

in edition

The UNIVERSITY of WINNIPEG

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International Liaisons

Despite the bad rap Winnipeg takes because of its harsh climate, international students are willing to weather the winters to get a top-notch education. At the University of Winnipeg, international students can learn English through the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at the Continuing Education division, get a high school diploma at The Collegiate, and then complete a degree at the University proper. "This is a unique combination, and we have been able to capitalize on that," says Sohrab Abizadeh, Director of the International Office. "It's a continuum of education that is especially attractive for international students who need time to improve their language skills before moving on to degree credit courses."

For years the University has been successful in attracting students from other countries, but until we all joined forces, there wasn't a cohesive plan in place. "Departments all over the University were making contacts and recruiting students, but there wasn't a lot of communication," says Curtis Nordman, Dean of Continuing Education. "We have been laying the foundation for a successful international program, and now, institutionally, our activities are starting to bear fruit. We are seeing a steady flow of international students into our programs." Nordman adds that the University's international recruitment efforts have substantial monetary implications. "The cost of one trip to make a valuable contact is made up when only one student enrolls, so the University clearly has a lot to gain." The cost for recruitment is

shared by Continuing Education, The Collegiate, the provincial government, and the International Office.

Recent contract negotiations with Poland demonstrate this gain. Annual trips will be made to Poland

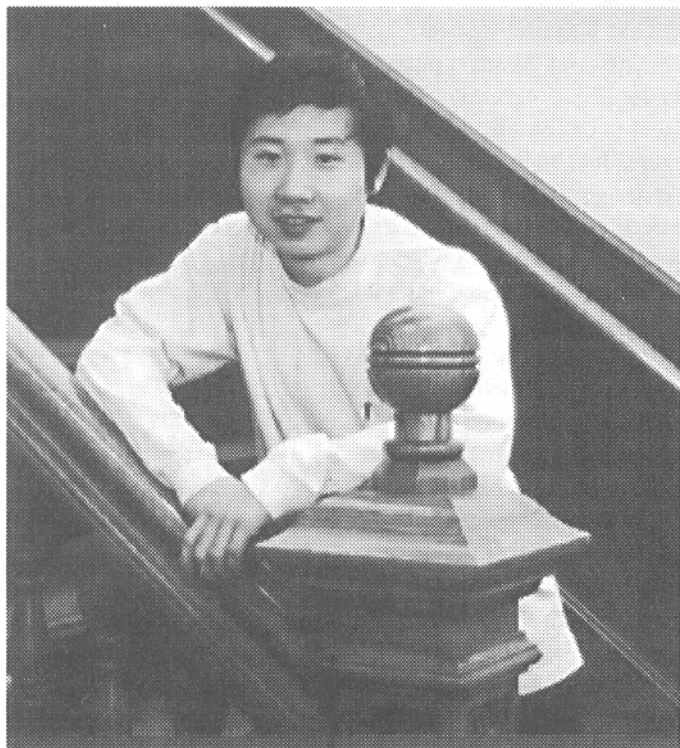
to help nurture our relationship, but a single enrolment makes up the entire cost of the trip. At least five students from Poland will be enrolling at the University of Winnipeg every year, so the trip is an investment and the rewards are great. "We're getting much more than an increased enrolment figure," notes Elizabeth Challis, international recruitment officer, adding that the University has 250 interna-

See Liaisons, continued on page 2

It's a Small World

The University of Winnipeg attracts students from around the world. Our current students hail from:

Argentina
Brazil
China (People's Republic, Mainland)
Colombia
Denmark
Dominica
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Iran
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Korea (North)
Korea (Republic)
Latvia
Lithuania
Macau
Malaysia
The Netherlands
Portugal
Singapore
Sweden
Taiwan
Trinidad
Tobago
Turkey
United States
Viet Nam
Zimbabwe



Yang XinXin says his English language partner, provided by the University, has been an enormous help.

Liaisons

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tional students. "It's enriching for our Canadian students, who are given the opportunity to get to know people from all over the world."

"We're also injecting diversity into the student population," notes Nordman. "If our



Ayumi Nagano says she feels right at home in Winnipeg.

news features something that is occurring in China, one of our Chinese students can comment from their perspective."

Students are coming from many countries, including Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China. "We have a big market in China, and we're focusing heavily on that area," says Abizadeh, who just returned from penning a contract there. "Next year we anticipate at least a five per cent increase in our international student enrolment over last year, due to this success." Key to our relationship with Chinese universities is the twinning process, which allows students to transfer courses from their home university and complete their degrees at the University of Winnipeg. This is a model that will be used with universities in Mexico.

ESL is the lynchpin for a successful academic career at the University. "Students can acquire the linguistic skills they need before moving on to degree credit courses. This makes the transition very smooth; however, many of

the students already have strong language skills," says Abizadeh. "Our contracts emphasize quality—we want the best and the brightest, and that's what we have been recruiting."

Our visiting students are given abundant care and attention from the moment they arrive at the airport. "A host family greets the new student and welcomes him or her into their home," says Challis. "This makes the transition to Canadian culture much easier. All of their needs are met—from learning to do their banking in Canada to finding social settings they can enjoy. We are building our reputation on how well we treat our international students."

Ayumi Nagano, who came to the University from Japan, agrees that the University has made her feel right at home. "My professors are wonderful and helpful," she says. "Jane Cahill has given me lots of advice. Living with a host family has also been a great experience." Nagano, who holds an

education degree from a Japanese university, enrolled in the ESL program to improve her English and is continuing her studies. "It's a challenge, but I'm learning a lot and my English keeps getting better." She adds that she has been taking courses in Greek and Latin as well. She hopes to become a teacher when she has completed her studies.

While in Winnipeg, Nagano has been volunteering her time at elementary schools. "I've been introducing young people to Japanese culture and language," she says. "I love Winnipeg. I've been going to the ballet and other concerts."

Yang XinXin, an ESL student from China, also enjoys Winnipeg culture. "Every Friday, my friends do something different," he says. "Last Friday we went to IMAX." XinXin hopes to complete the ESL program and then take courses in computer sciences.

In keeping with Manitoba's reputation for friendliness, XinXin says Winnipeggers have been most helpful. "Everyone is polite. When I need directions, people really try to explain things in a way that I can understand."

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Comments, suggestions and submissions are welcome. (All material is subject to editing.)
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in edition is printed on recycled paper. After you have finished with this issue, please pass it on to a friend.

Y2K... Why the Hype?

In the aftermath of the Y2K madness, it is clear that the University of Winnipeg did its job. "I'm pleased with the results," says Ken Krebs, Y2K project manager. "The overall hardware situation is good, and there were only a couple of minor problems among all the information systems on campus."

Krebs admits that he was not always so optimistic. "It was a tight race, and there were times early on when it looked as though the student information system might not have been ready," he notes. "But we came through with flying colours. There were a few minor problems in other areas, and we have yet to do a full month-end and a full year-end," notes Krebs. "But I'm proud of the work the Y2K team accomplished."

Steve Coppinger, co-chair of the Y2K committee, says he is also pleased with the way everyone pulled together. "Departments throughout the University were heavily involved with the planning process. They also developed contingency plans," says Coppinger. "Of course, the bulk of the load fell on TSC, but Physical Plant, Student Services, Controller's Office and other units were heavily involved." He adds that a few bugs did show up, but nothing that could be determined 'mission critical.'

Katherine Schultz, co-chair of the Y2K committee, says that everyone involved did an excellent job. "All potential internal problems that might have affected the University's ability to operate were handled on time, professionally and with care," she says. "I believe everyone involved in addressing the Y2K issues deserves the University community's sincere thanks for a job well done."

Mike Langedock, Executive Director in TSC, is equally impressed with the results. "From a hype perspective, I find it amazing that the impact to the University's technical environment was as negligible as it was." He added that this success story happened only because of what both the TSC and user communities did to beat the deadline. "It was directly because of Y2K that we touched almost 50 servers, over 1,000 desktop PCs and a vast array of software and operating systems," he says.

In the next issue of *in edition* we will look at the benefits of Year 2000 work.



Gallery 1C03 Goes Full Colour

Manitoba artist Bill Lobchuk exhibits oil paintings and other colourful works in Red, Yellow and Blue, the first show of the new year at the University of Winnipeg's Gallery 1C03.

The three primary colours are used to create vibrant illustrations of a variety of endangered species, both exotic and domestic. Paintings in oil, enamel and watercolour/pastel as well as silkscreen prints reflect Lobchuk's concern for the disappearance of innumerable plants and animals around the globe.

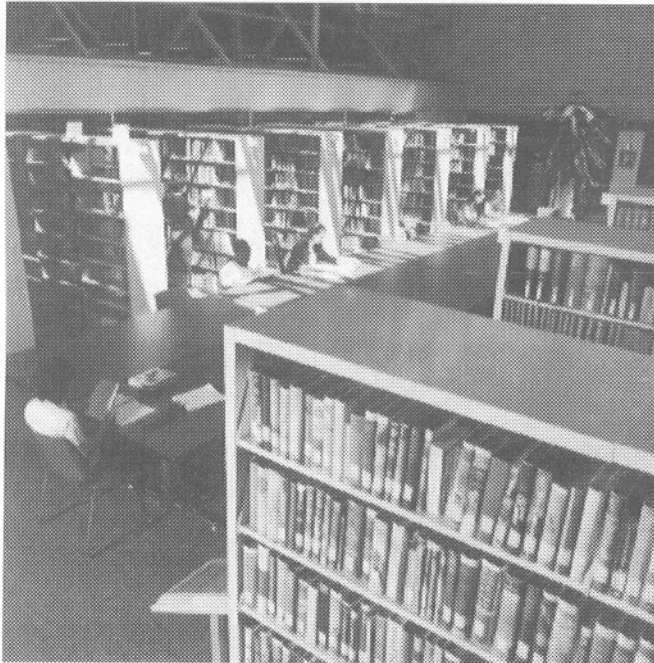
"For the first time since his studies at art school in the 1960s, Bill is painting in oil," says Jennifer Gibson, assistant art curator at the University of Winnipeg. "It's interesting to see this recent work alongside images in other media." Viewers are also being treated to a few of the artist's silkscreen prints.

A pioneer in silkscreen printing, Lobchuk founded the Grand Western Canadian Screen Shop in Winnipeg in 1968. For more than three decades he has produced silkscreen prints, some of which have appeared at galleries in Winnipeg, Montreal, and Paris. He also taught the craft to other artists who did not normally work in a print medium.

Lobchuk has completed commissions for the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers and the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre. In 1996, he was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

The exhibit runs until Sat., Feb. 5. See coming events for details.

University of Winnipeg Library Charges into the New Millennium



It would be a vast understatement to suggest that new technologies are having a profound impact on how we find and use information. They are changing the way we work and play—every facet of our lives. Students are expected to understand how to use these new tools and techniques not only in their studies, but also when they enter the workforce. Faculty also need to make greater and more effective use of information technology for research and teaching.

The Library recognizes this fact and is in the process of changing its environment and services to better meet these needs. At the same time we are painfully aware of the fact that traditional information tools and resources are equally important, if not more so. Unfortunately in an environment where the sexy media message wins the day, it is often hard to get library users to see the value of both. New computer technologies are a strong draw for this generation of students—some think if they can't find it on the Web, it probably does not exist. On the other hand some educators still feel that if it is found on the Web it can't be useful or authoritative. Our challenge is to stake out the middle ground and make sure both students and faculty have appropriate access to what they need.

In order to properly equip library users with ALL the 'right stuff,' the Library is developing a number of new resources and services. The following article describes these new services, and indicates when they will be available (most will be available this year), and how.

I Like My Books!

Computer aficionados have been calling for the death of the book ever since Grace Hopper found a moth in one of the first computers and coined the term 'computer bug.' Today books are as popular as ever—as evidenced by the soaring popularity of Amazon.com and higher book sales. Computers have in fact indirectly led to this increasing popularity by making it easier and cheaper to produce books, as well as easier to find and buy them. Books have always been and remain a critically important resource for a strong undergraduate education. Unfortunately, over the last 10 years libraries have spent more and more on journals and less on books. This is due largely to the alarming increase in the price and number of scholarly journals and the way we buy and store these paper journals.

Over the next few years the Library will increase the resources allocated to the acquisition of books in all subject areas.

New Acquisitions

In order to make sure users are informed of the latest acquisitions, the Library has created a special New Acquisitions Area (available now). This includes a shelf of the latest titles (updated weekly) with some chairs conducive to comfortable browsing (available February). The new acquisitions will also be announced to e-mail lists and a special web page on the Library website (available February at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/collections/new-acquisitions.html>).

The Library has created 3 new special funds of \$3,000 each for the acquisitions of books:

- Student Selections—Students will be able to make recommendations for books in any subject area (available February at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/forms/student-suggest.cfm>).
- Aboriginal Issues—University staff and students will be able to make recommendations for material promoting a better understanding of the Aboriginal community (available February at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/forms/aboriginal-suggest.cfm>).
- Faculty Development—Faculty will be able to recommend materials in support of special research and teaching needs (available February at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/forms/facultydev-suggest.cfm>).

While paper is still the main source of what we traditionally call books, an increasing number of books are available in both print and digital formats—some only digital. In light of this development the Library will be purchasing the specialized hardware needed to access these digital books. All electronic book readers (and the digital books) will circulate from the Library Circulation Desk.

The Rocket eBook is a paperback-sized reader for books and magazines. There are currently over 2,700 titles available for the eBook (available March).

The SoftBook Reader is a magazine-sized reader for books and magazines. Included with this reader will be subscriptions to some of the key newspapers and information magazines—updated daily (available March).

We like our books too—so to help you get them back to us (and other users) on time, we are opening a special drop-box across from Security Services in the entrance to Centennial Hall (available February). This drop-box is for books only—reserve and other materials need to be returned to the Circulation Desk as always.

Aaarrggghhh!! There's Too Much Information!

This is another one of those obvious statements that we've all heard. Estimates of the amount of new information created every year vary widely, but many suggest a doubling every 5 years. This phenomenal rate of increase overwhelms some and invigorates others, but one thing is certain—we need better ways to find, manage and use information.

The Library is committed to the development of special Information Literacy training over the next few years. This will be seen in the expansion of traditional Library training (available September) as well as the development of new programs. In order to facilitate this the Library will be hiring an Information Literacy Coordinator in the near future.

A new Library website is under development (available February at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/>). This will provide access to the wealth of traditional and digital information the Library maintains, as well as the wealth of information outside the Library. This will include:

- Departmental Information Resources pages for each academic program and department in the University (available April at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/academic>). These will provide links to electronic journals, key websites, reference material, guides, etc.
- A What's New page will highlight new journals and resources acquired by the Library (available February at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/admin/whatsnew/>).
- The Library will be providing more and more core information resources via the Web. One way this will be done is via Electronic Reserves—digitizing some of the material currently only available at the Reserve Desk. This will make the material more accessible to more students at the same



time—even when the Library is closed (available September).

- The Library is working on a number of special projects that will allow users (faculty, staff and students) to customize their information environment to make their favorite and most-used resources readily available. This custom information environment is called MyLibrary, and will be accessible from any browser, anywhere. Some examples include:

- Table-of-contents routing service—you select the journals you want to be up-to-date on and you will receive the tables-of-contents

in your e-mail as soon as they are published (available September).

- Customizable lists of databases, websites, listservs and other resources in your areas of interest (available 2001).
- Automatic search updates—you define a search (for example, for your current research), submit it to MyLibrary and it is run on a regular basis (for example every week or month) and the results emailed to you (available 2001).
- A personal web-based bibliography of all those resources you find and use in your work. The bibliography could be updated manually via a special form or automatically from the databases you search (available 2001).

Why Can't I Get the Stuff When I Need It?

Let's face it—people are creatures of habit and everyone has different habits. Some like to study at 6 am after they get up, while some prefer to study to 6 am before they go to bed. We also are increasingly frustrated when we can't get all of what we need on our computer screen—on campus, home or anywhere. While we realize that everyone needs to make regular use of the physical Library in order to be the most productive, we are also aware of the increasing need to access information from a personalized information space—wherever that may be.

- The Library has converted all of the bibliographic research databases we have to web-based interfaces, and we have even added some new ones (available February at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/resources/db/>). This means they can be searched from the Library, Uplinks, campus offices, home—anywhere a functional web-browser can be found. If you are on campus they will just work and if you are off campus all you will need is your Library card number. The databases available in this format include:



- General/Reference—*Canadian Business and Current Affairs* (includes fulltext), *Contemporary Women's Issues*, *ProQuest*
- Humanities—*Art Index*, *America History and Life*, *ATLA Religion Database*, *Bibliography of Native North Americans*, *Historical Abstracts*, *Humanities Index*, *MLA Bibliography*, *Philosophers Index*
- Sciences—*Biological & Agricultural Index*, *General Science Index*, *Geobase*, *MathSciNet*, *PsycINFO*
- Social Sciences—*Criminal Justice Abstracts*, *EconLit*, *ERIC*, *International Political Science Abstracts*, *PAIS*, *Social Sciences Index*, *SocioFile*, *Sports Discus*

Two months ago the Library subscribed to about 200 electronic journals—as of today that number has increased to over 2,000 titles. Some of these titles are individual subscriptions that can be accessed via the Library OPAC or new website, while others are accessed by searching special databases:

- ProQuest—Provides access to citations for over 2,300 journal titles and fulltext for over 1,500 titles (Available February).
- ProjectMUSE—Provides access to approximately 120 academic journals in a range of disciplines (Available Now).
- JSTOR—Provides access to over 117 core undergraduate journals from the 1st issue forward (Available February).

User-mediated document delivery services will be integrated into these new databases in the next few months. When users search databases like those mentioned above and the Library does not subscribe to the print or digital journal of interest, all they have to do is click a button to order the article. In many cases the article will be delivered within 2–3 days (Available February at <http://>

cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/resources/godot.html).

Users will still want to use the Library on a regular basis so we will also be expanding our hours (Available February at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/admin/hours/>).

- 1 additional hour Monday–Thursday, until 11:00 pm
- 6 additional hours on Friday, until 11:00 pm
- 1.5 additional hours on Saturday and Sunday, from 11:30 am–6:00 pm

All That Digital Information is Great — But I Don't Have a Computer

Although more and more people have access to an Internet connected computer, many do not. In addition, some may not have access to newer equipment that allows them to access, view and print some of these new information resources. The Library will be developing its computer resources in order to create a special Information Commons for its users. This Information Commons will bridge the gap between traditional and electronic resources, providing users with seamless access to both.

The Library is installing 25 new computers in the Reference Area. These systems will be able to access all the products the Library subscribes to as well as print, e-mail or download the information for later use (Available February).

Two specially configured multimedia computers will also be located in the Reference Area. These systems will provide access to a full range of digital media, including text, graphics, animation, audio and video. In addition, they will allow the user to download resources to floppy, ZIP disks or recordable CD-ROM for access on home computer systems (Available February).

Additional computers will be deployed throughout the Library to facilitate access to the Library OPAC and the increasing number of electronic resources. This will include 12 additional public-access computers on the 5th floor (Available April).

Networked laptops will be available from the Circulation Desk of the Library for use in the Library. This hardware will be able to access the wealth of digital resources the Library subscribes to, as well as the rest of the Web (Available March). For those of you who miss your Mac, you can get one of those too—in Blueberry!

Special high-end servers will be installed in the Library to serve some of the new digital resources. This will improve the speed of delivery of these resources and allow us to provide customized versions of current and future products (Available February).

OK, This May Be Great But I Get Thirsty in the Library

One final change for the new millennium: Now you can have drinks and snacks in the Library. The Library is the best place to study on campus, but it has always had a no food and drink policy. Well, we understand that it is hard to get all that studying and research done when you have to leave to quench your thirst or have a snack. Now you can bring that stuff into the Library as long as it is appropriate. In other words non-spill drinking mugs (like those great UofW mugs in the Bookstore) and snacks that don't make a mess, leave a strong smell, or

stain. In other words—be considerate of your fellow Library users and keep the environment clean for the next generation of students.

OK, OK, This Really is Great But I Need Help From a Real Person!

With the increasing use of digital tools and resources and the tendency to work in isolation, people are finding it more difficult to get the high level of service and help that they are used to from the Reference staff in the Library. In order to facilitate this transition to digital environments, we are extending our services to reach out to our users no matter where they are.

Virtual Reference Services will be available via phone, e-mail, instant messaging and other forms of electronic communication (available April at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/reference/vref.html>). These services will be provided by a real person and will be enhanced and expanded as the need increases. Once it is implemented, this service will be available from 8 am to midnight, Mon. to Sun.

We have created a listserv specifically for the announcement of new services and resources in the Library. This list is available to all interested Library users, whether they are on campus or not—staff, faculty, students, distance students, parents, alumni, etc. (available now at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/admin/contacts.html>). To join, send a message to lib-general@uwinnipeg.ca with no subject and the text subscribe lib-general Your Name. Replace Your Name with your own First and Last names.

We also want to hear from you to get your comments or feedback on the services we provide. This allows us to continue to enhance our services and make sure you get the information resources you need. There are a number of ways to provide us with that feedback:

- Access our feedback form on the Web and tell us what you think (available now at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/admin/feedback.html>).
- Take a look at our Library Review and Feedback Website. This is an HTML version of the Library Review document from the Advisory Review Committee on the University Library. It provides a roadmap of the Library for the next few years as well as a commentary of the changes along the way (available now at <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca/libreview>).
- Drop in and talk to us, or leave us a note.

U of W Web Site Under Construction

A new, temporary web site for the University of Winnipeg has been launched, and plans are in the works for a major overhaul. The new site features several improvements to the original design, content and navigation; however, it is intended to be in existence for only a short time (about three months) while the Web Advisory Committee continues to work on major overhaul of the site.

In this first 'quick fix' phase of the web initiative, the committee has concentrated on straight-forward tasks that could be done immediately to make the site more relevant and user-friendly, particularly for prospective students. These changes include creating a new look for the home page, providing a 'Quick Index' search feature, and posting up-to-date calendar and timetable information. "We're also providing more content and fixing any broken links," says George Tomlinson, Vice-President (Academic) and chair of the Web Advisory Committee. Implementation of the project is managed by a web advisory management group, which includes Tomlinson, Lois Cherney (Associate Director of Alumni and Communications), Mike Langedock (Director of TSC), and Ian Lark (Web Design Consultant).

The major overhaul, which will proceed over the next few months, will likely incorporate some of these recent updates. But the committee also anticipates that the site will be largely transformed in these upcoming phases as we move towards the main goal of the web initiative—to create a more attractive, dynamic and interactive site, one that will be part of our community and remain connected after graduation. "We will have a vibrant, interactive site with a new appearance and more content," says Tomlinson. The goal is to create a continuously evolving University Web site, capitalizing on the capabilities of both internet and intranet technologies and formats.

The Web Advisory Committee invites you to look at the new U of W site and give us your feedback. Please forward your comments to Lois Cherney at l.cherney@uwinnipeg.ca

Deans Depart

Two deans have indicated that they will not be seeking further terms at the University of Winnipeg. Curtis Nordman, Dean of Continuing Education, was appointed as the first Dean of Continuing Education in 1990 and was re-appointed for a second term in 1995. Nordman will shortly be leaving the University of Winnipeg in order to take up new challenges elsewhere.

Appointed Dean of Theology in 1995, Ray Whitehead will be retiring a year early and will be returning to his home and family in Toronto.

Each leaves behind a legacy that will serve the University well in the future.

COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. Planning a campus event? Please let us know. Send **written** information to Paula Denbow (paula.denbow@uwinnipeg.ca), University Relations, 10 working days in advance of the event. Basic details are required: what, when, where, sponsor, price of admission (if any) and the name of a contact person.

THROUGH SAT., FEB. 5
• **Gallery 1C03 presents Red, Yellow and Blue: Oil Paintings and Other Works by Bill Lobchuk.** The works included in this exhibit illustrate Lobchuk's concern for the sudden disappearance of innumerable plants and animals across the globe as a result of pollution, industrial development and the spread of the human population to the farthest reaches of the planet. Gallery hours are Mon. to Fri., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

THURS., FEB. 3
Dr. Jeffrey Wigand, whose fight against the tobacco industry was documented in the movie *The Insider*, will present a public afternoon lecture in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Time 1:30 p.m..

• **The Margaret Laurence Chair Speaker Series** presents "De-Constituting American Feminism," by Kate Millett, author, artist, and activist. The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. in Moot Court, Robson Hall at the University of Manitoba. For more information, please call Joanne Boucher at 9421.

SAT., FEB. 5
• **Virtuosi Concerts** presents pianist Alexander Tselyakov. James Manishen of the *Winnipeg Free Press* says Tselyakov's is "a huge sound which maintains its richness even in the loudest dynamics, and a fine lyric sensibility." The program includes Bach Italian Concerto, works by

Chopin, Glick, Messiaen, Liszt and Balakirev's *Islamey*. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Tickets are \$22, \$20 for seniors and \$13 for students. Call 786-9000 for tickets.

MON., FEB. 7
• **Technology Solutions Centre Open Forum**—learn about the information technology strategy in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m.

WED., FEB. 9
• **Mondetta Global Stage** presents Toronto Consort. Founded in 1972, these touring troubadours present "The Way of the Pilgrim," a musical evocation of a fabulous world of medieval travellers,

when travel was full of danger and excitement and every trip became a pilgrimage—a life-changing event. Featuring pilgrim songs, cantigas, crusaders' laments and ecstatic dances. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Tickets are \$15, \$13 for seniors and \$5 for students. Call 985-6802 for tickets.

FRI., FEB. 11 & SAT., FEB. 12
• **Mondetta Jazz Stage** presents Bunnett & Lerner in *Conversations*. Join jazz and new music pianist/improviser, Marilyn Lerner, and internationally-renowned jazz flautist/saxophonist/composer, Jane Bunnett, for an evening of musical *Conversations*. From the passionate

to the sublime, from the traditional to the avant-garde, from swing to Afro-Cuban—a warm dialogue between musical friends. Tickets are \$20, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students. Both performances begin at 8 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.

SUN., FEB. 13
• **Chocolate Madness: The Annual Flavourful Fun Raiser**—Dalnavert Museum is once again hosting a decadent sampling of a great array of chocolate goodies. This fund raising event will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. at 61 Carlton Street. Admission, one free sampling ticket and an opportunity to tour this beautiful Victorian house costs \$4. Additional sampling tickets will cost 50 cents each or 12 for \$5. Coffee and punch will be provided. For more information call Tim Worth or Nancy Anderson at 943-2835.

A Poignant Look at Life in Pre-War Ireland

Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* sets in opposition confinement and freedom, politics and the human spirit, suspicion and beauty. He combines suffering and love to demonstrate that while life for women in pre-war Ireland was repressive, there was a chance at redemption. The result is poignant, authentic and compassionate.

The third-year honours acting class will transport you back to the summer of 1936—harvest time in County Donegal. The character of Michael, as narrator, presents a golden time, a blissful interlude when he was a young boy of seven. He and his five aunts, the Mundy sisters, are barely making ends meet. Memories of the family's first wireless, the return of Father Jack, a missionary priest ordered home from Africa after 25 years, and two visits by his unreliable and roguish fa-

ther, Gerry Evans, are some of the critical events that shape Michael.

Friel's art consists of evoking not only the interior landscape of these people who are trapped in their domestic situation, but the wider exterior landscape of Ireland, both Christian and Pagan. There is imminent change on the horizon, for in this peaceful time the clouds of war are gathering.

Performances are Feb. 3-11 (except Sunday) in Convocation Hall, University of Winnipeg, at 8:00 p.m. Admission is free. For reservations (24-hours) call 786-9152, or visit our website at: www.uwinnipeg.ca/theatre.

The final show of U of W's season will be March 28th-April 1st when the University theatre students present a production of Jean Anouilh's *Dinner With the Family*, directed by Margo Charlton, at the Gas Station Theatre.