

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S WEEKLY URBAN JOURNAL

THE

UNITER

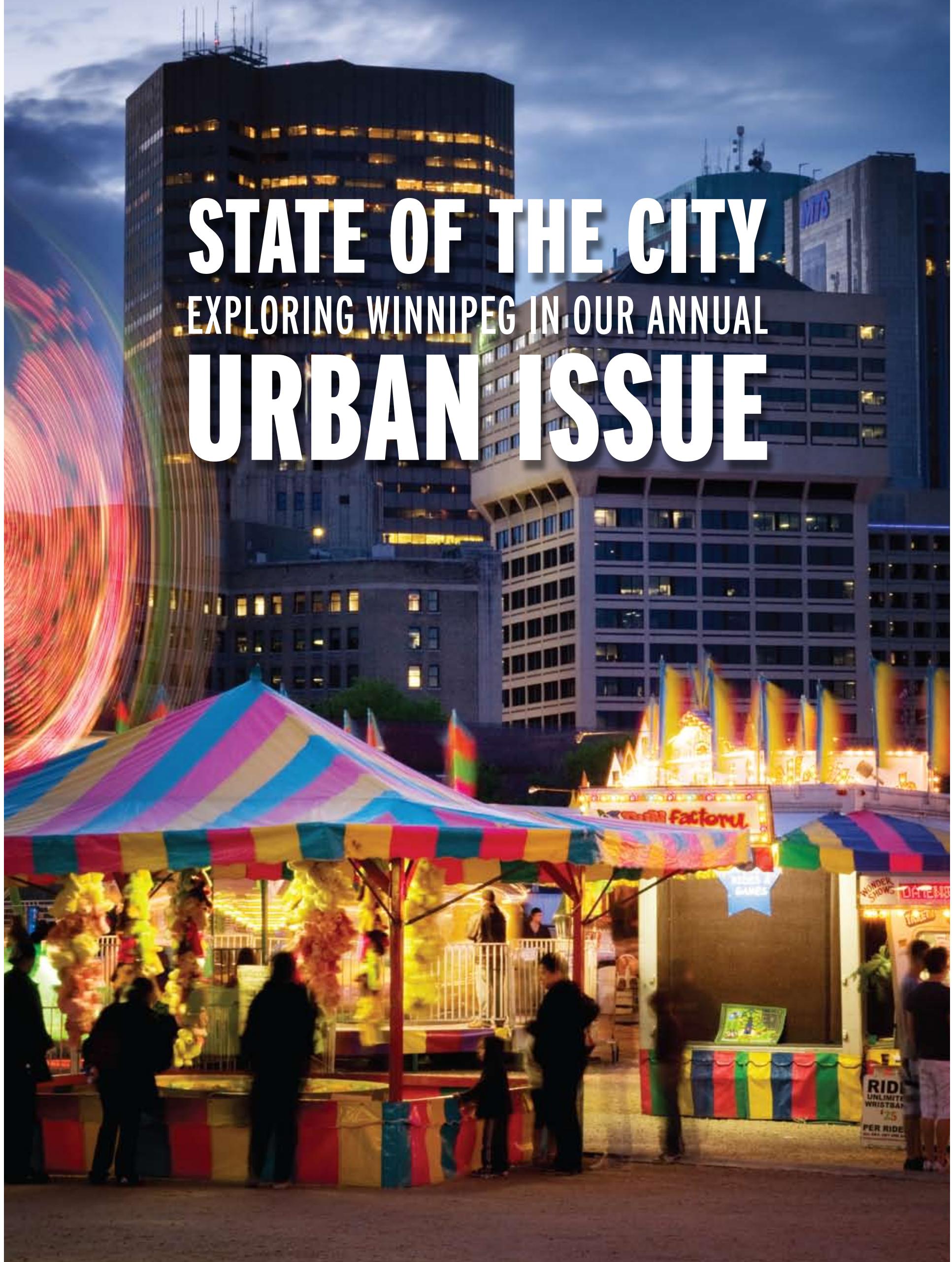
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STATE OF THE CITY EXPLORING WINNIPEG IN OUR ANNUAL URBAN ISSUE



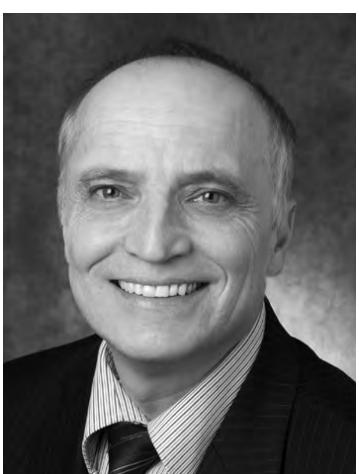
YOUR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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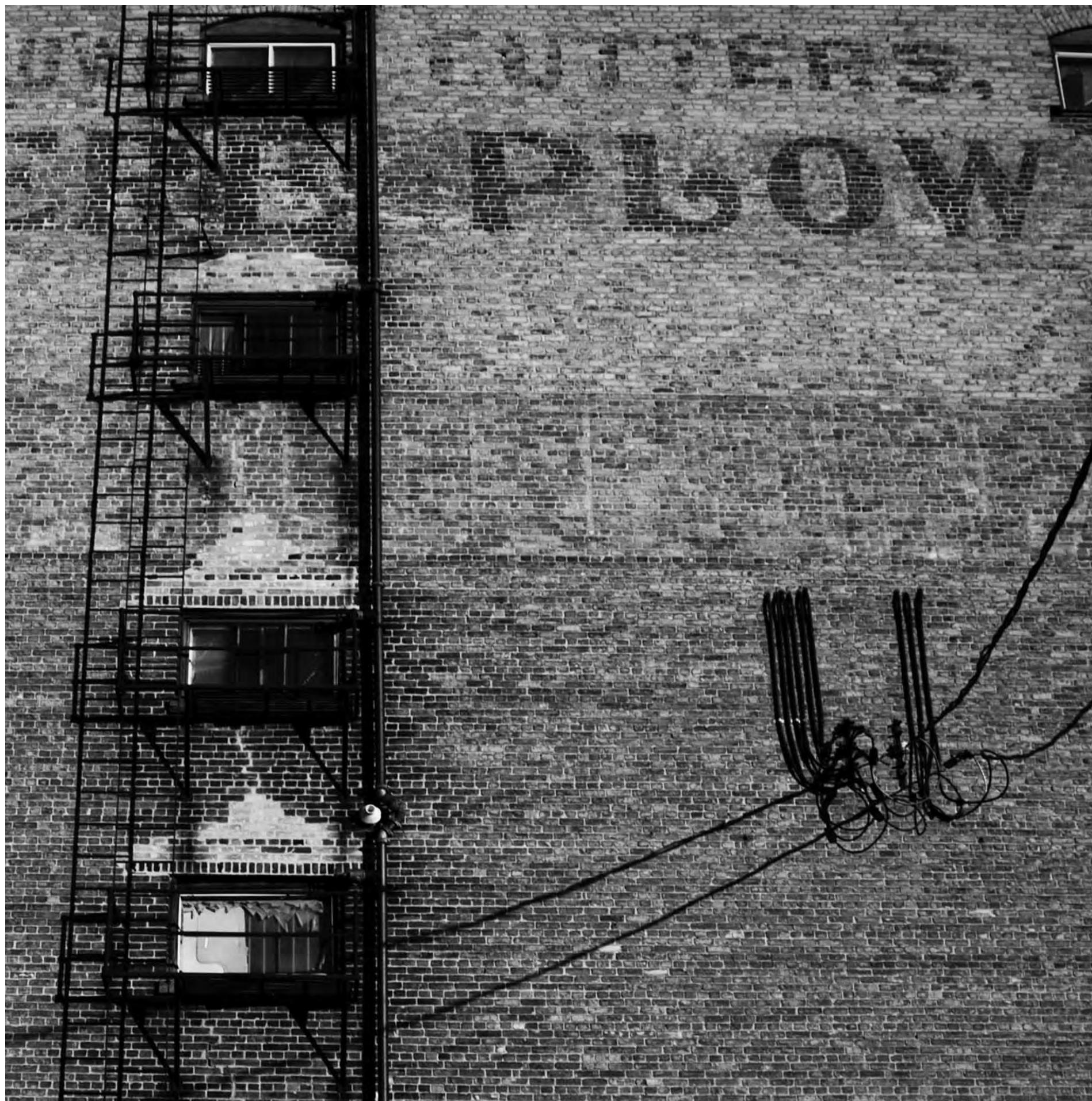
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Dread or alive

The other day I posted on *The Uniter's* Facebook page, asking readers to list things they thought would improve Winnipeg.

"A cleaner, more happening, vibrant, colourful downtown with things happening past 6 p.m.," one person wrote.

"Bike lanes that don't suck," someone added.

The third person that posted left perhaps the most poignant comment:

"Campaigns/programs/anything to improve a sense of pride instead of the dread that seems to exist about our city."

It's not an original concept, but it rings true: love/hate is the best way to describe how many Winnipeggers feel about their city.

The Uniter's fourth annual urban issue once again has us exploring that concept. The following issue looks at what's working well in the city, but also, what's *not* working so well.

The first three pages explore transit, crime and poverty in Winnipeg.

These aren't groundbreaking topics, but we hope our inclusion of many different voices - there are two comments

pieces dedicated to each issue, each written by someone from the community - will shed new light on these topics.

The feature at the centre of the paper explores Winnipeg's North End, with an emphasis on the many positive aspects of that community that we don't always hear about.

And two other features look at urbanism and the arts in Winnipeg. The first is an epistolary dialogue between urban bloggers Robert Galston and Walter Krawec, and the second is a dialogue between artists Kier-La Janisse and Michael Petkau Falk.

Ultimately, this issue is a celebration of what Winnipeg is and could be.

No one's denying that sometimes this is a terrible place to live. But there's a movement of people who aren't content to simply complain about the way things are, but who are making strides to change this place for the better.

As Petkau Falk notes, we're in a pretty great position going forward.

It is possible for us to turn our dread to pride.

AARON EPP
MANAGING EDITOR

TRANSIT IN WINNIPEG



JORDAN JANISSE

Progress on securing funding for a complete rapid transit system in Winnipeg is at a virtual stand-still while the city continues to delay the second phase of the Southwest Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor in favour of a light rail transit (LRT) system that has yet to materialize.

The first phase of BRT involves a 3.6 kilometre line that will link Queen Elizabeth Way at the Forks and Jubilee Avenue at Pembina Highway, alleviating traffic congestion in areas like Confusion Corner. The first phase is slated for completion before next year.

The second phase of the BRT line, which would extend the corridor by six kilometres to the University of Manitoba, has been delayed

Rapid transit on hold until phase one of BRT is completed, says councillor

Securing funding at a stand-still

due to the mayor's much publicized commitment to LRT, which would see electric-powered railcars along city streets.

"We're going to do the first stage (of BRT) and see what the first stage looks like," said Gord Steeves, city councillor for St. Vital and a member of the city's executive policy committee, suggesting that rapid transit is on hold.

"I think people ... are going to

watch for a couple of years to see how the first leg works and make a decision (based on that)."

The mayor wants to convert the current BRT corridor to light rail and turned down \$130 million in infrastructure-stimulus funding for the second phase last year, saying that he would rather see money from the Building Canada Fund dedicated to road and bridge infrastructure.

"People can live in the suburbs and that's fine, they can drive and that's fine," said Steeves, a staunch LRT supporter.

"But ... a transit culture has to grow in this city."

The city's 2011 capital budget, which includes funding for the city's new and long-term infrastructure and other assets, did not include any new funding for rapid transit. Additionally, the city's 2011

operating budget basically held the line on funding the city's current on-street transit services.

Russ Wyatt, city councillor for Transcona, voted in favour of making LRT the city's preferred rapid transit method in July of last year.

He now feels that the mayor has not moved swiftly enough to secure funding for an LRT system, which would require provincial and federal funds.

"The mayor made a very strong push to go to LRT last year and I think the expectation of the public is that he will do something a lot sooner than a few more years," said Wyatt.

ETHAN CABEL

A more liveable Winnipeg



PAUL HESSE
VOLUNTEER

I've lived in many cities. Of all those cities, Winnipeg currently has the worst transit system.

Whether in Paris, Hamburg, Ottawa, Montreal or Toronto, I was always able to enjoy using transit and could live without a car. Winnipeg seems to conspire against those who want better transportation options.

Winnipeg's current approach to transit is symptomatic of a greater problem: a tendency to resist change.

Winnipeg could have a better transit system. It could have a more urban, liveable, dense feel to it. It could have a more vibrant downtown – one that isn't filled with gravel-bedded surface parking lots.

Winnipeg can be a more attractive, proud and liveable city.

One of the reasons I helped found the Winnipeg Rapid Transit Coalition was to create positive momentum for Winnipeg. Rapid transit is the start of something great – it is the start of a more liveable Winnipeg.

With rapid transit comes densification around the rapid transit stations. That means new apartments, condos and townhouses within an easy walk of the permanent, rapid transit stations.

This is already beginning with the announcement of the re-development of the Fort Rouge Yards, which will create about 1,000 new transit-oriented housing units (Fort Rouge Station).

Another new development has been proposed for a parking lot by the Winnipeg Winter Club (across from Harkness Station).

The rapid transit plan also calls for dedicated cycling paths beside the tran-

sit corridor. That means pathways where cyclists can zip along at good speeds, without having to mix with traffic or with pedestrians.

Rapid transit will, of course, also increase the speed of transit. By moving transit onto dedicated corridors, transit will get out of traffic and away from traffic lights.

That means transit that moves faster than cars. In Ottawa, I could get to the airport from downtown faster by transit than by taxi or car. On transit ways, there are no red lights and no traffic jams.

What about the cost?

Former Winnipeg mayor Glen Murray and I were recently speaking about rapid transit. He said that when he first proposed rapid transit during his time as mayor, the increased property taxes from the Fort Rouge Yards development alone would have offset the cost of the first stage of rapid transit.

In other words, if you wanted to pay off the construction of rapid transit in 20 years, the increased property taxes would make those payments for you.

So, the real question is: why is rapid transit taking so long in Winnipeg? We're building 3.7 km right now. Why not more?

Virtually every Canadian city from Halifax to Vancouver has invested in rapid transit. Why does Winnipeg keep lagging behind?

It's time to get Winnipeg moving. And it's time to move Winnipeg forward, both in terms of transportation and in terms of the type of city we want.

Paul Hesse is the former chair of the Winnipeg Rapid Transit Coalition. Visit www.winnipegtransit.com/en/rapid-transit.

Car convenience stifles effective public transit



JOE WASYLYCIA-LEIS
VOLUNTEER

While listening to CBC Radio Winnipeg recently, I heard a story regarding the potential increase of downtown parking fees.

The "for" argument was captured with an advocate who stated that "Winnipeg needs to start acting like a big city," and pointed out that it is not uncommon to pay four or five dollars an hour or even \$20 or \$30 a day to park in some of Canada's larger urban centres.

In larger cities, there is a distinct supply and demand relationship between downtown parking and public transit. The amount of available parking space is drastically less than what is needed to accommodate the ever-growing number of people seeking access to downtown.

As a result, a premium price is charged for parking spaces, and those not willing to pay, or those who know they will probably never find a spot even if they were able to pay, join those without cars on public transit.

The sheer number of people who depend on public transit in Canada's larger cities require their municipal governments to provide fast, effective and reliable public transportation systems. Parking is a luxury, practical public transit is the norm.

The University of Winnipeg certainly exemplifies this logic, as I learned while completing a project for the U of W geography program.

The project aimed to map the pattern of Winnipeg Transit usage generated by students traveling to the U of W.

One hundred and forty students were asked to identify their usual mode of transportation and, if they took the bus, which routes they used.

Half of all respondents reported public transit as their primary means of getting to school, and the map generated from the data indicated a fairly even distribution of usage across almost all of Winnipeg's bus routes.

This reflects the fact that students are less able

to afford personal vehicles or expensive daily and monthly parking rates (or don't want to waste time moving their cars every hour on the street).

It also reflects the fact that students are bound by a certain necessity. Regardless whether it takes one hour and three buses, they must still make it to school.

As a whole, though, Winnipeg has a high amount of downtown parking relative to its population. Those who work and shop downtown find car use convenient.

Indeed, increasing the cost of parking has a role to play in curbing automobile dependence and making our downtown more environmentally sustainable, but only when coupled with a strong commitment to developing a more comprehensive public transit system.

As a medium-small, low-density city, Winnipeg is faced with a public transit dilemma. Our population is spread comparatively thin over our metropolitan area, meaning that the development of a transit system that would even come close to matching the convenience of personal automobile use is a significant challenge.

Consequently, "convenient" is the last noun used to describe Winnipeg Transit. Weekend revellers walk or cab home wondering why transit service ends an hour before the bars close.

Suburbanites in Lindenwoods or Southdale must plan their commute around buses that pass with the rarity of near-Earth comets.

If Winnipeg is going to start acting like a big city, we will need a more comprehensive public transportation system.

However, this goal requires a great deal of political will and leadership, which, as evidenced by the repeated stalling of rapid transit plans at City Hall over the last six years, our current administration lacks.

Hiking downtown parking has to go hand-in-hand with improved public transit.

Joe Wasylcya-Leis is a fourth year human geography and politics student at the University of Winnipeg.

CRIME IN WINNIPEG



CINDY TITUS

Though the media and police public relations officers work hard to inform Winnipeggers of crime incidents, there is still a handful of information that never reaches the public.

Gabrielle Giroday, *Winnipeg Free Press* crime and police reporter, says that with so many instances of crime, there is no way the media can report every occurrence.

"If you were to pick up every single website, newspaper, radio station and compare their crime coverage to the amount of calls police receive, I am not convinced that the amounts would match up," she said.

For example, according to the 2009 Police Service Annual Report, 17,119 events for police service were reported. Of these events, 2,133

Crime in the media, crime in real life

Free Press reporter and CrimeStat representative on crime transparency in Winnipeg

were considered criminal. Giroday explains that only a fraction of these are mentioned in the media.

"Are we reporting on all the domestic violence charges that go to short court every day? No," she said. "We will report on some of them, but not all of them."

Despite this, Giroday contends that public access to crime information is crucial.

"We have to get a full picture of what uses officers' time and educate

ourselves about what type of crime is likely to occur," she said.

When the media is not enough, organizations like Winnipeg CrimeStat, a government-run website dedicated to reporting crime statistics, work to improve police accountability and crime transparency.

Terry Kolbuck, public information assistant for Winnipeg Police Service, says the website has changed the way people think

about crime.

"(Before CrimeStat existed) the public would obtain information on crime through the media, as well as (through) various levels of government and crime statistics organizations," she said.

According to its website, when CrimeStat first launched in February 2007, the site offered public access to statistical charts on homicide, robbery, sexual assault, vehicle theft and break and enter. In March

of the same year, the site switched to maps that showed where in the city specific instances of crime occur.

However, in an effort to protect victims, the site does not publish exact crime occurrence locations – only approximate locations.

Giroday believes it is important for reporters to approach crime reporting with open minds.

"I don't think you should step into an interview knowing exactly what (you) are going to get out of it because that shuts out areas for learning," she said. "I've been in interviews for 45 minutes where, at the last minute, you learn something that blows everything else out of the water."

CHRIS HUNTER

Perception of crime far from reality



BRITTANY THIESSEN
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Intentionally or not, the media sensationalizes violent and rare criminal offences committed against strangers.

Gang violence, random shootings and stabbings, homicides, robberies and serious sexual offences are the most commonly reported on crime events. The geographic areas where these types of crimes are most likely to occur and thus be reported on are in inner-city neighbourhoods.

As a result, the general public tends to hold the perception that violent crimes are increasing throughout the inner city or the broader attitude that crime in general is increasing. Unfortunately, media representation of crime usually fails to coincide with actual crime statistics.

In the latest crime rate information from Statistics Canada, it was found that both the crime rate and the seriousness of crime decreased in 2009. The volume of crime fell three per cent and was 17 per cent lower than a decade ago, and the severity of crime declined four per cent and was 22 per cent lower than in 1999.

A drop in crime rates has been a consistent pattern throughout the past decade.

However, a poll published last January by Angus Reid about Canadians' perceptions about crime found that the fear of crime among citizens was increasing.

More people perceived their communities to be unsafe, and about 50 per cent of respondents believed that the prevalence and severity of violent crimes were steadily rising.

There is clearly a disconnect between perceptions of crime and the actual crime statistics.

The fact that more crime tends to occur in areas of concentrated disadvantage such

as the inner city does not necessarily mean that these communities are more violent.

Although urban areas are often characterized by high rates of poverty, unemployment rates, substance abuse issues and domestic conflict/violence – all contributing factors to crime – recent statistics from Winnipeg CrimeStat indicate there is less crime in these areas than one might expect there to be, given the emphasis on violent crime by the media.

In Winnipeg's downtown area (comparing the years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011), many offences decreased, including break and enters, homicides and shootings.

Motor vehicle thefts saw a substantial decrease of 44 per cent, largely as a result of the Winnipeg Auto Theft Suppression Strategy operated by the Winnipeg Police Service.

Furthermore, this suppression strategy has helped cut Winnipeg's car theft rate by 70 per cent since 2005.

While sexual assaults increased by 32 per cent, the overall crime rate in downtown Winnipeg declined by 13 per cent during the comparison years.

Similar trends in crime were observed when examining the rates of crime city-wide.

Overall, there were 37 per cent fewer shootings and 36 per cent fewer motor vehicle thefts. The homicide rates generally remained stable.

The general public tends to overestimate the proportion of violent crime relative to actual crime rates.

Overall, public perception does not correspond to actual levels of crime in Winnipeg.

Brittany Thiessen is the communications officer for the University of Winnipeg Criminal Justice Students' Association.

Police forced to play too large a role in mental health services



NICOLE CHAMMARTIN
VOLUNTEER

Why it appears that increasing numbers of persons with mental illness come into contact with the law has little to do with actual criminality and much to do with the type of society we have created.

2010 estimates from the Correctional Service of Canada suggest that as many as 42 per cent of people incarcerated in federal prisons are experiencing some sort of mental illness.

In all of Canada, there is only one facility in the federal system dedicated to persons with mental illness, and only males are treated.

The 2008 Report to the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security on the use of tasers cited shortcomings in mental health and addiction training and services as a major concern when it comes to police officers.

The result is that our police are dealing with mental-illness-related issues in our streets, with varying levels of preparation.

The mental health liaison for the Winnipeg Police estimates that three to four calls received per day are related to a mental health issue.

A number of factors have led to this.

The first is the deinstitutionalization that has occurred over the last 40 years, which moved people with mental illness into the community, where, except in extreme circumstances, they belong and experience much higher levels of recovery.

Unfortunately, there has never been appropriate funding of community support systems to meet the needs of persons with mental illness.

It is estimated at this time that one in five persons in Manitoba has some sort of mental health issue.

The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry reported that in 2003-2004, Canada spent \$6.6 billion

on mental health, representing just 4.8 per cent (or \$197 per person) of the total health budget.

At that time, Manitoba was ranked exactly in the middle of the pack with 4.9 per cent of funding going towards mental health (\$219 per person).

Subsequently, a problem affecting 20 per cent of the population is getting less than five per cent of the funding needed.

I understand the frustration of our police, who consistently seem baffled by the fact that they have become a critical part of the mental health system in Winnipeg.

In talking with the mental health liaison for the Winnipeg Police, I was told a far too common story.

A few months ago, police were trying to help a young woman who was threatening suicide on a Winnipeg bridge. They brought her to a local hospital for help. One week later, they were called to the same bridge, where the young woman was once again trying to commit suicide.

As someone who has seen the changes that good services can make in the life of someone with mental illness, it is heartbreaking for me to look at all of our collective waitlists and think, "One day..."

Change is a long, slow process. We, as a city, province and nation, have to admit that we have a role here.

Politicians fund what we tell them we want, what we demand. Real change is in all of our hands.

It is important to reject stigmas and acknowledge that people with mental health issues are not separate from us.

Ultimately, we need to tell our levels of government that this is something that we understand and value.

Nicole Chammartin is the executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Winnipeg Region. Visit www.cmhawpg.mb.ca.

POVERTY IN WINNIPEG



KIMBERLY TRIEU

The age of poverty on Selkirk Avenue

Payday loan stores a problem, says city councillor

were not there anymore," he said.

With banks absent from the avenue, there are a number of payday loan stores, including Money Mart, where residents can cash their cheques and do their financial transactions.

"The Money Mart takes a big portion of the little money these people do have, which is a big prob-

lem," said Eadie, who is also the chair of the Selkirk Avenue B.I.Z.

Some business owners on Selkirk agree with Eadie.

"It sort of takes advantage of the people. If a guy has a \$100 cheque to cash, you don't charge him \$10 or \$15 for Christ's sake," said Jim Major, owner of the Merchant's Hotel. "The guy has a family to

feed, bills to pay."

But some other business owners feel that the area's poverty is perpetuated by the availability of cheap late night liquor at Major's hotel.

"Closing the hotel is a stepping stone to getting more business down here," said Russell Meier, owner of The Donut House on Selkirk Avenue.

Eadie said that one problem for existing businesses is that there is no parking available on the avenue and people don't want to use the side streets because they are not seen as safe.

He said that something needs to be facilitated to get people from outside the area shopping on Selkirk.

"The second worst thing to look at next to boarded up buildings on Selkirk would be a giant parking lot," he said.

LAUREN PARSONS

Recognizing women's poverty



ERIN VOSTERS
VOLUNTEER STAFF

In Winnipeg, and elsewhere, women face poverty more often than men do.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has found that close to 19 per cent of Canadian adult women are low-income, and that 56 per cent of families with children headed by sole-support mothers live in poverty.

According to the United Nations Platform for Action Committee, 70 per cent of those living in absolute poverty worldwide are women.

Women's poverty has multiple causes. On average, women still earn just 72 cents for every dollar a man earns.

In addition, women do more unpaid labour than men do. In Canada, women do an estimated two thirds of unpaid caregiving work.

Because of rising education costs, it is difficult for all low-income people to access education; because women often bear the burden of childcare, they have an additional barrier to accessing education. Women are essentially punished for being mothers.

Racism and sexism are factors as well.

Immigrant and refugee women who have been educated elsewhere may lose their qualifications and face an expensive, time-consuming process to regain them.

Women often do "pink collar" work, such as childcare and secretarial work, that is ascribed a lower value than typically masculine work like construction. This pay disparity is the direct result of a sexist ideology that values masculinity over femininity, and thus "men's work" over "women's work."

There are a number of places we can look for solutions.

One is government; we can push for policy change that addresses feminized poverty and works to change it from the roots up.

Another solution is something that is

already occurring in Winnipeg: community organizations that can step in to fill the gaps left by government.

Many of these organizations were founded and are maintained by women. They provide services that range from child-minding, to financial service education, to healing programs centred on aboriginal teachings.

In this way, organizations such as the West Central Women's Resource Centre (WCWRC), in Winnipeg's West End, take a grassroots approach and work within an empowerment-based framework to help community members cope with poverty.

They simultaneously work to decolonize the inner city by creating safer spaces for Indigenous women and their families by interpreting the issues communities face and developing responses to these issues through an aboriginal lens.

The work that neighbourhood organizations do is an important kind of activism. With limited resources, women's centres and neighbourhood renewal corporations subvert the Canadian colonial context and work to limit the negative effects of poverty in women's lives.

To complement the work these organizations do, women's poverty must be kept in the mainstream consciousness.

We need to continue to lobby for policy change that positively affects women's lives, while also supporting community organizations and families that work on a grassroots level to decrease poverty.

This May, Winnipeg's FemRev Collective will host the 2nd RebELLEs Pan-Canadian Young Feminist Gathering, where we will engage with issues of poverty, its roots in capitalism and ongoing colonialism in Canada.

Rather than waiting on the government to decide to change our lives, we can continue to work to change them from the bottom up.

Erin Vosters is a former University of Winnipeg student and FemRev Collective member.

Food bank usage shows scope of poverty in the city



NICK TERNETTE
VOLUNTEER STAFF

One of the more concerning adages that rings true in our city today is "the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer."

A telling example of this is the visible growth in the usage of food banks in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Harvest currently serves more than 48,000 people, over half of which are under the age of 18.

According to David Northcott, executive director of Winnipeg Harvest, there has been a 21 per cent jump in food bank usage in Manitoba over the past year.

It is important to remember that Winnipeg continues to be the child poverty capital of Canada, in large part due to our large, poor aboriginal population. More than 17 per cent of children (nearly one in five) live in poverty.

One of the more disturbing arguments concerning the use of food banks and poverty rates comes from the policy analysts from the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, a group that receives a lot of press in Winnipeg.

They suggest that overall poverty rates in Canada are going down, not up – from 14.8 per cent in 1993 to 9.4 per cent in 1998.

But, as Northcott says, "This flies in the face of the reality we see every day at Winnipeg Harvest and the 320 neighbourhood agencies that Harvest works with."

Even if overall poverty rates are dropping, there are other factors that impact families and poverty.

For example, people who are chronically ill often require special diets that cost more money – costs that are not taken into account by the government.

We also know that both welfare and min-

imum wage (affecting the poor and working poor) fall far below minimum standards of living wages.

Overall welfare rates have not increased since 1992, in spite of inflation. In fact, a single employable person receives \$481 per month. The amount of welfare for shelter is less than half of what is required.

People dip into their food budget to pay for rent, clothing and school supplies. This leaves them in need of services like Winnipeg Harvest.

There have been reports in media over the years about people abusing Winnipeg Harvest – that the food they are given is not being used properly.

Consequently, there has been some talk that Winnipeg Harvest should apply "means testing" to those who apply for food.

But who are we to tell people how to use the food Harvest gives them? We don't make moral judgements, and if someone requests food, we assume it is because they need it.

After all, it's not an easy thing to do to ask for food when you can't put enough on your own table.

According to Northcott, "Winnipeg Harvest offers the attraction of hope and other services to families, including employment training, counselling and income tax returns. We do so to reduce food bank use by enhancing people's strength and independence."

Empowering low income people—what a concept!

Winnipeg Harvest would love to be able to close its doors. However, until all levels of government make poverty a priority issue on their agendas, the rich will continue to get richer and the poor will continue to get poorer.

Nick Ternette is an activist, freelance writer and broadcaster who volunteers with Winnipeg Harvest.

* COVER IMAGE

"Fair at The Forks"

BY BRYAN SCOTT

Bryan Scott is a Winnipeg-based graphic designer and photographer. View more of his work and buy his book at www.winnipeglovehate.com.

Bryan's work also appears on pages 3, 10 and 14 of this issue.

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Letters

READERS RESPOND

Re: "Stopping problematic poster placement" (March 17, page 5)

I am very disappointed how this article speaks for the entire West End, yet only expresses one viewpoint. The West End is so vibrant and diverse, as the posters will tell you, and this is just supporting the West End BIZ's view.

Jamil Mahmood
via www.uniter.ca

Advocating the use of Facebook and Twitter over real-world communication is another example of a backwards sense of what makes a community. Posters don't make a neighbourhood ugly: lifeless streets make a neighbourhood ugly. I think the use of public space as a medium for communication should be encouraged.

Tom Keenan
via www.uniter.ca

Gloria Cardwell-Hoeppner's comments are a sad reflection of Winnipeg's Old Guard (CentreVenture, the various BIZs, etc.) who still believe that sterilization of the urban environment will somehow revitalize tired neighbourhoods.

Posters are a sign of life. They are a sign of communication within the community. They can be artistic expressions. They can be pleas for assistance. They can sell, find or purchase.

Posters reflect the activity in their neighbourhood. The rather sleepy neighbourhood of Wolseley is made to seem more vibrant and alive by all the posters along its streets.

In the past month, I've been to Toronto, Montreal, Seattle, Portland and Austin. Each of these cities is covered in posters — a sign of the cultural activities housed within its framework of bars, galleries, stores and homes.

Posters are not a blight on the West End. They are essential to fostering a vibrant neighbourhood, and they should be celebrated and encouraged.

Mike Petkau Falk
via www.uniter.ca

Re: "Another year, another election" (March 24, page 6)

Oh *Uniter*, why do you even bother re-writing the same article every time the University of Winnipeg Students' Association holds an election? You should have a boilerplate so you can just insert the names of the current chief elections commissioner and president.

Matt Molnar
via www.uniter.ca

Re: "Why downtown Winnipeg needs on-street parking" (March 24, page 9)

Robert Galston writes, "In a healthy downtown, people visit for countless small, casual purposes

in the evenings. They meet a friend for coffee, go on date at a restaurant, bring their child to piano lessons or browse the stacks of a used bookstore. Even in cities with densely populated downtowns and a good transit system, many people arrive by car and park on the street when they do these activities."

Now, I know he must know this, but he didn't make the next point between this—busy downtowns and the fact that, yes, people do still drive in them—and the fact that they often have the most militant and hawkish parking enforcement around.

Should I see three parking attendants actively checking tickets in windshields within 20 minutes of walking along College Street in Toronto on a Wednesday evening?

Maybe not... but I do regularly. And they're there for good reason—finding on-street parking around busy commercial strips is hard, and without enforcement, next to impossible.

While I agree with what Galston is saying about Winnipeg, I think he may have misled people not as experienced with healthier downtowns that they are unregulated parking free-for-alls. They're not at all.

But where Stefano Grande has it wrong is that Winnipeg has a healthy downtown. It doesn't.

Only in those types of downtowns *should* strict parking regulations exist.

Nick Weigeldt
Toronto, Ont.
via www.uniter.ca

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This is the last issue of *The Uniter* for the semester.

Stay tuned to www.uniter.ca for federal election coverage and other updates in the coming weeks.

Also, be sure to check out *The Uniter*'s two

summer issues.

The first is on newsstands Thursday, May 26, and the second is on newsstands Wednesday, June 29.

Questions? Concerns? Statements? Outbursts?

Email editor@uniter.ca

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

"Tensions mount at UWSA annual general meeting"

By Karlene Ooto-Stubbs

"Students call U of W operating hours 'ridiculous'"

By Ethan Cabel

"Comedian Darcy Michael: Keeping the laughs going"

By Justin Luschinski

"Fashion Streeter"

By Cindy Titus

Plus reviews of CDs by Abstract Artform, The Republic of Champions, Rebel Yell and Mother Mother.

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STREETER

BY J. WILLIAZ

Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST OR LEAST ABOUT WINNIPEG?



Devin Wehrle, U of W student

"The whole transit system is really terrible in this city. And just roads in general are really bad. It's really hard to get around here."



Flora Ominga, U of W student

"The thing I like least are the winters. Coming from a tropical country, it's been very hard adjusting to it. Even though I've been here for five years, it's been pretty hard."



Devin Latimer, musician (Nathan) and promoter

"My favourite part of Winnipeg is Birds Hill Park. Is that considered part of Winnipeg? It's an example of the great outlying areas we have around here."



Luther Sousa, U of W student

"My favourite thing about Winnipeg is that it's a beautiful city. The downside is that there are no opportunities for employment for graduates from the faculty of arts."



Ruth-Anne Seburn, U of W student

"My favourite thing about Winnipeg is that it's cheap. It's very cheap to live here."



Colin McDougall, bartender, Stereo Nightclub

"My favourite thing about Winnipeg is that all my family and friends live here. One of the other things would be that we're really close to cabin country. We can go camping and fishing and all that within an hour from here, and that's fantastic."

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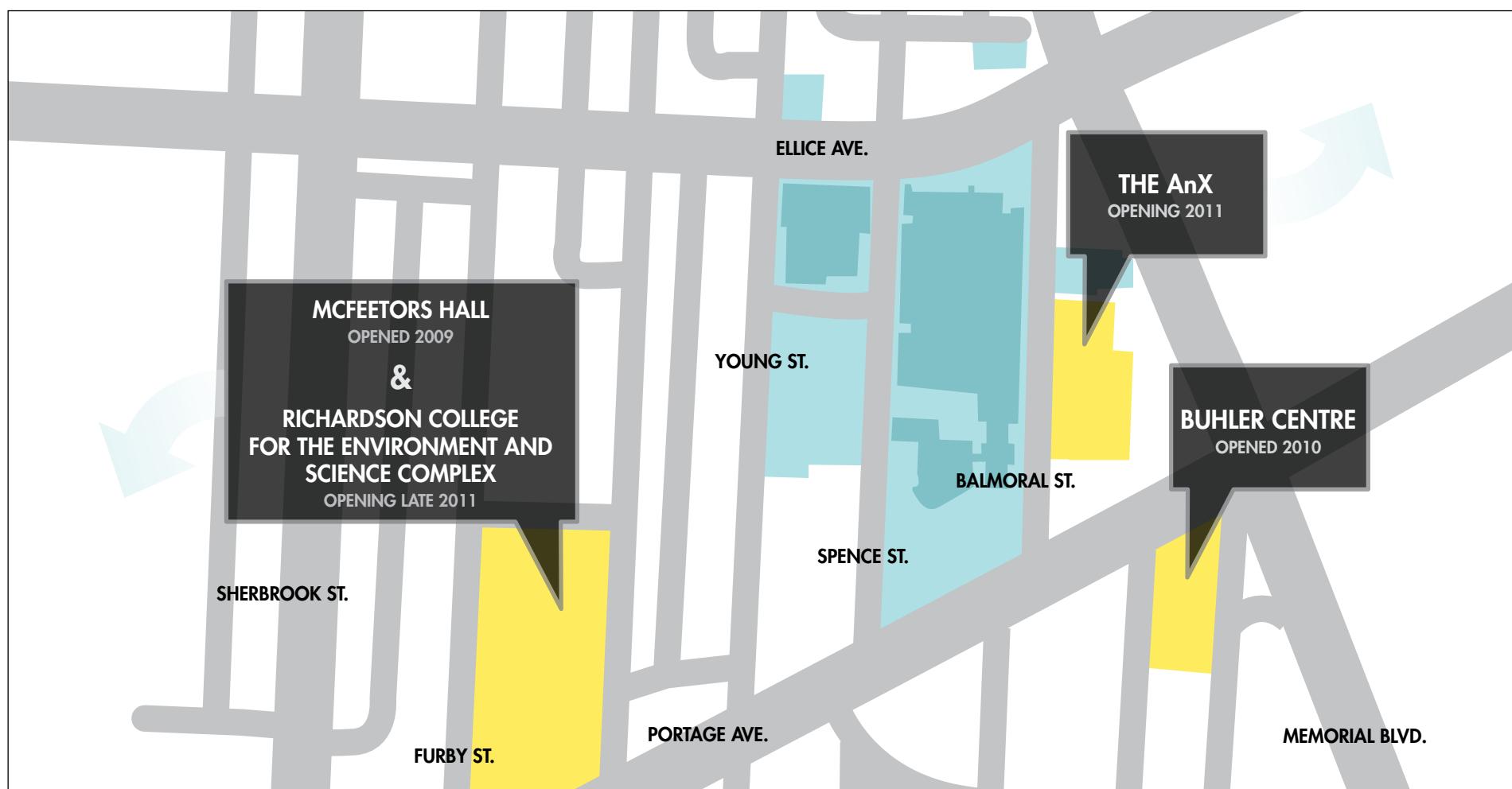
On newsstands and online

Thursday, May 26

Wednesday, June 29

We resume our weekly publishing schedule at the beginning of September. Have a great summer!

Axworthy's expansions garner applause and criticism



AYAME ULRICH

Businesses to be positively affected, experts say, while some question quality of education after university's growth

KARLENE OOTO-STUBBS
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

In 2004, Lloyd Axworthy, former federal cabinet minister and creator of the University of Winnipeg's Institute for Urban Studies, took the position of president and vice-chancellor at the U of W.

Since then, U of W property space has more than doubled, adding to the university's monopoly of the downtown core and business community.

Taking on Winnipeg's crumbling downtown, Axworthy believes that with the expansion of the university and his knowledge of urban development, the area is on the verge of some major changes.

"When I came here, I really inherited a strategic plan in which the university had to substantially upgrade its facilities and, secondly, accommodate student growth from 6,000 to 9,000 students," said Axworthy, now working on the June opening of the Richardson College for the Environment and Science Complex.

This strategic plan included the transformation of traffic-heavy Spence Street into a pedestrian mall, as well as a new theatre building and science complex.

Mark Golden, a professor of classics at the U of W, has seen the university change a lot since he began working here in 1970, but not always for the better.

"Lloyd is tremendously effective in the sense that he's been able to do things (the previous U of W presidents) wanted," Golden said. "These are very important things; on the other hand, there's part of what the university does in terms of building housing for students that we don't have the money to do ... and it should be done by the federal government. A lot is left to us to do."

Golden is worried that the expansion of the university has taken focus away from the academic quality of the institution.

"The expansion at the U of W is great because it brings in more people, more students living in the area, working in the area, frequenting the businesses. It adds to the safety of the area, property values go up and it's a totally spin-off effect."

- GLORIA CARDWELL-HOEPPNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WEST END BIZ

"At the same time we built this new residence ... the acquisitions budget for the library was cut to one quarter of what it was a few years ago," added Golden.

Axworthy believes the expansion will help increase the attractiveness of the university.

"I think it's enhanced the (academic) value substantially," he said. "We're getting four or

five times the applications of people coming from other places ... because people want to come here and do work in the newest science facility in the country."

BUSINESS AS USUAL

With the opening of the AnX in the old Greyhound station on Portage Avenue in the coming months, there will be many new facilities for students and area residents.

A new bookstore, medical clinic and tavern will occupy the space, across the street from a new Stella's Café and Bakery location in the Buhler Centre.

Concerns have been raised about the future of the student-run Soma Café, as the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) tried to cease its operations for the upcoming year.

The café has been losing money since it opened three years ago, and the addition of new food and beverage facilities on campus has been seen as the final nail in their coffin, according to some current members of the UWSA executive.

Other businesses in the area, like Homer's Restaurant and the Lo Pub and Bistro, have seen increased traffic in the past few years from more students on campus.

"I don't think it will take business away, I think it'll be business for everybody. ... (Students) are going to eat on campus and on Ellice and it will be more busy," said George Katsabanis, owner of Homer's.

While Katsabanis has operated his restaurant for 32 years and knows what it's like to have a lot of competition, the Lo Pub has owned the bar scene in the area with no direct competitors.

When the new bar opens in the AnX, Lo Pub manager Jack Jonasson could see some of his clientele favouring the new space, but isn't concerned.

"I'm not really worried," said Jonasson. "We've been around for three years – people know what we do and people like what we do. ... There's a certain crowd that will stick here and a certain crowd that will go there."

Gloria Cardwell-Hoeppner, executive director of the West End BIZ, shares Jonasson's feelings.

"The expansion at the U of W is great because it brings in more people, more students living in the area, working in the area, frequenting the businesses," she said. "It adds to the safety of the area, property values go up and it's a totally spin-off effect."

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Downtown dialogue

Two urban writers exchange thoughts about what Winnipeg is and could be

ROBERT GALSTON AND WALTER KRAWEC

It is common knowledge that downtown Winnipeg requires revitalization.

From debates in city council to everyday chatter, everyone can seem to pinpoint something completely wrong with the city's centre.

Some of the most reiterated complaints include a lack of people after 5 p.m., crime, inadequate and expensive housing, and anti-pedestrian design.

That there are problems with downtown Winnipeg is irrefutable.

The problem, decades in the making, seems to be how to solve them.

Some of the best information on Winnipeg's urban and civic issues can be gained from the city's impressive number of thought-provoking urban bloggers.

The Uniter asked two of the best, Robert Galston and Walter Krawec, to discuss with each other the quirks, blunders and glimmers of hope that mark downtown Winnipeg today.

What follows is a dialogue between two of Winnipeg's respected urban thinkers about the state of the downtown today.

Dear Robert,

There aren't many issues in this city that have consumed more ink than the state of downtown Winnipeg.

Hand-wringing over Winnipeg's urban core has been a constant over the past five decades, and promises to cure what ails downtown are a part of every civic election.

But for all the discussion, debate and promises, what has actually changed?

To answer that question, it is useful to look back to the mid to late 1990s, an economically lacklustre period when downtown Winnipeg was at a low point.

During those years, the last pretenses of downtown as a retail hub for the city were shaken off as Eaton's closed for good in 1999.

In addition, many retailers on Portage Avenue and in downtown malls were replaced with vacant spaces and "For Lease" signs, a reflection of diminishing traffic in the area.

The corporate presence, while still significant, was slowly declining as head offices and district offices were lost to other cities.

Federal Industries Ltd., United Grain Growers, the big banks – there seemed to be no end.

To top it off, residential neighbourhoods near downtown were becoming distressed as low property values and rising crime transformed areas like West Broadway and the West End from tidy working class communities into relatively menacing places.

If it looks like I'm overstating the problems of the 1990s, it's important to remember that downtown Winnipeg's trajectory appeared quite ominous and there was a sense that things had to change quickly before they reached a point of no return.

Since those days, we've seen



BRYAN SCOTT

As long as the focus remains on monolithically scaled megaprojects, the many smaller projects essential to a successful downtown will continue to be overlooked.

many signs of progress in downtown Winnipeg.

As any look at the array of promotional materials will tell you, the last 15 years have seen many important projects take shape downtown.

Most Winnipeggers are well acquainted with the big-ticket developments like the MTS Centre, Manitoba Hydro Place, Red River College and the Canadian Museum of Human Rights.

There have also been many

smaller projects such as the adaptive re-use of heritage buildings, particularly within the Exchange District.

But for all the press releases, project announcements and ribbon cutting ceremonies, something is still missing.

While we have some impressive new buildings and some wonderfully restored heritage buildings, many of them stand in isolation.

We haven't seen much in the way of downtown population growth

or the emergence of cohesive precincts to draw people in. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Walter

Hey Walter,

I tend to wince when I read that there is "still a lot of work to be done" downtown, only because it seems to imply that meaningful work has been done already and that it simply must be continued at

a greater pace.

What's disconcerting is that it seems the prevailing vision is a continued reliance on micromanaging major-scaled development and providing lots of parking.

This has gone on downtown for some 40 years, and it seems that current plans seem to follow this pattern.

If there is work to be done, it should begin with looking at how successful downtown districts work and grow organically.

Very little attention has been paid to the context and texture of development downtown, how it contributes or detracts from the public realm.

We should ensure that development is not only mixed-use, but has a humane scale and is oriented to the sidewalk.

The failure to do that is best exemplified in the blocks between Broadway and Ellice Avenue.

More than just vast parking lots, most of the buildings there are completely incompatible with dynamic pedestrian and business environments.

The tragic part is that so much of this deplorable condition came as a result of several generations of visionary urban renewal attempts.

These blocks do not suffer from a lack of major attractions, a strong workforce or places to park (and this was true even in the bad old days of the 1990s).

Maybe after nearly half a century of trying to beat the suburbs at their own game by creating major attractions and lots of parking, we could try something else.

Rob

Hi Robert,

You've touched on one of the major flaws of the well-intentioned, but so far unsuccessful, attempts at downtown revitalization over the years.

For about as long as there have been attempts at improving the city's central business district, the answers (at least as far as local politicians are concerned) typically lie in monolithic megaprojects, which generally receive public money in one form or another.

The Civic Centre, the Centennial Centre, the Convention Centre, the MTS Centre (have I missed any centres?) and Portage Place are perhaps the most obvious examples.

Plus, they are about as far as you can get from the stately old brick edifices of the Exchange District, which have arguably been much more successful in drawing a crowd downtown.

What has really eluded the City of Winnipeg is a way to encourage the fine-grained development of smaller projects to go between all of the monoliths.

For all the energy directed towards expensive, high-profile downtown revitalization projects, there doesn't seem to be nearly as much interest in the policy instruments at the city's disposal which might encourage smaller developments – the kinds of projects that can be built and operated by local businesspeople.



CINDY TITUS

Walter Krawec (left) and Robert Galston (right) meet for coffee at the Winnipeg Free Press News Cafe on McDermot Avenue.

Now, I have to give credit where it's due. The downtown zoning bylaw passed in 2004 was specifically aimed at easing the regulatory burden.

But one bylaw is only part of the answer.

What about detailed design requirements that specify appropriate types of development – exactly the humanely scaled, sidewalk-oriented designs you mentioned?

Frontage levies for commercial properties that reward density (and discourage surface parking)?

Increased tax increment financing activity?

Even if these specific ideas don't pass with the city, there are other zoning and tax policy tweaks that could encourage more (and better) downtown development.

Walter

Hi Walter,

Small-scale projects don't make for big headlines, and are more susceptible to the ups and downs of the market. But, they are ultimately the right thing to do.

One of the consequences of decades of focusing on public and major private developers is that it has inhibited small owners from

doing anything with their properties downtown.

Small investors see building downtown as too complicated and costly, and as being the government's "job" anyway.

You're right about the downtown zoning bylaw. What is important about it is that it officially recognizes that density and urban forms are acceptable in downtown Winnipeg.

Infill development is going to be complicated and expensive compared to building in the suburbs. Land costs more, and elevators and steel construction is required for anything taller than four stories, so any needless regulatory barrier that can be removed is essential.

City Council does have a downtown design review committee, but as anyone that has walked down Main Street in the last couple of years knows, design standards are very selectively applied.

Not every building need replicate the Exchange District; contemporary architectural styles can be built on a humane scale and possess a relationship to the street, too. I've seen this in infill projects in New York and Chicago.

Rob

Dear Robert,

There have been some small development projects that have sprouted in unlikely parts of downtown over the past decade. The challenge is to stimulate more of them, in sufficiently close proximity that they lead to a critical mass of people and activity.

For example, the Maxim Bakery & Pastry on Alexander Avenue added a street-front retail destination to a desolate block in Chinatown.

The Pullan Kammerloch Frohlinger offices on Kennedy Street filled a gap in the streetscape.

Unfortunately, these types of developments have proven to be the exception. They are outnumbered by massive projects that more often sit like closed fortresses on the street and, of course, vacant lots that remain vacant for decades.

It would be a bold statement if one of the many government-owned parking lots downtown were subdivided, as you suggested, and opened up to developers willing to build small projects appropriate for an urban area (and not ones that belong on Pembina Highway).

But as long as the focus remains

on monolithically scaled megaprojects, the many smaller projects essential to a successful downtown will continue to be overlooked.

Walter

Hey Walter,

The small projects you listed demonstrate the tricky and sometimes frustrating aspect of small, privately led developments in Winnipeg.

They have been too few and far between (geographically speaking), and it is impossible to predict where they will go, or to properly coordinate where they ought to go.

But they are still small steps in the right direction.

While we have been talking mostly about new construction, it's important to remember that old buildings are much more economical for small enterprises, and they play a crucial role in making districts successful.

Governments should do as much as possible to ensure small, urban projects occur with greater frequency, either through the reuse of old buildings or the construction of new ones.

Eventually, some kind of concentration or pattern emerges,

which will further increase the viability of investing downtown.

This may have more to do with getting out of the way than playing a leading role.

The unfortunate part is that it seems the political engine driving the current wave of "revitalization" downtown – City Council and myriad revitalization agencies – is not concerned with making downtown livable, walkable or economically dynamic.

I hope that in the coming years, citizens demand an end to these self-serving megaproject schemes.

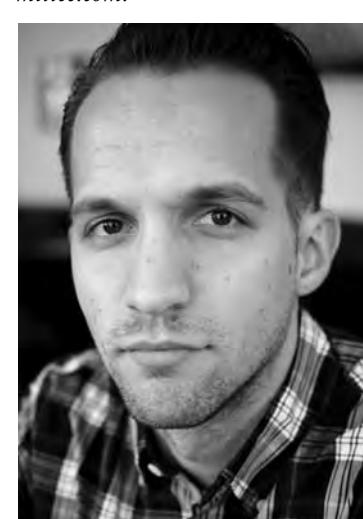
Without a new way of thinking that values density, a strong sense of place and scale, and a dynamic entrepreneurial climate, we would just be condemning ourselves to another 40 years in the hamster wheel of downtown revitalization.

Rob

Robert Galston is a University of Winnipeg student who writes about urban issues at <http://riseandsprawl.tumblr.com>. Walter Krawec is a graduate of the University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba's joint Master of Public Administration program. He blogs about urban issues at www.onemancommittee.com.



Without a new way of thinking that values density, a strong sense of place and scale, and a dynamic entrepreneurial climate, we would just be condemning ourselves to another 40 years in the hamster wheel of downtown revitalization.



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Exploring the North End

From Main Street to McPhillips Street, from Dufferin Avenue to Mountain Avenue, Winnipeg's North End is one of the most culturally, economically and architecturally diverse areas of the city.

Unfortunately, it suffers from a bad image, largely due to the small sections of it that have visible deterioration due to poverty and a lack of upkeep.

If you drive up Main Street, north of Higgins Avenue, you will see some undeniably unattractive aspects of the city - large buildings gone vacant for years; strings of

hotels you've heard are dangerous and won't go into; intoxicated people crossing the street at the pace of a belligerent snail.

But that's just one stretch of the North End and, unfortunately, the most visible one.

In most news reports, you will hear of fighting in the North End, of domestic disputes, of gang violence, of underage prostitution. You may wonder, why do people live there?

For our annual urban issue, *The Uniter* decided to investigate the North End, highlighting some of the many positive aspects of the community.

THE NO-VOTE ZONE

Basement-level voter turnout in Winnipeg's North End indicator of poverty, poor political tactics, expert says

Voter turnout in Winnipeg's North End has ranked among the lowest in elections of all levels of government for years.

Voter Turnout in Manitoba: An Ecological Analysis, a 2011 report from the Manitoba Centre for Policy Research, says that the majority of North End provincial ridings (including Burrows, Point Douglas, the Maples and Minto) only saw between 40-50 per cent voter turnouts in the 2007 provincial election.

In the 2010 civic election, it was a similar story with two of the city's polling stations with the worst turnouts located in North End wards. Mynarski's Children of the Earth High School saw 16.44 per cent of voters cast a ballot and Point Douglas's Freight House Community Centre had a turnout of only 17.08 per cent.

For Jim Silver, the director of urban and inner-city studies for the University of Winnipeg, these consistently low numbers at the polls can be explained by a trio of reasons: sustained poverty, a large aboriginal population who have historically been excluded

from the democratic process and politicians failing to use appropriate strategies to engage the community's residents.

"One of the standard correlations in political science says that the lower the income, the lower the voter turnout in the constituency or riding," said Silver.

"The poverty that is here in the North End has been here from the post-war period - for the last 50 years and more. Different political parties, different governments have come and gone. Some are a little better than others in what they do for people in the North End, but none of them are actually committed to solving the problems that exist here and people are aware of that."

Silver sees politicians' lack of commitment and their cookie-cutter strategies for reaching out to voters as hindering potential gains in a community that is more welcoming to gatherings like feasts than door-knocking to discuss issues.

"I think that if political parties were to really try to learn how to connect with people in the heart of the North End, they would find that there is political interest," he noted.

KRISTY RYDZ



CINDY TITUS

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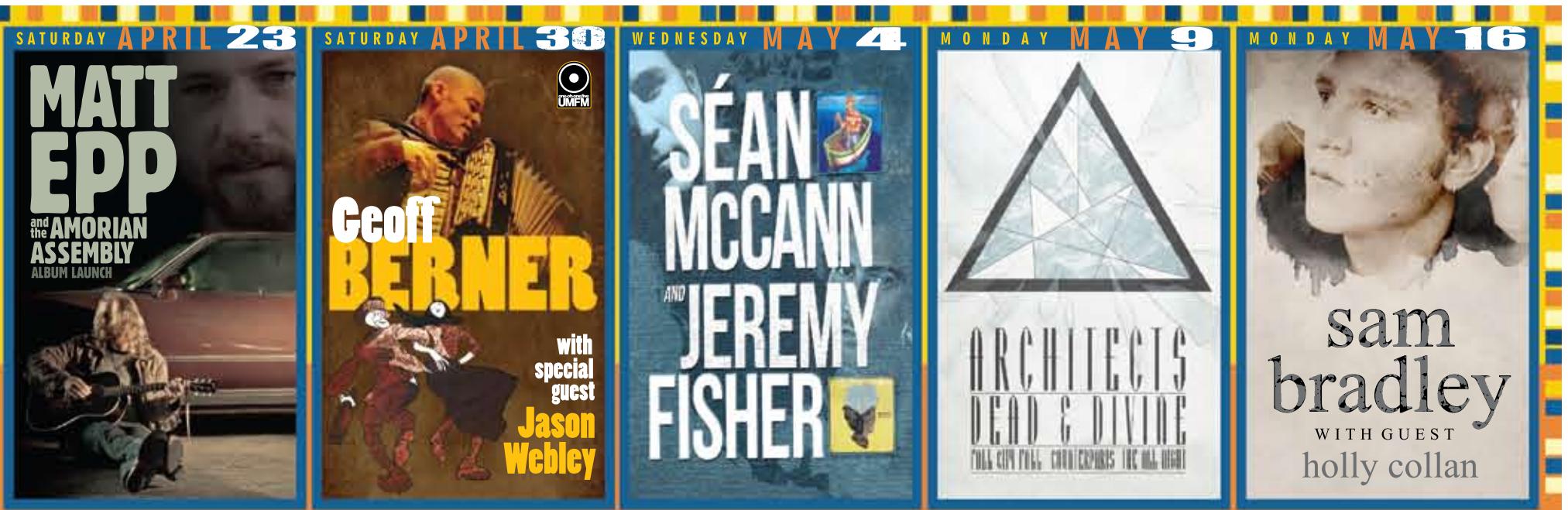
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THE WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACKS

How architecture and urban planning influence the North End

As social behaviour is directly related to geography, the behaviour of the North End populace is related to neighbourhood boundaries, street plans and lot size.

Mark Kingwell, renowned Canadian public intellectual and professor of philosophy at University of Toronto, contends that cities and neighbourhoods can be thought of as negotiations with surrounding geography.

"All cities are negotiations with their physical sites," he said via email. "Rivers, gorges, shorelines, mountains - they all create the special conditions of possibility of any city."

Kingwell explained that when part of a city is physically isolated, a neighbourhood boundary is created. However, neighbourhoods can be both naturally and artificially bound. The North End is artificially bound by railway tracks.

"The North End negotiates its physical site with both natural and artificial barriers," he said. "In any city ... this would create an instant neighbourhood, and probably one with both a highly developed sense of identity and a narrative of disadvantage or neglect."

Kingwell contends that an isolated neighbourhood - like the North End - accom-

panies a sense of undesirability, which leads to low rents and less affluent tenants.

Such a space would be quite accessible to immigrants, which might account for the North End's immigration history.

"A sense of relative undesirability generates low rents, which attract relatively less affluent tenants, which in the North American contexts usually means immigrants," he said.

Kingwell adds that when a space is isolated in the manner of the North End, physical movement becomes difficult. Small lot sizes are adopted because isolation accompanies a sense of land scarcity.

Eventually, infrastructure is added to the space and there is no longer a need to move outside the boundaries.

Physical space, says Kingwell, also influences crime.

"When it comes to crime, built forms and street plan can play a significant role in raising or lowering rates," he said, "Crime rates are lowest in neighbourhoods with strong community identity. ... But there can be countervailing influences, especially poverty."

CHRIS HUNTER



LAUREN PARSONS

NORTH END RESIDENTS STICK TOGETHER DESPITE NEGATIVE OUTSIDE PERCEPTIONS

Most people who live outside of the North End have perceptions of violence and intimidation about the people who live in the community.

But for the people who actually live there, it's a different story.

"All my friends and family live in the neighbourhood, and they look out for me," said Wallace Scott, a North End resident.

Scott moved to the North End from the Berens River First Nation reserve 10 years ago and said he was welcomed with open arms by his family, who were already living in the area.

"My friends and family, everybody is a brother or a sister to me," he said. "I haven't been in any greater family in anywhere else I've lived."

Evelyn Abbott, 19, has lived in the North End her entire life and said that there is always a negative reaction when she tells people where she lives because of the area's reputation.

According to a September 2010 analysis by CBC, the North End's William Whyte community had the highest incidences of reported crime in the past two years including shootings, break and enters and robberies.

"It has a bad reputation, but the perception is so much worse than the reality," she said.

Abbott said that there are disturbances in the neighbourhood every once in a while, but they always call their neighbours to make sure everyone is okay.

"It's a good community, we stick together," she said.

LAUREN PARSONS



JORDAN JANISSE/UNITER ARCHIVES

COMMUNITY STRATEGY NEEDED TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND THE POLICE

Winnipeg's city council recently approved its 2011 operating budget, a spending blueprint that increased funding for the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) by \$12.2 million and committed to adding 32 new police officers toward the goal of 58 new officers.

But some members of the North End community believe that no amount of additional funding can address the fundamental distrust that exists between residents of the neighbourhood and the Winnipeg police.

"It doesn't matter how many police officers we have," said Carolyn Young, the executive director of Manidoo Gi Miini Gonaan, a revitalization project for Point Douglas that includes the Lord Selkirk Park Resource Centre.

"Until they (the police) have a community-based strategy and philosophy and start working on building trust in the community ... they're not going to be able to have any relationship with the community."

Over four years ago, the police had a community officer stationed in the Lord Selkirk Park housing development, which went a long way in repairing issues of trust, according to Young.

"There's a high reluctance for residents to report any kind of ... crime in the community ... because of retaliation," she said.

"(When we had an officer in the development) residents often felt safe just putting a note under his door, letting him know what was going on."

Young believes that the most effective strategy for the North End, and Lord Selkirk Park in particular, is to have police patrolling the area regularly rather than simply walking around the peripheral areas of the many housing developments.

She would also like to see plainclothes police officers operating out of the community or the Lord Selkirk Park Resource Centre. Residents in the area need someone they can have coffee with, someone who will actively listen to their concerns about crime, she said.

"As long as there's no trust, nothing is going to happen," she noted.

ETHAN CABEL

face to face
with
STRUNG OUT and
CEREBRAL PALAZZO

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JIMMY EAT WORLD

MAY 26
GARRICK CENTRE
DOORS 7PM ALL AGES WELCOME

State of the arts

Two artists exchange thoughts about Winnipeg's arts scene

KIER-LA JANISSE AND MICHAEL PETKAU FALK

The Uniter asked Kier-La Janisse and Michael Petkau Falk to discuss the arts in Winnipeg – what's working well, and what could be improved.

A former Winnipegger, Janisse now lives in Montreal where she operates a film screening venue called Blue Sunshine. While in Winnipeg, Janisse booked live music events at Into the Music and started Big Smash! Productions, a non-profit organization that promotes and exhibits Canadian and international film and video art.

No stranger to Winnipeg's music scene, Michael Petkau Falk is the artistic director at the West End Cultural Centre (WECC) and singer-guitarist in art-rock four-piece Les Jupes. He also runs Head in the Sand, a record label collective that includes Royal Canoe and The Liptonians.

What follows is a series of emails Janisse and Petkau Falk exchanged this past week.

Dear Mike,

There is definitely a strong, thriving arts community in Winnipeg that is not only internally supportive, but also very supported by local funding bodies.

The Winnipeg Arts Council staff is so approachable and actually involved with the community that it's really quite special. They actually go to arts events of their own volition!

You really feel that the support from them is tangible, not just some floating bureaucracy making decisions on whether or not to fund you with no concept of your actual impact in the community.

So there is a support system there for sure, on many levels – the funders support the artists, the artists support other artists.

The only problem with it is that it is very incestuous, and you do get the sense that you're just tapping the same small audience over and over again—at least, for the niche-type programming I do.

I always really enjoyed the local arts community, so that is not why I left Winnipeg. It's just that the stuff I program is not going to do gangbusters on a regular basis without casting a wider net.

Programming events in Winni-



BRYAN SCOTT



"Winnipeg is considered a dead market, so they didn't even want to waste the five minutes it will take to talk to you on the phone."

- KIER-LA JANISSE



peg once a month is great – you'll get the support you want and need.

But if I wanted to program films three nights a week, there would be no way to sustain it, because the same 60 people are just not going to give me their money three times a week. No one can afford that.

So, if I wanted to be an ongoing operating business with obscure film screenings, I had to go somewhere with a more established film-going audience.

At my place in Montreal, we have some problems with the city, local bureaucracy, advertising restrictions, etc. that hurt us financially, but the audiences themselves are solid.

I don't think I'd be able to get that many people out on a regular basis in Winnipeg.

But Mike – music is a different beast than film. What are your experiences with trying to build up audiences? Do you feel the WECC benefits from having a long history and built-in audience behind it, or is it still always a struggle to get people out?

Kier-La

Hey Kier-La,

The audience-development conversation one is an important one for music too.

The WECC itself is unique because it has spent almost 25 years building a dedicated and loyal fan base.

That makes some things easier as a programmer – I know that certain artists will always sell 200-300 tickets and can use that to help support some of the more "fringe" shows that I want to present. And it means that our dedicated team of 150-plus volunteers helps spread the word and get excited about shows.

I do sometimes wish for your freedom to present whatever I want at the WECC and have people join me for this ride.

But the music industry is very much that – an industry – and most booking agents won't even consider sending an artist to Winnipeg if it won't be worth their while.

This is where the Folk Festival has such a large opportunity and responsibility to Winnipeg audiences – to use its muscle to expand our collective musical consciousness.

From an artist's standpoint,

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Manitoba Film & Music and Manitoba Music do an exceptional job of helping fund albums, tours, showcases, etc.

Once acts get to a certain level and are showcasing nationally and internationally they also act as a lobbyist and industry-wrangler, which is helpful since there is very little actual music industry in Winnipeg — the labels, distributors, booking agents and publicists we want to be working with are mostly in Toronto, Chicago, Montreal and New York.

Not living there means that introductions need to be made. This is, after all, an industry built on relationships.

I've often described Winnipeg's musical fanbase as "conservative," and by that I mean "safe." Being a small Canadian city as isolated as we are means we aren't introduced to new music nearly as quick as our big-city friends.

It's also a city of extremes where both folk and punk have long been the standard, without a lot of interest in the grey areas in between.

As a musician who falls into neither camp, I've long felt that there is a limited audience for me here — and that's part of the reason I moved to Montreal in 2005.

There was a time when I resented Winnipeg's tastes, but have since realized that there is a big, big world out there, and you make your own opportunities.

It doesn't really matter where you live so long as you're going to where you need to be to build an audience.

As a presenter, my hands are tied by Winnipeg's size and culture. If we were two million people instead of 700,000, I could have more freedom in presenting some of the artists I really wish I could present.

As it stands, the best I can do is jump on any chance to present something that may help expand our collective musical appreciation.

Mike

Hi Mike,

I remember when I lived in Winnipeg and I would talk about bands I wanted to bring in, people would look at me with blank expressions — it's OK to not be familiar with the band, Winnipeg is pretty isolated after all — but you would just hope you could get to a point where people would trust you, and get excited about stuff because they trust you.

As for my freedom, sure I have it, but I also live in complete poverty. And I probably will continue to do so for the rest of my life — and it's not that I don't *want* to be more mainstream — I really try! I just can't figure it out!

If I could figure out how to play something that will make me money so that I could then fund all my weirdo projects, I would do it in a second. I would gladly sell out for a night to turn that income around into support for independent unknowns.

So, I don't really have that safety net that the WECC has, in the sense that you know you can get an audience out for certain artists and that'll pay the bills.

As for bookers not wanting to deal with booking bands in Winnipeg unless they totally think it will be worth their while, it's the same with films — most films, even if they have a Canadian theatrical release, skip over Winnipeg.

And if they give you the film, they send a DVD, whereas everyone else gets a 35mm print.

It's considered a dead market, so they didn't even want to waste the five minutes it will take to talk to you on the phone.

A lot of times that's why I ended up dealing with foreign directors



CINDY TITUS/UNITER ARCHIVES



COURTESY KILLBEAT

Top photo: Last year, Kier-La Janisse moved to Montreal, where there's a bigger audience for the films she enjoys programming. Above: Michael Petkau Falk (centre) with two of his Les Jupes bandmates.

and distributors. They just thought any opportunity to make money was good, and didn't have those preconceived notions about Winnipeg being a lame city for film audiences.

And truly, while Winnipeg nurtures a lot of artists, those artists don't tend to support art unless they made it or their friends made it.

I know this is partially because they are busy creating their own art, but you have to be careful not to stay inside a vacuum.

I'd be surprised if more than a handful of members of the Winnipeg Film Group actually *go* to the Cinematheque once a month.

There are people who watch films and people who make films — and the people who make films need to be watching more films, because sometimes it's painfully obvious that they are a decade behind the times.

That said, this isolationism creates a regional aesthetic which has served Winnipeg well in the outside world — so who am I to criticize?

Kier-La

Dear Kier-La

Jack Jonasson at the Lo Pub is doing exactly what has been needed here since the Blue Note closed — building a place that people just want to hang out at, that also hosts events. It's a place that fosters the scene. There should be five to 10 other places like it around downtown/ Osborne/Exchange.

One thing that concerns me is that there isn't a culture of exploration among audiences here. People don't like to take risks. People want to be guaranteed exactly what they expect, and often expectations are pretty low.

This is largely why I'm so excited about what we're doing with Head In The Sand.

I feel that with Royal Canoe, The Liptonians and Les Jupes, Winnipeg finally has three bands that are willing to take risks, excited about trying new musical ideas, demanding a really high quality of work of themselves, and will be able to eventually find a home in the pantheon of cool shit that's happening elsewhere in the world.

When Jesse (Warkentin) was leaving Les Jupes and we had to find another keyboard player, I was worried. Luckily, we found Kelly (Beaton Smith), who is the perfect fit.

But in Montreal there are 30 people who could step in and take over that role without blinking — people who know synths, understand different types of gear and are on top of their shit musically.

It's a higher-level musical culture built on training, experimentation and risks, and that's why we've seen so many bands blow up from Montreal.

Here, the people who are into more out-there music often aren't very good musicians, and they're not supported in growth because Winnipeg doesn't support weird music and the government-funded people at the top don't understand it.

As a result, they're not encouraged to get better, and it becomes this sad cycle of Winnipeg's potential innovators not being given the right kind of mentorship and opportunities and eventually just fading out of the picture.

We need musicians who are passionate about artistic innovation and willing to dedicate their life to it while having the supports in place to help foster their careers.

Mike

Continued on page 19

"I've often described Winnipeg's musical fanbase as 'conservative,' and by that I mean 'safe.' Being a small Canadian city as isolated as we are means we aren't introduced to new music nearly as quick as our big-city friends."

- MICHAEL PETKAU FALK

Grassroots growing

As the Winnipeg Folk Festival continues to grow, organizers are looking for ways to keep its tradition

CATHERINE VAN REENEN
CULTURE REPORTER

How can you not love an event with drum circles?

The Winnipeg Folk Festival started out in 1974 as a small three-day music festival held at Birds Hill Park with 22,000 attendees. It has since grown into an important Winnipeg tradition and a year-round arts organization offering events as well as education and outreach programs.

Folk Fest now welcomes 70,000 attendees and contributes significantly to Winnipeg's economy each year, but with the increasing expansion and popularity of the festival, organizers must find new ways to accommodate its growth.

"The event has become something that people plan for and plan to attend every year to spend time with friends and family," said Margaret Koshinsky, marketing and communications manager for the Winnipeg Folk Festival.

"Our primary audience comes for the experience. They expect the music to be great and they're coming regardless; they buy (tickets) before the line-up is announced."

A campaign started in 2010 called Staging the Future has been organized as a long-term solution proposing a three-phase plan to allow for Folk Fest's expansion.

Koshinsky says the plan is currently in the process of being re-phased, due to various factors such as weather, construction time and funding, but that the goal is to increase capacity and maintain experience.

"We want (people) to feel that it is not a crowded event," she said of the plans for new stages and creating better sight lines to the stage for audiences.

An attendance cap was implemented once organizers realized the Birds Hill Park site had reached its capacity. Campground passes sell out earlier each year, but are necessary to



Part of a multi-phase plan to upgrade the Winnipeg Folk Festival includes better sight lines for audiences to see performers.

BRIAN GOLDSCHMIED

maintaining the experience of the event.

Carolyn Basha, director of the Staging the Future campaign, explains that signing a long-term lease with Birds Hill Park was key to making the necessary improvements for the sustainability of the festival, allowing organizers to more efficiently improve pathways, navigation and safety at the site.

"Overarching all of the changes and improvements is (the importance of) doing it in a way that will respect the natural qualities of the site," said Basha.

The festival has a 400-person environment crew that takes care of recycling and composting, while food vendors use reusable plates, compostable beverage cups and lake-

friendly dish soap.

A green bike ride to Birds Hill Park was first coordinated last year and will become an annual event in order to lower the festival's environmental impact. Participants are rewarded with priority entrance to the campground, giving festival-goers more initiative to leave their cars parked.

"We're still holding on to our environmental values in a very strong way," said Basha.

The festival is often associated with partying and drug use, but Koshinsky says that, according to their research, most people who make this association have never actually attended the festival.

"We absolutely have a zero tolerance at the

festivals, ... but we police it in a passive way that may not be visible," she said.

The Winnipeg Folk Festival is a valuable asset not only to Winnipeg's community, but to its economy as well. Tourism Winnipeg estimates that the festival has a \$14.1 million impact on Winnipeg's GDP and generates \$25 million in economic activity, while creating 244 jobs in Manitoba.

"The mission hasn't changed since the first event and I would say philosophically it hasn't changed, but certainly the festival has grown from the grassroots initiative," said Koshinsky.

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'We need more Winnipeggers buying local art'

The challenges and triumphs of running an art gallery

JORDAN MILLER
VOLUNTEER

When I opened cre8ery in 2006, I imagined an arts centre where patrons could browse our galleries, take in artist demos and see where artists work each day.

The concept was to launch weekly and bi-weekly exhibitions, have artist studio spaces open to the public, and host workshops in our classroom studio providing jobs for artists. Artists could sell out of their studio and benefit through a shared marketing support system established by cre8ery.

The concept is popular: we have 70 artists on a waiting list to exhibit in our gallery and another 28 wanting one of our studios.

However, more galleries and studios are needed in the Exchange District and we need more Winnipeggers buying local art to keep our galleries open.

Finding patrons to purchase local art has always been our biggest challenge.

At the cre8ery, we see mostly lookers, as few can afford the luxury of an artwork purchase or recognize the value of art beyond it matching their couch.

Because of this, I can't afford to pay hired staff, despite needing them to effectively run my business to the extent I feel is crucial.

I'm fortunate to have various volunteers, an intern from the University of Winnipeg and a lot of community support. Volunteers are trained and usually move on to a paying job elsewhere. This can be costly, but every day I appreciate them and recognize that I can no longer continue to run cre8ery without assistance.

How do we fix this?

Galleries need to work together to make sales – we are a tightly knit community and



CINDY TITUS

More Winnipeggers need to buy local art, not only to keep existing independent galleries alive, but to create opportunities for new galleries and open space for more artists, says Jordan Miller.

some galleries even refer patrons to other galleries. But a show that doesn't sell is harmful to an artist's career, not just the gallery.

Sadly, too many people purchase art from across the border or overseas. It would be great if there were a tax break for people who buy local to encourage and support our community of artists.

Over the past five years, heat, water, garbage disposal and rent have increased steadily. As the years continue, cre8ery will become even less affordable as our building's owner

is increasing our rent with our new lease, after making significant improvements to his building.

This hardship may eventually cause cre8ery to move. To absorb the impact of the increase, we are hosting our first fundraiser, Strength By Numbers, on April 15.

Still, I have witnessed many positive changes in the Exchange District since opening my first gallery here in 2002. The area is cleaner, safer and more people are visiting with the help of an increase of funky vintage

shops, restaurants and organizations like First Fridays and the In Plain View studio tours.

And though I've had less time to build my career as a visual artist because I've poured so much into cre8ery, I have benefited in other ways. I've started to build a career as an art consultant and a guest speaker.

Without the challenges I've faced with cre8ery, I would not be where I am today.

Jordan Miller is the director of cre8ery at 125 Adelaide St. Visit www.cre8ery.com.

A five-point plan for Winnipeg

One man's bold vision for our civic future

CHRIS HANNAH
VOLUNTEER

POINT 1

Winnipeg city councillor, MLA and MP salaries should be capped at the wage of the lowest-paid citizen in their respective ridings to provide committed public servants with a factual understanding of what life is like on the bottom rungs of their constituency's economic ladder. This provides the added bonus of creating at least 50 new jobs as we witness a mass exodus of self-interested goofs from the city's political landscape.

POINT 2

Elective – and paid – full-day seminars for all citizens on the history and legacy of residential schools. Citizens who opt out are obliged

to pay a seven per cent Civic Stupidity Tax.

POINT 3

Property tax reduction for any home or business owner that converts a reasonable portion of their useless lawn or rooftop into either a community vegetable garden or a dunk-tank for councillors that vote in favour of selling off public utilities to private interests.

POINT 4

A bylaw prohibiting the return of an NHL franchise to Winnipeg, unless it is placed in the Northeast Division.

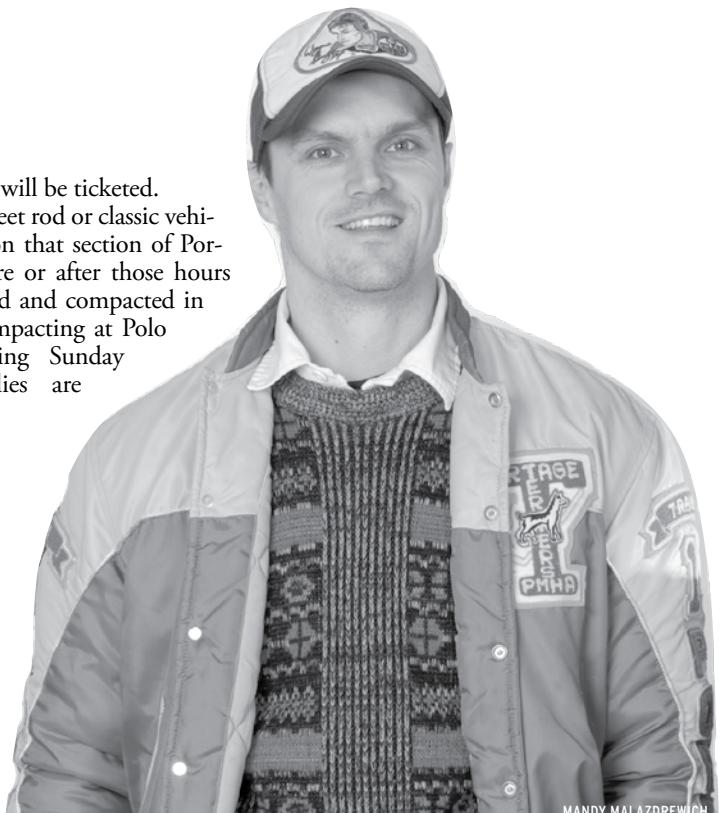
POINT 5

Portage Avenue – from Omand's Creek to Fort Street – is to be closed to all non-muscle, non-street rod, non-classic vehicle traffic every Sunday from 7 p.m. until midnight. Violators,

including cyclists, will be ticketed.

Any muscle, street rod or classic vehicle traffic found on that section of Portage Avenue before or after those hours will be impounded and compacted in a public trash compacting at Polo Park the following Sunday afternoon. Families are welcome.

Chris Hannah is the front man for Propagandhi. In 2007, he was voted the second worst Canadian of all-time in a poll conducted by Canada's History Magazine.



MANDY MALAZDREWICH

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MUSIC LISTINGS**THURSDAY, MARCH 31 to WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6**

On Thursday, the GREAT SABATINI, CANIFORM, DEADEN, EGYPTIAN ARTSTRIKE and WHITE DOG are playing at the Death Trap; ANDY WHITE and STEPHEN FEARING perform at the West End Cultural Centre; THE UGLY BROTHERS, THE PINK SLIPS, ALL ON RED, THE THRASHERS and THE TERRIBLES play at the Royal Albert Arms; PARADIGM BRASS are doing the Nu Sounds Series at the Park Theatre; THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE are rolling into the Pyramid Cabaret; and INGRID GATIN will shoot a music video and perform at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club with VANESSA KUZINA and DEMETRA PENNER.

On Friday, April 1, THE NOBLE THIEFS play at Cavern; DRUGS, ROCK LAKE and THE MEMORIAL FUND play at the Lo Pub; REBEL YELL releases the album *Social Studies* with the REPUBLIC OF CHAMPIONS at the Pyramid; THE DUNCE QUAGMIRE, THE PINK SLIPS and BABYSHAKERS are rocking the Standard; LES SEXY and THE THRASHERS are at Ozzy's Nightclub; and the Audio Phools! dance party hits the Osborne Village Zoo.

On Saturday, April 2, BRAIDS join DEPARTURES and SO HOLY HEADCASE at the Royal Albert Arms; JACKSON BROWNE is bringing his solo acoustic tour to the Centennial Concert Hall; VOICE OF BOOM is doing a reunion show at the Pyramid Cabaret; CAMERATA NOVA perform their Directions Concert at the Thunderbird House; KAZZOSHAY, IN TRANSFORMATION and BLACK OPTIC play at the Zoo on Osborne while the Black & Blue Ball takes place at Ozzy's downstairs; SMOKY TIGER is performing at the Creedence Clearwater Tribute at the Times Change(d); THE KNUCKLEDRAGGERS, LES SEXY and THE ANIMALISTICS play at the Cavern; M. COCCINEL, TOM KEENAN and VELA play at the Lo Pub; JOHNNY RIVERBOAT, FOUR PINTS SHY and STEVE BASHAM play at VP Nights; and THE BOKONONISTS, LITTLE HOUSE and THE BLISTERS are at the Death Trap.

On Sunday, April 3, The LUYAS play at the Lo Pub, CAMERATA NOVA perform their Directions Concert at the Thunderbird House and Violinist JASPER WOOD is at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

BRUCE COCKBURN performs at the Burton Cummings Theatre on April 5, while the FLATLINERS, KIDS ON FIRE, DANGER CAT and LIVING WITH LIONS are at the Park Theatre; and THE AUTUMN PORTRAIT, GREG REKUS and GREG ARCADE play at the Lo Pub.

On Wednesday, April 6, MOTHER MOTHER plays at the Burton Cummings Theatre and WOODPIGEON is at the Lo Pub.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7 to WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

On Thursday, April 7, THE ALL NIGHT, THE PERFECT TREND, FOREVER I and A BROKEN SUMMER play at the Park Theatre while SMOKY TIGER plays at the Times Change(d).

Friday, April 8, has CLASSIFIED at the Garrick; HAWKSLEY WORKMAN at the West End Cultural Centre; PSYCHOSEXUAL 5 at the Zoo; JARHEAD, MORTALIS and ANTIKATHERA at

Ozzy's; THE F-HOLES and BRASH BUNNIES BURLESQUE at the Park Theatre; BEN SURES releasing an album at the Times Change(d); Grippin' Grain at the Royal Albert Arms; and CANTOR DUST holding an album release with TRIUNFO DO GATO and AUOH at the Lo Pub.

On Saturday, April 9, MIKE PETKAU and the CURTIS NOWOSAD TRIO team up at Aqua Books; DEL BARBER and JENN GRANT play at the Park Theatre; the Zoo has a Kurt Cobain Tribute; a Dance-A-Thon is happening at the Red River EX featuring MAGNUM K.I., SONS OF YORK, O.C.D., DUST RHINOS, SAVANNAH RAE BOYKO and more; FIRE & SMOKE and THE EMPTY STANDARDS play at the Times Change(d); the STEREOS play at the Garrick; ROB WADDELL releases an album at the Times Change(d); CRYSTAL PRECIOUS, CYCLIST, MAMA CUTSWORTH and MISS LA MUSE are at the Lo Pub; and THE REAL MCKENZIES are joined by LES SEXY at the Royal Albert Arms.

ONYX is ripping it up at the Pyramid Cabaret on Sunday, April 10 and HELEN WHITE is performing in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.

BIG JOHN BATES and REVEREND DEADEYE are entertaining at the Pyramid Cabaret on Monday, April 11.

ALANA LEVANDOSKI plays at Aqua Books on Tuesday, April 12.

On Wednesday, April 13, DESTROYER and WAR ON DRUGS play at the West End Cultural Centre, and TOKYO POLICE CLUB and SAID THE WHALE are at the Pyramid Cabaret.

The Manitoba Opera performs THE MAGIC FLUTE on April 9, 12 and 15.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14 to WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

On Thursday, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performs CHARLIE CHAPLIN's *Modern Times* at the Centennial Concert Hall.

Friday, April 15 has California's DEATH ANGEL, BESIEGED, MALUM FATUM and ZOMBIE ASSAULT at the Zoo; IAN LA RUE, YOZA and NOVA at the Lo Pub; THE SMITHFITS at the Royal Albert Arms; AMBER EPP at the West End Cultural Centre; and MORE THAN A HAND, VELA and IRREVERSIBLE at Ozzy's.

On Saturday, April 16, RECORD STORE DAY is happening at your favourite music suppliers with various performances; STEVE BELL and his band are joined by the WSO at the Centennial Concert Hall; FLYING FOX & THE HUNTER-GATHERERS are at the West End Cultural Centre releasing their debut full-length; Supernova's 'Peg Sessions Battle of the Bands takes place at the Zoo; DJ DEKO-ZE is spinning at Pure Nightclub; A BROKEN SUMMER releases their album at the Park Theatre with The ALL NIGHT.

There is a KNUT HAUGSOEN tribute and CD release at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on Monday, April 18.

DUZHEKNEW and COUSINS entertain at the Lo Pub on Tuesday, April 19.

GREG REKUS plays at Pyramid on April 20.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21 to WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Thursday, April 21 has the ROOTS IN FLUENTS at the Zoo;

COSMO BAKER at the Pyramid; BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE CHINA, PUTESCENCE, WOLBACHIA, OF HUMAN BONDAGE and ANTI-KATHERA at the Royal Albert Arms; IAN LA RUE and ULTRA-MEGA at the Lo Pub; KID KOALA with MAGNUM K.I. at the West End Cultural Centre; and THE PERPETRATORS and THE BOT-TLE ROCKETS at the Times Change(d).

On Saturday, April 23, Bass Invaders returns to the Zoo and MATT EPP & AMORIAN ASSEMBLY launch an album at the West End Cultural Centre.

JOHN MELLENAMP is performing at the Centennial Concert Hall on Monday, April 25, while HOLY GRAIL and CAULDRON get all medieval at the Royal Albert Arms.

THE SHANTYTOWN FUNDRAISER CONCERT happens Tuesday, April 26 at the Academy, featuring ZOPPA, FRIESO, THE HUMAN CREATURES and EMILY HAJER.

THE PIXIES are playing at the Centennial Concert Hall on April 26 and 27, with IMAGINARY CITIES opening.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 to WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

SCOTT NOLAN is releasing his new album at the Park Theatre on April 28.

On Friday, April 29, Listen Local-Grow Global 2 takes place at the West End Cultural Centre featuring performances by FLO, CROOKED BROTHERS and RWANDAN DANCERS; JPOD, The Beat Chef, spins at the Osborne Village Zoo; and MAD YOUNG DARLINGS, NEW RESISTANCE and ABSTRACT THE ARTIST are at Ozzy's.

Saturday, April 30, has EYAM, DAMASCUS, OUT OF RUINS and SCARLET HALO at the Osborne Village Zoo; GEOFF BERNER and JASON WEBLEY squeezing boxes at the West End; and BALANCED RECORDS at SITE Studios in the Exchange.

On Tuesday, May 3, OLD MAN LUEDKE and LADIES OF THE CANYON perform at the Park Theatre.

THURSDAY, MAY 5 to WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

On May 5, BILL MEDLEY of the RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS performs at the McPhillips Station Casino; and CANCER BATS and WASTER are playing at the West End Cultural Centre.

IAN LA RUE and SALINAS are at the Lo Pub on Friday, May 6. IN TRANSFORMATION performs at the Pyramid on Saturday, May 7.

On May 9, ARCHITECTS, DEAD & DIVINE, CITY FALL, THE ALL NIGHT and COUNTERPARTS play at the West End Cultural Centre.

BILLY OCEAN is entertaining at the McPhillips Station Casino on May 11.

FRONT LINE ASSEMBLY and VARDENSPHERE TECH NINE are playing at the Pyramid Cabaret on Monday, May 16.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEON INDIAN is performing at the Pyramid Cabaret on May 20.

SHARON JONES and the DAP-KINGS are playing the Garrick

Centre on May 20.

MERZBOW performs at the Royal Albert Arms on May 22.

ANVIL brings the metal to the Royal Albert Arms on May 24.

TIMBER TIMBRE plays the Park Theatre on May 26.

HAYES CARLL is performing at the West End Cultural Centre on May 29.

WYNTON MARSALIS performs at the Centennial Concert Hall on June 14.

BRIAN WILSON performs Gershwin songs and some of his own at the Pantages Playhouse on June 22.

PINK MARTINI plays at the Centennial Concert Hall on June 25.

THE BLACK KEYS turn the MTS Centre into a garage on July 2.

From July 6 to July 10, the WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL at Birds Hill Park will have performances by BLUE RODEO, TEGAN & SARA, TOOTS & THE MAYTALS, LITTLE FEET, K.D. LANG & THE SISS BOOM BANG, THE JAYHAWKS, M. WARD, THE DEL MCCOURY BAND with the PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND, CARACOL, THE TOM FUN ORCHESTRA, TRAMPLED BY TURTLES, THE BE GOOD TANYAS, THE FUNKY METERS, CARAVAN PALACE, a special TRIBUTE TO BILL MONROE and locals OH MY DARING, SCOTT NOLAN, DJs HUNNICUTT and MAMA CUTSWORTH, TWILIGHT HOTEL, CROOKED BROTHERS, IMAGINARY CITIES and much, much more.

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University of Winnipeg

ABORIGINAL STUDENT COUNCIL 7TH ANNUAL SPRING POWWOW

IN HONOUR OF OUR 2011 GRADUATES AND LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Friday April 15th, 2011 @ the Duckworth Centre

Open to the Public & Free Admission

Pipe Ceremony at 11 am

Grand Entry at 1 pm & 7 pm

Community Feast at 5 pm

MC: Ray "CoCo" Stevenson Co-MC: Mel Starr

Arena Director: Terrance Goodwill

Host Drum: Whitehorse Singers

Dance Specials in all age categories

Men/Women/Mixed Hand Drum Contest

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Arts and Crafts Vendors (Please contact

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For more information contact the UWASC Powwow Coordinators
Rachel Green (204) 779-2925 or Margo Cobiness (204) 416-4265 or email uwpowwow@hotmail.com

Created and designed by Rachel Green

www.uniter.ca

Winnipeg's one-hit wonders

They were supposed to be the next big thing. Where did they go?

CATHERINE VAN REENEN
CULTURE REPORTER

Neil Young, The Weakerthans and The Guess Who are just a few of Winnipeg's successful musical talents – so maybe that's why Winnipegers are so often convinced that they've birthed the next big musical act.

The following are a few of the musicians and songs that we thought were going to get added to the list of Winnipeg music legends, and then disappeared into a world of post-mainstream oblivion.

Remy Shand

Rock Steady, Take A Message (2002)

After proving that the Prairies have soul in 2002 with his album *The Way I Feel* and hits like *Rock Steady* and *Take a Message*, Shand was awarded the Juno for Best R&B/Soul Recording and was nominated for four Grammies.

We all fell in love with Remy's weird hat and impossibly high-pitched vocals, but shortly after announcing that he was recording a new album in 2003, he seemingly disappeared off the face of the planet.

Perhaps his disappearance is due to personal problems over the past few years: he divorced his wife in 2009 and his mother Lana Shand (who owned clothing store *Vintage Glory* in the Exchange District with her husband) died of cancer in 2010.

McMaster and James

Thank You (2000)

The year 2000 brought about a blur

of boy bands, but McMaster and James stood out with their lack of frosted tips and catchy yet genuine love songs.

Their self-titled debut album went gold in Canada with hits like *Thank You*, *Love Wins Everytime*, *Sweet Sensation* and *I Understand*, and the duo opened for Christina Aguilera and 'N Sync.

Unfortunately, McMaster and James never made beautiful music together again, but both of them have continued pursuing their respective careers.

Rob James made it to the final seven contestants on *Canadian Idol* in 2006, and Luke McMaster is still making music for his solo career and has written and produced songs for other artists, like Rihanna and Nick Lachey.

Jet Set Satellite

Baby, Cool Your Jets, Best Way to Die (2000)

The boys of Jet Set Satellite quenched our thirst for something a little more rock 'n' roll than all the other poppy boy bands couldn't quite achieve – granted, it's hard to play an instrument while performing choreographed dance moves. *Best Way to Die* and *Baby, Cool Your Jets* perfected the generic angst sound and are considered underrated gems – but only by Canadians.

After leaving their label in 2003, Jet Set Satellite released two independent albums, *Vegas* in 2005 and *End of an Era* in 2008, but no one ever really knew they existed.

According to the band's Facebook page, each member is currently working on solo projects and vocalist Trevor Tuminski is now the associate editor of a horror culture



ARANDA ADAMS

magazine called *Rue Morgue*.

Tal Bachman

She's So High (1999)

Randy Bachman's kid sweetly serenaded us with a song about a normal guy not having a chance with a *hi-e-iii-igh* class girl that accompanied one of the most memorable music videos for any Canadian kid who grew up staring at Much Music every night.

Tal's hit single *She's So High* reached number one on Canadian radio and was a top 10 hit in the U.S. He released a second album in 2004, but it was not greeted with the same enthusiasm as his debut.

Tal has since written for vari-

ous magazines and appeared in Bill Maher's documentary *Religulous* to talk about his experiences as a former member of the Jesus Christ Church of Latter-Day Saints, but his post-mainstream music career has not been very active. According to his blog, he's married, has kids and plays rugby, though.

Crash Test Dummies

Superman Song (1991)

Twenty years ago, a startlingly deep, baritone voice crawled out of Winnipeg's woodwork and told us just how superior Superman is to Tarzan.

The Crash Test Dummies sounded close enough to grunge

that Winnipegers felt like they were part of the cultural movement, too. The popularity of the single won the Crash Test Dummies the Juno for Group of the Year, but their subsequent release *God Shuffled His Feet* was more popular in the U.S. than in Canada.

The band has now released a total of nine albums, including a Christmas album and last year's release *Oooh La-La!*, but their success level is stagnant. The Dummies are still touring this year, so it looks like there's a good chunk of hardcore fans that are still willing to pay to see them and will never admit that these guys only had one hugely successful song.

State of the arts

Continued from page 15

Hey Mike,

I actually think there are a ton of talented people in Winnipeg who will take risks for their own art, and I think the local community is totally supportive of them when they do – but those risk takers and innovative voices tend to leave.

Matthew Rankin and Daniel Barrow come to mind, from the film/video side of things, but even they are drawn back to Winnipeg again and again because of the support that exists there. It really is unique.

So without that support, Winnipeg would be shit out of luck. Instead, artists there are given a life-line. And I think there are more resources for curators and presenters now too, which helps keep the life-blood pumping, because it allows for interplay between Winnipeg artists

and visiting artists – which is integral to Winnipeg's artistic development.

So there is hope—as long as you can stomach the winter!

Kier-La

Hey Kier-La,

I totally agree that there are lots of risk takers in Winnipeg. Our visual arts, theatre and literary circles are filled with artists who bravely make both challenging and relevant art.

It's primarily the music scene that my critique is aimed at, where development and funding support has been primarily focused towards marketability rather than artistic development.

I'm constantly amazed at the quality of work coming from our galleries, theatres and authors.

My hope is that more dialogue will continue to grow between Winnipeg artists of different disciplines and that we can collectively build on our natural strengths.

There are lots of signs of life and an overarching quality of work rarely found in a city this size.

While I think there is definitely room for artistic broadening of the local music scene, perhaps the answers lie in looking deeper into what makes the rest of the Winnipeg arts community tick.

But the common thread that I see throughout is an understanding of our history, commitment to ongoing support for all arts and pride in being a Winnipeg artist.

And that puts us in a pretty great position going forward.

Mike



LIVE MUSIC THIS WEEK: CURTIS NOWOSAD

Make way for the smooth jazz drums of Curtis Nowosad, whose modesty does little to distract from his success.

"I'm just another musician on the scene," said Nowosad during a phone interview.

For just another musician, Nowosad has already proved his worth all over Canada, performing in Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg and other cities.

The 22-year-old student is one assignment away from his music degree from the University of Manitoba and is preparing for life post-graduation.

"I want to just keep trying to get better at playing, tour more, get involved with more recording and touring projects," he said.

A recent string of gigs at Aqua Books has seen Nowosad and his trio collaborating with a variety of other Winnipeg musicians, including Steve Bell and Vanessa Kuzina. This weekend, Nowosad's trio will perform with Michael Petkau Falk of Les Jupes.

Nowosad said he's stoked to perform with Petkau Falk.

"It's an unlikely combination with the man who invented unlikely combinations," he said. "I am super excited to play with Mike first and foremost."

Nowosad says the great part about jazz is combining personalities to create something new every time.

"Jazz allows me to fully express myself because it's an improvised music. There's a certain amount of freedom in it and a strong sense of community," he said, adding that everyone has a good time playing and interpreting the music together.

"You have to be completely open with what's going to happen," he said.

Catch The Curtis Nowosad Trio with Michael Petkau Falk on Friday, April 9 at 8 p.m. at Aqua Books (274 Garry St.).

- SARA SHYIAK

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LISTINGS

FILM

ANOTHER YEAR plays at Cinematheque until March 31.

THE GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL is accepting submissions until April 1. Submissions may be fiction, documentary, animation or experimental. A short film must be less than 60 minutes long. Films must be completed after Jan. 1, 2009.

The CANNES LIONS COMMERCIALS return to the Winnipeg Art Gallery on April 1 and 2.

The University of Winnipeg Department of Theatre and Film invites submissions for its 9TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL. Submission forms are available on the University of Winnipeg campus at the UWSA Info Booth (Main Floor, Centennial Hall) and the office of the Department of Theatre and Film (Room 3T03) or on the web at theatre.uwinnipeg.ca. The deadline is April 4.

Cinematheque will screen THE MOUNTAIN THIEF from April 1 to 7, UNCLE BOONMEE WHO CAN RECALL HIS PAST LIVES and A MAN WITHIN from April 8 to 14, SOUNDTRACKER from April 15 to 21, MODRA and THE TOPP TWINS: UNTOUCHABLE GIRLS from April 22 to 28.

On Saturday, April 16, the Winnipeg Film Group will honour Larry Desrochers and his contribution to Winnipeg filmmaking and the arts. 7:30 p.m. at Cinematheque.

PLASTIC PAPER is an international festival of animated, illustrated and puppet film that will celebrate its second edition from May 4 to May 7 at the Park Theatre.

WNDX, Winnipeg's Festival of Film and Video Art, is seeking new Canadian and international films and videos for their next edition, to be held Sept. 29 to Oct. 2. Submission deadline is May 13 and forms are available at www.wndx.org.

LITERATURE

JONATHAN GARFINKEL and DANIELLA PONTICELLI read at Aqua Books on Wednesday, April 6.

On Thursday, April 7, Aqua Books hosts readings by nominees for the MARGARET LAURENCE AWARD FOR FICTION.

The CALL FOR ENTRIES for the Chandler Award for Student Religion Writer of the Year deadline is May 2. Visit www.RNA.org for more information.

Prairie Fire Press and McNally Robinson Book-sellers present the 2011 ANNUAL WRITING CONTESTS. Cash Prizes. Deadline is November 30. For full contest rules check out www.prairiefire.ca.

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

Plug In ICA will hold their ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Thursday, March 31 at 6 p.m.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery is becoming a menagerie of sorts with a new exhibition, BESTIAL ENCOUNTERS, which will have a free public opening at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 31. It continues until June 12.

At 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, Plug In ICA will mark the passing of former Winnipeg artist Gordon Lebrett and launch the publication GORDON LEBRETT: NONWORKS 1975-2008, co-published by Plug In Editions and the Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art, and distributed by Art Metropole.

The Outworks Gallery presents THAW from April 1 to April 9.

Gallery 1C03 presents Robert Kelly's MINUTIA until Saturday, April 2.

H200HHH, an art exhibition by RODNEY S. BRAUN, will be at Pixels 2.1 Gallery, 217 McDermot Ave., until Saturday, April 9.

Aceartinc will host MY LIFE WITH PAMELA ANDERSON AND OTHER WORK by KRISTIN NELSON until April 9.

COSMOMANIA: THE INCREDIBLE SPACE ADVENTURE examines the past 50 years of space exploration - from Sputnik, the first satellite, and the first human flight by Yuri Gagarin on April 12, 1961 to the present-day International Space Station. The exhibition will be up at the

Manitoba Museum until Sunday, April 17 and admission is free.

DYLAN MINER'S PROVISIONAL exhibition will be at the Urban Shaman Gallery until April 23.

THE NORMAN ART GROUP will be holding their 32nd annual ART SHOW & SALE on April 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and May 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at George Waters Middle School.

Plug In ICA will be hosting the exhibition CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: THE NEXT 500 YEARS until May 8.

The Manitoba Museum is proud to host TITANIC: THE MANITOBA CONNECTION exhibition, which will run until Sept. 5.

The deadline for the WINNIPEG ARTS COUNCIL'S INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT PROGRAMS is Sept. 6.

FIRST FRIDAYS in the Exchange has the galleries, cafés and small businesses open their doors to visitors the first Friday of every month from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

THEATRE, DANCE & COMEDY

AMRINDER GILL is performing at the Centennial Concert Hall on Friday, April 1. 7:30 p.m.

THE WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL runs from April 1 to April 9. For a list of performers, showtimes and tickets visit www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com.

The 11th annual FESTIVAL OF FOOLS takes place at the Forks Market until April 2.

Theatre Projects Manitoba is performing The MOONLIGHT SONATA OF BEETHOVEN BLATZ from April 7 to April 17.

CALENDAR GIRLS by Tim Firth will be on stage at the MTC's John Hirsch Theatre until Saturday, April 9.

Sunday night open mic comedy is at the Cavern, featuring JOHN B. DUFF.

Every Tuesday night, head down to the King's Head Pub for a free comedy performance.

The open mic comedy night at the Standard is hosted by MIKE GREEN and happens every Thursday at 8:30 p.m.

Comedy night with SCOUTS MCTAVISH goes down every Thursday at Shannon's Irish Pub.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Winnipeg Afro-Aboriginal Cross Cultural Association will hold their SECOND ANNIVERSARY PARTY at the West End Cultural Centre on Thursday, April 7.

Law Day 2011 marks the 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, and will feature an open house at the Winnipeg Law Courts, 408 York Ave. on Sunday, April 17 from noon to 3:30 p.m.

The University of Winnipeg ANNUAL SPRING POWWOW takes place on April 15 at 1 p.m. in the Duckworth Centre.

Have a great idea that would encourage your community to become a better place? Submit it to Tiber River Naturals' TIBER REVOLUTION CHALLENGE and you could win - and make a difference in your community. Prizes include a Tiber Pamper Package, fitness boot camps and scrumptious product. Email info@tiberriver.ca or call 474-2333 for more details.

The WINNIPEG LABOUR CHOIR is looking for new members to join a small core of like-minded, enthusiastic singers. Through music and drama, their goal is to educate others about working conditions, labour history and social justice. There are no auditions or tryouts. Meet every Wednesday at Sargent Park School from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the music room. For further details contact Lynn McLean at 772-2072.

ON CAMPUS

Gallery 1C03 presents Robert Kelly's MINUTIA until Saturday, April 2.

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG DOWNTOWN VOCAL JAZZ CHOIR meet every Sunday at 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall and have concerts at the end of each semester.

You can find updates for current job opportunities at the university by going to this link: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/hr-ss-pos-vac.html>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TUNE IN is the West End Cultural Centre's free after-school music lesson program for local neighbourhood youth. It has become so popular that they are in need of more guitars. If you have an underused guitar that you would consider donating, they have a room full of kids every Tuesday and Thursday that will appreciate and benefit from it. Please contact jason@wecc.ca or visit www.wecc.ca.

The NEEDS Centre is seeking volunteer classroom assistants, activity assistants, mentors and homework helpers for immigrant and refugee youth aged 6 - 18. Programs run Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. year round. Contact Sheila at volunteers@needsinc.ca or 940-1279 for more information.

Nominations for the 28th annual VOLUNTEER AWARDS are open. The Gala Awards Dinner is on Wednesday, April 27. Visit www.volunteermanitoba.ca for more details.

REACHING ACROSS BORDERS raises funds for women's literacy, small business development and for student scholarships in a small community in Africa. We have been working with this community for the past eight years. If you would like more information, please contact Marilyn Joyal at mljoyal@shaw.ca or 255-4556.

The HUMANITARIAN ISSUES PROGRAM of the Canadian Red Cross seeks youth volunteers ages 15 to 25 to work on campaigns and events around themes such as children in conflict, refugee and migrant issues and international development. For more information, email mb.volunteer@redcross.ca or call 982-6731.

CKUW 95.9 FM is seeking volunteers for the music and news departments, and hosts for programs. Email ckuw@uwinipeg.ca.

THE WEST BROADWAY YOUTH OUTREACH CENTRE is always looking for more volunteers to help with a variety of programs including sports, tutoring and other programs to benefit inner-city youth. Call 774-0451 or stop by 222 Furby St. to offer your skills.



Annual Meeting of the Membership Mouseland Press Inc.

7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011

Room 1L06, The University of Winnipeg

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

4. Managing Editor and Business Manager Reports

5. Approval of 2011-2012 Budget

6. By-Law Changes

7. Nomination of New Board of Directors

a) Robert Galston

b) Sara McGregor

c) Peter Ives

d) Karmen Wells

8. Election of New Board Members

9. Nomination of Chair

a) Michael Rac

10. Election of Chair

11. Setting of Initial Board of Directors Meeting

12. Presentation to Outgoing Board Members

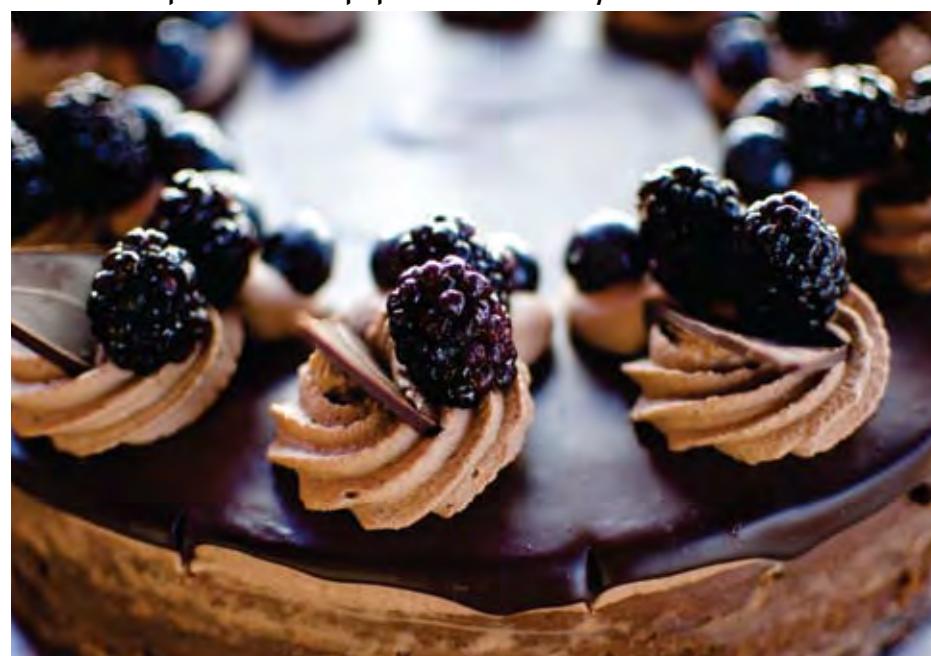
13. Adjournment

All *Uniter* staff, contributors and past members are welcome to attend. If you have contributed to three or more issues of *The Uniter* during the 2010/2011 school year, you are automatically a member of Mouseland Press Inc. and have voting rights at this meeting.

MOUSELAND PRESS ~

Covered in chocolate, oozing with flavour

A roundup of the top places to fix your sweet-tooth cravings



CINDY TITUS



JORDAN JANISSE

Left: Premium chocolate raspberry cheesecake from Dessert Sinsations. Right: Cheesecake from Baked Expectations. Bottom: Crepes from Kawaii Crepe.

SARA SHYIAK VOLUNTEER STAFF

From treats smothered in chocolate to coffee specials oozing with flavour, Winnipeg has several great dessert cafés.

There is nothing better after a long day of summer classes than grabbing a slice of something delectable.

Instead of dropping your cash at a Starbucks or another chain store, send some support in the way of local business owners.

Just a hop, skip and a jump away from the University of Winnipeg, you'll find Dessert Sinsations, Baked Expectations and Kawaii Crepe bursting at the seams with great food and friendly atmosphere.

Dessert Sinsations

505 St. Mary Ave.

Right behind the Winnipeg Art Gallery is a diner filled with twinkling lights and decadent desserts.

This dessert café offers a variety of tortes, cakes, cookies, dainties, as well as entrees, appetizers, sandwiches and a bar of wines, beers, liqueurs and specialty coffees.

The coffee menu is delicious; the caramel latte I had was the perfect accompaniment to any dessert, particularly the delectable zebra brownie. They have many tea and coffee options as well as a low fat latte.

The prices are a little steep for students, and Dessert Sinsations posts that they reserve the right to charge a minimum of \$8 per person. Cappuccinos, hot chocolate and lattes are \$4 or more for a cup. Slices of cake are at least \$8 and so are slices of pie.

Dessert Sinsations has alternative options

for celiacs, vegans and diabetics. The dessert options are rotated every day so you'll always have a fresh batch of choices.

The turnover at Sinsations is fast and efficient. You'll be enjoying your food with your closest friends and the rest of the café too because it's busy and loud, but the hustle and bustle can make for a great place to socialize.

Baked Expectations

161 Osborne St.

You're not really a Winnipegger if you've never ventured into the Village to this sweet treat hot spot.

Baked Expectations has a full menu of cheesecake, tortes, cakes and a few other delicacies. They offer a full meal menu, alcohol, hot drinks and even some cold ones.

Baked is a little more affordable with capuccinos, lattes and other hot drinks ringing in at \$3.95 for a regular cup and \$4.50 for their larger size. A slice of anything they have will never cost you more than \$7.50 and they are one of the few places you can still buy a Jones soda.

If you like chocolate chip cookies and have never had the Tia Maria Torte, I encourage you to hit Osborne right now because it is melt-in-your-mouth good. The Oreo cookie cheesecake will fill any cake lover's mouth with joy.

Vegans, celiacs and diabetics have to be careful here as there are no desserts marked especially for them.

Kawaii Crepe

201-99 Osborne St.

A newer addition to the downtown dessert-café family is Kawaii Crepe. For a place that offers only crepes to eat, they sure have

a large menu.

Kawaii has a tasty menu with sweet and savoury options for the stuffing of your crepes. They have everything from a breakfast crepe, to a spinach crepe to, my favourite, the dessert crepe.

Drink options include various coffees and pops, freshly squeezed orange juice, bubble tea and a cold smoothie-like drink, the Chocolate Temptation.

Must try: the s'more crepe. Ooey gooey melted marshmallows, thick layers of Nutella and bite-sized graham crackers all wrapped up in a warm crepe will have you ordering two.

Compared to other dessert café spots, Kawaii is dirt cheap. You won't pay over \$6.95 for a crepe and many of their menu items are as low as \$3.95. Drinks are all under \$4.50, most are around \$2.

The atmosphere at Kawaii is fun and bubbly, from the staff, the cutesy crepe names to the bright coloured decoration.

Kawaii offers a gluten-free crepe for celiacs and a multigrain one for the health nuts. You can also make your own crepe combo with any of their ingredients.

Cupcake Corner

439 Stradbrook Ave.

Who knew there could be so many different flavours of cupcakes? The bakers at Cupcake Corner sure did.

The Cupcake Corner is exactly that — a bakery filled with cupcakes in all different flavours. From chocolate cake with peanut butter icing to red velvet with vanilla icing and everything in between: mint, strawberry, coconut in mini cupcakes, regular cupcakes, giant cupcakes and specialty cakes.

Everything about this place screams flavour, from the whipped flavourful icing to the colourful sprinkles. The creativity behind the vast list of flavours is untouched and the presentation is ideal.

The Cupcake Corner is all about quality. Every single cupcake in their display case was baked fresh that morning, no exceptions.

Prices are about average for this type of sweet — regular cupcakes are \$3 for one, \$27 for a dozen and mini cupcakes sell for \$1.75 each or \$16 for a dozen.

A trick if you're looking to save: go early in the day. They usually have day old, discount cupcakes that still taste delicious and save your wallet.

The staff at the Cupcake Corner are happy and helpful. They're eager to make sure you have a good experience and are anything but pushy salespeople.

This cupcake nook has no seating and no drink menu. So grab a milk to go at the Shell nearby and find a place to savor your goods.



JORDAN JANISSE

Burrito del Rio serves convenient, quick Mexican cuisine in the Village



SAMUEL SWANSON VOLUNTEER STAFF

Burrito del Rio

433 River Ave.

Just off Osborne, hidden behind the Gas Station Theatre, Burrito del Rio greets you with neon words on a sign, reading: "Tacos — Burritos — Cerveja" — which is great because the restaurant lets you know it has a liquor licence as you walk by, but keeps the secret from those without elementary Spanish.

The food menu consists of various burritos (\$7 to \$11), tacos (\$3), quesadillas (\$8) and the naked burrito, which scraps the tortilla and places the burrito fillings in a bowl (\$7 to \$8).

Inside, Burrito del Rio is decorated with myriad cliché Mexican images on one wall that leads up to a fake roof inside the place — with scrapwood shingles to give the visitor the low-income Mexican neighbourhood feel.

It's loud inside, and sound has a way of bouncing off the red walls and Mexican posters. It's not a good place for secrets/gossip for this reason.

At a nearby table, I could quite clearly *comprendo* a conversation being had by two girls about cheating on their boyfriends.

I had a mediano (as opposed to grandé) Pollo Achiote

burrito, described as "roast chicken marinated in a citrus achiote sauce," along with a bottled orange Jarrito, a Mexican soda and a chicken quesadilla.

The taste of both the burrito and the soda were both very subtle. There are options of hot salsas and sauces, so it is suitable for spicy eaters as well as amigos with sensitive palates.

The very friendly employees put your burrito together in the Subway-famous format where, after you choose your food, they walk you from one end of the sneeze guard to the other, asking what kind of beans you want, and whether you'd like rice, corn, cilantro, peppers, sauces, etc.

My burrito fell apart as I was eating it, as is the nature of burritos, so be sure to snag a fork if you're grabbing food to go.

Burrito del Rio is appropriate for all demographics and during my 30 minutes there, I saw many different people getting take-out and eating in.

Beside me sat a Mexican family who spoke Spanish. That made it feel authentic, but I'm not sure that happens often.

I liked them better than the cheating girlfriends, anyway.

One would be best advised to avoid Burrito del Rio at peak hours as it is very small, in a much-walked area, near the corner of Osborne and River.

As long as you're not bothered by the sound of many people talking in a small room, it's a fine stop for quick Mexican cuisine and cervejas at a reasonable price.

If you don't like noise and people, order to go.

AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

The Awards and Financial Aid staff of the University of Winnipeg provides the student body with current information on award opportunities. This information is updated weekly.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG AWARDS:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards>

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES APPLICATION EXPENSES BURSARY

The purpose of this bursary fund is to provide some assistance to students with respect to the high costs associated with applying to graduate and professional schools. Application forms are available from the Awards & Financial Aid Office in Student Services, Mezzanine-Graham Hall or on our website. Students may apply any time during the Fall/Winter academic year, provided that funding is available for this bursary. Applications will be evaluated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

AWARDS OFFERED BY EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

C.A.S.C. SCHOLARSHIPS

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) is calling for applications for the three Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) scholarships:

Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship - The Laidlaw Award, valued at \$1,000, is available to graduate students only. The award is based on the applicant's academic record, as well as on the importance of the proposed research activities to the development of the co-op movement in Canada or abroad.

Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship - The award, currently valued at \$3,000, is available to graduate students only. The award will be based on the applicants' academic records and on the importance of the proposed research activities to the development of the co-op movement in Canada or abroad.

Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award - Available to both undergraduate and graduate students, the Lemaire awards are intended to encourage students to undertake studies which will help them contribute to the development of co-operatives in Canada or elsewhere. Eligible candidates will have been involved with co-operatives, must demonstrate reasonable knowledge and understanding of co-op principles and their application, and be able to indicate how the proposed studies will contribute to the co-op movement. Full-time or part-time students, taking full- or partial-credit courses at any university or university-equivalent college are eligible to apply. Eligible candidates must take a minimum of one course about co-operatives. The bursaries will be awarded in multiples of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$3,000. The amount of the awards will be proportional to the significance and contribution of the studies to the advancement of co-operatives.

For all three scholarships, applicants must either undertake studies at Canadian universities or university-equivalent colleges (regardless of citizenship) or be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants studying at such institutions outside Canada. To be eligible to receive the award, recipients must undertake their proposed study within one calendar year of the fellowship being awarded. Application forms are available from their website www.coopscanada.coop/en/orphan/CASC-Scholarships.

Deadline: March 31, 2011

CANADIAN JAPANESE-MENNONITE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship was created as a tangible symbol of cooperation between Canadian Japanese and Canadian Mennonites, subsequent to a formal apology that was offered to Canadian Japanese by MCC Canada on behalf of Canadian Mennonites. It is intended to assist the protection of minority and human rights in Canada, and to reduce the potential for abuse of cultural minorities such as that suffered by Japanese Canadians during World War II. The \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to a student who is enrolled in a graduate degree program, a Canadian citizen studying at a university in Canada, and is engaged in research that will assist the protection of minority or human rights in Canada. To obtain an application package or for more information visit their website: <http://canada.mcc.org/scholarships>, or the Awards & Financial Aid office, Room OGM05 - Mezzanine of Graham Hall.

Deadline: April 1, 2011

RETAIL AS A CAREER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Retail Council of Canada, in partnership with industry sponsors, will award more than \$75,000 in scholarships and benefits to students entering or currently enrolled in a business, marketing or retail-related program at a Canadian post-secondary institution.

Students who receive the scholarships will not only benefit from financial assistance for their post-secondary education, but will also attend STORE 2011 in Toronto where they will have the opportunity to engage with the brightest professionals in the Canadian retail industry. A \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded by Interac Association to the top Retail as a Career Scholarship applicant, whose name will not be disclosed until STORE 2011. This year, 26 scholarships are available and one \$5,000 Interac Scholarship in addition to twenty-five (25) \$1,000 Industry-Sponsored Scholarships. To be considered for one of the scholarships applicants must meet the following criteria:

- * Enrolled full-time or part-time at a Canadian college or university in Fall 2011.
- * Pursuing a retail, business or marketing-related program.
- * Currently working part-time or full-time within the retail industry.

For application forms and instructions, please visit their website: www.retaileducation.ca.

Deadline: April 1, 2011

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Scholarship Program is one of the ways that Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada (GGC) recognizes girl and adult members who embody the mission and values of the organization. This program supports our "registered members" who continue in guiding while they pursue their education/training at a recognized post-secondary institution. Scholarships are conditional on acceptance to/or continuation of a full-time program at a recognized post-secondary institution of the applicant's choice. A scholarship will only be awarded when Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada has been notified of this acceptance. Visit www.girlguides.ca/scholarships for criteria and application forms.

Deadline: April 1, 2011

MANITOBA ROUND TABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

The Sustainable Development Scholarship assists post-secondary students who pursue studies or undertake research that embraces the spirit and principles of sustainable development. The scholarship is open to students in any field of study offered at an approved Manitoba post-secondary institution who will be attending full-time (60% or higher course load) in the 2011-2012 academic year and have a GPA of at least 3.5. These scholarships are not available to employees of the Province of Manitoba or their spouses, common-law partners or dependants. The scholarship consists of two single, non-renewable awards of \$1,000 for an undergraduate or college student. Application forms are available from the following website: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/susresmb/scholarship/apply.html>, or from the Awards & Financial Aid office, Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall.

Deadline: April 1, 2011

DESMOND CONACHER SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is offered in memory of Desmond Conacher, formerly Professor of Classics at Trinity College, Toronto, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and Honorary President of the Classical Association of Canada. Its purpose is to assist and encourage a young scholar entering graduate studies in classics. The scholarship is administered by the Classical Association of Canada through its Awards Committee. One award of \$2,500 is offered each year. Applicants must be Canadian students (citizens or permanent residents) intending to enter the first year of graduate studies in a classics or similar program at a Canadian university. Specializations within the general area of classics such as ancient history, ancient

philosophy and classical archaeology are eligible. Applicants must be less than 28 years of age on Jan. 1 of the year of application. The main criteria are academic achievement, professional promise and an appropriate undergraduate preparation. For more information or application procedures and form, please visit their website: http://cac-scc.ca/eng/desmond_conacher.html.

Deadline: April 11, 2011

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (BIAC) BURSARY

The BIAC Bursary Program is intended to assist students living with an acquired brain injury to pursue educational opportunities in English or French post-secondary institutions or apprenticeship/trades programs. Two bursaries of \$2,000 each will be awarded for each school year: one for studies in English and one in French. To be eligible for a BIAC Bursary, you must:

- * be a full-time student or be eligible to attend a Canadian post-secondary institution in a recognized program leading to a degree, certificate or diploma or recognized apprenticeship/trades programs
- * have sustained an acquired brain injury
- * be a Canadian citizen, Permanent Resident or Protected Person, within the meaning of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Please note that receiving a bursary may affect your eligibility for other forms of provincial financial assistance. If you wish to be considered for a bursary, you must complete the entire BIAC application form available on their website <http://biac-acl.ca>, or from the Awards & Financial Aid office, Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall. Information provided on your application will be shared with the Selection Committee panel in order to determine your eligibility.

Deadline: April 30, 2011

MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE SCHOLARSHIPS

Award funding is for full-time students attending accredited theatre schools, or university theatre programs, who intend to pursue a career in theatre. Eligible students are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants and residents of Manitoba, or have been residents of Manitoba for a significant period of their lives, who are enrolled full-time in accredited theatre training programs. NOTE: Part-time students and students enrolled in faculties of education, or programs of other artistic disciplines are NOT eligible. Application forms are available from the Awards & Financial Aid office, Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall or from their website: www.mtc.mb.ca.

Deadline: May 2, 2011

MARTIN MOSER SOCIETY FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES BURSARIES

Two bursaries of \$1500 are being offered to students enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate degree in theology or ministry. The applicant must be of Christian denomination enrolled or accepted in a recognized Canadian theological school with plans to exercise his/her ministry in Canada. For application forms and instructions, please visit the Awards & Financial Aid office, Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall. For inquiries, email: martinmoserbursary@gmail.com.

Deadline: May 13, 2011

JOHN GYLES EDUCATION AWARDS

The John Gyles Education Awards of up to \$3,000 are available each year to post-secondary students enrolled in any area studying in either Canada or the United States who are full Canadian or American citizens. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required, and criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need will be considered in the selection process. Applications and information are available online at www.johngyleseducationcenter.com, or the Awards & Financial Aid office, Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall.

Deadline: June 1, 2011

MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL STUDENT BURSARY PROGRAM

This program provides support for Manitoba students of the arts (crafts, dance, film/video, music, theatre, visual art, writing, arts journalism or arts administration) engaged in full-time, long-term study at a post-secondary institution in Canada or abroad, and who intend to pursue a career in the art form. Applicants must be registered for a full program for six months or more. Application forms and guidelines are available from their website: <http://arts council.mb.ca/2010/03/student-bursary-program/> or the Awards & Financial Aid office, Room OGM05, Mezzanine of Graham Hall.

Deadline: June 1, 2011

MANITOBA STUDENT AID PROGRAM (MSAP):

Application for the 2011 Spring/Summer session is now open. Students can apply online at www.manitobastudentaid.ca.

*New to the Student Aid program are a series of grants and bursaries:

- * Canada Student Grant for Students from Low-income Families
- * Canada Student Grant for Students from Middle-income Families
- * Canada Student Grant for Students with Dependents
- * Rural/Northern Bursary

These grants are the first money students will receive in their financial aid packages, before any loans are awarded. Many students may, in fact, receive the majority of their financial assistance in the form of grants.

Be sure to apply early and to submit all requested documentation as soon as possible to ensure that you receive all the grant funds for which you are eligible.

CONFIRMATION OF ENROLLMENT & RELEASE OF GOVERNMENT STUDENT AID DOCUMENTS

Approximately 3 weeks before classes begin, the Manitoba Student Aid Program (MSAP) will begin printing official assistance documents for students whose MSAP documentation and university course registration are in order. MSAP will mail the documents to students at the addresses they have provided on their MSAP applications. The document you receive will have been electronically approved by the Awards & Financial Aid Office. It will indicate the fees you owe to the University of Winnipeg. These fees will be deducted from your student aid.

If the document is a Canada Student Financial Assistance document, you should take it to an approved Canada Post outlet for forwarding to the National Student Loan Centre.

If the document is a Manitoba Student Aid document, you should forward it to the MSAP Loan Administration Department.

The National Student Loan Centre or the MSAP Loan Administration Department will process the document, transferring the fee payment portion directly to the university and depositing any additional balance to your account. Instructions on these processes will be included in your student aid document package.

COURSE LOAD

The minimum course load for which you must register to be eligible for any form of government student assistance is 60% of the maximum course load required for your study period.

- * 6-8 week long Spring/Summer session - 6 credit hour minimum
- * 9 weeks or longer Spring/Summer session - 9 credit hour minimum

You must maintain the appropriate minimum course load for your study period in order to retain your student assistance eligibility.

REGISTRATION AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION

If, in addition to University of Winnipeg courses, you are registered and taking courses elsewhere during the academic year for credit towards your University of Winnipeg degree, you must present proof of registration to the Awards & Financial Aid Office before your student assistance document can be authorized and released to you.

FEES PAYMENT

Your fees will be deducted from the student assistance document when it is electronically approved by the University. Government Student Aid is used first to meet educational costs. All overdue fees and emergency loans as well as fees for the current study period will be deducted from the student aid document. If your student assistance does not cover your required fee payment, you will have to make payment on your own by the fee payment deadline. Credits for scholarships you may be receiving will be used to reduce the amount of fees deducted from the student aid document.

FEES DEFERRAL

The Awards & Financial Aid Office can defer your fees if you have applied for Government Student Aid but have not received your confirmed assistance document by the fee payment deadline. Please refer to the Important Dates & Deadlines section.

* Fee deferral means that your registration will not be cancelled because of your failure to pay by the deadline.

* However, you will be charged the late payment fee unless you have submitted your Student Aid application in sufficient time for it to be processed by the payment deadline.

If your name is on the Awards & Financial Office fee deferral list but you withdraw from university courses, you will be responsible for the fees you owe until your actual date of withdrawal.

If you are out of funds before your next disbursement of Government Student Aid occurs, you can arrange for bridge financing from the university in the form of an emergency loan. Please call 786-9984 for an appointment.

DID YOU KNOW ... That Manitoba Student Aid staff can be on campus on Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. To meet with them, you need to set up an appointment time. Come to student services and book an appointment, or phone 786-9458 or 789-1420.

DID YOU KNOW ... You can check the status of your student aid application, find out what documentation is still outstanding, update your address information and much more online? Go to www.manitobastudentaid.ca and then to MySAO to log into your existing account.

DID YOU KNOW ... If you are a student who has had past Government Student Loans and are currently a full-time student but do not have a student loan this year, please fill out a Schedule 2 document to remain in non-payment status. Please come to Student Services in Graham Hall, where front counter staff can help you with this form.

REPAYING YOUR STUDENT LOANS(S)

There will be a National Student Loan representative at the University of Winnipeg on Monday, March 28 in Room 4M3760 - 4th Floor, Manitoba Hall from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. providing an information session on repaying your government student loans. It is open to the public and no registration is required.

Are you graduating or leaving school? Then it's time to take charge of your finances! Your government student loan(s) may come from the federal government and/or your provincial/territorial government. This means you could have more than one loan to pay back.

The National Student Loan Service Centre (NSLSC) will send your Consolidation Agreement by mail before you are required to start making payments. The Agreement sets the terms for the repayment of your Canada Student Loan; this is the federal portion of your loan. You'll have to make a number of decisions, including the type of interest rate and how long you'll take to repay your loan. Depending on your situation, you might also receive another Consolidation Agreement by mail for your provincial or territorial student loan.

You don't have to make any payments on your student loan(s) for the first six months after you leave school; however, interest will be added to your Canada Student Loan during these six months.

HELPING YOU REPAY YOUR LOAN

Missing payments can have serious and long-term consequences. Contact the NSLSC before you miss a payment. The federal government can provide you with a number of options, such as the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP). Visit CanLearn.ca to use the Repayment Assistance Estimator to see if you qualify.

STAY CONNECTED!

Sign up for an online NSLSC account on CanLearn.ca and ensure that the NSLSC has your up-to-date contact information.

For information on your student loan(s), contact the NSLSC at 1-888-815-4514 (TTY 1-888-815-4556).

For information on your provincial student loan(s), contact your provincial student financial aid office. For a complete list, visit www.canlearn.ca/eng/main/help/contact/cao.shtml.

OTHER AWARD WEBSITES:

Canada Student Loan program & other important information on finances and budgeting: www.canlearn.ca.

Crossword Puzzle 25

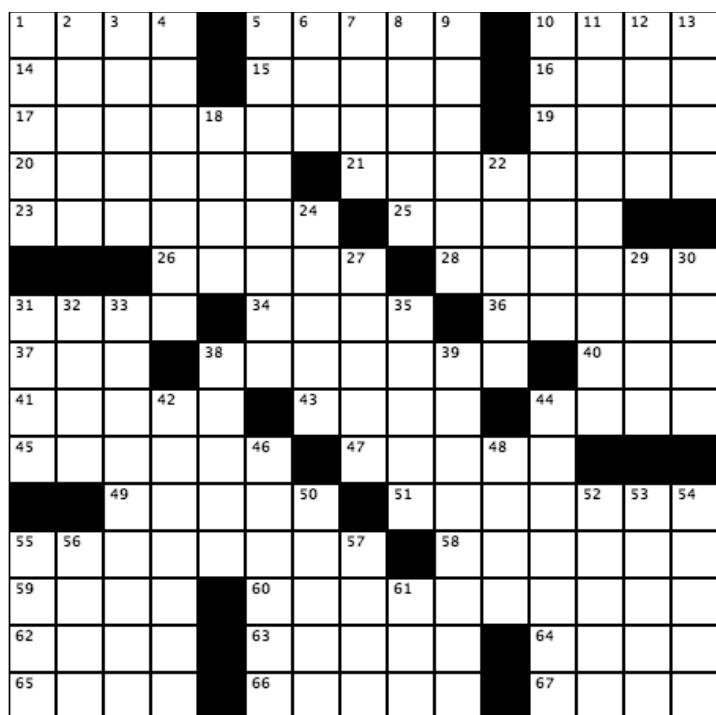
Solutions to this week's crossword are included in this week's issue.

Across

- 1- Head and shoulders sculpture
- 5- Milan's La —
- 10- Hang-up
- 14- Draft classification
- 15- Histological stain
- 16- Abound
- 17- Sleep disorder
- 19- Pearl Mosque city
- 20- Computer availability
- 21- Half-pike
- 23- Science of bodies at rest
- 25- Muzzle
- 26- Absolute
- 28- More spine-tingling
- 31- Drinks (as a cat)
- 34- Part of Q.E.D.
- 36- Not o'er
- 37- Author Umberto
- 38- Apprised
- 40- __ kwon do
- 41- Palpitate
- 43- Biblical birthright seller
- 44- Second letter of the Greek alphabet
- 45- Foursome
- 47- Diamond flaw?
- 49- Aspect
- 51- One playing alone
- 55- Vision in dim light
- 58- Tin alloy
- 59- Anklebones
- 60- Fertilize an animal
- 62- Presidential battleground state
- 63- Silk cotton
- 64- Netman Nastase
- 65- Auth. unknown
- 66- Habituate
- 67- Seemingly forever

Down

- 1- Additional pay
- 2- Not appropriate
- 3- Simmons rival
- 4- Roman historian
- 5- Chosen
- 6- Cedar Rapids college
- 7- Cairo cobras
- 8- Does a Daffy Duck impression
- 9- Whatever person
- 10- Height
- 11- Bargain
- 12- Dynamic beginning
- 13- Fed
- 18- Drop
- 22- Very much
- 24- Open a tennis match
- 27- Bluffer's ploy
- 29- Coup d'__
- 30- Greek fertility goddess, flightless bird
- 31- Riga resident
- 32- Dull pain
- 33- Case
- 35- Autocratic Russian rulers
- 38- Bahamian island
- 39- Continental inhabitant
- 42- Speech
- 44- Chocolate chewy cake
- 46- Portray
- 48- Designer Cassini
- 50- Stopwatch-holder
- 52- Author Calvino
- 53- Take hold
- 54- Forest makeup
- 55- Portico
- 56- "All the Way" lyricist Sammy
- 57- Capital city of Western Samoa
- 58- Baseball stat
- 59-
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- 64-
- 65-
- 66-
- 67-



BESTCROSSWORDS.COM



This week, J transforms into a grumpy old man

As some of you might know, new words have been added to the Oxford English Dictionary. This is done every year to make sure that the English language itself actually aligns with how the majority of people *use* the language.

I'm generally ambivalent when it comes to the addition of new words. It doesn't bother me if the new words happen to be ones that I don't use, because there are a buttload of words in the English language that I don't use.

I'm sure there is even one which would have encapsulated the meaning I had in mind for my last sentence far better than "buttload," but it's too late now.

Maybe I've got this all wrong. Maybe I should embrace the dumbing down of our language.

However, when I saw the list of new words being added this year, I did become a little perturbed. Included in the list of this year's inductees: OMG, LOL, IMHO and even BFF.

My problem with these new "words" does not stem from the fact that I don't use them.

Nor does it stem from the fact that I had to actually look up what IMHO stands for because I've never even seen it used before, never mind enough to warrant making it a new word.

My problem with these words is that they are not pronounced using the same phonetic system we apply to other words.

OMG, for example, is not pronounced like it looks, but rather more like "Oh Em Gee."

Granted, there are already many acronyms in the dictionary, at least some other such as "AIDS" have the common decency to be pronounceable.

What happens next year when the new batch of hip, new acronyms are added to the dictionary and one of them includes an "H?"

Let's say, for the sake of argument, that next year's acronyms include the instant classic, HDW (short for "hot dog water"), as in "OMG, who the H drank all the HDW?"

The problem arises when you consider the following: what the hell is the dictionary going to write beside it as a pronunciation guide? "Aitch Dee Double You"?

I've got a better idea. Instead of letting 12-year-olds on Twitter dictate the boundaries of our language, why don't we get off our asses and teach them how to speak it in the first place.

If kids these days had even an ounce of the work ethic that made our forefathers so great, then maybe they wouldn't be too goddamn lazy to type out the words "oh my god."

The way things have been going, we're conforming the English language to fit the way most people misuse it, instead of actually teaching people not to misuse it in the first place.

Who knows? Maybe I've got this all wrong. Maybe I should embrace the dumbing down of our language.

Maybe if we all get together and try to convince as many people as possible to say "axe" instead "ask," then we can change that too.

I axe you, would that really be that bad?

This article was dictated but not read by J. Willamez.

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All messages sent to IAM after April 29
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