

I started thinking about how fortunate Canadians are, how everyday routine here is usually taken for granted. How we have freedom to do what we want, provided it follows the law. I felt thankful that in Canada, I can wear what I want and not have to cover my face and body in public.

I am not looked upon as inferior for being a woman; I can get an education and I have laws in place to help me when it comes to domestic violence, rape and divorce.

I can say what I want (most of the time), even spit on the sidewalk and not get beaten with a cane. I breathe fresh air and drink water from a tap inside my home.

I sleep in a warm bed at night with a roof over my head and more food in the fridge than I'd ever need. I get up in the morning and have clean clothes to put on and drive to school in my car and have access to books and the opportunity to learn things.

I run around outside on the grass and the thought of stepping on a land mine or being hit in a sniper attack doesn't cross my mind.

There is no ethnic cleansing, no deadly fighting between racial or religious groups, no daily bomb blasts. We have laws in place and a democratic government.

I realize that Canada isn't 100 per cent safe – home invasions, sexual assault, road rage, drive-by shootings and gang violence are escalating. But I concluded that Canada is a great country regardless, compared to what it could be.

I thought of all of these things until getting shaken up Tuesday by the terrorist attack on America.

George W. Bush wants revenge, and what if the U.S. starts flinging nuclear weapons in the direction of the terrorist's point-of-origin? I pray the attackers aren't Canadians; but regardless, the country the U.S. goes after will retaliate, and what's to say we won't get it just as bad?

One stray missile misfired a few degrees to the north... We could be launched headfirst into war in seconds.

We were the ones who the U.S. diverted the planes to when they closed all their airports. American victims were sent to our hospitals. If the U.S. falls to war, we're going down with them. And that scares me and strips me of the safety I felt in this country just days ago.

Life as we know it can change in an instant.

A Slobodian

Stopping the spead of the seeds of hatred

Long after the dust has settled, revenge has been exacted and the world returns to business as usual, there will still be one burning question: why?

The Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the United States has been seen by many commentators as not just an attack on America, but also freedom as a whole. As the story of how terrorists were able to simultaneously seize four commercial airplanes and use them as missiles against civilian targets unfolds, so too will the answers to the world's questions.

In fact, we already know the driving force behind the terrorists' actions: a blinding rage against the United States and its values. These people harboured such an intense hatred for that country that they had no problems sacrificing their lives for their cause. They were probably even honoured to die for what they thought was a great cause.

Their hatred must have been beyond the point of anger, perhaps even descending into a cold-hearted insanity: airport officials say terrorists are usually plucked out of ticket lines because they demonstrate signs of uneasiness. That means these guys must have been so focused as to not even flinch at the thought of their impending demise.

So then it's obvious – these terrorists were acting out of some sort of extreme subscribed belief. That's really no surprise, most terrorists do. The fact that there's not too many of them out there (I hope) demonstrates that only a tiny portion of the Earth's population is capable of such mental instability.

As I watched the events unfold on CNN, a picture flashed on the screen that made me want to vomit my peanut butter sandwich lunch. No, it wasn't the second plane meeting its target, nor was it the smoking ruins of the Pentagon. Even the avalanche of debris from the collapsing towers didn't do it.

What I saw was footage of Palestinian civilians celebrating in the streets. They were dancing, singing, waving flags and even chanting 'God is great!'

I think everyone has a defining moment in their life when they realize there are some very dark elements in the world around us. Whether it's a young child watching his mother or father stolen from him by disease, or a witness staring into the cold eyes of a murderer, once we have seen that moment our world will never quite be the same. For me, that moment happened when I saw Palestinian children eating candy and smiling.

As Canadians, we may joke about 'those damn Americans,' but in our hearts we realize our neighbours are friendly, if loud, good people. While we could ignore it before, we are now faced to realize the sad truth: there are many, many people who hate the United States for no apparent reason.

You can turn airports into Fort Knox, you can put armed men on airplane flights and you can even cancel air travel all together. But, try as you might, you can't change how people think. No matter what authorities do, this will happen again. Guaranteed.

There are a lot of people out there who hate the United States for, I imagine, the same reason Germany hated the Jews. Everything that has gone wrong in their lives – stolen land, civil wars, poverty, you name it, is because of the faceless American nation.

As children they are taught to hate, and grow up into bitter, resentful people hating a place they have never seen or know little about.

So what can we do to change those attitudes? I don't think any one has an answer to that question. And that, despite a death toll that may climb into the tens of thousands, is the greatest tragedy of all.

Andrew Buck

Loan program recognizes same sex couples

By Andrew Buck

Income level and family size now different

It's been one year since the federal government passed the Modernizing Benefits and Obligations Act in an attempt to provide equal rights to same sex couples.

The act has set off a chain reaction of changes throughout federal departments, including the Canada Student Loans Program.

On Aug. 1 the program changed to provide same sex couples with the same privileges as their heterosexual counterparts.

"The Modernizing Benefits and Obligations Act was passed to ensure equal treatment of same sex couples under the law," said Katalin Deczky, Canada Student Loans Program director of policy and program development. "All the departments have been coming in line with this act."

The Modernizing Benefits and Obligations Act is essentially a redefinition of the term "spouse", says Deczky.

"Spouse now applies to married and common law partners of the opposite or same sex. As was the case before, people would have had to have co-habitated with their spouse for at least one year."

The redefinition has a direct effect on any student with a loan who is engaged in a same sex relationship that meets the above criteria. In any given year, 370,000 Canadians apply for student loans, but Deczky said the government does not know how many would be affected by these changes.

The government's new interpretation of spouse has several implications for same sex couples. During the assessment process, financial need is viewed differently.

"Financial need is usually based on family income as opposed to individual income," said Deczky. "Before the same-sex situation wasn't taken into consideration – now it is."

Also affected is the interest relief debt management measure.

"If you're in a situation where your repayment income is below a certain threshold level, you don't have to pay back your loans until you can do so," Deczky said. Students who qualify for interest relief are given a grace period to repay their loans without accumulating interest on their loan.

With the changes in the program, assessment factors such as income and family size will be different.

Students who exhaust their interest relief can utilize the debt reduction program, where the government will eat part of the loan's value.

"The debt reduction program means that if a student qualifies, 50 per cent of their loan or $10,000 – whatever is smaller – will be paid by the government," said Deczky.

Like the interest relief measure, the debt reduction measure is calculated based on a table of several factors. A change in family size and income would affect those calculations, said Deczky.

The changes were welcomed by former Red River College Gay-Straight Alliance president Vanessa Maynard.

"I think it's a great first step," she said, "Of course, it's not the last step either." Maynard says the government has yet to give same-sex partners adoption rights, something she wants changed.

To be affected by the changes in the program, students would have had to indicate their marital status during the application process.

photo by Rayna Anderson

Changes to the Canada Student Loans Program give same sex couples the same rights as heterosexual couples.

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The Projector
Entertainment
September 17, 2001

SA EVENTS

SA serves up first week fun

PHOTOS BY KELLY STIFORA

At left: Winnipeg band Calico play the D-E-F courtyard the first day of school, Sept. 4. L-R: Korbin Potosky, vocals/guitar; Ricky Herrera, guitar; Paula McLeod, keyboard; Brad Smyriski, bass; Andreas Neato, drums. Inset: RRC Students' Association president Robyn Osmond and vice-president of student affairs Kevin Haiko at the SA B-B-Q Sept. 4.

Opening for the Headstones

Livid singer finds out what it takes to make it

By Nick Martin

I'm not really sure how I got here, to be given the opportunity to open for the Headstones. Okay, technically we were the opening band for the opening band for the Headstones, but the opportunity to share the stage is bewildering enough.

I recall the phone conversation held between myself and RRC director of programming Michael Blatherwick, asking me if we were interested in opening for a major headliner. Then I was piecing together a non-existent press package for my band Livid, complete with photos that we didn't have, a demo CD that had no cover or no liner notes and a quick biography that I had written only days before we were asked to send a press package to the Headstones' management in Toronto.

After sending the press package, I was skeptical at best. Then last week the call came and there we were on Tuesday night, bright lights, big sound system, our music.

Now let's set the record straight. We're not complete amateurs here. We have played many a large venue, including Shakin' the Lake and Classic Rock Weekend. We were runners-up at this year's first annual Little River Rock Fest where we opened the main stage for acts Tom Cochrane and Jeff Healey. But, this was our first opportunity to share the stage with just two other bands, and one of them being a major headliner, the Headstones.

And on top of all of this, I'm asked by our entertainment editor to get a story with the Headstones. Yeah, I'm sure Hugh Dillon wants to talk to me, some nobody in a band that he didn't see perform to answer cliched questions about advice to up and coming rock bands in Canada. Turns out, I was right.

"You should know, all people in rock bands are assholes," claims vocalist Dillon from behind his mask of blue-lensed wrap sunglasses. He isn't a poseur. He's a rock star, right?

"I'm not a rock star. But there are definite rock stars out there. I just do what I need to do. Even if I weren't famous I'd be writing lyrics, writing songs, and playing shitty gigs to nobody just to be out there." His glare sets on me and I feel the kind of intimidation that William Miller felt as he posed questions to faux rock stars Stillwater in "Almost Famous."

So, I need to write songs and lyrics and play shitty gigs. Been there and done that. What's next, what's the secret?

"Just fucking keep at it. Perseverance is key. Make demos and get them out there and don't listen to anything anyone fucking says, negative or positive. Just do what you need to do." This is where the confusion sets in. I've been doing this for five years, writing, playing shitty gigs, getting out there and still nothing. Is it something to do with the music that's gaining popularity right now in Canada?

"The music scene in Canada is fucking better than it used to be. Everything is positive, I mean anything that brings attention to Canada is great, it's just too bad that it isn't us making all the new noise."

The interview ends, I shake his hand, get a picture with him and head off. As I sit down after the show with my ears ringing and my head spinning, I look back on what was one of our best shows. I think about my back, sore from my thrashing around on stage, the bright lights blinding me and the sweat stinging my eyes. I think about the fact that I have to be up in four hours for school and I'll be terribly tired and sore. But that's okay because I could have been terribly tired and sore from working at some shit job but instead I'm sore from rock n' roll and this is a pain that I can live with.

PHOTO BY NICK MARTIN

Hugh Dillon at the RRC show.

PHOTO BY NICK MARTIN

The Headstones rocking the South Gym Tuesday, Sept. 11.

CONCERTS

Rockin' the free world

Rain doesn't dampen War Child effort

PHOTO BY RAYNA ANDERSON

Our Lady Peace lead singer Raine Maida at the War Child Canada concert, Sept. 8 at the Forks.

By Teresa Nickerson

"Be careful what you wish for." Mayor Glen Murray's warning rang true for approximately 30,000 fans attending the second annual War Child concert Sept. 8 at the Forks. Concert-goers endured sweltering heat at last year's concert, only to be caught in a downpour this year. The water they longed for arrived a year too late.

For the second year in a row, performers gathered at the Forks for a benefit concert in support of War Child Canada, a registered charity aiding child victims of war.

The rainy concert paled in comparison to last year's event, which was attended by approximately 80,000 fans and raised approximately $160,000, according to War Child Canada.

This year, funds were being raised through the sales of War Child T-shirts, as well as raffle tickets for a Power 97 Dodge Viper and Palliser furniture. Approximately 300 volunteers, like Palliser employee Daniel Penner, were on hand to collect the suggested donation of ten dollars for adults and five dollars for children. Penner gave up the time when he would normally be sleeping in on Saturday morning to "help out a good cause."

Besides the performers and volunteers, a few Manitoba dignitaries appeared onstage throughout the day to show their support for the War Child effort. Education Training and Youth Minister Drew Caldwell made an appearance on behalf of himself and Premier Gary Doer. Mayor Glen Murray greeted fans who stood in the pouring rain and let them know that through participation in free and benefit concerts, Winnipeggers are "showin' everyone else how to party." Again this year, Dr. Samantha Nutt, Executive Director of War Child Canada, took the time to frequently appear onstage throughout the day to reinforce to the crowd that the concert was "a benefit event, not just a free concert."

But the biggest draw to the Scotiabank stage was most certainly the lineup of performers. The music kicked off at noon with the vocal stylings of Winnipeg's own Four Corners. Next up were local rock performers Tequila Mockingbird who are no stranger to the War Child cause. They have raised more than $5,000 in support of War Child. So passionate about the cause, after being evacuated from a concert the previous evening in Leaf Rapids due to a bomb threat, they drove all night to arrive in Winnipeg in time for the War Child show.

The concert's headliners took to the stage just as the rain began to subside. Drenched fans cheered hard for long awaited Our Lady Peace hits like "Superman's Dead", "Naveed," "Clumsy" and "Starseed." When Raine Maida launched into his own haunting rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine", there was no question that it was the most appropriate song of the day.

Apart from the concert, War Child Canada currently has projects in Sierra Leone, Iraq, Thailand, Colombia and East Timor. For more information, visit www.warchild.ca.

PHOTO BY RAYNA ANDERSON

Winnipeg native Chantal Kreviazuk performs for both a hometown crowd and a great cause.

Twin sisters from Calgary, guitarists/vocalists Tegan and Sara added a delightfully mellow element to the day's festivities, in definite contrast to the upbeat ethnic style of African artist Kibwe who followed shortly after.

A veteran of the War Child cause, Winnipeg's own Chantal Kreviazuk graced the War Child stage for the second year. She lifted the spirits of waterlogged fans with performances of some new material as well as "Dear Life," "Surrounded," "Wayne" and others. In addition to performing at the benefit concerts, Kreviazuk and husband, Our Lady Peace frontman Raine Maida, have shown their support for war-affected children by travelling to Iraq as part of the Much Music documentary "Musicians in the War Zone."

Canadian musicians selflessly bring awareness to War Child cause

By Andrea Slobodian

There is nothing more refreshing than seeing popular musicians using their crowd-attracting powers to draw attention to an important cause. Our Lady Peace and Chantal Kreviazuk drew an estimated 25,000 - 30,000 to the Forks for the second annual War Child Canada Concert. The organization raises funds for war-affected children worldwide.

Kreviazuk became involved when she met Dr. Samantha Nutt a couple of years ago. Nutt co-founded War Child with husband Dr. Eric Hoskins.

"I met Sam and was blown away," Kreviazuk said at the concert Sat. Sept. 8. "She is such an inspired, driven human being. She is selfless. She has great strength of character. She's a very enigmatic person. I was very inspired by her."

Kreviazuk jumped at the chance to sign up for the cause. "It was really about bettering the world. It wasn't about picking a country or targeting a specific group or political cause. It's about everything. It's about justice for all youth and empowering youth to bring that justice around."

She told husband Raine Maida, lead singer of Our Lady Peace, about the cause. He got the band involved about eight months ago, says guitarist Mike Turner.

In Jan. 2001, Kreviazuk and Maida travelled to Iraq as part of the War2Music "Musicians in the War Zone" documentary.

"It was totally enlightening," Kreviazuk says of the trip. "It made a lot of stuff real. It made not just the Iraq reality come true but the reality for many people. You're in the sites and seeing people impoverished and desperate. Actually, their attitude isn't of desperation, but as far as the resources that they have, it is a pretty desperate situation."

Says Kreviazuk: "You realize how lucky you are and you realize, 'my god, I can do something in my life to make a difference, and you want to know more about what's happening elsewhere and it triggers a real mission."

"Where Raine and Chantal were, [the children] weren't even born when the war ended and they're still suffering for it," says Turner. "That's a big deal, to be able to help that sort of thing...I'm not worthy."

Turner mentions Hoskins has been working in war zones since graduating medical school in 1985. "This guy's given all of his professional life to date to actually making a difference in underprivileged people's lives. That's amazing. I'm an idiot who plays in a rock band. What have I been doing?"

"I was talking to the guys a while ago," he says. "We were feeling a little sort of inconsequential for a bit. We go and we play and everyone has fun. It doesn't seem to have a broader resonance. Then you get the opportunity to do something like this and it really does make you feel like you're doing something that's important." OLP immediately accepted War Child's invitation to perform.

"I think that life is much more fulfilling when you're not just doing things for the self," says Kreviazuk. "It's really wonderful to be a part of something outside advancing the Chantal Kreviazuk career. That can feel really empty at times. It's great to know something else is being affected by my presence in the music community."

"Just the mass that we're able to bring..." begins Turner about the concert. "The opinion of that many people brought to bear on any subject can have an impact."

"With something like this it's about awareness," he says. "It's important to do what you can to make it known."

Kreviazuk's goal is for concert-goers "to go home and log on to www.warchild.ca and just take a look at what's out there and the possibilities and how they can make a difference. Raine and I have been saying if there's 40 or 50 thousand people here or more or less, we just want even a few people to really go away and take our participation seriously enough that they research what it's about."

Turner stresses how fortunate OLP and Canadians in general are. "As much as you can complain and consider what's going on with your career and the whole music industry, you have a blessed life," he says. "Everyone here has a great life."

"I didn't have a problem finding something to eat this morning. Maybe you didn't want to eat bran flakes or whatever it was you happened to find in the kitchen, but, you know...There are no minefields in your neighbourhood. I know it sounds very trite to compare something that distant apart, there's a physical reality to those people's lives that we won't ever really be able to understand...unless you went there."

"Think of your own reality and how far it is removed," Turner says. "To you, five bucks doesn't mean much. Five bucks buys vaccines and all sorts of stuff that will make a difference if not actually save a life."

CLUBS

Building an Empire

New York-style club redefines Winnipeg nightlife

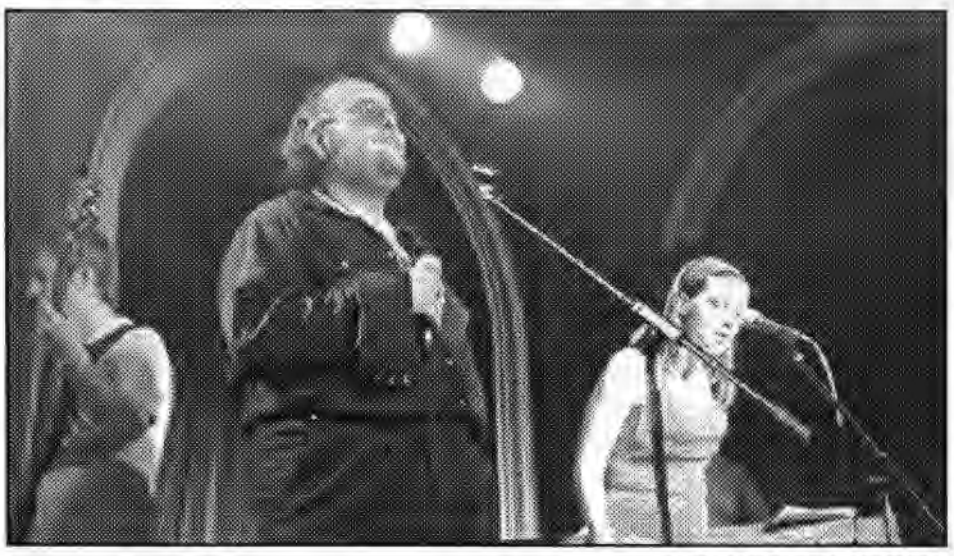

PHOTO BY RAYNA ANDERSON

A salsa band performs at the Empire.

By Antonietta Versace

What was once so uncharacteristic for a city like Winnipeg is now becoming what seems to be a trend: new clubs are popping up all over town. It began with the novel Tijuana Yacht Club, sweeping up most of the business from club-hopping clientele, followed by the trendy Mezzo, taking up residence in the former Old Spaghetti Factory. And now, after much anticipation, The Empire has jumped on board and is attempting to make its mark in the grand fashion that its name suggests.

Complete with its outdoor red carpet, mouthpiece-sporting bouncers and a line-up stretching around the building, The Empire has picked up a few tactics reminiscent of a New York City nightclub (evidently, there is a club in the Big Apple that goes by the same name). Located at 436 Main Street, The Empire has set up shop in the building of a historic bank that has been vacant for some time. For a cool $4.99, you've just bought your ticket inside. It's too bad you can't see much.

The main level is, to say the least, a bit dark, although with so many bodies crammed in, there's not much of a view. The dance floor and stage, which boasts the likes of opening night headliner C&C Music Factory and a regularly featured salsa band, is to the far left. The music is mostly house with sporadic (and welcome) sets of hip hop and dance.

There's only one bar on this level, and it's best to bring along a friend (or some reading material) as you fetch your drink because it can be a bit of a wait. The bar staff, an equal blend of males and females, is decent enough. And guys, for those of you that are partial to silicone, you're in for a special treat. As far as drink prices go, The Empire is comparable to its downtown counterparts. Beer and shots are $3.75; cocktails are $3.75 - $4.25; shooters are $3.25 - $4; coolers are $4.25; and martinis are $8.50 (ouch).

Now, for those of you that are feeling a bit more adventurous, you can head downstairs where the oxygen bar awaits. Amid the more casual setting of dozens of couches and a TV, the oxygen bar is located at the one of two bars in the non-smoking section. For the price of $10 for five minutes, you can inhale oxygen in its purest form. It comes in at least eight different flavors, such as jasmine and lemongrass, and some patrons say it makes them energetic, while others say it makes them sleepy, depending on the added scent

A word to the wise: if you're planning to check out The Empire anytime soon, try to do it in style. Jane Martin, a waitress at the Empire, admits that, although easier for women, the dress code is a bit strict. "They look at you, and if they don't like the way you look, you don't get in. They're rude to people that don't dress properly." Generally, this doesn't pose much of a problem for The Empire's clientele. The crowd is definitely older and more mature, or as Jane puts it, it consists of "martini drinkers and people that think they're hot shit." There are a lot of Europeans - many of owner Sabino Tumilo's Italian compatriots are showing their support - and you certainly won't find too many 18 year-olds wildly running around.

Snooty or not, The Empire is definitely unlike anything that Winnipeg club-goers have seen in the past. With its flaming fire torches on the wall and wrought-iron fenced-in patio, The Empire brings with it a touch of class that our city's nightlife was desperately lacking. And if you're not up for mixing with the stuck-up crowd, gather up your friends, claim your party space, and make your own good time. It's worth a visit.

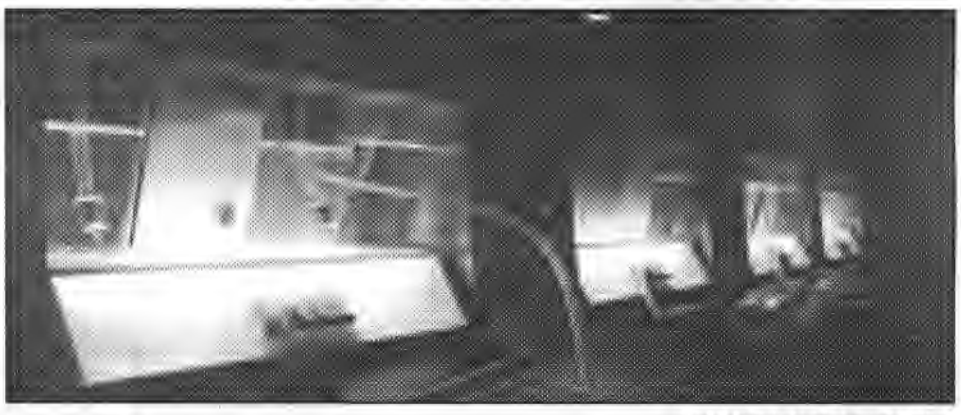

PHOTO BY RAYNA ANDERSON

The oxygen bar offers different mood-enhancing varieties to inhale.

EATS

Restaurant with potential

Nicolino's innovative, contemporary, but overzealous

Review: Nicolino's

2077 Pembina Hwy.

269-5004

★ ★ ★ 1/2 /5

By Lisanne Pajot

Dinning at Nicolino's is like attending a well-planned performance similar to the shows and release parties held at the adjoining lounge Orbit Room. With a performance there is hype, anticipation and finally the main event.

The hype: Nicolino's, formerly a Sorrento's, has everything going for it. Remodeled by owner Nick Zifarelli, the restaurant has a great atmosphere. The walls display interesting photography and the dinner music is diverse, playing downtempo house to Latin to pan flute to traditional Mediterranean. The warm walls and candlelight make everyone look their best - a great place for a first date. This suburban bistro seems to attract a wide variety of clientele; it is trendy and contemporary for hip young couples, but comfortable enough for chatty groups of seniors.

The anticipation: the restaurant has an extensive wine list with three Chilean out of five house wines (Chilean wines are fantastic). The menu, variations on Italian dishes by Chef Marnie Feelus, holds incredible potential. It features a clear labeling system for a wide variety of innovative Manitoba ingredient-based dishes and vegetarian options. The appetizer section offers a range of soft breadsticks to Sambuca mussels, served ingeniously with two bowls for shells. ($2.95 - 9.95) Salads seem to be the reason why people come here, basically because they are huge and reasonably priced. ($7.95 - 9.95) Pizza is another popular item, with gourmet topping like artichokes, capers, and zesty eggplant ($10.77 - 23.75) Note: the pizza take-out service still exists. Nightly and monthly specials are available, like sesame-crusted pickerel with wasabi lime butter and bison striploin steak grilled and topped with arugala. The pastas and entrees ($11.95-22.95) come with a choice of soup of the day, (a spicy roasted jalapeno and cheese), or a salad of crisp mixed greens with a choice of house dressing or Caesar. The rolls were a highlight, warm and full of coarse grains and sunflower seeds.

The main event: this brings us to the entree. The introduction Nicolino's has put on may have created expectations it cannot fulfill. The pasta and entree sampled were plated beautifully with red and yellow bell pepper garnishes, but regretfully were too flavored. Not to sound too pretentious, but it was as if they tried too hard. The veggie ravioli was full of awkward bursts of lemongrass. Innovative, but overdone. The cashew-encrusted pickerel tasted fine, but the accompanying fusilli and seasonal vegetables were intoxicatingly full of garlic. (The kind of garlic that takes a day to sweat out.) The desert sampled was inconsistent as well. The cheesecake with strawberry mousse had a lumpy texture and the mousse was runny.

I want to cheer for this place with its great atmosphere and opening dishes, not to mention the efficient but not too invasive service. Nicolino's may have gotten stage fright; we should give it another chance. It is advisable to make reservations. This restaurant has potential; maybe it's just too over zealous.

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PROFILES

Fun times @ RRC

Meet the man responsible for it all

PHOTO BY KELLY STIFORA

Mike Blatherwick, RRC's new program director, in action at the SA's first day of school B-B-Q.

By Jeannette Rocher

What should come to mind when you think of socials, concerts, football...a contortionist? Your school-year calendar, that's what. Bye-bye boring old school daze, let's make way for Mike Blatherwick, Red River College Students' Association's new program director.

"One of the great things about this job is the free stuff," says Blatherwick, holding up a CD while cradling the telephone to his ear. While on hold in what appears to be an important telephone conversation, he explains the high energy pace of his new job: "There's constantly a million things going on all at once."

It appears that Blatherwick will have no problem running this race. Coming on-board three-and-a-half months ago, Blatherwick has signed a two-year contract with the college.

Born in Tasmania, Australia, Blatherwick grew up in Flin Flon and recently graduated from the University of Manitoba with a bachelor's degree in recreation studies. "They call it a degree of dive-

In other words it's, "facilitating experiences for other people." He adds, "they're getting more out of life because of what you've done for them."

Such experiences will include concerts, like the Headstones who performed Sept. 11, a road trip in November to Minn-eapolis for a Vikings game, a Thanksgiving promotion called Sing for Turkey, Glow Bowling for Gifts at Christmas time, a Valentine's Day date show in which contestants will compete to win a date, to be filmed by Creative Communications students (anyone watch Blind Date?) and a spring break ski trip. "I'd love to have a kegger in each little building," exclaims Blatherwick with a smile.

When asked where he gets all of these ideas, Blatherwick proclaims that they just fly off of the top of his head. Although, not claiming all of the credit, Blatherwick explains that he and his very proactive Activities Team, otherwise known as the A-Team, meet and toss around ideas, gaining input and feedback from each other. Blatherwick and his team also plan weekly entertainment like Movie Tuesdays, Pizza Wednesdays and Thursday Nooners, a form of live entertainment, like a band , hypnotist or even a contortionist, who perform in the Tower Lounge during lunch hour.

When asked why he switched jobs to come over to the college, Blatherwick responds that, "the position sounded really fun...really challenging. I mean how fun is planning a rock concert? Or how fun is planning a trip to Mexico?" He adds: "It's a field where you don't do it for the money."

Blatherwick is here to make everyone's academic career a little more enjoyable and not to mention help us out of some sticky situations: "When you're arrested in Mexico," says Blatherwick," who's gonna bail you out?"

rsity," says Blatherwick, explaining that you can do so much with it. But don't think for a minute that he's wet behind the ears. Prior to joining the RRC family, Blatherwick worked for the National Sports Centre for Manitoba, working with the province's high-performance athletes. Blatherwick explains that he did marketing, "a lot of creative stuff," such as computer graphic design, and concludes, "it's all special events planning." Well, special events, and a lot of them, is exactly what Blatherwick has planned for this coming year. As head of the RRC programming department, Blatherwick claims that the main is to "try to market and create social and educational experiences for the students."

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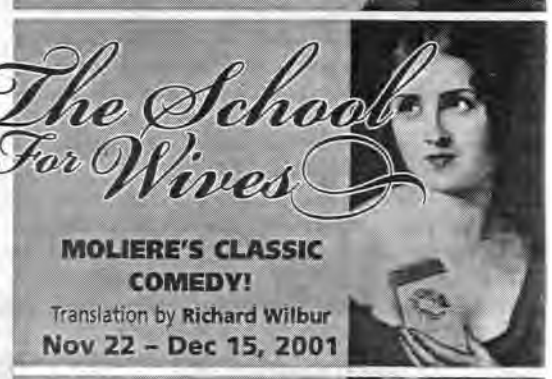

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Wed E 10 ⊘	8pm	Oct 24	Nov 28	Jan 9	Feb 13	Mar 13	May 1
Thu E 11 ⊘	8pm	Oct 25	Nov 29	Jan 10	Feb 14	Mar 14	May 2
Sat E 14 ⊘	9pm	Oct 27	Dec 1	Jan 12	Feb 16	Mar 16	May 4
Mon E 15 ⊘ M	8pm	Oct 29	Dec 3	Jan 14	Feb 18	Mar 18	May 6
Tue E 16 ⊘T	7:30pm	Oct 30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

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MOVIES

Keanu loses to kids at hardball

Review: Hardball

Starring Keanu Reeves

★ ★ 1/2 /5

By Dahlia Kurtz

Hardball is, surprisingly, a difficult movie to lowball. Based on the book by Daniel Coyle, Hardball: A Season in the Projects, inspired by a Little League baseball team from inner-city Chicago, this film was almost able to reach third base.

There were a couple of players on the team who held it back from a home run. The most notable weakness was Keanu Reeves, who stars as Conor O'Neill, an underachiever mixed up in a world of gambling and house calls from irate Shylocks who always carry bats. (In this movie the guns were saved for use by the kids in the projects.) Reeves will always be Ted from Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, unable to lose the valley-esque diction, even when the script throws in tough guy ain'ts and rap lyrics. As he says in the movie, "No one can kick my ass as well as I can."

The other weak link on the team is Hollywood. Not an actual character, but a syndrome that this movie suffers from. In the movie, Conor has big gambling debts, forcing him to accept a job as a coach for a corporate-sponsored youth baseball team in the tough parts of Chicago. Resolved almost too quickly in the 95-minute film are his debts only to be followed by a brisk attachment to the kids and their teacher, Diane Wilkes (Diane Lane). Diane pops up in just a few scenes, and her relationship with Conor hopscotches from strangers to strange to...well, let's not spoil the ending.

It was unfortunate how the sub-plot of romance and the intentional main plot of Reeves' redemption siphoned momentum from the most interesting plot - the kids. At the nucleus of the story is a young boys' baseball team, the Kekambas, who are making the most of their lives in the Cabrini Green Housing Projects. Baseball is their only escape, pressured by safety to finish practices before dusk, and forced to sleep on the floors in their homes to safeguard from drive-by shootings.

Mostly local boys without any acting experience filled the roles and stole the show. All of the boys were great, but a couple were exceptional. Jefferson Albert Tibbs (Julian Griffith) is a fat, asthmatic kid who quickly grabs the audience's attention and sympathy with his slurred speech and frantic ventilin inhalations in the face of fear. Then there is G-Baby (DeWayne Warren), an endearing, tiny eight-year-old who casually upstages Reeves with the screen presence of a giant in every inning.

The director, Brian Robbins (Eric, the leather-clad rebel genius from the 1980s television hit "Head of the Class") shot the film in a very compelling way - at some points almost convincing the audience that the movie should be viewed in an IMAX theatre. His use of extended Steadicam shots and unique camera angles brought the viewer into the minds of the boys and the depths of the projects.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Keanu strikes out with inner-city youth in Hardball.

Of course there are many fly balls and fouls in Hardball. Underdeveloped characters with overdeveloped dialogue: the quirky yet dubious best friend, the competitive Little League coach, the bar owner who hates Conor, likes Conor, hates Conor, then finally loves Conor with ne'er a word spoken. Although Hollywood definitely leaves its stamp on Hardball, there is a beautiful scene near the end that steals a base. But the best part of the movie would have to be the baseball diamond it left after production for the kids of Cabrini.

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"The Captain"

Nickelback

Silver Side Up

★★★★ /5

The Newest Release from Nickelback titled "Silver Side Up" is no disappointment in any way, shape or form. From the first song on the album titled "Never Again," (a song dealing with abuse), to the bluesy feel of the last song "Good Times Gone," the overall feel of the album is good, straight-forward rock n' roll. After going through six drummers, the band has finally settled with Ryan Vikedal, a friend of Ryan Peake (guitar/vocals), and the rest of the band consists of the brothers Kroeger (Chad on vocals and Mike on bass). The rhythm section is as strong as ever, Peakes's leads are exceptional, and Kroeger's job on vocals gives Nickelback the perfect mix for a solid driving rock album. ■

Crashpalace

Self-titled

Trauma records

★★★ /5

TUNES

Don't get excited just yet, but Crashpalace could prove to be a significant band to keep an eye on in the next little while. While pop fluff is dominating the mainstream, this Australian quintet could very well bust in on N'sync's territory. The band's Web site (www.crashpalace.net) describes the band's sound as "cranked guitars, creative percussion". This CD is all of that, but lacks a distinct sound. "Whatever Gets You Through" sounds like a more vocally trained Filter, "Two Kinds" like a guitar-heavy Matchbox 20. There are even some Garbage-like drum loops on "Crop Circles". With the recent success of bands like Three Doors Down and Staind, the stage is being set for a band like Crashpalace. The CD falls a bit short of a stellar debut, but it's good. Very good. Hopefully while Crashpalace sorts out their identity crisis, they'll be opening the doors for other solid rock bands while making a name for themselves. Watch for these guys... they might surprise you. ■
-Lindsey Anderson

Adema

Self-titled

Arista

★★★ 1/2 /5

The result of quietly working away for three years, heavy-rock band Adema's self-titled debut is full of dark songs. This five member group from Bakersfield, CA's claim to fame is vocalist Mark Chavez, the younger half-brother to Korn's front man Jonathan Davis. Despite the parental advisory sticker on the package, the lyrics are realistic and were not at all offensive.

A majority of the songs deal with life's problems. The first single "Everyone" specifically talks about how people tend to blame others for their problems before evaluating their wrongs in life. This CD allows for reflection. "Freaking Out" is the best song on the album. It reaches out to all those individuals whom were outcast in society, whether at school or in the community. The message in its own way is of understanding and compassion.

This album is a good listen when things aren't going your way. It may give you the inspiration or anger to keep going. ■ -Suzan Goritz

Happy Accidents

Original Soundtrack

TVT Records

★ 1/2 (maybe) /5

Ok, I really didn't want to slam this CD. Honestly. I figured I could find some cool new bands and sounds. But I didn't find any cool artists or sounds on this CD. At least I know if I should ever go into the elevator industry, I would have a CD to play in them. With the exception to Dusty Trails' lead off track "Dusty Happy Ending" (sounds like the Mission Impossible theme on Valium mixed with "Gimme Shelter" by the Rolling Stones); and Jet Set Six's "Perpetual Bachelor" (a funky swing number boasting the line "It's Saturday night and I ain't got no date/Not even with some ugly girl I hate"), the whole CD sounds like bad MUZAK. However, there is Cibo Matto's "Vamos a la Playa" (Cibo Matto in Spanish?!) which kind of sounds like Samba if Samba had very few instruments. It's interesting. Not bad, interesting. But really, if anyone asks you to listen to this CD, run away screaming, ok? Promise me. ■
-Lindsey Anderson

Tom McRae

Self-Titled

Arista

★★★★ /5

Tom McRae first debuted his album in Britain in 2000. It was released a few weeks ago in Canada and the U.S. Tom McRae shows strong folk music influences in his first release. This singer/songwriter/guitarist from the United Kingdom deals with urban life, the human weakness and an imperfect world.

The instrumental accompaniment is superb. The music complements the lyrics, which which are poetic and reflective. It is a window to his perspective on life and his way of understanding society. "Bloodless" questions society and how truly someone knows his/herself. "End Of The World News (dose me up)" and "2nd Law" deal with death and depression. On the surface, McRae's CD appears dark and full of depressing songs. This is a real look at important issues, illustrating careful thoughts and introspection on the question of life. For a first CD, this is amazing. The thought provoking lyrics and soulful music allow his creativity to dominate. ■ -Suzan Goritz

GAMES

Gran Turismo 3: A-Spec

Sony Playstation 2

★★★★★ /5

If I had $1.2 million kicking around I'd buy a RUF Porsche to bomb around in on the weekends. I don't, so I play Gran Turismo.

Anyone who has played Gran Turismo 1 or 2 knows why this franchise is referred to as The Most Realistic Driving Game Around, and won't need a reviewer to tell them how good GT3 is. However, although GT3 has a lot of what GT2 had, and in some ways a lot more than GT2 did, there is something missing: cars.

Whereas GT2 had 500 available cars from 36 different manufacturers, GT3 has only 150 cars from 38 manufacturers. In the long run this isn't a huge disappointment. After all, how many times did you actually race in a Phantom while playing GT2?

The only other thing I could find that GT2 had and GT3 doesn't is a driving view. Whereas in GT2 you have the choice of three in-play views (dash, and two views from outside the car), in GT3 you have only two choices: in or out. The removed third person option that was present in GT2 is absent here, but I didn't miss it at all.

So why did I give GT3 five stars? Because of what it does have. More tracks, real (such as the infamous Laguna Seca, with its downhill corkscrew) and imagined, more control over car settings, more detail in the graphics and the 'handling,' and more music (if you can think of a hard rock tune about driving, it's probably included).

And it's all on one disc. ■ -Kelly Stifora

The Butthole Surfers

Weird Revolution

★★ 1/2 /5

There was a time when the Butthole Surfers could easily be classified as 'wildly original.' Unfortunately, that time is gone. On Weird Revolution, an album that was delayed for three years by record label wrangling - the Surfers fought to be released from Capitol after their 1996 album Electriclarryland, signed with Hollywood Records / Surfdog Records, and then re-recorded all of Weird Revolution - Gibby Haynes and his freaky friends are anything but.

If this album had been released when it was originally recorded shortly after the success of "Pepper," it would have come off as being much more fresh and would probably have gained some success off of the coattails of the aforementioned Larryland single, which much of this material sounds like.

But it didn't, and the result is that now, three years later, many of these songs sound like old hat.

That isn't to say that none of them are good. "Dracula From Houston" chugs along on a Velvet Underground sample and proves that inspired use of loops can result in great music, and it is the only track on the album for which Haynes actually sings.

"Venus" mixes retro-synth lines and sitar over a jungle beat and would be a great song if not for Haynes monotonous intonations and often flat-out stupid lyrics.

This album might have warranted a higher rating if not for the grating title track, featuring lyrics inspired by the speeches of Malcolm X. This track, which is difficult to listen to more than once, belongs at the end of the album (or on a rarities collection), not at the beginning, where it might turn listeners off of the album completely before they've even had a chance to hear any of the good stuff. ■ -Kelly Stifora

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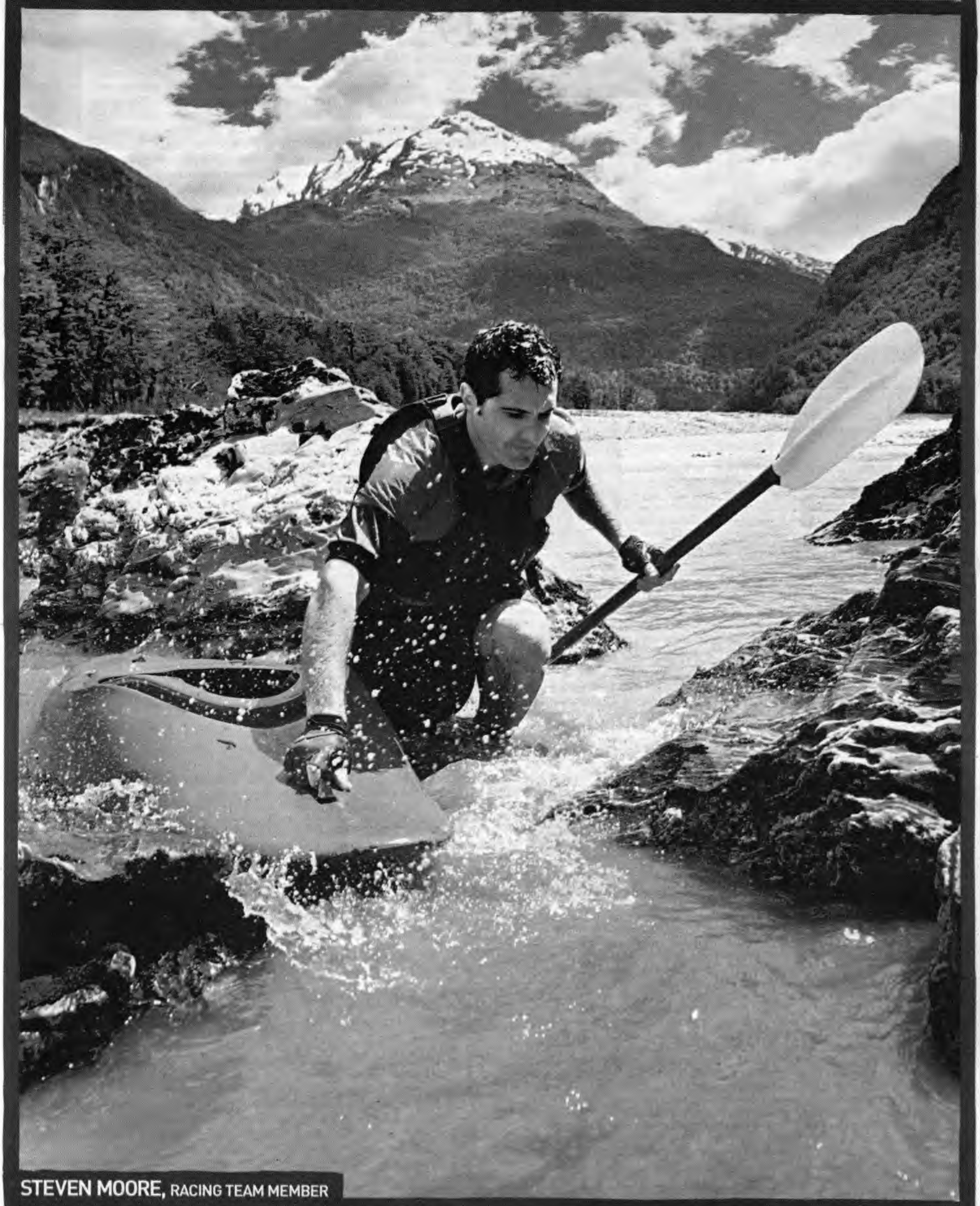

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