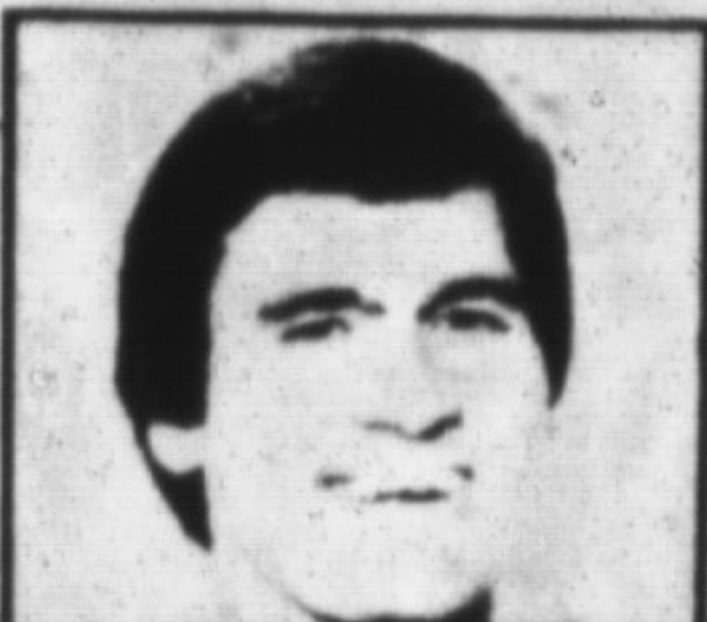




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3. Thou shalt not let other tourists get on thy nerves ... for thou art paying good money to enjoy thyself.
4. Thou shalt not worry ... he that worrieth hath little joy.
5. Thou shalt not judge all the people of a country by one person with whom thou hast had a problem.
6. Thou shalt take only one-half the clothes thou thinks are needed.
7. Blessed are those who can wait and smile, for they shall surely enjoy themselves.
8. Thou shalt do somewhat as the natives do.
9. Thou shalt guard thy travel documents in a safe place and not pack them in thy suitcase nor lose them.
10. Thou art welcome in every land ... treat thy host with respect and thou shalt be an honoured guest.

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Fancy footwork awes students

By LISA TALLYN

Alvin Law picked up the drumsticks with his toes and asked the students in the audience to close their eyes for one minute.

Most of them did. He played a mean lick with his feet, then told the members of the audience to open their eyes.

He asked if his method of playing sounded any different than the music produced through the more traditional method. The student's didn't think so. Mr. Law got a standing ovation.

Mr. Law, 28, of Saskatchewan has no arms. His mother used the sedative thalidomide during pregnancy.

He was a big hit at E.C. Drury High School Monday morning. Students from the both the hearing and hearing impaired schools attended the special assembly.

He talked to the youths at E.C. Drury about what it was like growing up with a disability. He kept the students laughing throughout his hour-long session which was actually a motivational talk.

If audience attention is any indication he may have accomplished what he set out to do.

Through stories about his childhood he told the students how important it is to believe in themselves. He told them how much he valued being treated like everybody else despite his handicap.

In each one of his stories he poked fun at himself, and how others reacted to him.

He talked about his love for hockey.

"I didn't have arms so I used my face to break my fall."

He showed them what it was like to crawl with no arms.

He told the audience that he steers his late model Toyota with his feet.

"I used to always freak people out by accident, but now I do it on purpose," said Mr. Law. Every chance he gets he waves at other drivers with his feet.

He tried artificial arms, with little luck.

Today he chooses not to wear them: The sleeves of his football jersey are tucked inside. He uses his feet to lift cups, write, and do just about anything he needs his arms for.

Jason Farrow, prime minister of Drury's student parliament, is responsible for Mr. Law's appearance.



Photo by LISA TALLYN
Motivational speaker Alvin Law had his audience at E. C. Drury riveted to him as he related his life story, sprinkled with humour.

He saw the motivational speaker at a leadership conference he attended in Nova Scotia last summer.

"He was great when I saw him," said Jason. "When I heard he was in the area I thought he would be a good speaker for the students here."

His gig at E.C. Drury is one of 30 to 50 speaking engagements Mr. Law has lined up each month. He speaks often in both Canada and the United States.

The speaking engagements began as a hobby. He has worked in radio, advertising and the rehabilitation field.

He is currently a part-time weatherman at CTV's sister station in Regina. The bulk of his time is devoted to his motivational speaking.

He gets a lot of convention and business bookings but 65 per cent of his engagements are in schools.

He is also secretary of the Thalidomide Victims Association of Canada.

While his speeches are full of laughs, he admits that it wasn't always easy for him to cope with his disability.

"When I was really young, it was easy, but I had a really tough time of it between junior high and high school," said Mr. Law. "College made a real difference for me. I think that people can see now that my life is not all that different from theirs."

Mr. Law was married and has a three-year-old son.

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