



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

THE SENTINEL

THE REVILLER

Vol.4 - Issue 3: March/April 1998

Wishart Library Weathers AUC's Financial Storm

The Wishart Library was among the hardest hit following last autumn's budget cuts. Four positions were eliminated, including the Director's, and the book order budget was reduced by nearly seventy-five percent.

Deciding where cuts to the university's budget are made is a process which begins with the Board of Governors and trickles down to Administration. Following the Board's call for a balanced budget and serious cutbacks, Administration targeted itself and support staff. They were the easiest targets thanks to lack of collective agreements, no tenure protection, etc. The Wishart Library staff fell among these categories. Physical Plant, the Registrar's Office and Student Services also absorbed losses.

Celia Ross, acting Library Director while the position does not 'officially' exist, explained that when given a call for drastic budget reductions, "staff cutbacks were unavoidable when they make up 85% of the

(cont'd pg.2)

CO-OP North & Student Services Combine Following AUC Cuts

Student Services and CO-OP North were combined this year following last autumn's budget cuts and are now located together in the former office of Student Services, room 120. Duties of the Student Services Director, a position now eliminated, were divided between Karen Lapointe of CO-OP North and Bruno Barban, head of Physical Plant.

Ms. Lapointe, now in charge of all non-residential or GLC related issues formerly handled by Marianne Perry, has twice her previous workload but says, "I am always looking at the optimistic side of things." Her job has been made somewhat easier by the fact that the two departments have always had student employment services in common. Now, in addition to co-operative education, Ms. Lapointe promotes the other forms of employment available to students as well.

(cont'd pg. 3)

IN THIS MONTH'S SENTINEL ...

~ 1998 FEDERAL BUDGET CHANGES ~

~ A MONTH IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT NEWSPAPER ~

~ WEIRD FICTION YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND UNLESS YOU'RE DRUNK ~

Today the Thoughts of University Students - Tomorrow, of the World!

Editor's Column:

Our Last Issue? Time Will Tell

As of semester's end, The Sentinel has no non-graduating staff member willing to assume the role of Editor or Assistant Editor in the following school year. This may result in a lengthy interval between now and the next appearance of Algoma University's student newspaper. If there are enough students who care this autumn, hopefully it will be otherwise. I can only hope it will be.

I'm very sorry that Dianne and I haven't had the opportunity to offer experienced advice on how to produce the paper. We have not held a monopoly on the Editor and Asst. Editor positions. The Assistant Editor position has been offered to other members on more than one occasion, and usually declined. It is this role that would have afforded the training of an 'Editor-To-Be'. As yet, that person has not, unfortunately, materialized.

For those who may be interested in Sept., this issue includes the article "Creating a Student Newspaper in 12 Easy Steps" to sketch out roles for staff. Meanwhile, you can also contact either us (sentinel@eagle) or me personally (chcrowde@eagle), and maybe we can still help you out before there's no one left to learn from. In any event, best of luck to the next editor!

~ Chris Crowder, Editor

Editor-In-Chief: Chris Crowder
Assistant Editor: Dianne Tian-Agawa
Arts Reporter: D'Arcy Palmer
Graphics: James Witty

("Wishart Library", cont'd from front page)

budget." When asked how a library can function without a director, Dr. Ross pointed out that, in the past, AUC has functioned well without a Director of Physical Plant, or even a president.

Before the cutbacks, using a MacLean's magazine ranking system, AUC was second in the country for allocating money to its library as a proportion of its total budget. The library therefore became a primary target since, after comparing AUC to other universities, it fit the category of "overspending".

Among other results, cutbacks have left the library with no audio-visual department. Dr. Ross says no complaints or problems have been encountered since professors were asked to begin setting up their own equipment for their classes.

Library staff will be living with the status quo until spring of 1999 at the earliest. The Board has at least recognized that, short of an emergency situation, the library has absorbed all the cutbacks it can handle. In the meantime, various fundraisers are planned to help ease financial stress. The first of these will be the Wishart Library Booksale on Thursday March 26th, consisting mostly of books recently donated to the library which are already in the collection, *

The Sentinel

Algoma University's Student Newspaper

PHONE: (705) 940-2301, ext. #517

Email: sentinel@eagle.auc.laurentian.ca

Internet: Look us up soon, under AUC Publications on the AUC homepage!

Fiction, non-fiction, and poetry can be left with AUSA or slid under our office door for consideration. We may accept submissions from outside AUC. Racist or sexist comments and personal attacks will be dismissed out of hand.

("Co-op & Services" cont'd)

The combined offices now form a 'career centre' for students where they can get information on volunteer and work opportunities.

In addition to work information, the office also features academic counseling, tutoring, native support services, special needs assistance, and writing labs, all with the help of other staff including Judy Syrette, Barb Muio, and Carole Turner. The new office is also a source of information on OSAP, scholarships, bursaries, harassment policies, clubs, and off-campus housing. Some services require students to go elsewhere on campus; for instance, Barb Muio is currently located in the Wishart Library until plans can be made to move her somewhere closer. It is Ms. Lapointe's hope that all of these locations can be brought together, similar to a "one-stop shopping" location where students can quickly find the information and help they need all in one place.*

Student Services Promotes Student Employment Opportunities

Karen Lapointe, in her interview with The Sentinel (see "Co-Op and Student Services", page one), emphasized the large number of approaches students can take toward finding work. Formerly in charge of CO-OP education alone, though she still emphatically encourages participation in this program, Ms. Lapointe wants to also point out other options.

Student Services offers: FSWEPP (Federal Student Work Experience Program) forms and Ontario Summer Job forms for students to fill out who are looking for a summer job with a branch of either government; information on the NGR (National Graduate Registry), an online database of students nearing graduation that employers sift through for prospects; and information regarding "Employment

1998 Algoma Business Society Elections

Attention business students! The Algoma University Business Society (AUBS) is calling for submissions from students interested in sitting on the AUBS executive.

Potential candidates must be B.B.A. students. Submissions are required to be into the AUBS office (GP 19) by Friday March 27, 1998.

If you are interested in a position please submit a typed summary of what position you are running for, what you can offer the Society.

The following positions are available:

*President

*Vice-President

*Treasurer

*Secretary

~ From an email by Jennifer Dimma ~

Connection," a downtown office located on the fourth floor of Station Tower near the Station Mall, funded by Sault College and the YMCA to help connect students with employers. The first floor bulletin boards, now cleared of clutter, feature information on various kinds of job and volunteer opportunities, for summer and permanent positions alike, which students should make a habit of checking.

Students looking for advice on how to improve their job search and job search techniques are encouraged to stop by the office (room 120) at their earliest convenience.*

1998 Federal Budget Announcements Regarding Student Loans

The Canada Education Savings Grant

Background:

In the February 1998 Budget, the Government of Canada announced its intention to introduce a grant in association with existing Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) program to encourage parents to save for their children's education.

Under this program, RESP contributions made to qualifying plans subsequent to January 1, 1998 will receive a grant of 20% on the first \$2000 of annual contributions to an RESP for a beneficiary up to age 18.

As well, contributors may carry forward any unused portion of their grant room to future years.

To be eligible, a beneficiary must have a valid social insurance number and be a Canadian resident at the time a contribution is made. To establish eligibility, parents must certify that the child is a Canadian resident, as defined by the *Income Tax Act*, when the RESP is established and advise the company offering the plan of any change in the child's residency status in subsequent years.

Institutions wishing to vend RESPs must apply to Revenue Canada for plan approval and plan registration. A legal agreement between a promoter's Trustee and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), must be in place before any grant payments can be issued in favour of RESP contributors. HRDC is the agency responsible for all aspects of Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) program delivery.

Other features of this program include:

*Contributions made after January 1, 1998 to registered plans are eligible if the basic criteria are met.

(cont'd pg. 7)

Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP)

Background:

Since 1964, CSLP has provided \$12 billion in loans to 2.7 million students in financial need. Another \$1.4 billion in loans was provided to 360,000 students in 1996-1997. Loans are 60% of assessed need up to a limit of \$165 per week. The Government of Canada pays the interest while the student is in school and repayment begins six months after graduation.

The Canada Student Loans Program is helping approximately 380,000 students in financial need to further their studies this year. An additional 170,000 students are indirectly assisted by the Government of Canada through payments made to Quebec and the Northwest Territories which offer similar programs.

The 1998 Budget Changes include:

*New Canada Study Grants of up to \$3000 for eligible students with dependents. Students are eligible to receive up to \$40 per week (for those with one or two dependents) or \$60 per week for those with three or more dependents.

*Raising the income threshold for the interest relief eligibility by 9 percent for borrowers in financial difficulty to allow more borrowers to be eligible for up to 30 months of interest relief.

*The 30 months of interest relief is now available over the entire life of the loan.

*A graduated interest relief program to cover all or a portion of interest owed for the life of the loan depending on the borrower's income.

*Debt reduction in repayment is designed to protect students with serious repayment problems from defaulting:

(cont'd pg.6)

Opinion!

My CO-OP Certificate is More Than a Piece of Paper

After five fantastic work terms during my CO-OP education, I am prepared to appear on any advertisement wearing whatever funny looking costume is handed to me to sell this program to other students. Therefore, I think I at least owe this free, unsolicited promotion.

Five work terms have brought my resume from bust to boom, paid for most of my tuition, rescued me from Sault Ste. Marie for a four-month visit to Ottawa, and have finally led to a full-time job with Human Resources Canada upon graduation. When I receive my CO-OP certificate, it will be the me of five years ago giving the me of today the best graduation present I could have asked for.

CO-OP jobs are not all glamour the first try. I began with a psychology teacher assistant position in 1995 where I taught second-year students on the ins and outs of Minitab, a statistical software package. That four months of teaching experience led to another four months, this time with the Computer Science Department where I oversaw a small fleet of 1701 students. After eight months of work, my resume was good enough to secure a job outside the school at Forestry Canada two terms in a row troubleshooting network problems. Then the next step - outside the city for four months in our nation's capital designing webpages. It was all a gradual process, but in the long run, it paid off.

Yes, there's a downside. It took an extra

(cont'd pg.6)

Shooting the 'Apathy' Scapegoat

We the students of AUC have been shot at several times now, and the worst of it is we've been pulling the trigger. 'Student apathy' has long served to capture all of the blame for low student morale. This mistake being an easily spread disease, I wouldn't be surprised if it has started to infect our administration.

As the petition to keep David Brodbeck puts it, the school may be viewed as a business. Only, in this business 'the customer is always right' is an unheard-of concept. I wouldn't be so cynical as to suggest our administration thinks of it as 'the customer is always wrong', but how about 'the customer doesn't understand'? - 'the customer doesn't have the big picture'? - 'we know what's best for the customer'? At this rate, soon it will be 'where did the customer go'? Administration's claim that the key to AUC's trouble is to increase enrollment is (currently) like a store owner, whose stock is ever decreasing in quality and quantity, while raising in price. "I only need more customers to make it all better", he/she wails. Sorry, pal.

As proof that AUC doesn't treat its customers with respect, I submit to the jury the following evidence: the cutbacks to Student Services, which by coincidence (?) happened to already be the number one area drawing complaints from students; the reduction of our library acquisitions budget from first in the country to dead last in the space of a single decision; the ever-increasing likelihood of the school getting sued one winter by a student who breaks his or her neck on one of the icy walkways; a lack of unanimous support for our excellent co-operative education program, etc. etc. I'm sure every reader could add two or three more citations to this list. Every school has its downside, but not every school can boast such a lackluster perform-

(cont'd pg.6)

("Co-op Certificate", cont'd from pg.5)

year for my degree. Boo-hoo. In exchange, I have the work experience I need to get hired to get work experience; there's no better way out of that trap, I assure you. Now for the upside. I was paid, often a lot better than minimum wage; the job in Ottawa covered my expenses, and I still had money left when I came home. I can conduct myself in an interview a lot better after all my practice; you'd actually be surprised to discover how hard it is to talk about yourself for half an hour and make it all sound good. I now know a heck of a lot of people from a heck of a lot of places that will give me a heck of a better chance of finding work in a pinch. I learned a ton of stuff on each job that I wouldn't have picked up in class (it's true when they say you don't really know something until you can teach it - and show me the computer class that identifies the difference between a parallel and serial mouse). Perhaps most importantly, I'm darn sure I've found myself a field I can work in confidently and happily for X years to come.

So why the heck doesn't everyone sign up for CO-OP? Usually it's some cop-out like "Oh, it will mess up my class scheduling" or something. Good grief. How do you make "perfecting the scheduling of classes so I could graduate exactly in four years" look good on a resume?

One last thing to add - if I've done nothing to convince you to sign up for CO-OP, at least take the CPED course. Yes, it's allowed - you don't hafta be in CO-OP to take the course, surprise. It'll give you the great job hunting skills, at least, and maybe even change your mind.*

~Chris Crowder

("Apathy Scapegoat", cont'd)

ance when it comes to improving it.

With the recent financial troubles AUC has experienced, it carefully targeted all the areas which would most directly damage student life at this institution and hammered them, pulling no punches. There was no talk of cutting back programs that I noticed. I

("CSLP ", cont'd from pg.4)

✧ Those facing excessive debt burden relative to their income would be eligible (ie.: those with a debt service ratio greater than 15%).

✧ Debt reduction capped at the lesser of \$10,000 or 50% of principal.

*Enhanced communications with students and measures to strengthen student and institutional eligibility will improve the overall performance and accountability of the CSLP.

*The Government of Canada shares the desire to move toward a single loan product resulting in a student-centred, simplified program that is more efficiently administered and is ready to pursue this with interested provinces.

Learning Initiatives:

1-888-432-7377 (ENGLISH)

1-800-733-3765 (FRENCH)

Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)/

Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG):

1-888-276-3624 (ENGLISH)

1-888-276-3632 (FRENCH)

Internet:

http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/student_loans

http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/prets_aux_etudiants

suspect (admittedly I can't prove) that if I other to thank for that. AUC has spread its limited resources far too thinly, but instead of withdrawing from the frontiers of expansion to recover its center, it's chopping its heart out. I've yet to be shown an army that won a battle this way.

In the summer of 1992 in Bellvue Park I told a friend I'd decided to 'settle' for Algoma University. A student of AUC happened to overhear and set me straight immediately, but I now hear my comment coming back to haunt me. Our administration had best make a snappy decision to rally its strengths instead of removing them before our alumni support ranking goes the way of the library budget's and the dodo bird, and enrollment along with it.*

~Chris Crowder

("Savings Grant", cont'd from pg.4)

*Money cannot be withdrawn from existing RESPs and recontributed to new plans to receive a grant;

*Subscribers are free to choose how the grant is to be invested, but income from the grant is treated like other investment income and any investment losses are applied first to the capital and then to the grant;

*The grant must be repaid if the beneficiary does not pursue higher education; and

*Changing plan beneficiaries results in the loss of the CESG unless both old and new beneficiaries are under 21 and both are related to the subscriber. The plan is flexible and can be moved between siblings.

HRDC will be contacting vendors shortly on the design of grant provisions.

For more information, please contact the vendor support line:

1-888-276-3624 (ENGLISH)

1-888-276-3632 (FRENCH)

Top Ten Reasons Why
AUC Has No Doorbell:

10. Used textbook salesmen.
9. Some idiot thought it was the fire alarm, and kept ringing it as a prank.
8. It made the bands sound better and they objected.
7. The General Lee theme was getting tiresome.
6. Someone chose it as an instrument in music class.
5. It was the proper resonance to knock out the computer labs. They've been on the fritz ever since.
4. Students in tough exams kept saying "that's for me" so they could sneak out of class.
3. Too many delivery boys for the staff lounge.
2. The bills were starting to add up from students suing over ringing ears.
1. Last semester's cutbacks replaced it with a door knocker. It's on order.*

the Race

my

Mind...

races these days

i think too much

is thinking too much better than not thinking at all?

but, if i didn't think, i'd be

Dead.

i think...

...therefore i am

but, then again

ignorance is bliss

by all accounts, i should be happy

is something

Burning?

no...

must be my over-active imagination again

but, maybe everything is my imagination

it isn't

Reality...

but, how i perceive reality

internalize events

you'd think my mind would be quite sound

with all the exercise it gets

my cat is sleeping at my feet

it must be tired

no rest for the weary

hamster on a wheel...

what are you doing lying in bed

just thinking...

do you Mind?

TIAN-AGAWA /98

Hopefully whoever's incharge of advertising for Algoma has learned from this ad for LSSU, heard recently on YESFM:

"Don't leave home for the high-quality education you deserve - come to Lake Superior State University!"
Think about that.*

"Produce a Student Newspaper In 12 Easy Steps!"

~or~

"Why You Can't Produce a Student Paper in 12 Easy Steps"

Anyone fresh out of highschool, or those few of us who remember what highschool was like, immediately notice the rarity of club activity at AUC. There are very few organized, recognized clubs for students to become involved in outside of Student Council activities. Perhaps the strongest is AUBS (Algoma University Business Society), but as this is oriented towards business students, access is limited. Another strong option, open to all students, is the student newspaper (yes, this is blatant self-promotional material you are reading).

Each issue of The Sentinel has been a product of hard work by volunteer student staff, who devote the spare time required which they could be giving to more important activities (sometimes literally). At present our staff is organized internally. Subsequent editors have traditionally been chosen by the current, unless none exists, in which case the AUSA vice-president selects a volunteer. The editor then assigns jobs to other volunteers, based on their expressed interests, and does the work of unfilled positions in addition to his or her own.

Just to give you an idea of what we've been doing each month, and also as an aid to future volunteers, here's a quick review of the roles we play.

Editor and Assistant Editor: You really need to love what you're doing to assume one of these roles. Failure to find sufficient volunteers could leave you doing anything everything from acquiring advertising to deciphering strange desktop publication software. When other jobs are covered, the editor is

primarily responsible for keeping everyone else organized: deciding meeting times, assigning office keys, making sure no two staff members are covering the same story, suggesting stories to be covered, wrestling with AUSA for money and autonomy, managing the email account, answering phone messages or relaying to the appropriate member, doing the actual printing, and of course editing, editing and more editing. The assistant editor is support for the editor, filling in for whatever the editor can't manage to do (or do as well). Ideally, the assistant is an editor-in-training.

Public Relations: The hardest volunteer to find, therefore the job most often handed to the editor. Public relations means drumming up advertising, and nobody does that for fun, or at least nobody I've ever met. Once a good advertising base is established it becomes much easier, explaining why you see the same advertisers issue after issue (for whom, of course, we are very thankful!). Advertising costs are usually established by the editor, unless public relations has a better feel for the market.

News: Occasionally we've called ourselves a newsletter instead of newspaper for lack of volunteers willing to cover news stories. Ideally there is a news editor who manages the other news volunteers, a second mate to the editor after the assistant editor. Our news tries to focus primarily on issues relevant to AUC student life; news articles that don't fit this bill end up in our Community section. Other news volunteers are among the most casual, and are not always expected to write for every issue, especially when there's many of them.

Arts: These are the easy-to-find volunteers, lured by free passes to AUSA events they're assigned to cover. Arts coverage also includes reviews of movies, local plays, new music on the market, etc. The arts editor assigns coverage of events like the news editor does, and reviews fiction and poetry submis-

sions to make selections from. Other arts volunteers are often considered casual.

Layout & Photography: Aside from the editor positions, layout is the most critical area in which to find a devoted volunteer. This position requires technical knowledge other staff members usually don't have and can not fill in for. All of our layout artists since 1994 have tackled Aldus Pagemaker 5.0 and won. Layout sometimes takes as much as 10 hours once all articles have been submitted and edited, but speed mostly depends on experience. Layout works in conjunction with the editor to determine material's order of appearance, and the editor always has final say on the final look. Nonetheless, our layout artists have had a pretty free rein, coming up with some truly innovative looks now and then. This is another department where an assistant is of value, so someone new can learn the Aldus program from the only one who understands it. It is definitely not a fun thing to tackle for the amateur (although it has been done).

Photography is not often used by The Sentinel. This is partly because it too requires skill, but mostly because of difficulties with including it in layout. Photos require access to the faculty scanner (they're afraid we'll put grilled cheese in it), then need to look good on photocopies of the original print, which is rarely the case unless a professional printer is being paid.

Graphics Artists: Usually called upon when the editor has a general suggestion for a 'political cartoon'. The graphics artist may also come to the aid of the layout artist when there's need of something fancy, or the public relations rep. for an advertisement design.

No volunteer is set hard and fast in their role, which means they are free to do anything else for the paper when help is required. For example, nearly everyone on the staff has decided to write an article or submit something when we were short on material (and

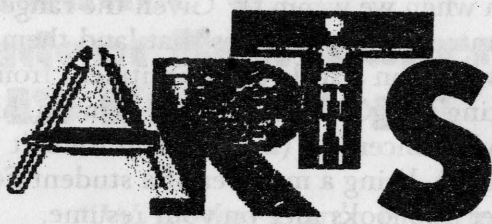
even when we weren't). Given the range, volunteers can pick roles that land them anywhere on a scale of commitment from 'just visiting' to 'go directly to jail' - I mean, high. As a last incentive (as if the fun weren't enough), being a member of a student newspaper also looks nice on your resume.

Although 'The Sentinel' has completed its print run for this school year, interested students should contact us for information on positions available in September. Volunteer quick, before next year's frosh take over - aaaaaaaaah!!* ~C.C.

The Sentinel formerly The Sentient, has succeeded in publishing a total of 18 issues (the approximate equivalent of a 250 page single spaced essay) since renaming itself in September 1995. Thanks to all who have helped:

Sentinel Staff, Past and Present:

Rebecca Alton (support staff); Catherine Arthurs (support staff); Kirk Banjoko (wayout layout, news); 'Bluto' (supported staff); Josh Boone (arts); Kevin Breault (arts); Armando Correia (news); Chris 'Vortex' 'Madam Weegee' Crowder (editor, assistant editor); Bruce Dunn (news, photos, Stuart McKay stunt-double); John Gagnon (news); Andrea 'What Deadline?' Gardner (arts); Todd Hoover (photos); Paula Kennedy (news); Sam Laitinen (professional layout); Heather Levigne (news); Anthony McCabe (arts); Dina Murphy (arts, layout, graphics); Susanne Myers (news, assistant editor); D'Arcy Palmer (news, sports); Jody Rebec (news); Derek Schmidt (layout, news); Rebecca Strom (arts); Paul Thompson (public relations, boat-rocking); Dianne Tian-Agawa (assistant editor, editor); Lana Wheeler (news, sports); and James Witty (graphics, office manager).*



THE OSCARS

~ by D'Arcy E. Palmer ~

I wasn't really hopeful about this year's Oscars. Sure they nominated PULP FICTION and FARGO before, but the chances of nominating the best this year sunk with the popular success of TITANIC, AS GOOD AS DEAD, and E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL.

Many good films did not get the recognition they deserved (THE SHEET, FAREWELL MY CONQUERING HOST) or were completely ignored (IN THE COMPANY OF MEN, THE ICE STORM, EVE'S BAYOU). As well, many deserving actors were ignored, like Ian McKellen, Sarah Polley, Leonardo DiCaprio, John Travolta, Sigourney Weaver, Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce, Kevin Spacey, Aaron Eckhart, Robert Carlyle, Rupert Everett, John Cusack, Emma Thompson, Jennifer Jason Leigh, and Djimon Hounsou. Some of the exclusions are just due to the fact that there are only 5 nominations available, but many of the nominees are not even in the same league when it comes to the performances of Hounsou, McKellen, Eckhart, Polley, Weaver, and Crowe.

Anyway, here's my list of the top ten movies of 1997, as well as who I think should/will win in the six major categories:

TOP TEN MOVIES OF 1997

- 1) THE SWEET HEREFTER
- 2) L.A. CONFIDENTIAL
- 3) THE ICE STORM
- 4) IN THE COMPANY OF MEN
- 5) EVE'S BAYOU
- 6) THE FULL MONTY
- 7) WAG THE DOG
- 8) THE HANGING GARDEN
- 9) BOOGIE NIGHTS
- 10) TASTE OF CHERRY

FIVE OTHER NOTABLES

- TITANIC
- FACE/OFF
- GROSSE POINTE BLANK
- WAITING FOR GUFFMAN
- SHALL WE DANCE?

OSCAR PREDICTIONS

Best Supporting Actor

Will: Burt Reynolds - Hollywood loves a comeback. *Should:* Robert Forester - But there are some comebacks that should be recognized more than others.

Best Supporting Actress

Will: Gloria Stuart - Ah, the sympathy vote for an old timer. *Should:* Julianne Moore - one of the best, most unheralded actresses in Hollywood.

Best Actor

Will: Robert Duvall or Peter Fonda - Tossup between two veterans. Give the edge to Fonda. *Should:* Robert Duvall or Dustin Hoffman - the best performances were by Ian McKellen and Djimon Hounsou, but they were not nominated. Of the five that were, these were the two best performances.

Best Actress

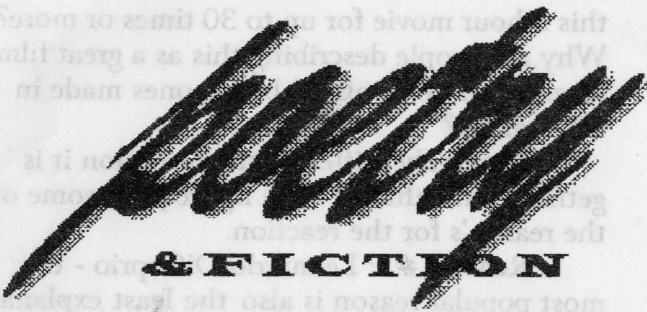
Will: Kate Winslet - great British actor will be aided by TITANIC sweep. *Should:* Helena Bonham Carter - another great British actor. Must be their cloning technology.

Best Director

Will: James Cameron - He actually made a good film with \$200 million? Quick, give him the Oscar now! *Should:* Atom Egoyan - He made a better film with only \$3 million dollars. Beat that James.

Best Picture

Will: TITANIC - Boy am I going out on a limb here. *Should:* L.A. CONFIDENTIAL - renews hope, albeit faint hope, in the studios.*



The Trial That Matters

~Chris Crowder

The lockers are rattling. It is the sound of his heels echoing back to him. He moves quickly enough to feel wind against him, and pushes back, and through. Calculated movement carries him to a halt. The backpack is unslung, its contents emptied into the locker one by one, each striking with precision. Back held straight, arms moving swiftly and sharply, face blank in single-minded concentration.

She is watching, crouched a few paces away, clear eyes interpreting him, hair swept back from her face. She is waiting for the mistake.

The backpack remains steady. Occasionally a book is placed into the locker between two others. A flick of the wrist inserts it.

Her muscles are growing tense seeing the steadiness of him. Eyes are narrowing, knuckles going to whiteness.

The last book hits its location with a resounding shot. The locker is closed, the lock flipped from pocket to closed position in one swift move, and he swings on his heel to face her, aware of her presence all this time.

"Perfect" she says expressionlessly.

He notes the recognition as unusual. Another movement brings the backpack to his shoulder and he leaves the way he had come, steps caught up in the original rhythm.

She stands, smooth movement reminiscent of his own but with its own feminine grace. He has been filed for future reference.

His blade slices through the skin, gliding gently, expertly, peeling it away; it falls off in one long strip. He hates skin. Taking a bite from his apple, he looks up and sees a beautiful woman.

She has movement that says everyone watches her or no one, it makes no difference. She has his complete attention, except some corner of his

mind compelling him to chew, to breathe. Her eyes go through him as she passes them across the cafeteria, understanding everything in a glance.

He decides he wants to smell her hair, taste her lips. He looks back at the apple. Skin remains, but he bites anyway, tasting the flesh. When the apple is done, she will be next. It is all very simple.

The class is in chaos. She glares at the smeared lines of white chalk, tossed across the blackboard like chopped up skeletons and reflected in the professor's eyeglasses.

"This theory defies boundaries," he states for the benefit of the man with the perfect score, herself, and the second contestant, seated at various points of interest. They form an triangle, an encapsulating rejection. Almost.

"It remains ordered randomness," speaks the first of them tonelessly. "The boundaries are fixed." As is the formidable grin of the pseudo-instructor.

"You suggest all may be rationalized - impossible."

"Only improbable," the third point inserts in his cutting way. "The possibility exists."

"Then either exists," she says with disapproval, turning to frown upon him. He comes into focus.

"A compromise between all forces," he asserts, attempting to capture her with his eyes.

"In which the loser wins?" speaks the first. By now the professor and class lie forgotten.

"The loser does not exist. Nor the winner." Though he answers, the man with the knife pays no attention to the first, focused as he is on his prey.

"Yet the conflict exists." "I call for a ruling," the third party closes, eyes enfolding their judge, as will his hands at some predestined point in the future. He has fate on his side.

The first one rises. "There is nothing to learn here." He exits with careful steps.

He who remains turns his vision to knives, to chains with links that bind, that have bound many times, won many battles, that even now infest the room.

He is momentarily startled as she leaves, then rallies, returning attention to the skeletons of the clueless class. It was merely his overestimation. Fate lies elsewhere, else fate lies. He summons himself a smile and thinks of flesh. Desperately.

A female voice: "You win."

A male voice: "I know."*

REVIEW:

"TITANIC"

~ by D'Arcy Palmer ~

It is hard to give a fair review to TITANIC after all the hoopla around it's box office success, repeat business by crazed fans, and award after award bestowed upon it. When I saw it for the first (and only) time, I thought it was a good movie. Now, I consider it a good, but tremendously over-hyped movie.

TITANIC is successful because it's an old fashion Hollywood epic. It's story is driven by melodrama, and the film is filled with amazing visuals. The special effects in this movie are truly superb; and unlike many summer movies, the effects are not the story themselves but just a part of film.

The one element that shines through the entire movie is director James Cameron's vision and attention to detail. He has intended to bring the Titanic to life, in all it's glory and tragedy, and he is triumphant in this regard. From the scenes of the wreck that transform into the Titanic before it's demise, to the haunting scene of hundreds of bodies floating in the water while a lone lifeboat looks for survivors, it is clear that Cameron has brought the ghosts of Titanic back to life.

But TITANIC is not without it's flaws, the biggest of which is the story. The plot, about two people from different social classes brought together by love and torn apart by circumstances beyond their control, is purely the stuff of soap operas. After two hours of this stuff, your ready to cheer when the ice-berg hits. The saving grace for the tepid story line is the acting by the cast, notably the leads Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. They are able to bring life to characters that in lesser hands would appear two dimensional. If it wasn't for DiCaprio and Winslet, you wouldn't care a heck of a lot whether their characters died or lived.

So what we have here is a good movie. My question then is, "What's all the fuss about?" Why are people willing to sit through

this 3 hour movie for up to 30 times or more? Why are people describing this as a great film when I can rattle off 10 better ones made in 1997 alone?

I am truly miffed at the reception it is getting, but I think I have figured out some of the reason's for the reaction.

Reason #1: Leonardo DiCaprio - the most popular reason is also the least explanatory. There wasn't that many teen girls when I went, and a star usually only draws the fans in the first time, not the second time, third time, fourth time.....

Reason #2: A Classic Epic - Soap Opera and Spectacle. Those are the two things a good epic does well, and TITANIC does it well. Many of our popular films in the past also did it well, like STAR WARS, GONE WITH THE WIND, and THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. Epics are always popular (if done well).

Reason #3: Marketing - The studios, Paramount and 20th Century Fox, did a marvellous job in generating interest in the film. That they were able to also turn the film into a cultural happening should keep many marketing students busy studying their success. They were able to manipulate the media into believing that it was a cultural event; the media reported it as a cultural event; we went to the theatres to witness this cultural event; it became a cultural event. Brilliant.

TITANIC will be remembered for a while as THE movie of 1997. Eventually films like THE SWEET HEREFTER and THE ICE STORM will surpass it in history as the most significant films of 1997, but until then let's give credit to James Cameron for pulling off a miracle, one that we will be paying for at the box office for a long time to come.*

Quite Quotable:

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

~Aristotle