

THE **U** NITER

FREE. WEEKLY.
VOLUME 68 // ISSUE 20 // FEBRUARY 13

THE FRIENDSHIP AND HAPPINESS ISSUE

Platonic Love

EVEN BETTER THAN THE REAL THING

by Melanie Dahling



IS YOUR LOCKER SAFE?

A look at University of Winnipeg safety

Against Me!

Wyrd Distro

Lennie Gallant

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

* ON THE COVER

Sparklers are fun, but more fun with your friends. Image by Daniel Crump.

DID YOU GUYS CATCH THAT BEATLES THING ON SUNDAY?

It's definitely crucial to mark an occasion as important as the "night that changed America" or whatever they called it, but I haven't seen anything as awkward since Bing and Bowie did a Christmas duet. Years later it's a camp classic, but this train wreck, which marked the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' *Ed Sullivan Show* performance, was two and a half hours of current celebrities making each other feel good while watching other current celebrities (those cutaways, the smiling faces of all your Billboard-charting favourites, ugh).

Every time there's a Beatles tribute, it misses the mark completely with artists. Hosted by LL Cool J (who seems to be owned by CBS at this point, whether he can read a prompter or not) the evening saw performances from Maroon 5, Pharrell Williams and Brad Paisley, Katy Perry and a slew of other people that nobody would ever associate with the fab four. The only exception would have been the subtle Joe Walsh/Jeff Lynne/Dhani Harrison performance of "Something" (and maybe Dave Grohl's enthusiasm) but otherwise it was a waste of time. In between the uncomfortable Letterman/Paul/Ringo chats could have sat performances from the Flaming Lips, Thao Nguyen, Aimee Mann, Ben Folds, Rufus Wainwright, Fiona Apple, Yoko and Sean, Elliott Smith's hologram ... really, anyone that actually showed an interest in/seemed influenced by the Beatles.

I guess when a band is that big we have to share it.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

KICK OFF FESTIVAL WITH THE FREE WEEKLY DOWNLOAD! VISIT UNITER.CA TO GRAB "THE ONE" FROM OUR FAVOURITE VOCAL JAZZ TRIO, COLLAGE-À-TROIS.

ALSO, CHECK OUT HARRISON SAMPHIR'S CHAT WITH RYAN HEMSWORTH ABOUT GUILT TRIPS AND PERFORMING IN A MALL.



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DANIEL CRUMP

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WHOSE HOUSE? GINAYA'S HOUSE.

BIG PICTURE

A focused Ginaya Jesmer is passionate about photography

TEXT + IMAGES BY KAITLYN EMSLIE FARRELL

ARTS REPORTER  @KEMSLIEFARRELL

Everyone and their dog is a “photographer” these days. Whether it’s for Facebook or your weekly (or hourly) Instagram selfie, you know how to point and snap. But, for Ginaya Jesmer, 19, photography is a passion, a career and a life.

“It’s always been something in my life. It just seems like it’s something I’m supposed to do,” Jesmer says.

Jesmer says she’s not concerned about the amount of people calling themselves photographers.

“The more time that goes by as I do photography, the more gigs I get, the better I get at it, the more passion I have for it,” Jesmer says. “I’m not really competing with other people, it’s more that I’m becoming better myself.

“A lot of people start doing photography and then they realize there’s the business aspect of it, there’s how you have to represent yourself, then, they just drop it as soon as it gets tough. For me, I like challenges.”

When she’s not taking photos, Jesmer likes to kick back with her two radio shows on CKUW 95.9 FM. *Static on the Prairies* airs Mondays at noon, while *Only Cowards Sing at Night* takes over the airwaves on Sundays at 5 pm.

Whether it’s photography or radio, entering a creative field can be difficult, but Jesmer has some advice.

“You definitely have to be passionate for it. If you don’t have passion you aren’t going to make it,” Jesmer says. “It’s a lot of networking, a lot of meeting people. If you’re passionate about it, pursue it. If you try hard enough, things generally work out for the best.”

1) POSTER

“That one I actually got at *Unmasked*. It was an art exhibit. The artists did five minute sketch paintings and that was one that they did.”

2) CDS

“Accumulated over the last year. A lot were given to me by bands or I got them at the concerts.”

3) BOOKS

“Those are my favourite artists. Really depressing stuff.”

4) CAMERAS

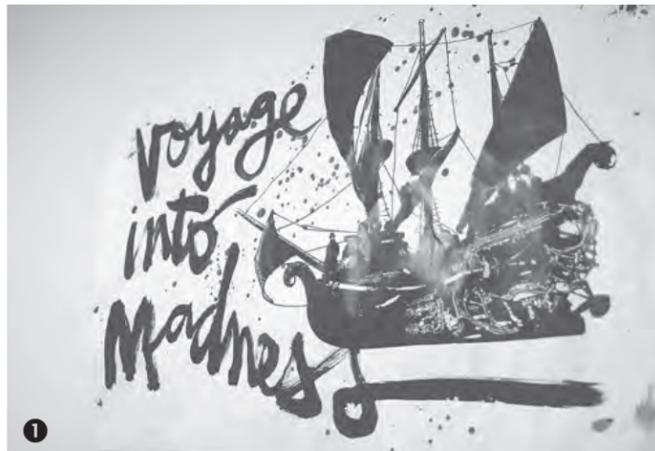
“Well, I’m me. The one on the left is a film camera given to me by my uncle. The other one is the one that I shoot with all the time, a Canon T3i. I want to upgrade soon.”

5) HEADDRESS

“Me and my friend made head dresses for photo shoots. It has horrible big ping pong balls holding it up.”

6) WOK

“I cook things in it from time to time, like stir fry and deliciousness.”





STUDENT DISPATCH

WITH **BILAN ARTE**

@BILANARTE

CHRIS YAKIMOV

The Conservative government of Canada has decided that your vote is unwanted. Lots of people like to talk about low youth voter turnout and the importance of engaging us in the political process. No one who cares about democratic participation would claim that Canada is at risk of having too many people voting – during the last elections, 61 percent of eligible voters cast ballots across the country, and only 49 percent in Winnipeg Centre – making it that much stranger that the government tabled the Fair Elections Act on February 4.

This Act does everything *except* make the elections process fairer. It undermines the independence of Elections Canada, it gives the winning candidate/party a leg up in the subsequent election, it makes it almost impossible for electoral investigations to be brought to light, it prohibits Elections Canada from trying to get people to actually vote, and it makes it harder

for entire communities to actually cast a ballot.

Of all the changes, students will likely be most directly impacted by the voter-suppressing changes to ID requirements. By tightening the voter ID rules, the Act will make it harder for particular classes of people to vote: those who move often like students, those in poverty, and those who are housing insecure. If you're studying/living in a riding that is different from your official registered address (eg. your parents' address), then you can't vote in the riding in which you live. If you want to do that, you'll have to change your address with the government every single time you move, even if you know you'll only be there for a short period of time. Because you never know when a snap election might be called (remember when there were three elections in four years back in the mid-2000s?).

These changes will affect over 100,000

people across the country, including thousands of students.

It's worth noting that these same changes were implemented in Tea Party states in the U.S. as a way of preventing those who are more likely to disagree with them (read: those most impacted by their policies and decisions) from getting to the polls. During the last election in Canada, the federal government shutdown advanced polling stations on campuses, even when one set up at the University of Guelph proved incredibly successful after only one day. High student turnout apparently scares the Conservative party (shocking, eh?).

It is clear that this Bill is not in the best interests of students and not in the best interests of Canadians or a fair and accessible electoral process. The government is trying to fast-track approval of the changes by shutting down debate, which should

tell you how much they want them passed.

We cannot let these changes happen, regardless of where we stand on the political spectrum. Youth, students and Canadians of all political stripes are working to push back against this Act. Organisations like the Canadian Federation of Students, the Council of Canadians and Leadnow are asking people to call or write to their MP to ask that they vote against the Bill. There is too much to lose if this Act passes, and it is our responsibility to let the government know that our votes will be cast, whether they want them or not.

Bilan Arte is Chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students-Manitoba. She previously served a term as President at the University of Manitoba Students' Union and has been involved in student activism in Manitoba for over three years. She is currently completing a degree in Political Studies and Criminology at the University of Manitoba.

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

THE UNITER HAS UNDERGONE SOME CHANGES, BUT WE STILL RELY HEAVILY ON STUDENT AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS!

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR WORK PUBLISHED, THIS IS THE BEST PLACE TO START.

To write campus or news stories, contact **City Editor Brian Lorraine** - brian@uniter.ca

All about the arts? Contact **Arts & Culture Editor Jared Story** - culture@uniter.ca

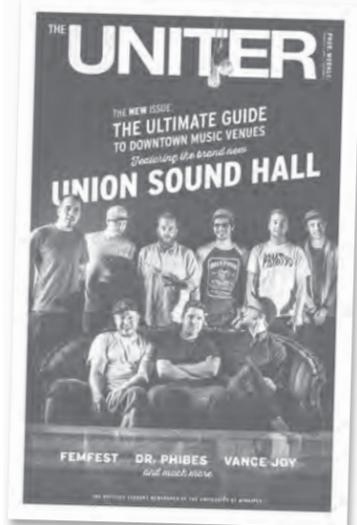
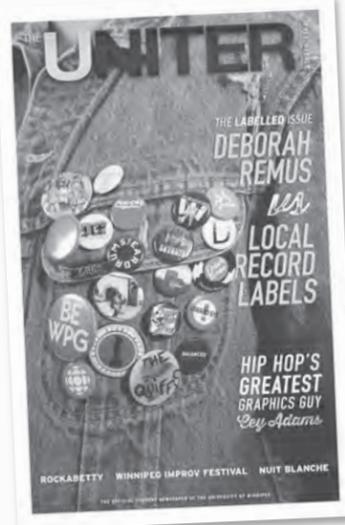
If you'd like to write a comments piece, contact **Senior Editor Harrison Samphir** - harry@uniter.ca

You're a budding photographer who wants to get your work seen? Hit up **Photo Editor Daniel Crump** - photo@uniter.ca

If you're an illustrator looking to broaden your portfolio, contact **Creative Director Ayame Ulrich** - designer@uniter.ca

To write CD reviews or ask general questions, email **Managing Editor Nicholas Friesen** - editor@uniter.ca

WE'RE HERE TO TELL STORIES AND MAKE CHANGES. GET INVOLVED!



ARE YOU A UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG STUDENT WHO WANTS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED ON CAMPUS?

MOUSELAND PRESS INC., publisher of *The Uniter*, is looking for new student directors to sit on its board.

Directors are required to attend regular member meetings, sit on a minimum of two committees, and contribute to the overall success of *The Uniter* and the Uniter Speakers Series.

Preference will be given to students who have experience dealing with budgets and accounting, and/or environmentally sustainable business practices.

If interested please send a cover letter and resume to Ben Wickstrom, Interim Chair of the Board, at board@uniter.ca.

MOUSELAND PRESS

ROCK OUT WITH YOUR CEINTURE FLÉCHÉE OUT

There's no shortage of good music at this year's Festival du Voyageur

DEBORAH REMUS

 @DEBORAHREMUS

ARTS REPORTER

Western Canada's largest winter festival is only getting bigger. A whopping 130 musical acts will be performing at Festival du Voyageur in 2014. The 45th annual celebration of Franco-Manitoban culture runs from Feb. 14-23 at Voyageur Park and various other sites in Winnipeg.

"We're growing every year and we try to get more bands. My big thing is promoting French music from all across Canada," says the Festival's 2014 artistic producer Julien Desaulniers.

"We've booked bands from Quebec, Ontario, Acadia and out west, while still supporting the local music scene. We have some great musicians right here in Winnipeg and we want to tap into that, so it's mostly local bands that will be playing."

Most of Festival's 10 venues are around the Voyageur Park site in St. Boniface and the Forks, with Club Regent Casino being the main exception.



collage-à-trois.

SUPPLIED

Desaulniers says the line-up he's put together varies greatly over the course of a day.

"During the daytime I'm looking for musicians that are family-friendly, lots of children's acts and music that everyone can enjoy in general like Sweet Alibi and Don Amero," he says. "At night it's totally different, we want to encourage everyone to come down and party. We've booked bands that are way more upbeat like Royal Canoe and The Lytics."

"We've got a lot of Francophone content, but we've also got some Anglophone artists. I personally get a lot of satisfaction from programming French bands at night and seeing people who don't even speak French rocking out."

One of the local Francophone acts playing is collage-à-trois, a folk/jazz/R&B trio that formed in 2011, released a self-titled EP in 2012 and will be playing its first Festival du Voyageur this year.

Justin Lacroix is another local singer-songwriter who's been at almost every Festival du Voyageur over the last decade. He recently released an album called *Still the Boy*.

"I was going to say the wood chip smell is my favourite thing about Festival, but playing in a tent in the winter is cool and there's always great energy in there," says Lacroix, 34. "It's a big event in the Francophone community and the turnout is usually great because of that."

While many of these musicians play other shows in the city throughout the year, Desaulniers says you should still catch them at Festival du Voyageur.

"A winter experience like this is totally unique and it's a great value," he says. "You're only playing \$28 for a 10-day pass and you can see 130 different bands, so I think the price just speaks for itself."



Festival du Voyageur runs from February 14 to 23 at Voyageur Park and various other venues.

Adult 10-day passes are \$28.

Adult day passes are \$15.

Head to www.festivalvoyageur.mb.ca for the full schedule and to buy tickets.

A MAN OF THE RED SOIL

Lennie Gallant is a proud promoter of PEI, his home and native land

LUKAS BENJAMIN THIESSEN

BEAT REPORTER

 @LUKASBENJAMINT

A native of Rustico, Prince Edward Island, folk singer-songwriter Lennie Gallant is a passionate representative of Canada's East Coast, and his forthcoming work *Searching for Abegweit: The Songs & Stories of Lennie Gallant* demonstrates that affection.

Abegweit is the name used by the Mi'kmaq for Prince Edward Island, and is translated as "cradled on the waves."

"The Mi'kmaq creation story holds that the Great Spirit Glooscap, after he created the world, took all the most beautiful colours of the world... and painted Prince Edward Island into existence," Gallant says.

"I chose to do this because I'm from PEI, my history goes way back here, my family history, and over the course of nine albums and various other projects, I've written a lot of songs that had something to do with PEI."

A Google search reveals Gallant to be listed at 34 years-old, but the artist told *The Uniter* that he's actually over 50 and that



SUPPLIED

the fake age is probably a joke.

Regardless of his birthday, he clearly uses his time wisely.

Gallant has released nine albums, seven in English and two in French. A member of the Order of Canada, Gallant has won 16 East Coast Music Awards, has received three Juno Award nominations, has performed at events in Washington, D.C. and Trafalgar Square in London, England and had his album *When We Get There* in space aboard the Shuttle Endeavour.

Gallant's French performance at the Centre culturel franco-manitobain (CCFM) on Saturday, Feb. 15 as part of Festival du Voyageur and will be recorded for Radio Canada's series, *Pour un soir seulement*.

Gallant will also perform a mostly

English show at the West End Cultural Centre on Sunday, Feb. 16.

For his Winnipeg dates, Gallant will be joined by a few accompanists, including his nephews Jeremy and Jonathan Gallant, on keys and drums respectively.

The singer says he'll likely perform some songs from the record *Searching for Abegweit* at the WECC. The full piece will be performed at the Charlottetown Festival this summer.

"This year coming up is a big anniversary for Prince Edward Island. It's the 150th anniversary of the big Charlottetown Conference, which is the birth of the idea of Canada," he says. "There are a lot of celebrations going on."



Gallant performs at Centre culturel franco-manitobain, Salle Pauline-Boutal on Feb. 15 at 8 pm is part of Festival du Voyageur, and at the West End Cultural Centre on Feb. 16 at 8 pm.

Festival du Voyageur passes are available at festivalvoyageur.mb.ca.

Tickets for WECC show are \$25 at the WECC, Music Trader, Winnipeg Folk Festival Music Store and Ticketmaster or \$30 at the door.

Visit lenniegallant.com.



GOLD SOUNDS



Kalle Mattson

Someday, the Moon Will be Gold
Parliament of Trees

★★★★☆

Recorded in his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., the fifth overall record from 22 year-old Kalle Mattson is a comfortable blend of delicate folk ballads and upbeat, jangling rock tunes that satisfies despite some forgettable moments. Inspired by the death of his mother, Mattson plays with themes of despair and hope, rejuvenation and spirituality on 12 expertly produced tracks by Gavin Gardiner (The Wooden Sky). Though the songwriting is well beyond his years, Mattson's lyrics have the tendency to either meander clumsily ("The Moon Is Gold") or deliver infectious hooks ("Pick Me Up"). The contrast is mostly to the album's credit and its weaker spots are reclaimed by some exceptional drumming and horn segments that expand the sound for listeners. Expect more great things soon from this young Canadian artist.

- Harrison Samphir



Old Man Luedecke

I Never Sang Before I Met You
True North Records

★★★★☆

"Baby, We'd Be Rich", the upbeat opening track from Juno winner Old Man Luedecke's new four song EP, sounds suspiciously like it could be found on fellow Nova Scotian Joel Plaskett's *Three* record, though it isn't so suspicious when you see Plaskett produced and played most of the instruments on these tunes. Recorded just last month, the EP holds two of Luedecke's classic banjo hummers ("Time Alone" and "Sorry If I Let You Down"), both of which host the whimsically melancholy vocal rasp and lyrics we've come to expect from the singer. The closer is a radio-unfriendly version of the opener, substituting the title for a chorus of "we'd be fuckin' rich." If he cranks out more of these recordings at this quick a pace, he likely won't be, but our souls will definitely benefit.

- Nicholas Friesen



Sons of York

Forever Potential
Independent

★★★★★

Opening with the devilishly handsome and chaotic title track, this EP from local quartet Sons of York is the latest in a long line of releases that showcase the type of honest power rock that for some reason hasn't made the Kennerd brothers + Darren Hebner household names. The six tunes, including such anthems as "Young Blood Unite" and a new version of the previously released "Smoke/Drink" were produced and fleshed out by Winnipeg pop genius/Indicator Indicator main man Sandy Taronno to near perfection. While some might come down on the band for a lack of diversity throughout its career, there's something to be said for consistency - the straight-up-rock formula Sons of York perfected long ago will outlast whatever fad hits the radio next week and lends a certain amount of credibility to the project (though there is diversity in the subtle "Answer" and moody "Sweet Sarah").

- Nicholas Friesen



UWSA PRESENTS

SNOWED IN

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14
PORTAGE PLACE

RYAN HEMSWORTH

(WEDIDIT, LAST GANG RECORDS)

AUDIOOPERA SMRT SURPRISE PARTY

☺ CKUW FUNDRISE ☺ WRAP-UP PARTY

10PM ENTER VIA EDMONTON ST. DOORS OR UNDERGROUND PARKADE

18+ W/ VALID ID | FREE WITH U OF W STUDENT CARD | OTHER GUESTS \$20

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GENERAL ELECTION 2014

VOTING TAKES PLACE MARCH 3-5 (MONDAY-WEDNESDAY)

Positions open for election

President
Vice-President Student Services
Vice-President Advocate
Vice-President Internal
Education Director
Science Director
Arts Director
Environmental Ethics Director
Community Liaison Director
LGBT+ Students Director
Canadian Federation of Students Liaison Director
Status of Women Director
Director of Student Living
Graduate Students Director
Business & Economics Director
International Students Director
Accessibility Services Director
Recreation & Athletics Director
Part-time/Mature Students Director
Accessibility Services Director
UWSA Scrutiny
UWSA Regents*

*NEW POSITIONS

All-Candidates Meeting

Friday, February 14, 12:30pm, UWSA Boardroom
Nomination forms & Referendum forms available February 1 in UWSA office and InfoBarth.
All times are Friday, February 14 @ 4:00pm

Deadline for submission of referendum

Friday, February 7 @ 4:00pm

UWSA
Questions? cec@theuwsa.ca



COLIN MEDLEY

KEEPING CANADA CREATIVE

Weird Canada website encourages, connects and champions Canadian artists

SAMANTHA SARTY

 @SARTYSARTY

VOLUNTEER STAFF

To keep the creative juices flowing in a subarctic country, Weird Canada provides a not-for-profit option of exposure on all artistic fronts.

Starting off with only 10 volunteers running the ship, the website weirdcanada.com has since been named the Best Music Website in Canada by CBC Radio 3 and has more than 350 contributors.

Weird Canada's reason for being is to encourage, document and connect creative expression across the country, with a focus on marginalized, DIY (do it yourself) and DIT (do it together) communities.

Weird Canada executive director Marie LeBlanc Flanagan says it all started in 2009 out of a campus music radio station (CJSR FM 88.5) in Edmonton, Alta.

"Weird Canada started out of a desire to document the flood of emerging and independent releases," Flanagan says. "In Canada, there was no place for anyone to discover this music, outside the tightly knit circle of music directors and music enthusiasts."

"We are an advertisement-free, bilingual exploration of Canadian emerging music, literature, and art."

After a yearlong quest, Flanagan drafted up some mandates and objectives for the organization and has come up with a multitude of projects, including "Ontario pro-

ducer's coalition" to "long-form how-to articles" and a podcast.

In 2013, Wyrd Arts Initiatives was founded, which then gave birth to Wyrd Distro, which will be the first not-for-profit distribution company in all of Canada.

"The problem we saw was this: few emerging Canadian artists or labels have the business acumen, marketing guile, and

ing landscape of music distribution and consumption, a peer-to-artist economy is struggling to emerge and support the huge tier of musicians between the underground and major labels."

While Weird Canada can point an audience in the direction of musical discovery, Wyrd Distro aims at becoming a proper bridge between consumer's interest and the artist's materials.

FEW EMERGING CANADIAN ARTISTS OR LABELS HAVE THE BUSINESS ACUMEN, MARKETING GUILLE, AND SOCIAL SAVVY TO EFFECTIVELY MARKET AND SELL THEIR MUSIC, LEAVING A GREAT MAJORITY OF CANADIAN TALENT UNKNOWN TO A LARGER AUDIENCE.

- MARIE LEBLANC FLANAGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WEIRD CANADA

social savvy to effectively market and sell their music, leaving a great majority of Canadian talent unknown to a larger audience," Flanagan says.

"As Internet-based audiences adjust purchasing practices to meet the chang-

"Canada lacks a centralized distributor for independent Canadian music," Flanagan says. "Record stores typically resist stocking short-run independent releases because it is neither financially nor logistically viable."

On Feb. 15, Wyrd Distro will be holding its nationwide launch party. Every province and territory will have a bar that is filled with independent music featuring live video hangouts with Flanagan and Weird Canada founder Aaron Levin.

"It's an opportunity for communities to come together on a local level, as well as a fun event for all of us to identify with each other as a national community," Flanagan says.

"Wyrd Distro will allow you to connect with your audience in a way that was previously much more difficult."

Flanagan sees Weird Canada as giving Canadian artists a freedom from "the yoke of commerce" with their non-for-profit design.

"We'll stand at their merch table while they make a joyful noise," Flanagan says.



Weird Canada launches Wyrd Distro locally at Zed Books (80 Sherbrook St.) on Feb. 15 at 4 pm.

Solar Coffin will perform.

CHARTING

CHARTS AS OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

BANDCAMP

1. Alec Holowka	TowerFall Ascension	Independent
2. Alec Holowka	Aquaria	Independent
3. KEN mode	Entrench	New Damage
4. Parfumerie	Transmundane...	Independent
5. Dead Ranch	Antler Royal	No List
6. KaiClavier	Chips	Independent
7. A.M. Overcast	Pellow	Independent
8. Cara Luft	Darlingford	Independent
9. KEN mode	Venerable	Profound Lore
10. Honeysliders	Head Back Home	Independent

CKUW

1. The Pack A.D.	Do Not Engage	Nettwerk
2. Greg Rekus	Punkoustic	Independent
3. Greg MacPherson	Fireball	Disintegration
4. Hey Pilgrim	The Big Z	No Label Collective
5. Nashaz	Nashaz	Independent
6. S. Nolan/J. Miller	North/South	Transistor 66
7. Martin R. Howell	Lover or a Psycho	No Label Collective
8. Hag Face	Hag Face	Independent
9. Amber Epp	Inside Outside	Independent
10. Hana Lu Lu	Keepsake	Independent

UMFM

1. Sharon Jones	Give The People ...	Daptone
2. Hana Lulu	Keepsake	Independent
3. Dog Day	Fade Out	Fundog
4. The Fugitives	Everything Will Happen	Light Organ
5. Birdapres/Grey Jay	If And Only If	Marathon of Dope
6. Greg MacPherson	Fireball	Disintegration
7. The Pack A.D.	Do Not Engage	Nettwerk
8. Greg Rekus	Punkoustic	Independent
9. Ryan Hemsworth	Guilt Trips	Last Gang
10. Sights and Sounds	Silver Door	Distort

SPECIAL
FEATURE

LIKE LETTERS

A CELEBRATION OF PLATONIC LOVE STORIES

WORDS BY MELANIE DAHLING
BEAT REPORTER

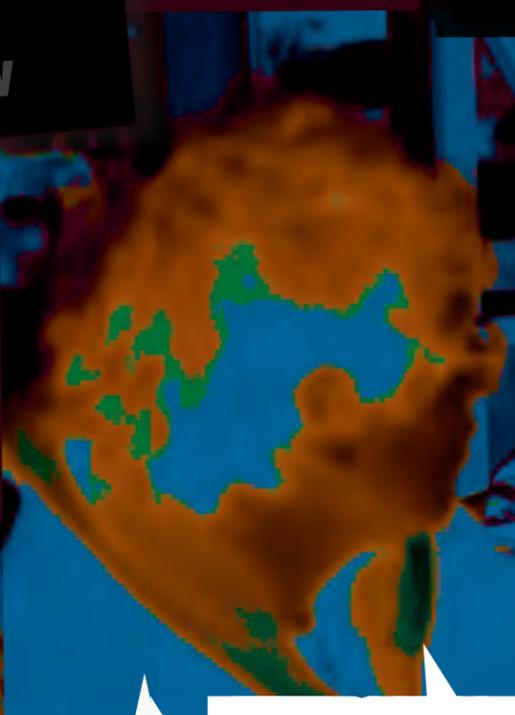
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IMAGES BY DANIEL CRUMP
PHOTO EDITOR

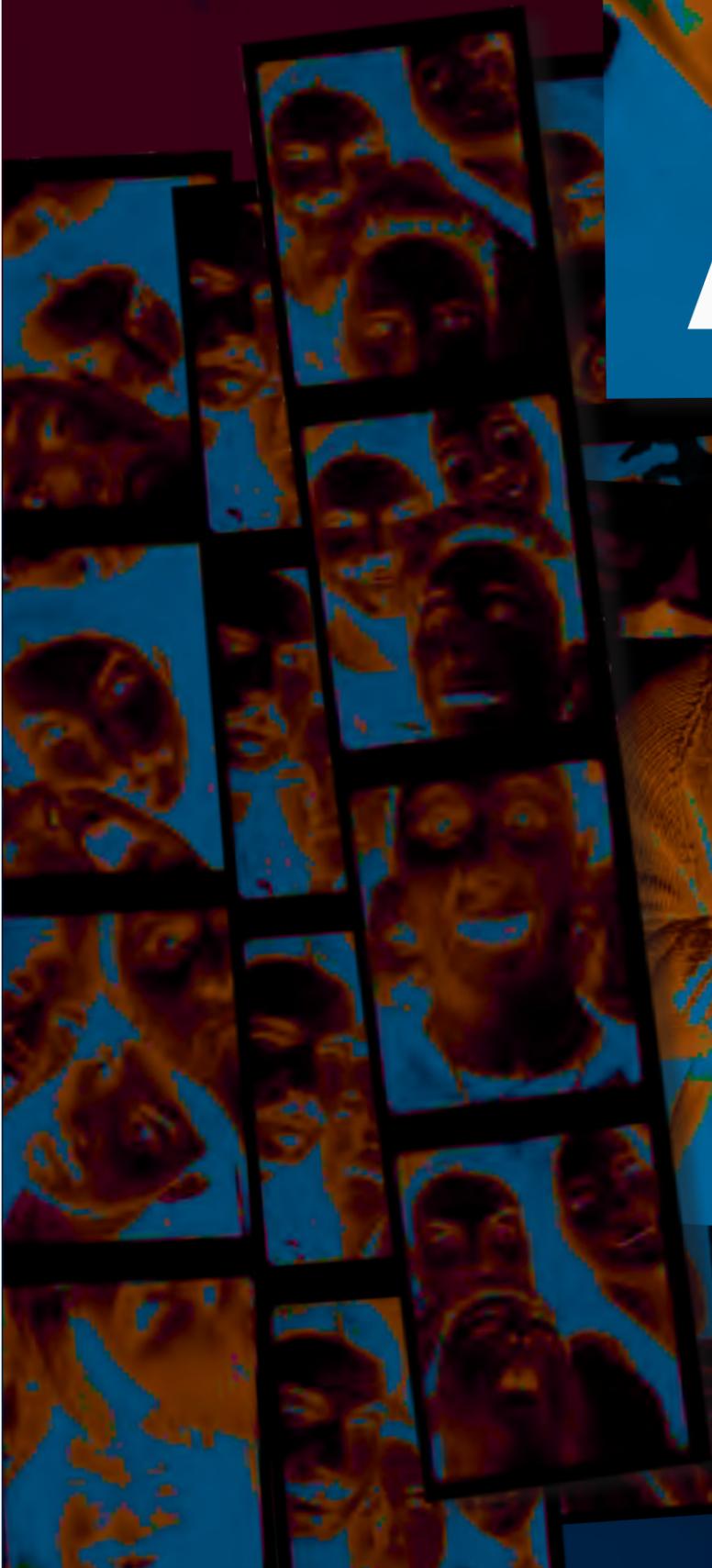
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**THE FRIENDZONE
LEAH & ANDREW**



**THE BROMANCE
ANDREW & QUINN**



**THE OPEN RELATIONSHIP
CHANTEL, ERIC & ALIA**



"It was very much about our friendship. A way for us to hang out that seemed normal. Because, we weren't in a romantic relationship, but we were flying all over the country for each other. So, if you're not romancing someone you'd better be working on some kind of project. Otherwise it's just really weird for them to show up at your house..."

- Carrie Brownstein on making the TV show *Portlandia* with Fred Armisen.

When I said I wanted to write a piece about friendship for Valentine's Day, a lot of people were kind of confused by the idea. Why make a big fuss about friendship?

It's interesting how much time, expense and heartache is poured into our romantic relationships (or lack thereof). It can be really difficult to meet people who you click with, and when the stars align for two people it is pretty spectacular. But take sex and a mortgage out of the equation and a couple suddenly becomes less valuable.

Spend your nights watching Netflix with your bestie and you'll probably get teased about it. Do the exact same thing with someone

whose mouth ended up on your mouth and you might eventually get rewarded with an expensive party and a crockpot.

After the schoolyard novelty of inviting someone to your birthday party has worn off, the only chance to put your friends on a pedestal in an official way involves marriage or babies. Well, unless you count making each other your emergency contact at work.

So I sought out some of my favourite people and asked them about their platonic romances, hoping to prove that love should be cultivated in whatever form it finds you in.

THE FRIEND ZONE

Sometimes saying "I want to be your friend" can be considered the worst kind of insult. People have trouble wrapping their brain around platonic interactions with the opposite sex.

Luckily for Leah Borchert and Andrew Vineberg, they've never felt that kind of pressure. Their solid bond was formed when they met in an acting class, and although Borchert was originally "completely weirded out by him", the two eventually found that they could confide in one another easily.

Some have mistaken them for a couple, but the two feel more like siblings than anything else, and their friendship has helped them out in the dating department.

"Andrew was actually the first of my friends to meet my boyfriend," says Borchert enthusiastically. "He has always been really encouraging of my dating people. He's the friend I go to when I just want someone to get really excited about my romantic involvements."

THE BROMANCE

"We always sort of flinch at this bromance buzzword that's come up. There's no equivalent for women, because it's not weird if women are friends... because of this homosexual terror that straight guys have, it's ridiculous. Now there has to be this word for it, and it's crazy. It's totally sad."

- Simon Pegg, filmmaker/actor, on his partnership with Nick Frost.

Quinn Greene and Andrew Lizotte would be the first to tell you they're involved in a sexless marriage together, but that has actually been a great thing for the two of them. After some ups and downs, they've learned how to co-exist peacefully with another person.

After meeting through the local comedy scene, the two began "nerdgasm[ing] all over each other", so much so that they decided to take it to the next level and become roommates.

"It's odd, because it makes us hang out less," Lizotte says. "We have to treat it more like a marriage, making time to hang out and check in with each other."

Greene adds that after finding the ideal living situation for the two of them, they've been "laughing like newlyweds."

Although they can get on each other's nerves, Greene says that what makes them opposites helps him put things in perspective.

After Greene came home one night frustrated and raging about his love life, Lizotte stared at his roomie blankly, let him finish his story, and asked him about a DVD he was thinking of purchasing. Though Lizotte's "I didn't know what to say, so I changed the subject" conversation style can be jarring, it did force Greene to see how silly he was being about the whole thing.

"I wasn't happy. I wasn't better. I sure as hell wasn't more enlightened to my situation. But I was calmer somehow," Greene says.

THE OPEN FRIENDSHIP

Chantel Marostica, Eric Wahl and Alia Watson met working at Chop Steakhouse & Bar on Sargent Avenue.

"Alia and I are friends, but we both fight over who is Chantel's bestie," Wahl says.

The three joke about the bestie fights,

but they seem to share an idyllic dynamic. Although Marostica is the "hub" of the friendship, she brings Watson and Wahl closer together, rather than wasting time with jealousy.

Having found balance in such a lovely situation, Marostica finds that her tight-knit friend circle prevents her from settling for less from anyone else.

"Since my last serious relationship, a very toxic, one-sided one, they've learned to speak up and defend me, where before they didn't think it was their right," Marostica says. "Nobody gets to me without their approval. Their love for me and their concern for my well being will definitely help me land a deuce wife."

THE LONG DISTANCE FRIENDSHIP

Autumn Crossman, a local comic book artist, and her Ohio-based girlfriend Jak met on the Internet. They had both joined a forum dedicated to TV show *The Big Bang Theory*, and they simply clicked right away. Five years later, they're still going strong.

While many people demonize the effect that technology has had on our ability to socialize, Crossman and Jak continue to thrive in everyday life with each other's help, despite never having met in person.

The two constantly chat, text and Skype, and have always been able to find new hobbies to bond over.

"I accidentally got Jak into hockey because it's all I talk about lately and now with the Olympics starting we talk hockey and shit talk each other's countries a lot," Crossman excitedly says.

They've also related to each other about dating. Coming from strict religious backgrounds, they haven't thought about romance much at this point, but echo each other when they say they want their friend to be happy, and to find a partner that respects their connection.

Not only does their friendship mean a lot, Jak says they've inspired others who know them as well.

"A friend of ours once wrote crack fan-fiction about us as princesses. Our love healed all the land!" she says.

They have plans to meet in 2015 for the NHL All-Star Game in Columbus, Ohio.

"I'm so excited. I'm already trying to save up and psyching myself up not to cry. I'm totally going to cry," Crossman says, gushing.

As I talked to all of these wonderful people and heard them say touching things about their friends, it occurred to me that they were all happy people leading great lives, single or not. And I don't think that was a coincidence. After all, it was either Gandhi or Paul McCartney who once said: "In the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make."

I think we'd all be a lot happier if we turned off *Say Yes to the Dress* and looked to the affection we already have available to us. The right friend can make you a better girl/boyfriend when the time is right, and in the meantime let's think up some sacred rituals to honour our besties. I mean, really, who needs a piece of paper from the government to wear a dress and eat cake?

MUSIC LISTINGS



THURSDAY FEB. 13

AMBER EPP plays Flatlanders Studio.
FEDERAL LIGHTS and WILDERNESS OF MANITOBA play The Park.
SLOW MOTION WALTER plays The Royal George.
DB & THE DEADBEATS play The St. B Hotel.
VINCE ANDRUSHKO plays The Times.

FRIDAY FEB. 14

Festival Du Voyageur is up and running again this year so stay warm and visit www.festival-voyageur.ca for full event listings.
JWILLIAMZ, JOHNNY SIZZLE and THE UNBELIEVABLE BARGAINS play The Cavern.
RIVER ROCK RUMBLE at The Garrick Hotel.
MACKENZIE ROCK LOVE FEST is happening at The Park.
DLUX and DLO woo you at The Pyramid.
It's SEXUAL DE VOYAGEUR again ladies and gentlemen, so dance the night away at the Windsor. Don't forget to wrap up.

SATURDAY FEB. 15

FLO and THOSE GUYS play The Grant & Wilton Coffee House.
NOONERS play The Kings Head.
NORTHERN ELMS, PROPHET, SEVENTH SIN and SPUTNIK play The Park.
DIRTY CATFISH BRASS BAND play The Times.
DANIEL CHAMPAGNE and DON ROSS play The WECC.

SUNDAY FEB. 16

THE DUSTBUSTERS play The Cavern.
NU SOUND SERIES presents MONIKA WALL at The Park.
Head down to the river trail for Manitoba Music's MUSIC ON ICE! Lots of local musicians playing the warming huts all day.
BIG DAVE jams at The Times.
A TRIBE CALLED RED and KINNIE STAR plays the Union Sound Hall.
LENNIE GALLANT plays The WECC.
NATHAN LAUBE plays The Westminster United Church.

MONDAY FEB. 17

BRYAN ADAMS does acoustic at The Centennial Concert Hall.
DAVE HAUS and NORTHCOTE play The Park.

TUESDAY FEB. 18

DR. HOTBOTTOM plays The Cavern.
THE TRANSCONA TROUBADORS play The Royal George.
THE MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA and SUZIE LEBLANC preform at The Westminster United Church.

WEDNESDAY FEB. 19

ANDREW NEVILLE & THE POOR CHOICES play The Cavern.
HARLEY JAMES FLETT, LITTLE BLACK LUNGS and SETTLER'S play Ozzy's.
SASSY JACK plays The Royal George.



Sometimes people like to win contests, see how photo shoots happen, hear interesting behind-the-scenes stories or just be kept in the loop about every gosh darn thing that happens in Uniter-land. There's an easy and efficient way to do this -

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NICHOLAS FRIESEN

NOT MY WINNIPEG

Local web series *WindCity* misses the mark

NICHOLAS FRIESEN @NICHOLASTRONAUT

MANAGING EDITOR

I've been waiting to talk about the new Winnipeg-centric, "locally branded" web series *WindCity*, which is (deep breath) produced with the support of Manitoba Public Insurance & Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries, in partnership with the RBC Convention Centre, Red River College & Royal Bank, with Assistance from Carnaval Brazilian BBQ, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Centre Venture, Downtown Winnipeg Biz, The Forks, Fort Garry Hotel, Johnston Group, Neil Bardal Funeral Centre, produced with the participation of The Government of Manitoba and distributed by the Winnipeg Free Press.

That's a lot of people to keep happy.

Now that each episode of "Winnipeg's comedy series" is online, let's talk. While there are a few laugh out loud moments (all courtesy of Sarah Constible's jobless Julia) and a nice nod to *American Graffiti* (Ace Burpee does his best Wolfman Jack, but with chicken wings instead of popsicles), calling this a comedy series is a bit of a misnomer. It's a commercial for Winnipeg with a muddled storyline involving a troubled couple (Adam Hurtig and Rebecca Gibson) that owns a business together. There are endless pitch meetings at the Convention Centre, a few "don't text and drive" moments, scenes at RRC and a lot of time spent gambling/buying lottery tickets (a "gamble responsibly" disclaimer is curiously absent, though).

While I'm pro-Winnipeg, and I know that this series has good intentions, I think it went about its job all wrong. Making something pro-Winnipeg would involve equal parts watching Jets games, seeing shows at the West End Cultural Centre or The Windsor (Sierra Noble plays at a casino, which, let's be honest, is something no artist born after 1960 would ever do), staying home, bargain hunting and eating at Sal's, Cousins or Stella's, not at a corporate chain like Shark Club.

The show should also be shot during the winter.

The official *WindCity* website states that locally branded means "Winnipeg becomes a character on the show, having great local companies invest in the show in exchange for screen time." At least they're up front about it - but didn't the creators of the show think that perhaps that many logos might get in the way of the plot, or that the advertisers might dictate what is good about Winnipeg, not the writers/cast/crew? The idea behind inserting ads directly into a show isn't new, but it's been executed better. Either way, nothing about these organizations is uniquely Winnipeg, silencing the "character" of Winnipeg completely.

"From what we intentionally designed and from what we can tell from those who have seen it so far is it doesn't feel cheesy or like some big commercial for Winnipeg," creator Paul Vieira told *The Projector* last month. "This is totally story-first and it's entertainment."

What we have here is an advertisement featuring other, smaller advertisements. What little story exists here is awkwardly shoehorned into robotic press-release jargon passed off as dialogue. There was more subtle product placement in season one of *90210* (remember how they ALWAYS drank Dr. Pepper?). Corporations exist (I've banked at RBC, did a radio show at RRC for six years, worked for *Uptown Magazine* and pay car insurance), and if you want to take the money to get your project funded, that's great. It's just unfortunate that the involvement from all these businesses clouded any real semblance of story, character development or plot. A good producer knows to simply let a project happen, a bad one wants to force in a scene with a giant mechanical spider.

Yes, *WindCity* employs a great number of locals. It's shot here, it stars a local cast, was written by locals, crewed by locals and the songs used in every episode are current local independent artists (thank you for not using Chantal Kreviazuk or The Watchmen).

"Hey, my friend worked on that and because they're my friend, I will support whatever they are working on!" Well, that's great. Support your friends, but then ask this question: Why do our friends work on things like *WindCity*, *Beethoven's Christmas Adventure* or *Mother's Day*? Because they want to work. This is just the best available option for them. Let's make better options.



A LESSON IN SUBTLETY:

Ten things we learned from the new Winnipeg-centric web series *WindCity*

1. The new RBC Convention Centre has a renovated and expanded facility.
2. Driving while texting or angry is dangerous.
3. RBC loves to help the community and can assist its clients in 144 languages.
4. People come from all over the world to take programs at Red River College.
5. Kevin McDonald is keeping busy.
6. The Shark Club is a place that exists.
7. Sierra Noble looks cute in a toque.
8. The new stadium is great and you won't miss the old one, sentimental value be damned.
9. The Canadian Museum for Human Rights will be opening September 20, 2014.
10. Plot and character development are second to shoehorning in corporate placements.



Kerri Salki (right) from 102.3 Clear FM won SYTYCA in 2013.

SUPPLIED

FIRST THESPIAN EXPERIENCE

Winnipeg celebrities grace the stage in So You Think You Can Act

DEBORAH REMUS

@DEBORAHREMUS

ARTS REPORTER

Sarasvati Productions is gearing up for its third annual So You Think You Can Act (SYTYCA) fundraiser, an event which allows the local theatre company to make FemFest and other productions a reality each year.

"We were really looking to something that could be a fun fundraiser because our mandate surrounds promoting social change and a lot of the work we do deals with heavy topics," says Sarasvati artistic director Hope McIntyre, 40.

"We just wanted to put together a night where our supporters could come out and have a great time... We came up with the idea of parodying reality TV shows that have been popular over the years. We do ask our judges to be kind of silly with their commentary and we talk about who's the Simon and who's the Paula [former *American Idol* judges] to try and have more fun with it."

The topic of this year's SYTYCA is revolution, a theme that connects with Sarasvati's season.

"What we do is we brainstorm in the office based on the theme, which was hard with revolution this year, it's hard to find humorous scenes, but we came up with a bunch and then we sent each celebrity three scenes that they ended up choosing from," McIntyre says.

The year's seven celebrity participants, who will be paired with local actors, are stand-up comedian Big Daddy Tazz, Alison Gillmor from the *Winnipeg Free Press*, radio and television producer/host Jim Ingebrigsten, Eva Kovacs from Global Morning News, Kris Laudien from CTV Morning Live and former Winnipeg Blue Bombers Troy Westwood and Obby Khan.

At the end of the night the audience

will pick one winner alongside the three judges, which include local actor/playwright Sharon Bajer, Theatre Projects Manitoba artistic director Ardith Boxall and Kevin Klassen from Shakespeare in the Ruins.

Kerri Salki from 102.3 Clear FM won SYTYCA last year while Ace Burpee from 103.1 Virgin Radio was the winner in 2012. He will be returning as the emcee for this year's event.

Big Daddy Tazz will be playing the role of Simon in *Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun* by Canadian playwright Norm Foster. Tazz will be joined by University of Winnipeg honours theatre student Elizabeth Whitbread, who plays Holly during a scene in the play where she discovers she's pregnant.

"Acting terrifies me a little bit, but it's no different than getting up and making them laugh I suppose," Tazz, who also MC'd the event's first instalment, says.

"I think it's mostly because I'm not good at following scripts. Most of the stuff I do onstage is improv or stuff I've already thought about in my head. To follow someone else's words is different from what I normally do, but I'm looking forward to the challenge."



So You Think You Can Act takes place at the Gas Station Arts Centre on Wednesday, February 19 at 7 pm.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.sarasvati.ca.

FILM



CREDIT

I AM DIVINE

★★★★☆

Plays Feb 13-20 at Cinematheque.

I Am Divine accomplishes a nearly impossible feat by not being completely outshone by its subject. When making a documentary about a figure as lurid and grandiose as frequent John Waters collaborator Divine, one could easily coast on the sheer spectacle of the performer and end up with a half-entertaining picture. Director Jeffrey Schwarz (*Vito*) does much more, and the portrait he creates is moving, entertaining, and damn funny.

Schwarz lands interviews with some of Divine's closest friends and colleagues, including Waters, Tab Hunter, Ricki Lake, and myriad other Dreamlanders, drag performers, and self-proclaimed freaks of the American counterculture. But other figures, including Divine's mother and high school girlfriend, shed light on the complex background that created one of cinema's most recognizable characters.

For all its humor and absurdity, the core theme at the heart of *I Am Divine* is duality. We meet Harris Glenn Milstead, a bullied chubby

kid from Baltimore who's shy and loves food. We also meet Divine, a carnage-machine that channels Glenn's rage into bizarre and hilarious performances. They're two separate people, but at the same time, they aren't. As Divine begins his drag career, the world of drag balls is rigid and stodgy. When he turns that world on its head, we see how he is influencing and changing the art of drag, while at the same time being completely apart from drag.

Divine the character is female, but Divine the person never identifies as female or transgender. The way different people refer to Divine as "he" or "she" is another example of Divine's duality. Divine's film appearances are both trashy and transcendent, and despite the outrageous persona, Divine is able to deliver performances that are human and touching.

Glenn or Divine. Man or woman. Low art and high art. *I Am Divine* is about how none of these things are mutually exclusive.

THOMAS PASHKO



CREDIT

MONUMENTS MEN

★★★★☆

Now playing.

As a director, George Clooney's approach has always been to take stylistic cues from his inspirations. In *Good Night and Good Luck*, he channeled early television with his minimalist black and white photography, utilizing long takes and subtle performances to make it feel less edited and more journalistic. In *The Monuments Men*, Clooney is channeling a type of ensemble World War II film that hasn't been produced for decades. Homage is paid to classic Hollywood, calling back to a time when war pictures weren't all somber and shameful. All the ingredients are there. So why doesn't *The Monuments Men* work as well as it should?

The variety of the large cast is great. The combination of leading men (Clooney, Matt Damon), international stars (Cate Blanchett, Jean Dujardin) and craggy character players (Bill Murray, John Goodman) make this feel like the kind of ensemble that could only exist in the era of *Casablanca*. Alexandre Desplat's (*The*

Tree of Life) score evokes war pictures of the '40s to give the movie even more authentic flavour. But the movie still feels empty.

Maybe Clooney failed to realize that the success of those classic war films was about more than style and casting. Unlike Clooney's previous success with *Good Night or Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, I just never felt like Clooney was trying very hard at anything. Charm can only get you so far, and it always feels like he's coasting on the charisma of his actors and the admittedly intriguing true story behind his script. There's plenty to like here, but little to love.

The movie is at its weakest when Clooney gets didactic. On several occasions, characters soliloquize about the importance of art and why it must be protected. It's so dumbed down. Of course culture is important. You don't need to tell us once, let alone five times. Stick to the swashbuckling. We get it.

THOMAS PASHKO

THOMAS PASHKO IS AN AWARD-WINNING MAGGIE SMITH IMPERSONATOR.
FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @THOMASPASHKO

CULTURE

ARTS LISTINGS

FILM

I AM DIVINE will be showing at Cinematheque from Feb. 8-20.

SPRING AND ARNAUD plays at Cinematheque Feb. 13 at 7pm.

GIRL RISING screens at The Vineyard (782 Main Street) as a World Vision fundraiser on Feb. 19 at 7pm.

LITERATURE

ART MATTERS presents *A Conversation With John Hodgeman*. The actor, comedian and author will be discussing his own art as well as the importance of art in our culture. The talk will take place on Mar. 15 at RMT Warehouse Theatre at 8pm.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery will host a round table with Paul Butler, Curator of Contemporary Art, along with local artists Simon Hughes, Sylvia Matas and Krisjanis Kaktins-Gorsline for a Q&A conversation about their work as well as the launch of the Looking Up: Contemporary Connections with Inuit Art exhibition catalogue. The event will take place at the WAG on Feb. 16, at 2pm.

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

The Cre8ery presents *For The Love Of Craft* from Feb. 8 - 18.

Gurevich Fine Arts presents TOBY BARTLETTS *Dvd Family* from Feb. 27 - Feb 28.

A new exhibition at the Winnipeg Art Gallery aims to focus attention on violence experienced by women world-wide. *Off the Beaten Path: Violence, Women and Art* is on now until Apr. 20.

Trespassing is a group work done by THROUGH HER EYES PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP presented by The Wayne Arthur Gallery. On now until Feb. 26.

Martha Street Studios presents *Generated Line* by SHAWN REYNOR on now until Mar. 1. As well as *Maps* by CAM BUSH, on now until Mar. 1.

WINDOW is pleased to present its tenth exhibition. This month's showcase, LAURA MAGNUSSON'S mouth.

The Urban Shaman Gallery presents *Nomadic Bounce*, an exhibition by JASON BAERG. Exhibition ends Feb. 22.

ACE Art Inc. presents *Present at Hand*, an exhibition by MATTIEU SABOURIN. Exhibition ends Feb. 14.

Gallery 1003 presents *Water Memory Table*, an exhibition by PATRICK MAHONE. Exhibition ends Feb. 15.

An experimental five projection video entitled *The End-Rocky Mountains* created by Icelandic artist and musician Ragnar Kjartansson will be shown at the WAG until Apr. 20.

THEATRE, DANCE & COMEDY

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre will be presenting Tennessee Williams' autobiographical masterpiece THE GLASS MENAGERIE from Feb. 13 - Mar. 8 at the John Hirsch Mainstage.

The Cavern invites you to begin laughing again on Sundays.

Wednesday's at The Cheer have never been funnier with BEN WALKER hosting their weekly open mic comedy night.

Check out the King's Head Pub for your weekly dose of comedy every Tuesday at 9 p.m.



THE TOY BASKET

WITH BUNNY BEN WA

WEAR YOUR HARD-ON YOUR SLEEVE

It's like I always say, a happy penis makes for a happy mind, which gets us all one step closer to world peace. Why doesn't Miss America ever talk about male masturbatory sleeves? They're fabulous, available in a variety of textures and price points, and hey, they make you ejaculate. Isn't life fun?

A male masturbatory sleeve (MMS) is just what it sounds like, a tube of material (usually silicon or CyberSkin) that's designed to make love to when lubricated. While they are primarily designed to make alone time more exciting, some creative couples have found ways to play with them together.

The less expensive models generally have a hole at the bottom and the top and aren't encased in anything. I like Climax Gems. They are \$26 at Smitten (4-120 Osborne St.), plus the ambiguous shapes and colours make them more visually appealing than a disembodied vagina.

A great trick is to load one of these up with some flavoured lube and stimulate the portion of your partner's penis that sticks out the top

with your mouth. Then you simply squish the sleeve in tandem. This way the entire shaft gets attention and no one's gag reflex comes to the party.

Some sleeves market themselves as a "stamina builder." Personally, I believe any of them would make a great practice tool for longer lasting sex. Grab a stopwatch if you have a sporty streak.

Among higher end toys, the brand name that most folks recognise is Fleshlight. I love this company's playful marketing campaigns, and they have many styles to choose from including a blue alien, a cyborg and porn star Jenna Haze. Your Fleshlight is cleverly hidden in a flashlight shaped container, also available in a beer can, which is sneaky, but I would still hide it at the family barbecue.

Fleshlights cost \$90 or more, mainly because of their patented CyberSkin, made to "feel just like the real thing."

But there's only one sleeve out there that makes me wish I had a penis. The Tenga costs \$150, but in this Bunny's opinion, it's well worth the price.

The sleek design makes the Tenga the masturbatory sleeve that Stanley Kubrick would

have used (*Full Metal Jack It?* "I will keep my rifle clean and ready").

The inside of a Tenga is a complex network of textures. Rather than trying to mimic a vagina, this company has simply designed something new that feels great. Why not? There are enough toys on the market for vaginas with features impossible for a mortal penis. Also, Tenga's casing is squeezable in the middle, with pressure points that create different sensation. And unlike any other sleeve, the case splits at the sides and the entire toy flips open, making clean-up much easier.

If you aren't ready to break the bank, Tenga also makes "egg beaters." These little guys are stretchy, hollow egg-shaped silicone pieces that come in many toe curling textures and only cost \$15.

So, what's better? Going out and doing some clichéd Valentine's Day dinner, or having a night in with a new toy? Did I mention Fleshlight makes a shower mount?

Follow Bunny Ben Wa as she hops through the holes of the Internet @BUNNYBENWA



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THE IMPORTANCE OF REPRESENTATION IN OUR WORLD TODAY

How punk is doing its part to help give a voice to transgender people

ASHTON KHAN

 @ASHCRASHEM

VOLUNTEER

Laura Jane Grace (born Thomas James Gabel) is a name you may have heard a lot in the past year. Last month, she and her band Against Me! released its sixth studio album, *Transgender Dysphoria Blues*, and will be playing the West End Cultural Centre on April 1. As you have probably guessed, the album mostly deals with Laura's experiences coming out as a transgender woman.

Grace might not have as much of a reputation as Kathleen Hanna (noted feminist and member of Bikini Kill/The Julie Ruin/Le Tigre) or Wendy O. Williams (noted horrifying person and singer for The Plasmatics) but what these three women all possess is an individual voice. A voice that doesn't just regurgitate the same ideas we hear from the same perspective day in and day out.

There's nothing wrong with consuming media created by typical straight males. Be it art, music, television or otherwise. No one is getting mad at you for watching *Breaking Bad*. A problem arises when the *only* stimulation we receive is from a straight, male perspective.

Punk has always been about giving a voice to people who don't get to hear themselves represented. It's not as simple as "music for the weird kids", it's about giving a voice to those weirdos. Not just a voice, a voice behind a big loud microphone. Punk has acted as a podium, as a soapbox, for these voices that clearly want to be heard. It's allowed these perspectives that do not typically represent the mainstream to branch out and reach an audience.

Transgender Dysphoria Blues, the first Against Me! LP released since Grace began

living as a woman, was a way for the singer to voice some of her life experiences as a transgender musician. In the future I would love to see more musicians, actors, painters, (hell, even bus drivers!) find a way to share their experiences. Grace has stated publicly that part of the reason she wants to be visibly trans is so that it's no longer a "big deal" and is no longer seen as a fringe thing in most of society. It's also important to note that it is no transgender person's job or responsibility to educate the general public on transgender issues or to answer any highly personal questions you might have. What goes on between someone's legs is their own damn business. Laura is a public figure, and she has done her part to voice her experiences and thoughts, but she is just one person.

The last year or so has been a good start

for mainstream recognition of transgender people. Laura is a prime example of that. Another significant example is Laverne Cox's portrayal of Sophia Burset in the Netflix series *Orange is the New Black*. The character struggles with family issues, acceptance and prejudice in society. Moving ahead, I would love to see more and more positive portrayals, until whatever stigma is dissolved.

Be it riot grrrls in the '90s giving a voice to young feminists, or modern day trans soul rebels like Laura Jane Grace speaking up for gender issues, we are headed in the right direction. It's just going to take some work, and perhaps more importantly, some listening from the mainstream.

Ashton Khan is a student at the University of Manitoba. He loves Bikini Kill and genuinely finds Wendy O. Williams to be terrifying.



Against Me! frontwoman Laura Jane Grace.

SUPPLIED

SODASTREAM AND ISRAELI OCCUPATION

On ideology and the complicated road to peace

HARRISON SAMPHIR

 @HARRYSAMPHIR

SENIOR EDITOR

Last weekend, Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson drew the ire of pro-Palestinian groups after appearing in a commercial for Israeli company SodaStream. Though the ad was completely innocuous – SodaStream manufactures home carbonation systems – the 29 year-old was condemned for her support of the company which operates its principal manufacturing facility in Ma'ale Adumim: the third largest Israeli settlement in the West Bank considered illegal under international law.

SodaStream has been a frequent target of boycott, divestment and sanction (BDS) initiatives by organizations claiming the company is directly profiting from the social and geographic dislocation of the country's Arab population. And they have a point. SodaStream's largest factory sits on land seized during Israel's largest expropriation project in the early-1970s.

It is viewed as an historic symbol of the dispossession of the Palestinian people and their continued subordination within the state of Israel.

Yet since becoming the first global brand ambassador of SodaStream International Ltd. in early January, Johansson has publicly stated her support of "economic co-operation and social interaction between a democratic Israel and Palestine". Of the company's 1,500 employees, about 500 are Palestinian. They receive the same wages and benefits as their Israeli counterparts and earn more than three times the average of Palestinians working in the rest of the country. The factory is a boost to the regions low GDP and high unemployment figures.

SodaStream CEO Daniel Birnbaum maintains the company is "apolitical" and says untrue and manipulative claims

have minimized its positive achievements. Boycott and divestment campaigns, he believes, will only hurt Palestinian workers.

Critics, meanwhile, have focused on other details, citing tax benefits enjoyed by industrial companies in Ma'ale Adumim (though such incentives are *not* unique to the West Bank) and alleged labour abuses ongoing at the factory. Primarily, however, their opposition arises from the illegality of SodaStream's factory, a point fortified by a rigid ideological position that invariably considers all Israeli actions questionable and nefarious.

While there should be legitimate concern about ongoing and unwarranted Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory, intransigent political agendas on either side of any argument are divisive. They detract from constructive dialogue and reflect the same vehement partisanship

which has continued to prevent Israeli and Palestinian peace for over half a century.

SodaStream is a company that by nearly every measure has designed a workplace for the sustained coexistence of rival nationalities. Its factory is not a political project, nor is it an affront to democracy or the self-determination of Palestinians and Arab statehood.

Of course, SodaStream's efforts to promote co-prosperity can never be construed as rectification for the crimes of the past or the injustices which continue in the present. But if for a moment prejudice is set aside, its project might begin to resemble the embryonic stage of a two-state solution; the kind established through cooperation, not hostile obstinacy.

Harrison Samphir is the Uniter's senior editor.



SUPPLIED

RIDING YEAR-ROUND

Winnipeg to host annual International Winter Cycling Congress

RAEGAN HEDLEY

@RAEGJULES

CITY REPORTER

Winnipeg is notorious for its harsh winters, so it should come as no surprise that our city has been chosen to host the 2nd annual International Winter Cycling Congress. From February 12-14, cycling enthusiasts will gather at the Forks to listen to professionals and delegates from across the globe discuss anything and everything related to winter cycling.

“Winnipeg stands for winter in a lot of people’s minds... if it’s possible here, it’s possible anywhere,” says Anders Swanson, conference director.

“There are a lot of people that bike in the winter in Winnipeg. You have to look to notice them, because they’re stealthy, and take different routes, but there are quite a few here who do it.”

The inaugural year of the congress was held in Oulu, Finland, a city that is one of the leaders in winter cycling due to the number of people who ride year-round there.

“In places that do this well, it is the case that as soon as you are old enough to ride a bike that you are riding in the snow by default, because you have to get to school,” Swanson explains.

“They are riding their bicycles in the snow until they are completely immobilized from old age... this conference is trying to get at the heart of what makes that work.”

With the expansion of Winnipeg’s cycling routes since the active transportation initiative in 2005, there is an ever-growing commitment to improving cycling infrastructure, making our city an ideal venue for this event.

“THIS CONFERENCE IS ABOUT CYCLING IN THE WINTER FOR EVERYONE, AND IN ORDER TO REALLY BUILD A BROAD BASE OF UNDERSTANDING AND MOVEMENT, THIS NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED SOMETHING THAT CAN BE, AND IS, FOR EVERYONE.”

- ANDERS SWANSON, DIRECTOR OF THE WINTER CYCLING CONGRESS

“With the stimulus packages we’ve seen a lot of new trails put in,” says Mark Cohoe, Executive Director of Bike Winnipeg. “There’s definitely been progress extending city cycling networks.”

“Getting snow clearing is one of our biggest challenges. If the city hasn’t kept



up with its road clearing, it can be difficult,” Cohoe continues. “We want the city to come up with a priority plan for road clearing when it comes to cycling paths.”

At the Winter Cycling Congress, experts will be presenting from a number of different professions and viewpoints, discussing best practices for bike lane maintenance, snow route network design, DIY ways to

adapt your bike to snow, rebuilding Winnipeg from the bicycle up, and much more.

“Attendees can expect to learn that each place is a little different, and yet there are lessons to be had from elsewhere, and when we work together and share information, we can take a big leap forward,”



MIKE SUDOMA

Swanson says.

It isn’t only intended for seasoned riders – anyone who wants to learn about aspects of winter cycling, and the cities that support it, is welcome at the congress.

“This conference is about cycling in the winter for everyone,” Swanson claims. “In order to really build a broad base of understanding and movement, this needs to be considered something that can be, and is, for everyone.”



To register for the conference or find more info, visit wintercycling-congresswinnipeg.org.

For everything you need to know about cycling in Winnipeg, visit bikewinnipeg.ca.

ARE WE REALLY SAFE AND SOUND?

Complaints of campus theft on the rise at the University of Winnipeg

RAEGAN HEDLEY

@RAEGJULES

CITY REPORTER

With just over 10,000 students at the University of Winnipeg, and countless other people passing through the downtown campus everyday, there's reasonable concern about security and personal safety. Due to a recent uptick of lockers being broken into and personal items getting stolen, students have cause to wonder how safe their belongings actually are – even when they are locked up.

"Most crimes on any university campus are crimes of opportunity," says UW Director of Security Services Martin Grainger, confirming that property theft is most common.

Security Services does advise students to avoid leaving expensive items in their lockers, especially things like cash and electronics. Those situations, however, are often unavoidable. Where are personal belongings to be kept if not in a locker?

For Amalda Iradukunda, 20, her things

were in her locker for a good reason.

"I went to the gym, and of course I'm not going to carry all my stuff with me. When I got back, my lock had been cut off and everything was gone," Iradukunda says. "Security said I had to make a police report. I asked about the (security) cameras... since the person took so much, it couldn't have fit into a bag, and they would've had to carry it in their hands."

"Security said they couldn't just let me see the cameras," she continues. "Then they explained that there's only a single camera at one of the exits in the basement, and it's not around where the lockers are."

Grainger says the best way to protect your locker from being an easy target is a type of lock with a shield around the hasp and steel balls inside. These are available for purchase at the UW bookstore for around \$20.

"What people tend to use is an infe-

rior lock, which can be easily broken," Grainger points out.

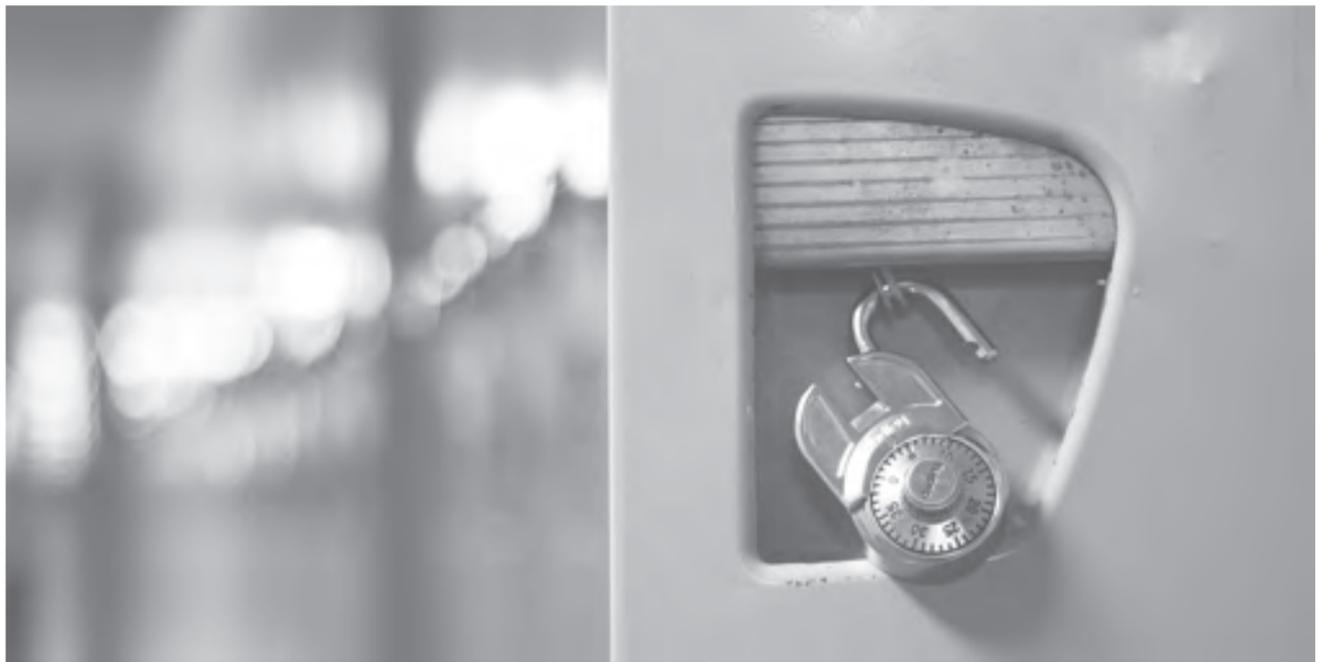
Peter Mangera, 32, is another student who's had items taken from his locker. "I could say I feel safe in terms of personal safety," he explains, "but in terms of my items I would say no, based on what has happened."

"We don't know what's being done to prevent this from happening again."

Grainger counters that campus security is doing its job. "We've got cameras all over and we also have guards that constantly patrol," he reports. "They make a conscious effort to go through the locker areas, but there's so many they can't be there all the time."

Mangera suggests that students will have to take the onus on themselves to maintain the security of personal belongings, in lieu of the shortcomings of campus Security Services.

"We as students at this university need to be mindful of one another," he says.



KEVIN LEGGE



The SafeWalk program can accompany you to your car or bus stop within a one-block radius of the University of Winnipeg. The hours of operation for Safewalk are Monday to Friday from 6:00-11:30 pm. Arrangements can be made at the security office or by calling 204-786-9272.

To report suspicious or unusual behavior, contact the Campus Security Tip Line at 204-258-2930 or tips@uwinnipeg.ca

REMEMBERING RIEL

Understanding the historical context means more than just paying lip-service to Louis Riel Day

BRIAN LORRAINE

@RED_RIVER_REBEL

CITY EDITOR

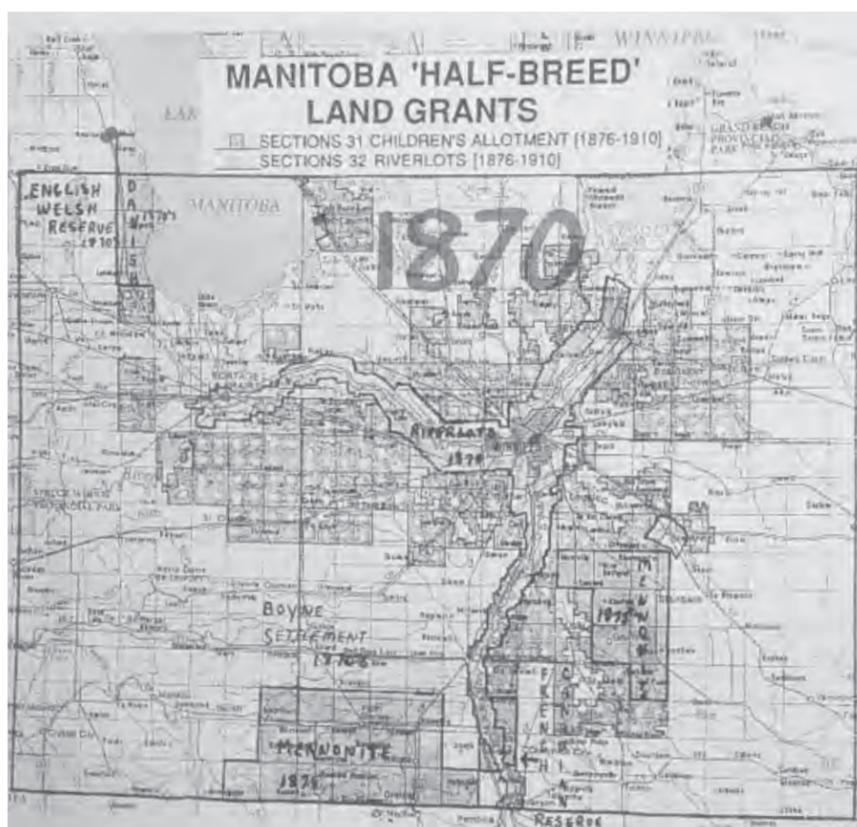
It's interesting that Manitoba celebrates the February long weekend as Louis Riel Day, rather than Family Day like other provinces across Canada. After all, the historical grievance that exists here has been affecting local families since it was set in motion in 1870 with the signing of our founding document, the Manitoba Act.

Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand encourages everybody to focus on all of the above.

"It's a time for family, it's a time to celebrate Manitoba... and at the same time give some credence and kudos to [Riel] as the first Premier of our province," he says, indicating that Riel now has his rightful title restored in the Manitoba Legislature.

It would be understandable for Chartrand and the Metis people to be in no mood to celebrate.

In March of 2013, following 32 years of lengthy court deliberations, the Supreme



A map depicting the acres of land involved in the grant resulting from the Manitoba Act. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the land grant was never fully or properly implemented. SUPPLIED

Court found that Section 31 of the Manitoba Act was never properly implemented. The provision of a land grant of 1.4 million acres, inside of which the entire city of Winnipeg sits, was to be set aside for the children of the Metis (in other words, for Metis families).

It has now been almost a year since the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in their favour, yet no government action has taken place with respect to the court decision.

"It was the Conservative government that negotiated this and didn't fulfill it," Chartrand says of the contract between Canada's first Prime Minister, John A.

Macdonald, and Riel's provisional government that brought Manitoba into confederation.

"Now we have a Conservative government in place that could actually fulfill it and put it full-circle."

Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, has demonstrated that little, if any, action is being taken by the federal government so far.

"Clearly it's not a priority for Minister Valcourt," Chartrand says. "I'm just hoping that it's not the same position by the Prime Minister of Canada, because if it is then

clearly the Metis will have to sit and wait."

Waiting is something the Metis have been forced to do for 143 years and counting, but Chartrand claims they'll never give up the fight. "There's not a doubt in my mind, there will be a government that'll come along and settle this issue."

A settlement process will be set in motion, the only question is a matter of when. Both the leaders of the federal NDP and Liberal parties have already committed to Chartrand and the MMF that they will initiate negotiations should they get elected into power.

Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau did so last September in his message to the MMF Annual General Meeting. "The courts have provided much needed clarity around your longstanding land claim, and now the federal government must sit down and – nation to nation – negotiate in good faith to reach a fair and equitable resolution to this historic injustice."

"And I commit to you," Trudeau promised, "if this [Conservative] government does not, my government will."

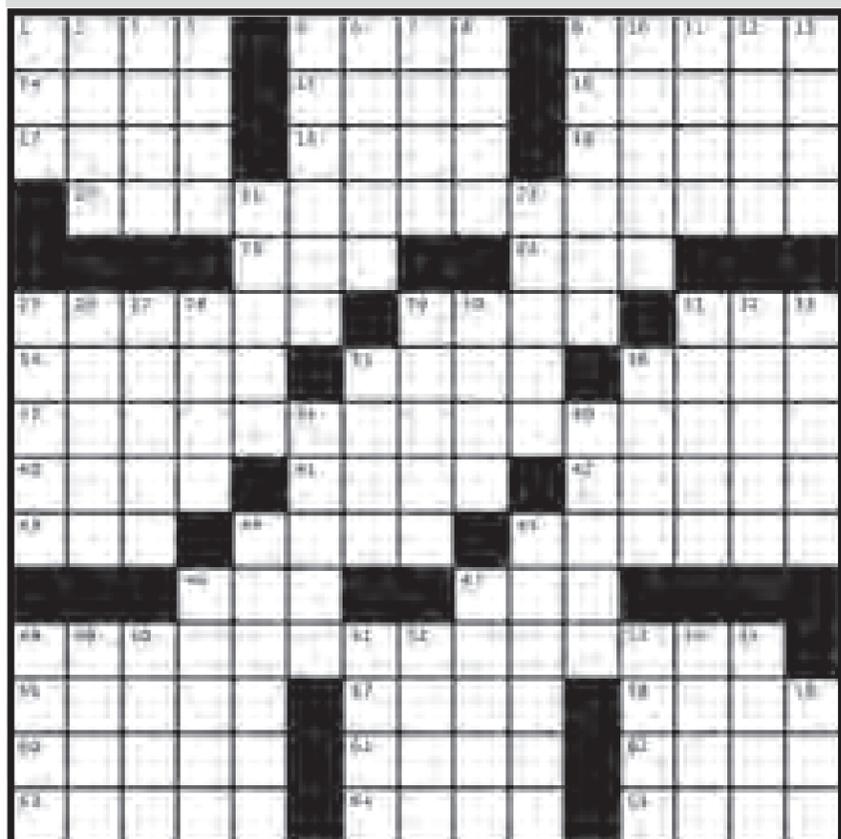
Chartrand's biggest concern is that the negotiation process establishes an appropriate 'terms of reference', and that the right collection of people are at the table to make sure all the impacts are considered by whatever form the settlement takes.

"It's going to take experts to resolve this, and top-notch lawyers and consultants," Chartrand explains. "This is nothing small."

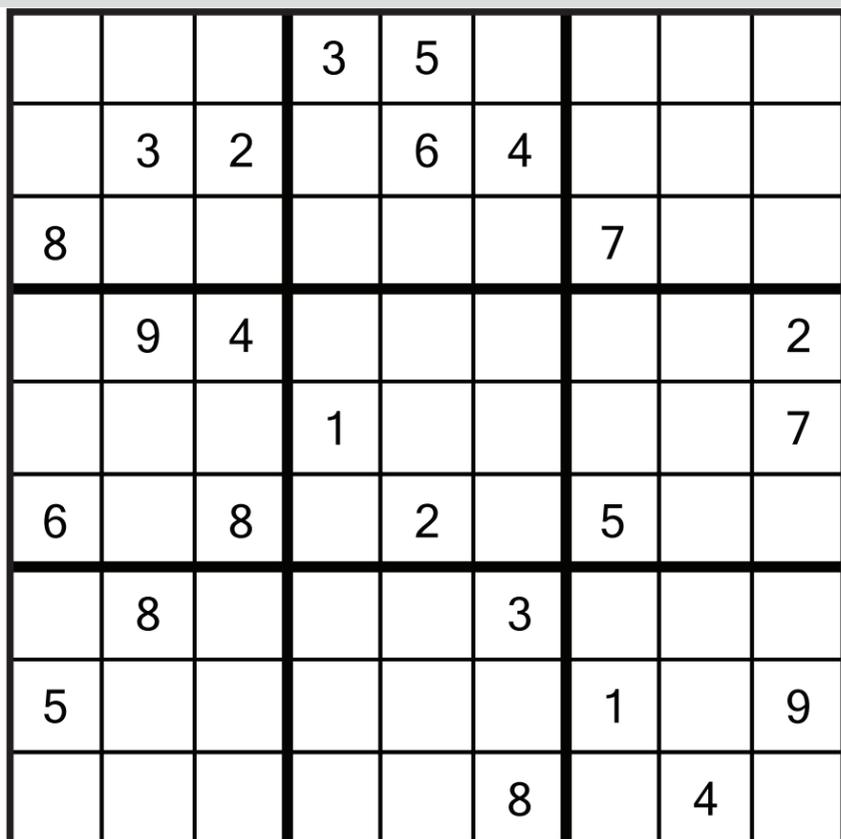
As he describes the words of the crown lawyer representing Canada in the Supreme Court case: "this is going to affect every Canadian and it's worth billions of dollars."

For more info about the Manitoba Metis Federation and its land claim case, go to mmf.mb.ca.

DIVERSIONS



BESTCROSSWORDS.COM



WWW.SUDOKU-PUZZLES.NET

ACROSS

- 1- Twice tetra;
- 5- Cancun coin;
- 9- Young haddock;
- 14- Island of Hawaii;
- 15- Mont Blanc, par exemple;
- 16- Macbeth, for one;
- 17- Antiaircraft fire;
- 18- Grumble;
- 19- Have dinner at home;
- 20- Put to a wrong use;
- 23- Witness;
- 24- ___ Lingus;
- 25- Roman general;
- 29- Bond classic;
- 31- ___ carte;
- 34- Violinist Zimbalist;
- 35- Prepared to drive;
- 36- Getting ___ years;
- 37- In spite of;
- 40- Very, in Vichy;
- 41- Symbol of slavery;
- 42- Former Houston footballer;
- 43- Paris possessive;
- 44- Makes a boo-boo;

DOWN

- 45- Avaricious;
- 46- Lacto-___ vegetarian;
- 47- Portable bed;
- 48- County in central England;
- 56- Consumed;
- 57- New Haven students;
- 58- River to the Seine;
- 60- Convocation of witches;
- 61- Actress Virna;
- 62- Short letter;
- 63- Mall frequenters;
- 64- Reindeer herder;
- 65- Celestial body;
- 10- Seat;
- 11- Pro follower;
- 12- Put a lid ___!
- 13- Sandy tract;
- 21- Me too;
- 22- White-and-black bearlike mammal;
- 25- Pennies;
- 26- Preceding, poetically;
- 27- Some Art Deco works;
- 28- Puts in stitches;
- 29- Student tables;
- 30- Nerve network;
- 31- Old-womanish;
- 32- Covered on the inside;
- 33- Wrathful;
- 35- Son of Odin;
- 36- Comics canine;
- 38- Newbies;
- 39- Compass point;
- 44- Happenings;
- 45- Idle talk;
- 46- The Pacific, for example;
- 47- Brittle;
- 48- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b";
- 49- Naturalness;
- 50- Let ___;
- 51- Narrate;
- 52- "East of Eden" director Kazan;
- 53- Charged particles;
- 54- Civil disturbance;
- 55- It is in Spain;
- 59- Ballad ending;



Student Services



The Student Services staff of The University of Winnipeg provides the student body with current information and opportunities. This information is updated weekly.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Accessibility Services provides a number of accommodations and supports to students with documented disabilities as well as short & long-term medical conditions. If you think you may have a disability, we can also provide you with information and support.

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM
Location: Room 1A08 - 1st Floor, Ashdown Hall
Website address: www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility
General Information: accessibility@uwinnipeg.ca
Phone: 786-9771

AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

T4A TAX FORMS

If you received UW awards in the 2013 calendar year, a T4A income tax form will be mailed to you shortly. T4A's must be submitted to CRA. However, the award money only needs to be reported as income if:

You are not eligible for the full-time or part-time education amount, then any awards above \$500 must be claimed;

If you are full-time and can claim the full-time education amount, then awards are not taxable up to the total amount required to support you in the program.

If you can claim the part-time education amount, the scholarship exemption is to the tuition fees and costs incurred for program-related materials.

This information was obtained through CRA website: www.cra-arc.gc.ca. Please visit their website or speak with an accountant or tax professional for more information.

AWARD APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE:

Graduate and Professional Studies Expenses Bursary - For students in the final year of their undergraduate program who are applying for entry into a Graduate or Professional Studies Program with financial need.

Application form is available online:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awds-current-continuing>

STUDENT CENTRAL

LOCKER RENTALS

Need somewhere to store your hat and gloves? Rent a locker from the Student Central! There are lockers available in the basement of MB Hall and on the 3rd floor of Richardson College. Locker rentals are \$20 per person for Winter Term.

Just send a Webmail email to studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca with your preferred location or visit us at Student Central.

AFTER-DEGREE BACHELOR OF EDUCATION APPLICATIONS

Application packages for the two-year After-Degree B.Ed are due Feb. 12th. For more information, see <http://education.uwinnipeg.ca>.

READING WEEK

Reading Week is February 17-21. The University is closed Monday, February 17th for Louis Riel Day, but will be open for the remainder of the week.

TAX RECEIPTS

T2202a tuition tax receipts will be posted on WebAdvisor on February 28th.

ATTENTION SPRING GRADS:

The deadline to apply for Spring Graduation is Feb. 14th, 2014

Applications for Graduation are available at and are submitted to Student Central.

OPEN HOUSE 2014

Wednesday, February 19th
9am - 2pm, 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Thinking about changing your major?

Have a friend or family member who is considering coming to UWinnipeg next year?

Open House 2014 will be the perfect chance for all students to find out more about all of the different majors UWinnipeg offers. Current students will discover what possible majors, minors or electives they could choose from. Future students will get to meet with professors, tour our buildings and labs, apply on the spot for admission and see why UWinnipeg is the right choice for their studies.

If you are a current student, take this opportunity to explore your options and tell future students about YOUR University of Winnipeg!

For more information visit: uwinnipeg.ca/open-house or call 779.UWIN (8946)

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A RADIATION THERAPIST?

The University of Winnipeg and CancerCare Manitoba invite qualified individuals to apply for entry into the Radiation Therapy Joint Diploma/ Degree Program beginning in August 2014.

Applicants must have 24 credits of post-secondary education including: 6 credits of Anatomy and Physiology, 6 credits of Sociology or Psychology, 6 credits of Physics, 3 credits each of English/ Communications and Statistics. Deadline for application to The University of Winnipeg is March 1, 2014.

Need More Information?

Visit: www.cancercare.mb.ca/home/health_care_professionals/school_radiation_therapy/

There will also be an information session on February 25, 2014 in the main lobby of the Richardson College for the Environment & Science Complex, 599 Portage Avenue.

Presentations 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. with Q&A to follow.

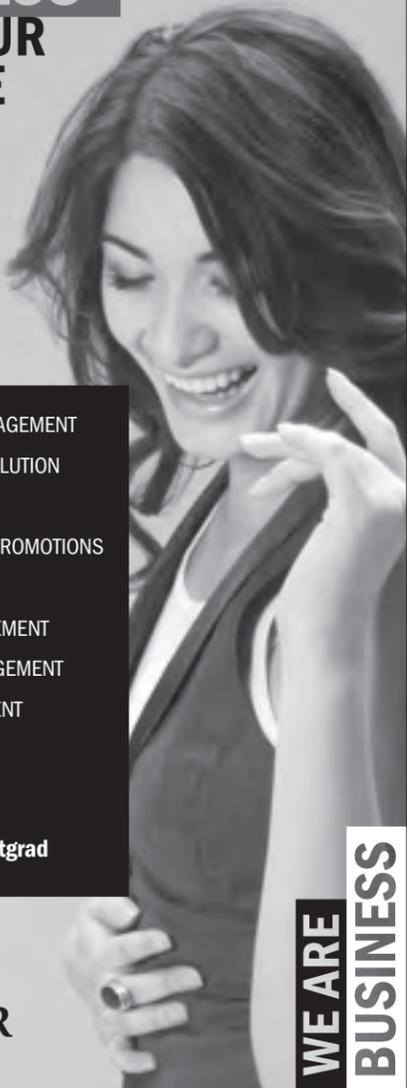
LAUNCH YOUR CAREER WITH A POSTGRAD IN BUSINESS CHOOSE YOUR CERTIFICATE

- ADVERTISING - MEDIA MANAGEMENT
- ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- EVENT MANAGEMENT
- FASHION MANAGEMENT & PROMOTIONS
- FINANCIAL PLANNING
- GLOBAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
- HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
- INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- MARKETING MANAGEMENT
- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

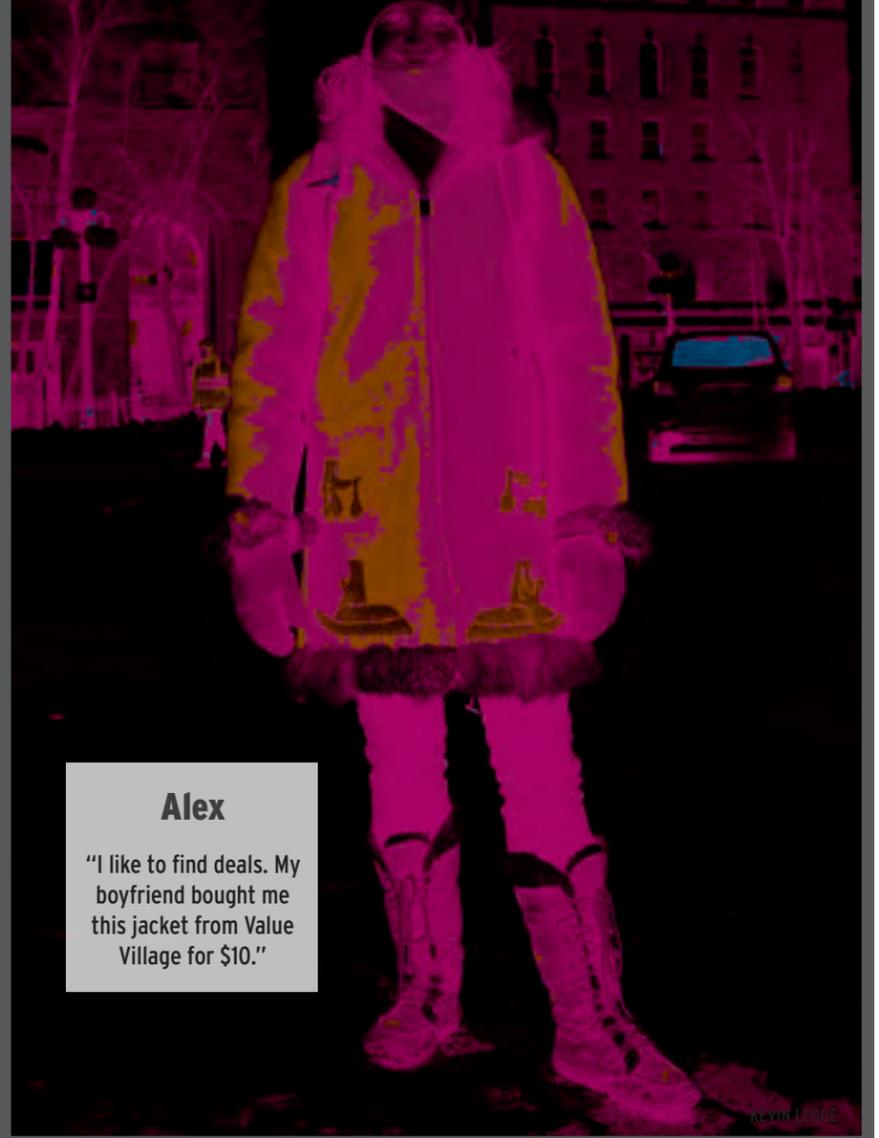
business.humber.ca/postgrad



WE ARE BUSINESS



FASHION STREETER



Alex

"I like to find deals. My boyfriend bought me this jacket from Value Village for \$10."

The Uniter Fashion Streeter is an ongoing documentation of creative fashion in Winnipeg inspired by the Helsinki fashion blog www.hel-looks.com. Each issue will feature a new look from our city's streets and bars in an attempt to encourage individual expression and celebrate that you are really, really good looking.

THE BACK PAGE LIST

1. ART & SOUL'S THEME THIS YEAR IS "BIG IN JAPAN"

Careful, there. (Not that we could afford to go.)

2. SHIA LABEOUF'S "I AM NOT FAMOUS ANYMORE" PAPER BAG

If we were Shia LaBeouf, we'd wear a paper bag, too (famous or not).

3. THE LEGO MOVIE HAS BEST FEBRUARY OPENING SINCE THE PASSION

It is kind of a biblical tale. With Uni-Kitty. And Batman. And '80s Spaceman.

4. THE OLYMPICS

It's that thing of when everyone pretends to give a shit about sports and a lot of money is spent and there's criticism and sponsorships and crying and McDonalds.

5. LEE NEWTON, WINNIPEG HARVEST FOUNDER, DEAD AT 61

She had a "significant, stubborn spirit that had a big, big heart attached to it" - Harvest executive director David Northcott, via CBC.

6. PUSSY RIOT

The collective says Masha and Nadya aren't members anymore, but the pair says "Pussy Riot can be anyone, and no one can be excluded from Pussy Riot." Sweet, we're in Pussy Riot.

7. DUMB STARBUCKS

Dumb Tim Hortons opening never.

8. SOMEONE WHO PRINTS PHYSICAL RECORDS/CDS BEING CONDESCENDING TO AN ARTIST/CLIENT

The artists are keeping you in business, jerk head. Leave the criticizing to us.

9. WILD PLANET OWNER PUTS BUILDING UP FOR SALE

Now where will 15 year-old me buy Furnaceface t-shirts?

10. FRED ARMISEN WILL LEAD LATE NIGHT BAND

Host Seth Meyers also welcomes members of Les Savy Fav, Girls Against Boys and Beyonce's band to the show. We won't even miss The Roots. Or Jimmy. Semi-related: we really miss Craig Kilborn.

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES.



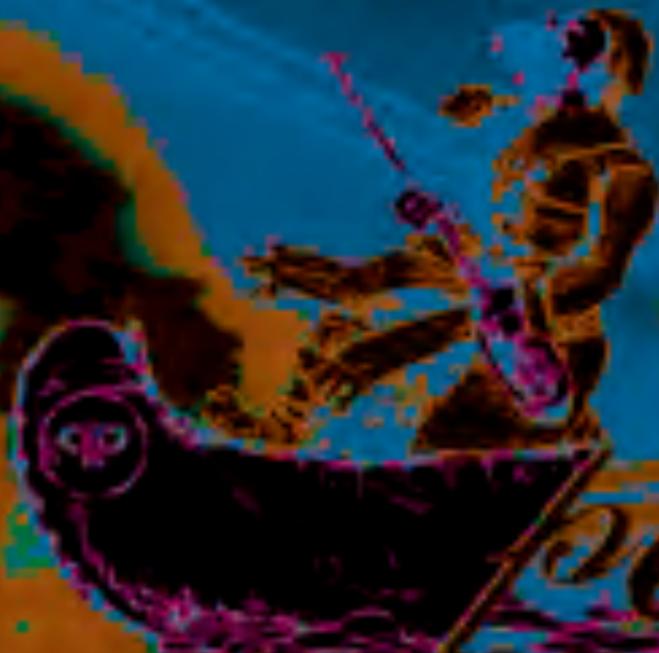
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CIRCLE HEADS





LE **CJP** CONSEIL JEUNESSE PROVINCIAL PRESENTE:



Petit
Canada



Festival du Voyageur

#PETITCANADA

FACEBOOK @ PETIT CANADA 2014

WWW.CONSEIL-JEUNESSE.MB.CA/PROJETS/PETIT-CANADA

JEUDI LE 20 FÉVRIER 2014
AU PARC DU VOYAGEUR
18 H À 23 H



Patrimoine
canadien

Canadian
Heritage



Manitoba

MANITOBBAN

NITER