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incentives to make them, other than giving companies money to employ people," Dale said.

"It's a philosophy that the private sector does it better, and that if it's in the public sector, it's broken by definition."

Since the CJS was introduced, federal spending on training courses in community colleges has decreased by almost \$98 million, from almost \$687 million in 1986 to just over \$589 million in 1989.

The change has been gradual, but Luterbach said the loss of revenue has hurt the colleges. "There's fewer dollars available to implement the kinds of training programs we think would provide people with credentialed, transferable skills."

Luterbach added he supports the idea of a training strategy, but that the CJS has several 'shortfalls'. He said colleges should be working more closely with industry to develop training programs which could graduate students with credentials that were widely recognized.

"It's essential that we have a closer blend between education at the career level and on-the-job training," he said. But so long as funding to establish training programs drains away from the colleges, this won't happen, he said.

EXTREME DIFFERENCES

The National Anti-Poverty

Organization interviewed 89 former CJS trainees in twelve communities across Canada, mostly on social assistance in 1989.

The report said their sources "faced a daunting array of financial, practical and psychological barriers to entering and completing training programs, then making the transition to paid employment."

The first barrier people on social assistance face is actually getting into a training program. CJS programs helped 60,000 social assistance recipients find jobs in 1988-89, but there are an estimated two million people on social assistance classified as "employable," in Canada.

The report says most can begin a course as soon as they're selected, but some have to wait more than a year for some courses.

The NAPO survey found "extreme differences in the quality of training itself" from well-designed and taught to courses that were "far too short to provide any grounding in a subject," taught by instructors with no practical experience and inadequate equipment.

Dale said further privatization of job training courses would make things worse.

"There are no province-wide standards for private training schools, and CJS has no way of evaluating the training these schools provide," he said.

"Private training organiza-

tions are there to make a buck - nothing else. If they can make a buck and train someone they will," he said. "They're not interested in community responsibility."

Community colleges, Dale said, are set up for the sole purpose of serving their community, and are tied to its development.

MEETING NEEDS, NOT QUOTAS

Luterbach said an effective job training program would address more than just the need for marketable job skills. He criticized CJS for being too focussed on technical training.

"Often these programs seem to ignore the basic reasons that keeps an individual from being employed," he said. "They avoid issues like literacy, social skills and self-esteem."

Both would like to see some guidelines and regulations for private training institutes, as well as a standardized system of "credentialing," "so the piece of paper will mean something," Dale said.

NAPO's report calls for "thorough evaluation mechanisms" and "minimum standards" for training programs that receive federal money. It also said trainees must have more support - daycare, increased living allowances to name a few - if they are to make it over the barriers to entering the labour force in a meaningful way.

YTV science fiction series fascinates faithful viewer

BY JORDAN FURLONG

With the exception of "Star Trek: The Next Generation," serious science-fiction on television is all but extinct. The last attempts at regular sci-fi shows on TV were "Battlestar Galactica" and "Buck Rogers", which died of blown budgets and lousy plots, not to mention complete audience apathy for the genre.

At least, that's how things stand on this side of the Atlantic. However, the BBC continues to produce intelligent, if somewhat offbeat, science fiction for television. And now the same network that brought you "Dr. Who" and "The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy" has come out with a new sci-fi series, "Red Dwarf". If you have a converter or a VCR capable of picking up channel 23 (Youth TV), it's worth your while to watch this show, while you still can. Two episodes have already

aired, and a third will be broadcast before this article is printed.

"Red Dwarf" is the name of a military starship cruising the solar system in an unspecified future time. The main characters are Lister, an easygoing slob of a lower-rank engineer with a biting North London accent, and Rimmer, an uptight, stiff-necked keener engineering officer always ready to report unsanctioned behaviour. These two are roommates, and needless to say they don't hit it off at all. Lister, always the dreamer, secretly buys a cat on one of Jupiter's moons and keeps it for a pet, planning to someday settle in Fiji where he can raise sheep. Rimmer's point that Fiji has been volcanically submerged for 300 years is cheerfully ignored by his roommate.

The cat's presence comes to the attention of the ship's captain, who summons Lister and orders him to kill the unauthorized life

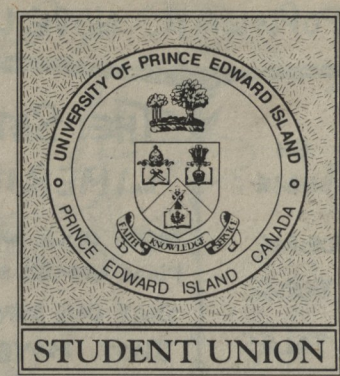
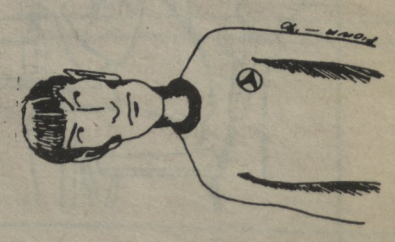
form or spend the rest of the trip in the time-stasis booth. Lister opts for the second choice, and is locked into a room where time does not pass. Later, the door is opened by Holly, the ship's condescending, Nth-generation computer, and Lister finds the ship empty. It takes Holly some time to explain to the dull-witted Lister that a radiation shield on the ship failed and the entire crew was turned to dust, and that the computer had to wait 3 million years for the radiation to subside before he could let Lister out.

Lister soon finds that he is not in fact alone on the ship. Holly managed to keep one crewperson's image as a holograph, a completely identical, thinking copy of the original person. That person is, of course, Rimmer, who finds that the two still aggravate each other. Lister also finds that after three million years his black cat, which was

protected from the radiation, has evolved into a human being, an incredibly cool, hip, black individual who dresses to the nines and drinks milk from a bowl. With nothing much else to do, Lister has Holly turn the ship around to Earth so that they can all go back to Fiji. That's the first episode. The second installment continues the story, as the ship breaks light speed and the characters begin seeing "future echoes", events from the future taking place before them. The third episode airs this Thursday at 10:00.

The show is not big on special effects, but then none of the BBC's sci-fi shows are. It's fast-paced, off the wall, funny and completely unpredictable. There's a certain irony in that the only human characters on board are black; Rimmer and Holly are a holograph and a computer. The show was produced a few years

ago, and only 18 episodes were made, in three installments of six. I don't know if any more have been produced since then. If you liked "Dr. Who" or the "Hitch-Hiker's Guide," you should certainly enjoy "Red Dwarf". And YTV deserves praise for airing these and other shows, some of the best material available on Canadian television today.



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- Student Medical Plan Administrator
- Purchasing of all supplies
- Maintenance of Student Union Building
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