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A group of Red River College students stand next to their solar-powered race car at the Legislature yesterday.

Chasing sunbeams

FRANK LANDRY
Legislature Reporter
flandry@wpgsun.com

These guys are sure happy to see the sun.

A group of Red River College students later this month will race a solar-powered car from Austin, Texas, to Calgary.

'Quite exciting'

The unusual race, which kicks off July 17, is called the 2005 North American Solar Challenge.

"It's quite exciting," team leader Leon Fainstein said yesterday following a news conference outside the Manitoba Legislature, where the futuristic-looking vehicle was unveiled.

Students to race sun-powered car

"It's quite a complex machine," he said surveying the car, which was designed and built during the past year by about 30 Red River students from a variety of programs.

He said the car — dubbed Red River College's Raycer — can hit speeds of 110 km/h or more.

"It could probably go a lot faster," Fainstein said.

Fainstein said the Red River team is the only college participating in the cross-continent race, which will cover 4,000 kilometres.

The rest of the racers are university engineering students, he said.

A team of four students will take turns driving the compact car.

"I'm not sure how they're going to stand it, but they'll be praying for some sunlight," said Transportation Minister Ron Lemieux.

The province has ponied up a combined \$45,000 to support the team and the race, which is expected to roll through Winnipeg on July 22 and 23.

The race is expected to feature between 25 and 35 solar-powered vehicles.

"In our eyes they're all winners, no matter where they may finish in the race," Lemieux said of the local team.

UNVEIL – VERB *Sneti, odstraniti*

1. To remove a curtain-like covering from a new statue, etc. at a formal ceremony in order to show the opening or completion of a new building or work of art
2. If you unveil something new, you show it or it make known for the first time

SURVEY – NOUN A description of the whole of a subject *Pregled, razgledovanje*

VARIETY – NOUN A different type of something *Raznolikost, varianta*

PARTICIPATE – VERB To take part in or become involved in an activity *Biti deležen, udeležiti se, sodelovati*

PROVINCE – NOUN An area which is governed as part of a country or an empire *Provinca, pokrajina, podeželje*

PONIED - ???

SOLAR – ADJECTIVE Of or from the sun, or using the energy from the sun to produce electric power *Sončen, ki ga poganja sončna energija*

LEGISLATURE – NOUN The group of people in a country or part of a country who have the power to make and change laws *Zakonodaja, zakonodajni zbor*

DUB – NOUN To give something or someone a particular name, especially describing what you think of them *Nasloviti, dati vzdevek*