

## Rafters to recall historic rapids

by Naomi McIlwraith

Within the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation there is an obscure little group called "Explorations". This year's crew is determined to take a step beyond the obscure, to partake in a venture of huge proportions and to paddle their way into the past. These folks will canoe their way from Rocky Mountain House to Fort William (Thunder Bay) on Lake Superior.

Explorations, the senior Outdoor Education program, is a leadership course whereby the students read, research and experience Albertan and Canadian environments, re-experience an historic route and most importantly, experience many opportunities to lead in the wilderness group context. It is a student-directed program and the students are free to choose the mode of travel and the historical events to be studied.

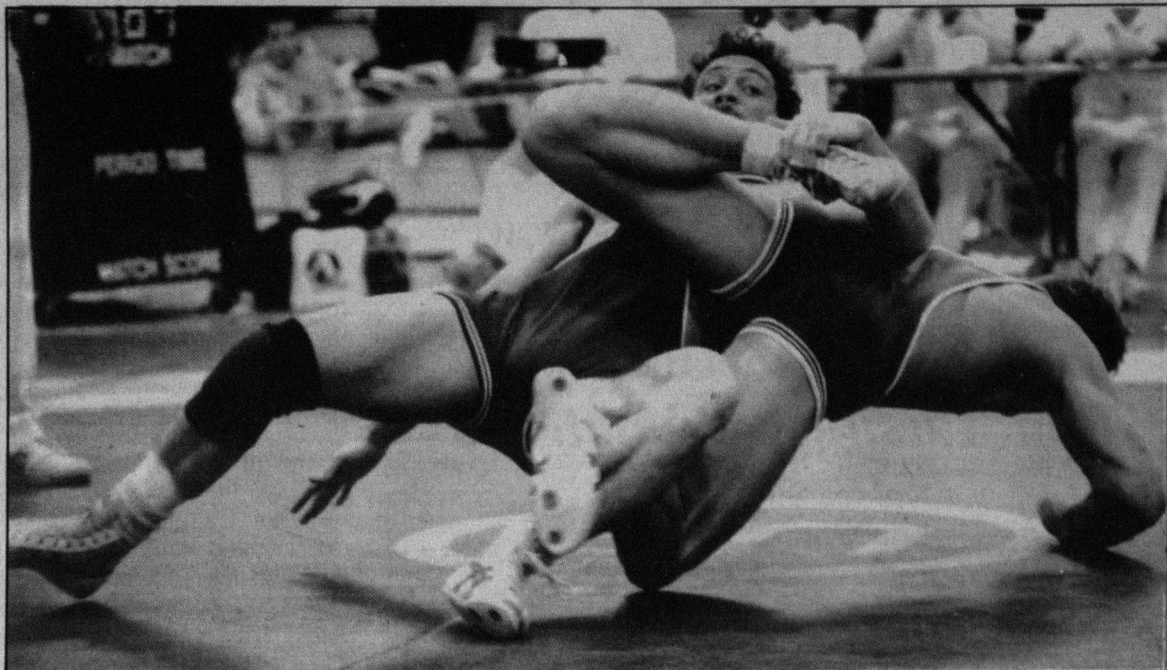
Past Explorations crews have retraced, by ski, a trail from Jasper to Banff, snowshoed from Ft. McMurray to Ft. Chipewyan to commemorate Peter Pond's

travels and travelled by dogsled from Hilda Creek to Maligne Lake. Each year is a unique blend of people, aspirations and experiences. Along with the trials and tribulations of group living, each group shares its own set of dreams, accomplishments and memories.

The program requires a substantial commitment in terms of time, and finances. It is a fully accredited academic program and the students find themselves walking many a mile and spending many an hour on the telephone digging for information regarding funding assistance and researching their chosen area of history.

Generally, the students focus on key issues related to their route and means of travel. Environmental education, history, navigation, human impact and other topics are areas that students choose to do research projects on. Traditionally, the expeditions take place in the winter semester between January and April.

Explorations '88-'89 has chosen to retrace the Rocky Mountain House/Ft. William fur trade route



Ron Sears

## Twist and shout

These two grapplers were part of the Canadian Senior Wrestling Championships

by canoe. This means, of course, that their trip will take place outside of the January to April semester. They expect to leave Rocky Mountain House in late April depending upon meltwater and iceflow on the North Saskatchewan River. Approximately 10 to 12 weeks later they will find themselves paddling into Fort William. Gala affairs at both historic sites on either end of the trip as well as skits and demonstrations at posts, schools and towns along the route will let others know what these people are doing and the significance of their project.

Though much of our present way of life is based on our economy we must remember that the beaver, its family and all the other species in the natural world are always the unfortunate victims of man's exploitations. To this end, Explorations will call their project "The Life of a River" and will also take a look at the world through the eyes of the river, the beaver and their relatives. As well as an historical interpretation, these explorers will take a serious look at the impact of civilization on their route of travel.

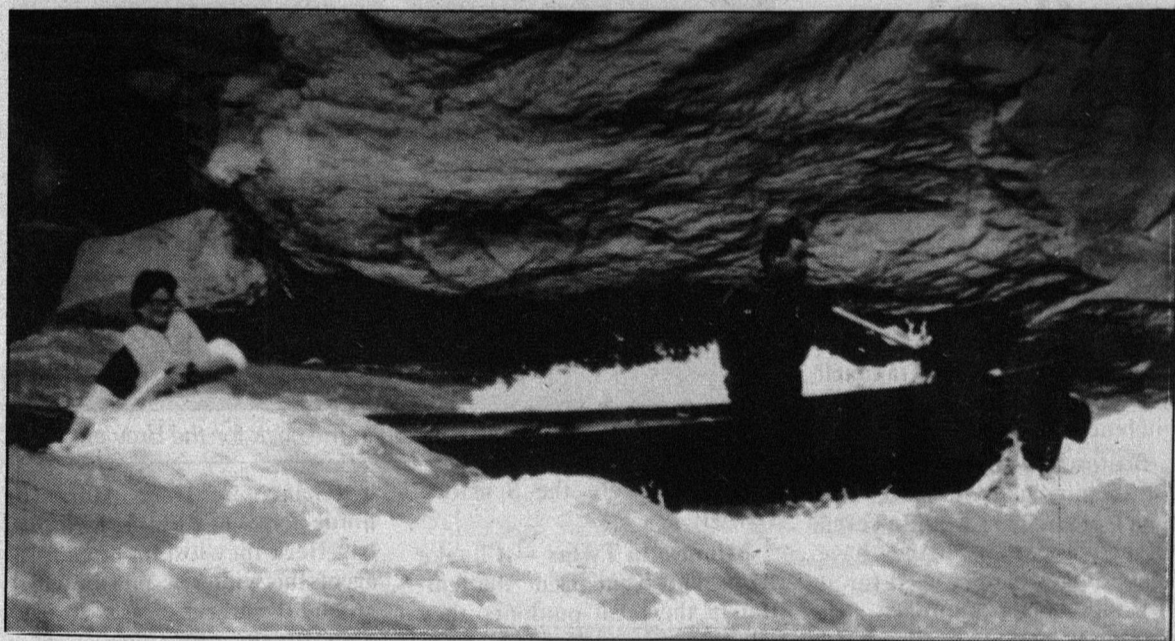
ments from "Complete Nutrition Limited" and subscriptions to "Explore" magazine to be given away in their "km for a Dollar" sales. As well, donations from the Alma Mater Society in the form of a grant is an example of support for a worthwhile cause.

The logistics involved are huge and the students are in the final stages of acquiring canoes, paddles, lifejackets, throwbags, and all the other camping and cooking gear required. Also, food must be purchased, dehydrated and packaged in preparation for food drops along the route. Topographic maps must be studied and purchased and transportation arranged for the return trip home from Lake Superior. Finally, research projects must be finalized and prepared for submittal.

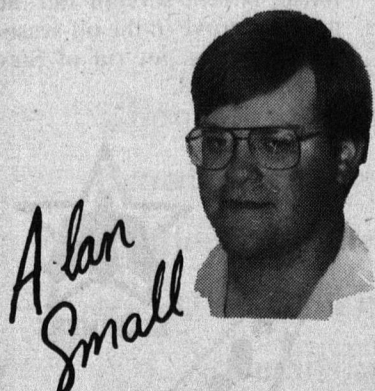
Explorations will be in SUB, CAB or elsewhere on campus with their map display, Km sales and video tape. Recognition of their efforts is much appreciated in the form of an enthusiastic handshake or even the purchase of a Km for a dollar. Larger donations may be made through the Society for Outdoor Adventure Recreation and Education (S.O.A.R.E.) and tax deductible income tax receipts will be made available along with Certificates of Appreciation.

Other projects include finding edible and medicinal uses of plants, food coordination, reproduction of sextant readings as well as map and navigation coordination, logistics and equipment coordination and a sentimental look at the history of the canoe.

The students are hard at work in their fundraising efforts. They operated the SUB Concession at movies last fall or you may have seen them with their map display and "km for a dollar" sales set up in the Van Vliet Centre or in SUB. Last class barbeques and bottle drives on campus have all added to their efforts. They have received sponsorship in the form of vitamin and mineral supple-



Explorations will be taking on the North Saskatchewan this summer.



Alan Small

## Future not rosy for Reds' skipper

It is interesting to see how much Ty Cobb and Pete Rose have in common. Before Charlie Hustle came along, Cobb led all major league players with 4,192 hits. Both played for a long time, and were the standard baseball player of their time.

Rose was one of the most admired athletes in the United States. He played like a kid, which endeared him to many young fans, as his appearance on a Wheaties box attests, but

there was always someone who didn't appreciate his blue collar approach to the game.

Cobb was also one of the most admired athletes of his time. The Georgia Peach is the only person who has ever garnered a unanimous nomination to the baseball hall of fame. He still holds many career and single season marks, sixty years after he played his last game.

Rose's win at all costs attitude had just as many people hating him as liking him. In one all-star game, he ran over a catcher and separated his throwing shoulder to score the winning run in what is usually an exhibition game. Supporters said that Rose was exhibiting his exuber-

ent style of baseball, one that spectators had paid good money to see. Detractors said that Rose destroyed the catcher's career in a meaningless showing of one-upmanship.

Cobb wasn't exactly Willy Loman either. He would routinely jam his spikes into whoever was covering the bag when he stole second. With somewhere around 1,000 career steals, that means that Cobb had more than his share of victims. Also like Rose, Cobb has had his life go through the rigors of scandal.

In the 1920's, Cobb, along with hall of famer Tris Speaker, had their names dragged through the mud when baseball

was trying to clean up its act after the 1919 World Series. Both escaped the accusations with their reputations unscathed. However, many believe that is the reason neither of them managed baseball teams after their playing days were over. Some believe a bargain was struck so they could finish their careers, others believe that owners made the two persona non grata. Either way, they never turned up as managers in organized baseball. They finished out their years in relative obscurity.

Now, Rose is facing the same problem. His playing days are history, but he was starting to make his mark as a manager.

Look for Charlie Hustle to end up like The Georgia Peach: finished in baseball, but never quite forgotten.

Rose, as a manager, has proven he can be as caustic off the field as he was on it. He has had his share of disputes with Reds' owner Marge Schott, and he hasn't exactly won over fans with his words in the media. Once, he endearingly called pitcher John Franco "that little Dago."

No matter what people think of Rose, it would be a shame if he were implicated for gambling on baseball and banned for life.

For baseball without Rose, like Cobb, would take some lustre off of the boys of summer.