

in edition

MARCH 8, 1995

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Tough Times Ahead, Warns AUCC

On Mon., Feb. 27, Claude Lajeunesse, president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), issued a communiqué warning that the new federal budget threatens the equity of access to education.

"The estimated \$7 billion decrease over the next three years in federal cash transfers to support social programs raises serious concerns about the ability of all provinces to provide accessible, high quality post-secondary education," the AUCC stated in its budget response. "These reductions, combined with significant cuts to the granting

council budgets, also call into question the health of the university research enterprise."

February's budget announced a new transfer arrangement, which will see transfer payments to the provinces for education, health and social assistance now come in one—much reduced—cheque. According to AUCC figures, which take into account the effect of projected growth of tax points that diminish transfer amounts, transfer payments are expected to be 39 per cent lower in 1997-98 than in 1994-95.

In addition, the three granting council

See AUCC, continued on page 2.

Trench Being Dug to MacNamara Hall

Employees may be wondering what is happening to Alumni Green, and if the University is building a tunnel to MacNamara Hall.

During recent work to expand the computer network throughout the campus, it was discovered that the underground cableway connecting MacNamara Hall to the rest of the campus had been damaged by ground shifting. "The cableway carries the telephone lines, fire alarm system, and payroll system. It is in jeopardy of being severed with the spring thaw," explains Steve Coppinger, associate vice-president (finance and administration).

Work is now underway to dig a trench from Duckworth Centre, through Alumni Green, to MacNamara Hall for the installation of a new concrete-encased cable system.

According to Coppinger, three trees will be lost in the process. Coppinger notes: "One of the trees is diseased, and we would have been required to thin out the other two in the near future."



Monica Wood, director of Enrolment Management, chats with Milt McLean (centre) and Hugh Arklie from the Thomas Sill Foundation following a presentation of "Window on The University of Winnipeg" at a reception in February. The innovative program gives prospective and current students access to information about the University, its academic programs and its services via an interactive, multi-media computer program. The Sill Foundation provided a \$30,000 grant for the project.

The UNIVERSITY
of WINNIPEG

AUCC ...

continued from front page

budgets will be substantially reduced over the next three years. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) will both suffer cuts of 14 per cent, while the Medical Research Council will be cut by 10 per cent.

NSERC President Peter Morand detailed the budget's impact on NSERC programs in a memorandum. NSERC will be forced to cut \$24.4 million from its 1995-96 budget, \$48.2 million in 1996-97 and \$69.7 million in 1997-98.

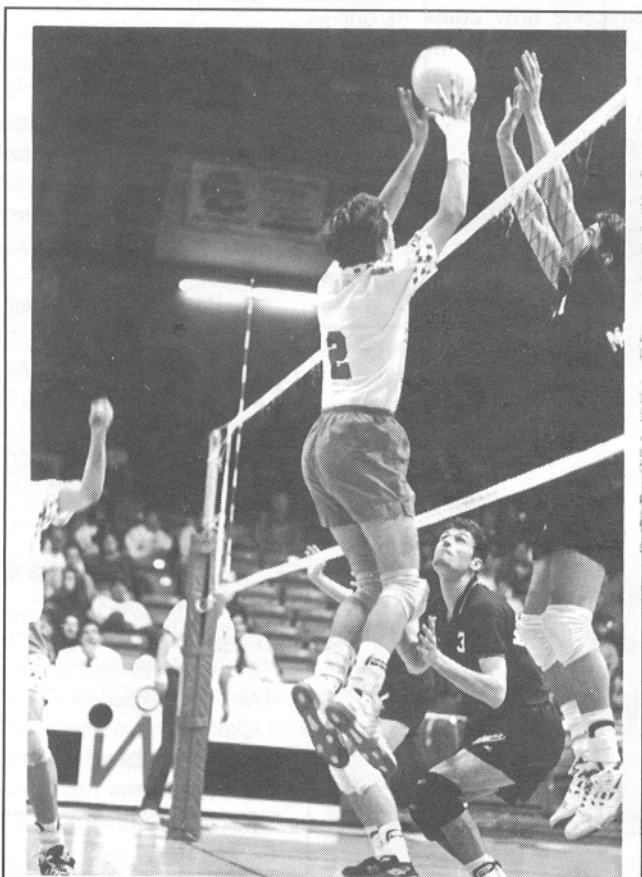
Part of this reduction in spending can be met through the accelerated phasing out of programs that were already slated for termination. (These include General Research Grants, Scientific Publication Grants, International Programs, University-Government Programs, Undergraduate Student Research Awards, and Canada-International Fellowships.) These programs were to be terminated in order for NSERC

to focus on those core activities it believes are central to the university research and training mission.

However, according to Morand, the magnitude of the cuts means significant reductions will also have to be applied to core programs.

The following cuts should also be noted: the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) will reduce funding for housing research; the National Research Council (NRC) expenditures will be cut by \$76 million over the next three years; a 20.5 per cent reduction for international assistance programs will affect funding to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Research Development Centre (IRDC).

Lajeunesse warns, "There are tough times ahead for Canada's universities. Our members will have to compete with health and social assistance sectors for a declining pot of money."



The Wesmen men's volleyball team made a valiant effort, but fell to the Manitoba Bisons in the Great Plains Athletic Conference play-offs to end their season. The women's volleyball team, however, went on to compete at the Canadian Inter-university Athletic Union championships in Edmonton, where they placed fourth.

Bonspiel Sponsors Thanked

The 26th annual University bonspiel was held Mon., Feb. 13 at Valour Road Curling Club. After a day of intense curling and unique shot-making, the team of Harold Kroeker, Linda Dietrick, Sheena Gardner and Anthony McIsaac emerged victorious, winning the main event.

Many thanks go to our sponsors: Carlyle Computer Products, Travelodge Hotel Downtown Winnipeg, Mother Tucker's, McDonald's Restaurants, Homelife Properties, K. Streu Homes, University of Winnipeg Bookstore, Printing Services, Charter House Hotel, G.W. Mechanical, Doran Reid, Kodak Canada, Laser Care, Nelco and Associates.

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Comments, suggestions and submissions are welcome. (All material is subject to editing.) The deadline for the next issue is March 13.

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International Women's Day has Long History



Rosemary Gagan says International Women's Day was initially a way of attracting women to socialism.

For most of the last century, March 8 has been designated International Women's Day, a tradition that originated with the working classes.

According to Rosemary Gagan, adjunct professor of history, International Women's Day was conceived in 1910 by Clara Zetkin, a German socialist-feminist, and the Socialist Women's International, which was actually a communist-oriented organization.

The early observances were marked by parades, marches and demonstrations, although it appears to have been celebrated only sporadically until after World War I. The tradition originated with working class women, rather than from the middle class feminists who were more concerned with issues of philanthropy and suffrage.

"Initially it was seen as a way to attract women to socialism, but it moved beyond that very quickly and became a way to focus attention on women's problems."

Gagan reports that very little research has been done on International Women's Day in Canada, but it appears that initially, it was celebrated primarily by ethnic women in the 1920s. "Finnish, Ukrainian or Jewish women would gather together to have local celebrations in small towns as well as in major cities. They would have concerts and programs, and would usually end by singing the 'Internationale.'"

International Women's Day did not enjoy mainstream observance in Canada and the United States until the late '60s, when it was picked up as part of second-wave feminism.

Gagan teaches "Issues in the History of Women in Canada," which examines the political, social and economic roles of women through four centuries in Canada. She also runs a seminar/lecture course, "Women and Gender in Canada: Historical and Comparative Perspectives," which gives special attention to the difficulties in documenting women's historical experiences. Both courses delve into the history of women and work, the law, and politics, and take

into account issues of gender, class and ethnicity.

Courses like Gagan's aim to restore the experience of women to the historical record. In the past 10 years in Canada, she reports, there has been a proliferation of diverse, quality research in women's history. Gagan credits the University's Department of History as well as the Women's Studies Program—and programs like it across the nation—for creating an environment that supports courses and research on women's history.

Gallery 1C03 Presents Performance Installation

The University's Gallery 1C03 came alive with movement when **Life Zones, an installation by Karen Hoeberg**, opened in collaboration with a performance series called From the Foot of the Tree: 4 Voices on Wed., March 8. The opening of this all-female show coincided with International Women's Day. The show runs through April 1.

Hoeberg is an installation artist who has put together an exciting project that combines installation, performances and a reading. Hoeberg, who has been exploring the relationship between body and landscape, has prepared canvas panels, rubbed and permeated with soils. Together, they serve as memory scrolls embodying the earth's chromatic span across four distinct geographic areas of this continent.

Jeannette Angel, a performance artist with an extensive background in dance, will perform throughout the exhibition. Throughout the show, Angel will offer a sequence of works which combine to express the 22 aspects of a three-dimensional cross.

As well, during the exhibition various artists will appear to present their work. A multi-media performance by Diana McIntosh will occur at 5 p.m. during the exhibition's opening. Performances also include a reading by Manitoba writer Sandra Birdsell on March 20 at 12:30 p.m. On the exhibition's final day at 1 p.m., Shauna Beharry, a Montreal-based artist, will blend storytelling, movement and voice to create a poem.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri. and Sat. 1-4 p.m. The program is co-sponsored by Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA).

Learning Disabilities Create Many Obstacles

Some are confronted with visual splotches when reading. Others can't decipher every third word spoken. Organizational, time management, social or spatial skills can be drastically impaired in many. These and many other difficulties face those with learning disabilities.

Learning disabled students comprise the fastest growing segment of the special needs population at The University of Winnipeg. Miriam Unruh, coordinator of the Nathan Micay Resource Centre and Learning Specialist Cheri Froese provide support for 46 such students.

According to Froese, learning disabilities are caused by chemical differences in the brain that affect its capacity to process information in the conventional manner. These disabilities can be broken into five categories: auditory, visual, motor, tactile, and reading (dyslexia). A learning disability exists when there is a discrepancy between general ability and performance in a certain area, but no functional problem with the sense organ itself can be detected.

A learning disabled individual may perform well—even exceptionally—in one area, but have difficulty in another. A popular example is the brilliant scientist Albert Einstein, who suffered from what we know today as dyslexia, which impaired his ability to read and write.

"Learning disabilities are defined only within the context of what a society considers necessary to learn and communicate knowledge," asserts Unruh. "For example, someone with a visual processing problem could excel in Plato's Academy, where instruction was oral."

Most learning disabled students require both accommodation and remediation to function at their best. Accommodation provides aids to help an individual sidestep their disability—things like books on tape and oral exams. Remediation offers students basic skills and strategies for learning. It helps them organize information in ways that make sense to them.

A learning disability can affect one or a combination of areas. Because each is unique, there are no absolute solutions. Froese says, "It's very complex. Each person is affected so differently." And as Unruh notes: "Some students, given the right learning strategies, can operate on their own. Others will always need to be accommodated in certain areas."

While difficulty assimilating all information can make a learning disabled individual occasionally seem 'slow,' Unruh emphasizes the importance of remembering "these students have average to above average intelligence."

In addition to working with University students, Froese works with learning disabled students at the Collegiate, which became integrated with the University's special needs program in 1993. "Our Collegiate students can take advantage of accommodations that most high school students don't get. This provides an excellent transition path to University," Unruh asserts.

Froese feels the biggest obstacle facing these students is an environment of disbelief and resistance. "It's common to hear

people say that if a student can't write a test or learn from a lecture, they don't belong in University." She calls that ironic. "If you have a learning disability, but you've made it through public school and been admitted to University, then you *really* belong here."

March is Learning Disabilities Month across Canada, and March 19-25 has been designated Learning Disabilities Week in Manitoba.

Student Struggles to Overcome Learning Disability

"Jane" isn't sure why she wants her identity obscured. It is partly due to her feelings of embarrassment, and partly because she expects negative reactions from others.

Jane, an honours student at The University of Winnipeg, suffers from a severe learning disability. She has difficulty reading, writing, and with certain organizational tasks.

"If I hear the words, I understand them, but reading is very frustrating—the words get garbled. I can explain things verbally, but I have trouble organizing words on paper."

Labelled as "lazy" from a young age, Jane barely made it through high school. "They didn't recognize my disability. They just put me through the system." She attempted University twice, but became frustrated and dropped out. On her third attempt, she was diagnosed with a learning disability.

Jane began receiving remedial tutoring and accommodations through the Nathan Micay Resource Centre on campus. The tutoring has improved her writing, and given her the necessary confidence to take courses that demand high-level writing skills. Jane, who formerly took oral essay exams, now writes them herself.

Still, she has emotional difficulty coming to terms with her disability. "At first I couldn't accept it. I didn't want anyone to know. I still have feelings of inadequacy."

Accommodations solve many problems for the learning disabled, Jane says, but they can create misconceptions. Chief among these is the idea that learning disabled students won't be able to cope in the "real" world. Jane believes this fallacy stems from people's misunderstandings about the nature of learning disabilities.

She intends to pursue a career that capitalizes on her strengths: "The way we're tested in school is very different than a job situation. I'm never going to be a writer. Like everyone, I want to do what I'm good at." Prior to returning to University, Jane enjoyed a successful career training employees for a large retail chain—proof, she asserts, that the learning disabled can and do make it in the "real" world.

Members of University Community Recognized

The University of Winnipeg was well-represented at the Sustainable Development Awards of Excellence ceremony, held on Thurs., Feb. 16. The University's Division of Continuing Education and four faculty members were nominated for awards in various categories.

The Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy presented the awards in recognition of those Manitobans whose projects exemplify the principles of sustainable development.

Continuing Education was nominated in the education (organizations) category for its Summer Institute on Sustainable Development. The innovative institute, run for the first time in July, 1994, provided an intensive learning experience

that drew a wide range of experts and students.

While the award went to the Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre, "we all felt that it was an honour to be nominated," says Darlene Frederickson, summer institute coordinator at Continuing Education.

Among The University of Winnipeg faculty members nominated in the education (individuals) category was Rod Bollman, acting chair of the Department of Biology. Bollman played an instrumental role in delivering the Summer Institute on Sustainable Development.

Economics Professor Robert Fenton, who specializes in environmental economics and public policy, was also nominated in that category. Fenton founded the

Recycling Council of Manitoba, and has been a key participant on committees dealing with recycling issues. He has been instrumental in several recycling initiatives, including the University's Paper Grower program.

Peter Miller, professor of philosophy at the University, received his nomination for his work with the Manitoba Model Forest. As a member of its Board of Directors, Miller played a significant role in defining the objectives of this project. He is also an active member of the group Time to Respect the Earth's Ecosystems (TREE).

In the research and development category, Jeffrey Patterson, a senior research fellow with the Institute of

Urban Studies, was named for his active involvement in research related to making Canadian cities—particularly those on the prairie—more sustainable.

The Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy has established a vision, adopted by the province, which aims to provide clean air, land and water while recognizing that continued economic development is needed to sustain our province and pay for important environmental initiatives. Nominations for the Sustainable Development Awards of Excellence were reviewed by an independent evaluation committee, comprised of representatives from business, academic, native and consumer communities.



Compact disks on display during Manitoba Library Week represent the technological expansion of library services. This year's theme, "Manitoba Libraries: Your Gateway to the World," promoted libraries as a source of current information with a scope far beyond the four walls of the library building.

Reference Librarian Provides Diverse Service

*This is the first article in a new **in edition** series, featuring staff members who consistently provide excellent service to students, faculty, staff and others. Their extra effort and positive attitude are appreciated by many on and off campus.*

Linwood DeLong spends approximately three hours of his busy day at the reference desk in The University of Winnipeg Library, helping library users who require assistance. "Because we're downtown, a variety of people from outside the University take advantage of our library," states DeLong.

Using the library has changed considerably since 1985, when DeLong began his job as a reference librarian. "At first we had only a card catalogue. There were no computer terminals for public use," he explains.

"Today, with access to any one of 18 terminals in the library, more information can be retrieved at a quicker pace. You can dial into the resources of university libraries all over the world," explains DeLong.

But the system also places new demands on the staff, DeLong says. "The flip side of working in a computer environment is library users must now learn a wide variety of query languages in order to obtain information."

Library staff have had to be trained to provide group or individual instruction on operating the computers. Preparing explanatory sheets has been a tremendous learning experience

for library staff. "A few of us also go to classrooms and make presentations to students on how to use the library," he adds.

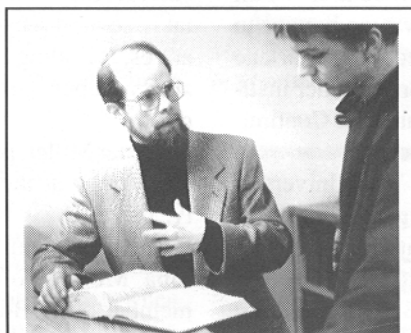
DeLong handles written and telephone requests, but his job largely involves personal interaction, which he enjoys. He says

he seldom comes across impolite or abusive people. "It's a rare thing—generally it's the opposite. If you try hard and use the resources you have, people are generally appreciative."

However, his job does present some challenges. "There are always people who have unusual requests, or those who don't know exactly what they're looking for."

"One time, a student came to the desk and stated she was looking for information in 'periodics and monograms'. Once we spent quite a bit of time looking for information on Korea—only to discover the student was looking for material on careers."

Perhaps the most humorous request DeLong has encountered was when a bewildered English student, clutching a play by Shakespeare, approached him. "He asked me if there was a dictionary that would translate it into English," says DeLong with a smile.



Linwood DeLong enjoys helping library users find what they need in the library.

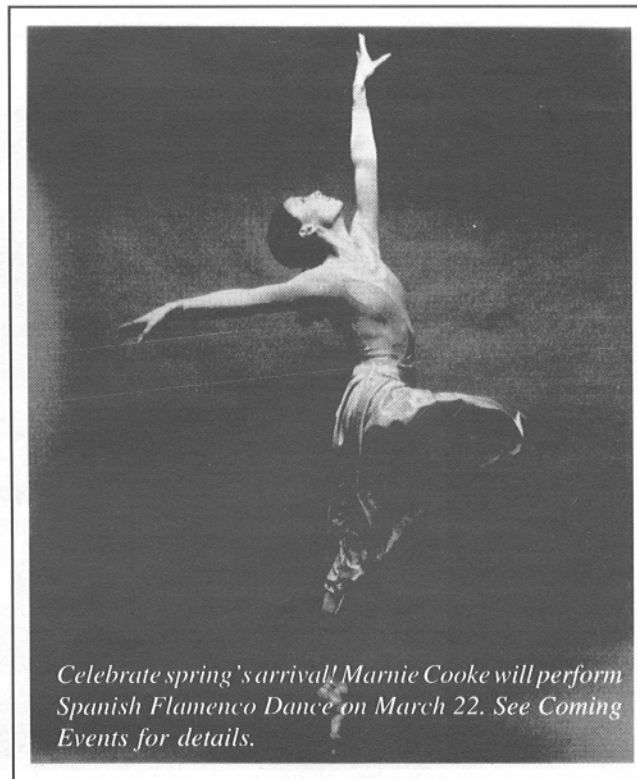
Physical Plant Halts Painting Operations

On Feb. 7, the City of Winnipeg Fire Department discovered a number of fire code infractions in the Physical Plant paint shop. Subsequent to the inspection, the paint shop was required to cease all operations. All spray painting has stopped, as has all work in the area.

In order to comply with regulations, a new concrete structure has been placed in parking lot B. This structure will house all the flammable paints and related substances.

Physical Plant will continue to provide painting service to the University while other changes are being implemented. However, until appropriate procedures have been put in place, no spray painting, stripping or refinishing will be done. As well, work with alkyd paints will be limited.

"We are working to find alternative methods, and ask for everyone's patience and cooperation during this short transitional period," says Norm Loat, director of Physical Plant.



Celebrate spring's arrival! Marnie Cooke will perform Spanish Flamenco Dance on March 22. See Coming Events for details.

Skywalk to the Beat of Your Heart

Take a walk to win fabulous prizes, have fun and support the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba.

On March 16, Skywalk to the Beat of Your Heart takes you on a lunchtime stroll through Winnipeg's downtown walkways. Walkers are eligible to win prizes based on their points collected at checkpoints. Bonus checkpoints offer an opportunity to register for exciting extra prizes.

Registration is \$20 per team; \$5 for individuals. Everyone who registers will receive a Blue Loonie, and the first 500 will get a free bag lunch. Registration and information forms are available through University Relations (Room 4W16), or call the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba at 949-2027.

Pension Committee Election Results

Jane Barske was the successful candidate in the recent election for a support staff representative on the Pension Committee. Barske works in the library.



Schlosser introduces a group of Collegiate students to the marvels of the Internet.

Collegiate Students Surfing the 'Net

Collegiate students are discovering the world is at their fingertips. Under the guidance of Wilfrid Schlosser and Geri Breddam-Taylor, more than a dozen students have formed an Internet Club and are learning to access the enormous potential the Internet provides.

Schlosser says the students' initial response to the Internet has been an astonished "Wow!" Breddam-Taylor calls the students "really keen" in their desire to delve deeper.

The small club is only the beginning of student access to the Internet. Schlosser, who teaches computer science and physics, hopes to have enough Collegiate computers connected to offer a full-credit course on the Internet in the next academic year.

The planned course will cover topics like the nature and background of the Internet, ways of searching for information, how to tap into the vast bibliographical materials available, and "netiquette." The course will be called "Internet: A New Mindset" to reflect the reality that this new, global technology dictates a fundamental change in

thinking.

"It requires a completely different viewpoint than the one we grew up with," Schlosser explains. "People no longer need to acquire information—they need to acquire the tools to learn. Students need to know what is out there, and how to get to it."

Because of their connection to the University, Collegiate students have an advantage other high schools cannot offer. Not only does the University have the facilities in place to access the Internet, it can provide knowledgeable instruction.

Schlosser believes that understanding the intricacies of the Internet will be crucial in the fast-paced future.

"Information is always changing. Everything on the Internet is updated continuously—it's a work in progress." While Schlosser says no one can predict how this new technology will evolve, he is certain of one thing: "The successful people are going to be the ones who know how to take advantage of these tools."

COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. Planning a campus event? Please let us know. Send the information (in writing) to Lois Cherney, University Relations, Room 4W15. Basic details about your event are required: what, when, where, sponsor, price of admission (if any) and the name of a contact person. Submissions must be received at least 12 working days before the event.

CONTINUING UNTIL APR. 1
-Life Zones, an Installation by Karen Hoeberg in Gallery 1C03. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri. and Sat. 1-4 p.m.

MON., MARCH 13
- Music at Noon presents virtuoso classical guitarist Jeffrey McFadden, the first Canadian to win the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America Competition. Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, 12:30-1:20 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Winnipeg Classical Guitar Society.

WED., MARCH 15
- Music at Noon presents The Welfare Starlets, who continue their satirical mission: "To Boldly Go Where No Woman has Gone Before," in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, 12:30-1:20 p.m.

- Skywalk Lecture Series—Neil Besner, Department of English, will explore **Why Poetry Matters**. What uses do we make of poetry? What do we remember of it and why? What part of our lives does it inhabit?

-The University of Winnipeg Women's Assoc. luncheon: Speaker Beverley Fehr will discuss the psychology of close relationships. Faculty & Staff Club, noon. \$7. Call Sharon August, 786-9253 for information.

- Deadline for applications to attend Explorations '95, presented by the Faculty of Theology. Registration is \$50; (\$25 for non-clergy spouses). For information, call 786-9390.

THURS., MARCH 16
 - Skywalk Concert Series—**The Midwest Duo**, musicians Susan Symonik, oboe, and Benjamin Trowell, french horn, will perform a program of traditional and contemporary music: "Something Old, Something New."
- Skywalk to the Beat of Your Heart starts at 11:30 a.m. Information and registration forms are available at University Relations, or call the Heart and Stroke Foundation at 949-2027.

FRI., MARCH 17
- Music at Noon presents Rosemarie Vanderhooft, mezzo-soprano, and Laura Loeven, piano, in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall from 12:30-1:20 p.m.

MON., MARCH 20
- Music at Noon—Arkadiusz Tesarczyk, principal cello with the WSO, performs with pianist Claudia Chen in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall from 12:30-1:20 p.m.

- Manitoba writer **Sandra Birdsell** will read from her work as part of the Life Zones exhibition in Gallery 1C03 at 12:30 p.m.

WED., MARCH 22
- Music at Noon—Marnie Cooke performs Spanish Flamenco Dance with guest dancer Christine Bancroft in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall from 12:30-1:20 p.m.

- Skywalk Lecture Series—John Ryan of the University's Geography Department will present **Quebec Indepen-**

dence: Will It Ever be Resolved?

THURS., MARCH 23
 - Skywalk Concert Series—Jimmy Osborne, trumpet, with Scott McQuade, keyboard, celebrate the sounds of Harry James, Leroy Anderson and Miles Davis in **A Tribute to the Trumpet**.

-UWSA will co-sponsor a town hall meeting entitled, **The Future of Post-Secondary Education in Manitoba**. Manitoba's Education Minister Clayton Manness, critics Jean Friesen (NDP) and Avis Gray (Liberal) and representatives from several organizations will discuss issues at 7 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.

FRI., MARCH 24
- Music at Noon—See the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra, directed by Carlisle Wilson, at Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, 12:30-1:20 p.m.

SAT., MARCH 25
- Big Band Showcase—The University's Downtown Jazz Band will hold a big band era dance in Riddell Hall at 8 p.m. The dance features five bands and a cold buffet. Tickets are \$10, available at the Info Booth, or call 775-8075.

MON., MARCH 27
- Music at Noon—Gypsy violinist Ioan Harea will set the stage ablaze with a fiery performance, accompanied by James Wright on piano, in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall from 12:30-1:20 p.m.

TUES., MARCH 28 - SAT., APR. 1

The University's **Theatre Department will present *The Sea***, by Edward Bond, at the Gas Station Theatre, 445 River Avenue. This unusual modern comedy is absurd, chaotic, and funny. Performances begin 8 p.m. nightly. Admission is free. For reservations call 786-9402.

WED., MARCH 29
 - Skywalk Lecture Series—Phil Cyrenne, economics, will present **Keeping Score in the NHL: The Economics of Professional Hockey**.

Skywalk Series Free and Accessible

The Skywalk Lecture & Concert Series provides free, accessible information and entertainment. On Wednesdays, lectures by University faculty allow the public an opportunity to appreciate the diverse expertise found on our campus. On Thursdays, Winnipeggers can enjoy a variety of exciting musical talents.

Concerts and lectures all happen from 12:15-12:45 p.m. at Winnipeg Centennial Library (2nd floor Auditorium, off the Skywalk). See Coming Events for details.