

THE

UNITER

FREE.WEEKLY.
VOLUME 69 // ISSUE 13 // NOV.21



SOLO

MIKE SUDOMA TAKES YOU
TO WINNIPEG'S FAVOURITE
INDOOR SKATE PARK

POLYAMOROUS RELATIONSHIPS
IN WINNIPEG

RAE SPOON

WILLIAM O'DONNELL

ASTRE

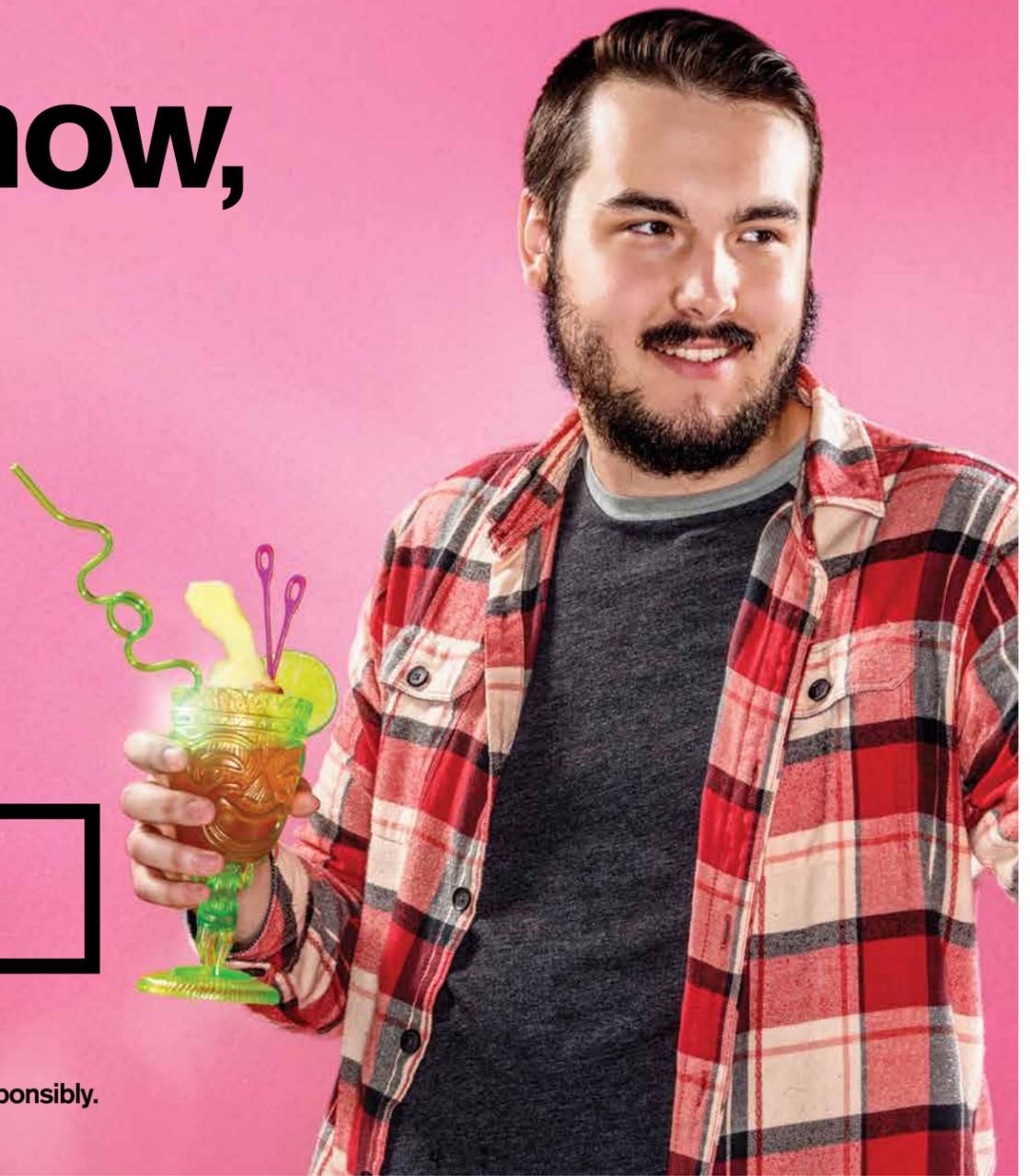
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U WE'RE HIRING!

The Uniter is seeking a Comments Editor

The University of Winnipeg's street weekly is seeking an up-and-coming, opinionated individual to take over the Comments section of the magazine. The successful candidate should feel comfortable running a team of contributors, assigning and editing their work, providing feedback, organizing meetings and communicating with the Managing Editor. The Comments Editor is responsible for ensuring visual content will accompany each piece printed in their section, which makes up one and a half pages (on average) per issue.

Skill Requirements:

- Ability to multi-task, make decisions and work independently.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.
- Knowledge of Google docs.
- Ability to oversee a team of volunteer writers.
- Must enforce deadlines.
- Should have at least two years of critical writing experience.

Duties:

- Must conduct classroom presentations to potential volunteer contributors in collaboration with the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Must be available to attend Monday night editorial meetings.
- Must write at least one feature per semester.
- Must work with the photo/graphics department to ensure each piece submitted for print includes an appropriate and original image.
- Will provide honest and constructive feedback to all contributors in a timely fashion.
- Should be available Friday/Saturday to edit work to ensure it is submitted to the Copy & Style Editor by 6pm on Saturdays.

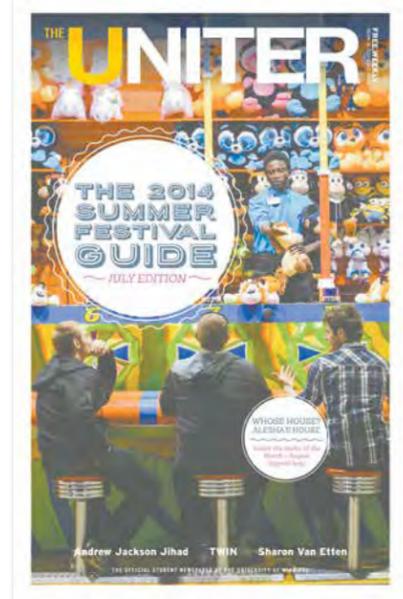
The position runs from January 2 to March 26, 2015 and pays \$110/week. It is a part-time position that will require approximately a 10 hour/week commitment.

Interested parties should submit a resume including references, CV, three writing samples and a cover letter by noon on December 5, 2014. Application packages should be sent to Managing Editor Nicholas Friesen at editor@uniter.ca or deliver resumes in person to:

The Uniter
ORM14 Bulman Centre

515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9

We thank all applicants, however only those shortlisted for an interview will be contacted.



NICK'S PICKS

Hey team - there's plenty to check out this week. Friday night the Winnipeg Film Group is having its semi-regular member screening at Cinematheque (7pm) with an after party at 8:30. Tom Pashko's favourite filmmaker, Curtis L. Wiebe, will show a new puppet-starring work called *The Mysterious Case of Calvert Wander*, UW friends Ian Bawa and Markus Henkel will debut *Nick's an Asshole in 3D* (which I can only presume is about me, because I'm a narcissist) and Karen Asmundson and Gwen Truntau's *Polar Express* follows Jim to the Red River Ex (that's all I'm gonna give away - it looks amazing). Tickets are looking scarce and must be reserved, so contact the Winnipeg Film Group for details.

The XanaDOODs are unleashing a new LP at the Park Theatre on Saturday night. According to an email from this local group, the record is "damn good and (they) are a damn good live band. The show is going to be amazing." Cool. A cappella act Those Guys, metal/proggers Moon Tan, inspirational crew Thebahatizz and DJ King Cabernet are also on the bill, ensuring it's the most diverse collection of acts in one place on Saturday, 8pm, tickets at the door.

Connecticut roots group Parsonfield is in town right now performing as part of The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's *The Heart of Robin Hood*, but you can catch 'em this Sunday night at the Good Will for \$10 at 8pm. We hear TBA is opening. We love TBA. We saw them open for Petty once in the '80s and then with Wilco in the '90s. So it's gonna be a great night.

Walk on the grass instead of the sidewalk because it's not slippery.

-NJF



* ON THE COVER

We kept trying to think of a clever way to include "edging" but came up short. Photo by Mike Sudoma.

.....

MIKE SUDOMA

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

BRITTANY TALKS TO MANDY FROM KLINIC IN THE LATEST FEMINISM AND A FALAFEL VIDEO. THE TOPIC: RAPE CULTURE IN WINNIPEG.

GRAB THE FREE WEEKLY DOWNLOAD FROM LOCAL LO-FI SONGWRITER ASTRE. "MARIE" COMES FROM THE *WOOD SONGS* EP AND IF YOU DIG IT, YOU SHOULD CHECK ASTRE OUT AT MANITOBA MUSIC'S NEW MUSIC WEDNESDAY SHOWCASE ON DECEMBER 3 AT OZZY'S.



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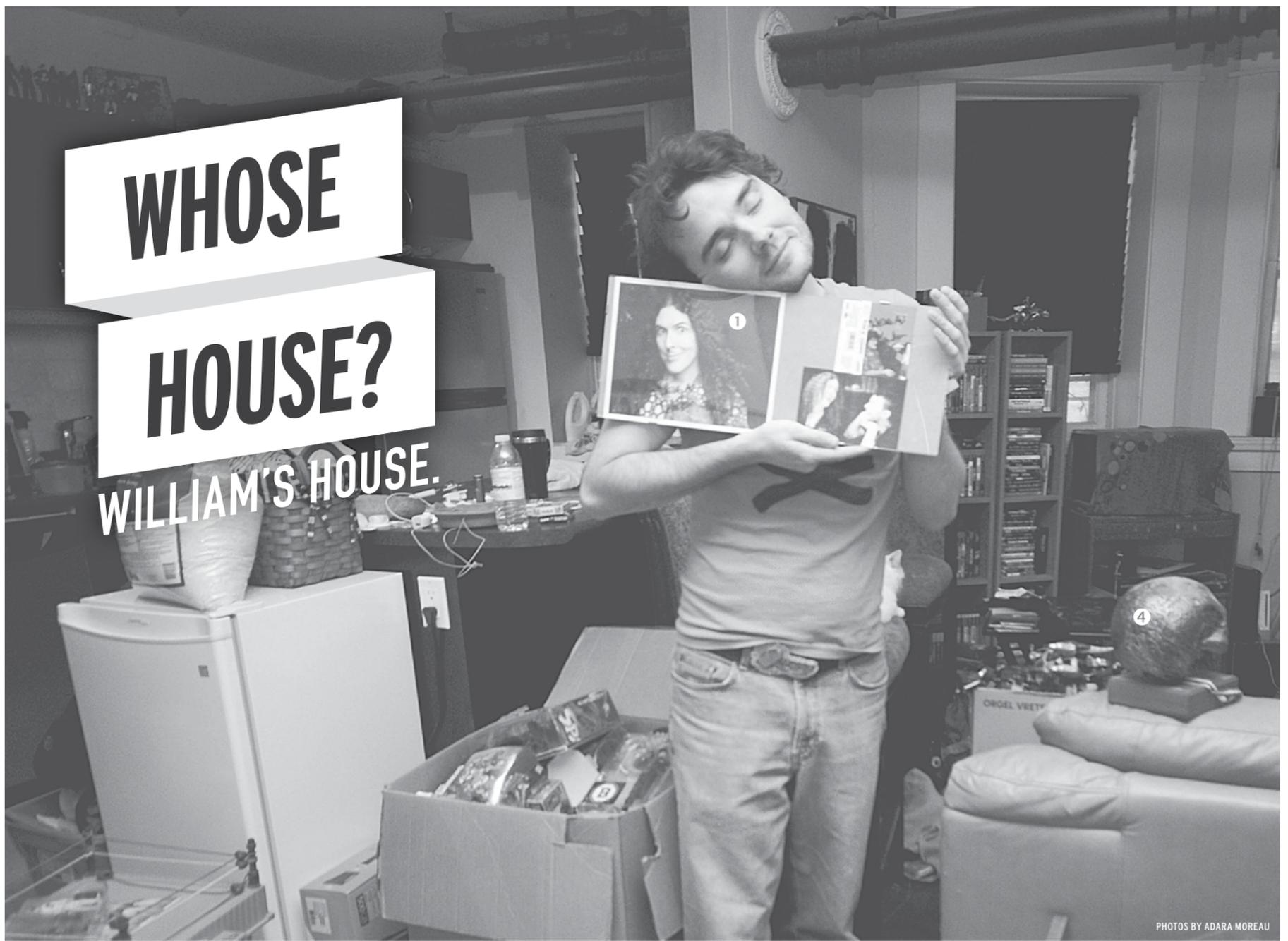
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LOCATION >>

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SUBMISSIONS OF ARTICLES, LETTERS, GRAPHICS AND PHOTOS are encouraged, however all new contributors (with the exception of letters to the editor) must attend a 45 minute volunteer orientation workshop to ensure that the volunteer understands all of the publication's basic guidelines. Volunteer workshops take place Wednesdays from 12:30-1:20 in room ORM14. Please email volunteer@uniter.ca for more details. Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. *The Uniter* reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. *The Uniter* will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.



PHOTOS BY ADARA MOREAU

TONY HINDS

@THETONYHINDS

BEAT REPORTER

The downtown apartment of comic book writer William O'Donnell is a bit unorganized, as he recently moved. Clusters of shelves surrounding his television are stuffed with hundreds of DVDs and Blu-rays, a wonderfully diverse collection with such titles as *The Complete Mr. Bean* and *Salò, or the 120 Days of Sodom*. Boxes overflowing with action figures and memorabilia rest at our feet.

"I'm a nostalgia freak, if you can't tell from the toys," O'Donnell says, before he's interrupted by one of his cats, Lizard Lemon, who doesn't meow so much as chirp at her owner.

O'Donnell keeps busy as an actor, voice-over artist, filmmaker and comedy writer and performer. He also co-writes, co-produces and performs on Shaw TV's *Week Thus Far*, which tapes its series finale on Dec. 11, in addition to his comic book work with artist Bart Rucinski. It's been a decade since O'Donnell and Rucinski first collaborated, eventually forming the *Yak and Shadow* collective. Rucinski - or Bart R. as he's credited - is Yak and O'Donnell is Shadow.

Their main collaborations include *One Shot Left*, a single panel comic featuring an array of different characters, and their popular *The Pope Vs.* series, which chronicles the Bishop of Rome's sometimes violent, but always comical encounters with pop culture icons. You can also look out for O'Donnell in recent films from local crew Astron-6, as he cameos in this year's *The Editor* and dies about 30 times in future cult classic *Manborg*, playing a variety of small roles.

1) "WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC PHOTO

"This is my most treasured relic of the idols I've met ... me meeting Weird Al in Calgary."

2) HIS CATS, LIZARD LEMON AND FATHER DOUGAL MAGUIRE

"My main creative outlet is verbally abusing them."

3) PAINTING BY BART RUCINSKI

"This painting's based on a note I had written, which said: 'Image: A mummy reaching for a banana. Caption: 'Mummy want banana.' I'd decided in whatever state of mind I was in that it was done. 'That's all it needs to be.' I saw that later and couldn't stop laughing at the idea that I had thought it was finished."

4) SHORT FILM MASSACRE RUNNER-UP AWARD

"I won this at the 2008 Short Film Massacre, which was a horror film festival held every Halloween. That year's festival is really talked about as the birth of Astron-6. Steve Kostanski took first prize and I got this for runner-up. It was for a movie I made called *Holy Shit 2*. There is a *Holy Shit 1*, by the way."

5) NOTEBOOKS OF IDEAS

"Here's a big-ass heap of ideas that I'll get to one day. Pages of screenplay ideas, comics, everything. In the one I'm writing in now, I just wrote a walk-on for the *Week Thus Far*."

6) MARVEL CARDS/ACTION FIGURES

"When I was a kid, these cards were the first thing that set me off. I was really obsessed with awesome looking characters that did cool things. Since then, it's been all about creating cool characters."



Check out *Yak and Shadow Comics* at yakandshadow.com



FREETHINKING

WITH SPENCER FERNANDO

@SPENCERFERNANDO

CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES MAKE PROGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

On November 12, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a pact between their nations to focus on addressing climate change. The agreement - while imperfect - is a positive development.

As the biggest contributors to global carbon emissions, China and the U.S. are essential to making progress on climate change. While all countries including Canada can and should take steps to address climate change, broader progress is difficult to achieve without the world's two largest economies on board.

Previous efforts at climate change agreements have floundered in part due to economic concerns. Specifically, the people behind large but still developing economies in such places as China and India feel it is unfair for them to be asked to cap their emissions when they are at the early stage of their economic development. Western nations - having already experienced the significant economic benefits of industrialization - have only recently taken limited action on climate change.

In this respect, the agreement shows flexibility on the part of the U.S., which has agreed to reduce its emissions by 26-28 per cent below 2005 levels by the year 2025, whereas China has agreed to stop the increase in its emissions by 2030. While not ideal, this agreement demonstrates an understanding on the part of the U.S. that China has a large number of people living in poverty and is thus less willing to take measures that could slow economic growth.

This deal could lead other nations to address climate change. Speculation has already begun that the U.S. - building on the momentum of the deal with China - may sign a new climate pact with India, the world's second most populous nation and a rapidly growing economy. According

to the World Health Organization, New Delhi is the world's most polluted city and a study from the University of East Anglia in the UK projects that India's carbon emissions may be equal to or above China's by 2020. If India is spurred to action sooner rather than later, the long-term benefits to the world could be substantial.

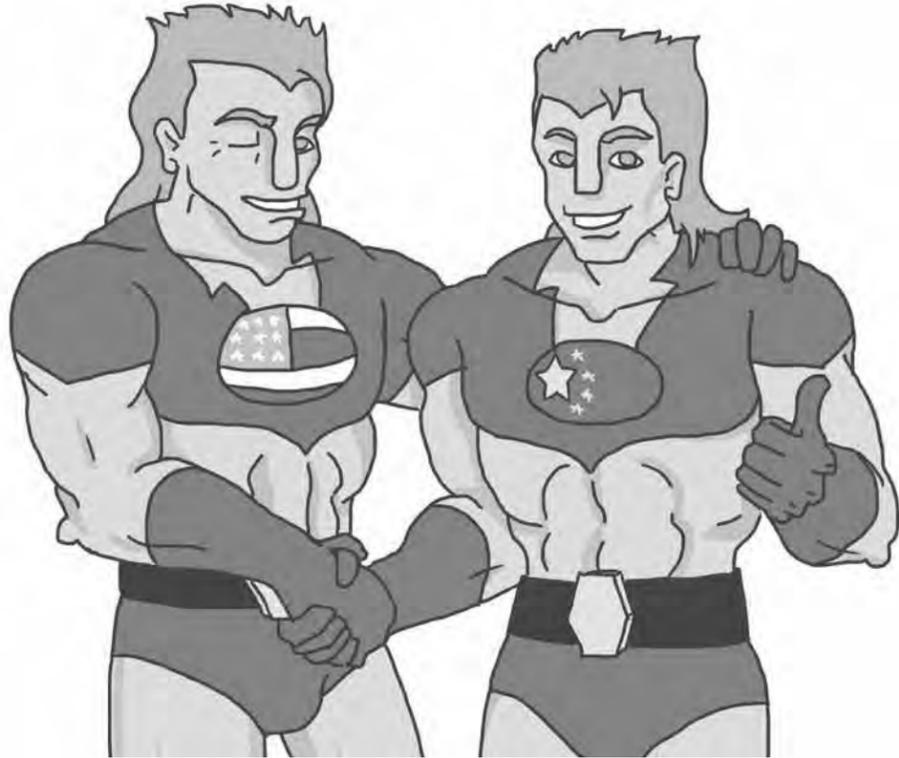
While this deal is only a first step in what must be broader and more sustained efforts to address climate change, it is a step in the right direction, as the effect of climate change crosses all national and provincial boundaries.

In a 2013 presentation titled *The Impact of Climate Change in Manitoba*, Danny Blair - Professor of Geography and Associate Dean of Science at the University

of Winnipeg - explained that due to climate change, southern Manitoba can expect - with high to very high confidence - more heat waves, more heat extremes, an increase in winter precipitation, more droughts, more intense rain events, higher climate extremes and more frequent local summer flooding.

Manitoba cannot escape the impact of climate change, nor can anywhere else. So, when one part of the world takes constructive action on climate change, all of us can benefit. We all have a stake in this and that's why the agreement between the U.S. and China is a hopeful sign of progress.

Spencer Fernando has been involved in politics at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels. He believes in a "live and let live" philosophy.



NICHOLAS LUCHAK

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OUT OF THE WILD

astre emerges from the woods with a brand new EP

DEBORAH REMUS

@DEBORAHREMUS

ARTS REPORTER

A cabin in Manitoba's Interlake region lacking both running water and Internet was Kathryn Kerr's creative space for the genesis of her debut EP. *Wood Songs* was released this past summer and serves as an introduction to her folk-based solo project that goes under the moniker of astre, (the French word for "star").

"I mostly wanted this release to be a bit of a calling card," Kerr says. "Winnipeg is a great place for musicians starting out and I just wanted something so I can hopefully start getting my name out there."

Kerr started writing music by herself, due to the fact that she works on a passenger train in the summer and is consequently only in Winnipeg for about half the year. It's something that obviously makes practicing with a band and playing regular gigs a tad difficult.

"I started out solo as kind of a necessity and then I really got into playing



Kathryn Kerr

music on my own, which is something I hadn't really done much of before," Kerr says. "The solitude has ended up being both the best part and the hardest part. I like writing everything by myself because I'm pretty controlling, but also it can be a hindrance because you can get sick of just hearing your own music sometimes."

The 26-year-old used to play in a cover band that performed in Winnipeg bars. She also studied music at Brandon University, where she was mostly in jazz bands. astre serves as a bit of a genre switch for Kerr, since the EP is comprised of lo-fi ambient folk songs; she cites Cat Power and Joanna Newsom as main influences.

"Playing guitar, piano and singing was kind of what I was doing before I went to university so it's kind of a switch back in some ways," she says.

Kerr ended up creating the entire EP from scratch since she wrote and performed all the songs, recorded them by herself and even mastered them when she returned home to Winnipeg.

"Money was the main benefit. You can pretty much record the whole thing for free once you have the right programs and software," she says. "It was also just great practice for myself because I really do like the production side of music and what better way to practice than by recording your own stuff?"

The promise of solitude is what drew Kerr to her family's cabin, where she spent a week in March recording her EP. Nature has also been a big influence on both the EP title and the poetic lyrics that accompany her music.

"I live in an apartment with a bunch of other musicians and it can get pretty loud sometimes and it's hard to get any

alone time," she says. "The lake is also my favourite place to be when I'm not in the city. I definitely get a lot of my inspiration from looking out the train window or just being present in the Canadian wilderness."



See astre during Manitoba Music Night on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at Ozzy's.

Darling Twig and Pardon Mein French will also perform.

Cover is \$3 and show starts at 8:30 p.m.

Head to www.astremusic.com for more info.

HOMeward BOUND

Rae Spoon takes new back-to-basics record on tour

JILLIAN GROENING

@JILL_GROENING

BEAT REPORTER

There are few artists who hold the ability to work in a myriad of media while still being humbly productive and keeping their feet grounded. Rae Spoon is one of those few.

"I was releasing an album every year-and-a-half and a book every year-and-a-half and I just decided it was really weird and extensive," Spoon says while laughing, from their current home in Montreal. "It was like an excessive habit."

Currently, Spoon is preparing to play the first show marking the last leg of a long tour for their most recent album, *My Prairie Home*. Following this tour, Spoon plans on moving back to the place where they were born and bred, Calgary, Alberta.

The return home succeeds a big year for the 33-year-old musician and writer ("it's old for a musician and young for a writer," Spoon says, giggling); 2014 brought the international release of *My Prairie Home*, a documentary-musical created by fellow



MAYA BANKOVIC

Canadian Chelsea McMullan which centres around Spoon's music and life growing up on the prairies as a trans person as well as a musician.

Spoon's album of the same name was created in conjunction with the score for the film and serves as their 10th album released in 11 years as a recording musician.

Spoon began writing during the creation of McMullan's film as a means of communicating their childhood anecdotes that dealt with coming-of-age on the prairies as someone who doesn't conform to the gender binary, or the classification of gender into the two distinct categories of masculine and feminine. McMullan encouraged Spoon to publish the fascinating works.

"It was really interesting to sit down and write half a book about gender because before that I had always been writing about everything else," Spoon says of their experience penning 2014's *Gender Failure* along-

side artist Ivan E. Coyote. "It's been cool to be able to express that and there's been lots of great feedback about the book. There have been a lot of people who feel that the gender binary isn't fitting to everybody."

Spoon's artistic talents haven't been the only area that has allowed for gear shifting: their music style has also shifted dramatically over the years. After starting out as a country/gospel-influenced folk artist, Spoon has since recorded music with indie rock, electronic and experimental sensibilities. While living in Germany, Spoon was exposed to electronic, which pulled them away from their country roots.

"I thought it would be interesting to try and change but still remain a songwriter," Spoon explains. "I wanted to take songwriting and to have these folk songs but within electronic music."

The stylistic experimentation has paid off for the two-time Polaris Prize nominee,

who now appears to be returning to their roots both physically and musically.

"I'll probably start making electronic music again once I'm in rural Alberta," Spoon says, laughing. "I always seem to revisit the prairies somehow."



Rae Spoon performs with Geoff Berner on Nov. 28 at the West End Cultural Centre.

Doors are at 7:15 p.m. and show is at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and are available at Ticketmaster, Music Trader, The Winnipeg Folk Fest Music Store and WECC.

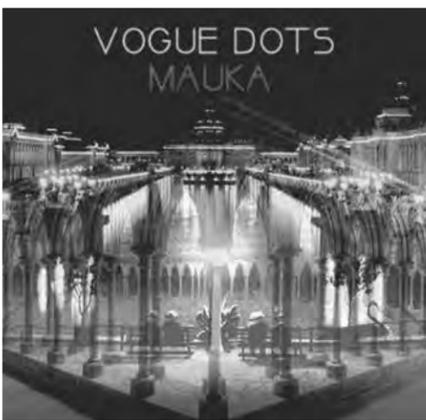
GOLD SOUNDS



FINN
FINN
Independent
★★★★☆

The debut EP from Winnipeg quintet FINN delivers five ultra-clean pop rockers that live somewhere between late-period Death Cab and early Teenage Fanclub. "Father's Chair" and "River's Shore" both have a bit of an edge while playing it safe, blending acoustic guitars with light distortion. Mixing things up is the mellow "Shadow Of A Doubt," which showcases glorious harmonies and harmonica. One of the stand-out points of the collection is its diverse use of vocalists - the delightful "Man and Beast" features local singer/actress Sierra Noble, but it's almost unnecessary, as the boys do just fine on their own. Closing with the sprawling "Cold Comfort," this first offering from FINN is pretty decent. It's basically the Rural Alberta Advantage without the nasally delivery and most of the bite.

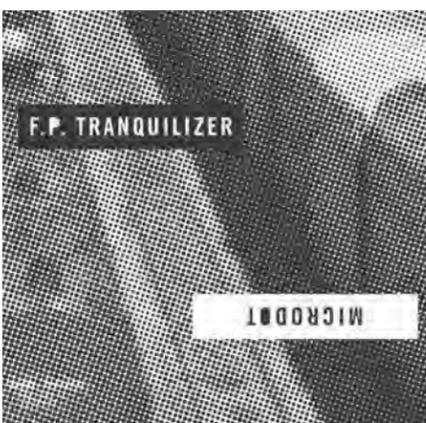
- Nicholas Friesen



Vogue Dots
Mauka
Indica Records
★★★★☆

This four-song EP from New Brunswick chillwave duo Vogue Dots delivers the sad. You could probably play these tracks over clips of a depressed DJ playing to one sad kid at the club, holding a drink, nodding off (but beautifully photographed, naturally). "Way With Silence" showcases gloriously ethereal vocals over sparse blips, while "Tux" takes you out to that cocktail party for all of your best friends' corpses. Things kick up a little bit with "Jealous Arts," which dusts off the dance shoes but still stands in the corner, and closer "Way Out" eats up the leftover beats and spits them out for all to enjoy. It's a methodical little offering, one that walks a lot of lines and crosses even more. Your headphones will thank you.

- Nicholas Friesen



F.P. Tranquilizer & Microdot
Split
Sundowning
★★★★☆

I'm not sure why these two local albums, which exist fine on their own, are delivered here on one disc, but it's okay because it's economical and it all really works together. I love the superfuzz of the 15 tracks offered by F.P. Tranquilizer, which blend digital with analog, blurred vox with laughter and pulsating tastes with unappetizing back-of-the-drawer nostalgia. Some tracks are just teases ("Junebug") while others ("Meet Me At The Forks," "Crispy Big Ones") are fully realized, and they all work within the context.

Microdot's 13 tracks are aggressive nuggets of feedback-laced garage rock in the spirit of such local favourites as The Vagiants and The Quiffs, equal parts tight and sloppy. The riffs are big ("Raven Blues," "Karluk") and the recording is simple, nothing extra is needed. It's dirty and deep in classic Microdot fashion - too big to be lo-fi, but too filthy to be "produced." What you're left with is a feeling, that maybe you've been hit by a slow-moving truck. You're bruised and broken, but you still wander down the middle of the street, because fuck it.

- Nicholas Friesen

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A SILVER LINING

U of W urban and inner-city studies chair authors new book on poverty in Canada

MATHIEU SCHWAB

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Jim Silver has long provided a voice against the status quo.

Back in 1995, he told masses of Jets fans that sheer willpower would not be enough to retain them in the city. Instead of simply bailing the hockey team out, planning would have to be done to ensure that they would be able to thrive. Part of such preparation would be using the money suggested for a subsidized rink to improve city conditions. Especially the urban poverty situation.

In the end, we've seen that he was right. He makes an excellent point in his new



Jim Silver

book *About Canada: Poverty*. In the small volume, the professor and chair of the University of Winnipeg's Urban and Inner-City Studies distills over 15 years' worth of knowledge from working in Winnipeg's inner city to argue that smart government action must be taken to help eliminate the problem of poverty; simply throwing money at it won't make it go away.

"An examination of poverty in Canada shows that we have high levels of poverty, and we don't have to have those high levels. Governments and citizens have the power to change it," Silver says.

"Poverty is much more than just a lack of income," he insists, addressing the notion of "complex poverty" in his book.

"Complex poverty is how the shortage of income is compounded by poor housing conditions, poor health conditions and a lack of education."

Silver says that a large problem is the way the feds treats poverty, noting that the provincial government has been required to do most of the work in Winnipeg. He suggests that to be able to truly change the poverty landscape, the federal governments will have to become more

involved in both planning and funding efforts to combat it.

Not only would fighting poverty be the ethical thing for the government to do, he says, but it would also be financially beneficial. Part of the examination of Canadian poverty includes a cost-benefit analysis of fighting poverty, which shows that it would actually be profitable to eliminate poverty in the long-run.

While the biggest change will have to come via the provincial government, Silver also suggests some ways the municipal government could help create change: it could "improve recreational facilities, reduce bus fares for low-income families, examine the low-income rental housing situation and reassess their Aboriginal hiring policy."

About Canada: Poverty provides an unflinching look at the urban poverty situation, but also a call to action for both the common person and those in power.

The takeaway according to Silver? "Read the book."

Silver, along with his co-authors, won the 2013 Manitoba Book Award for Non-Fiction for *Indians Wear Red: Colonialism, Resistance, and Aboriginal Street Gangs*. He is currently working on *Housing Matters: Low-Income Rental Housing in Winnipeg*.



About Canada: Poverty will have a book release at McNally Robinson on Monday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.

NOT YOUR BABA'S CLOTHING STORE

Nettie + Min offers "vintage for the modern lady"

THOMAS PASHKO

 @THOMASPASHKO

BEAT REPORTER

"A lot of the stuff I sell is more casual," Rachael Poklitar tells me over coffee at The Good Will Social Club. It's a freezing cold evening and traffic is slipping and sliding all over Portage Avenue. "I personally don't dress super fancy. I just kind of mish and mash what I like. So I take that approach with the shop, too. Wearing vintage in a modern way."

The shop Poklitar is referring to is Nettie + Min, a vintage clothing shop she owns and operates, selling everything from sandals, to skirts, to coats. N+M started as an Etsy shop in August, which grew out of her previous online venture Ladylikeness. After a brief hiatus to travel through Europe, Poklitar made the decision to



RACHAEL POKLITAR

start fresh. N+M has now expanded into a pop-up shop at Flash Boutique (438 Graham Avenue), with plans to create a stand-alone physical shop. The shop's unique name comes from Poklitar's grandmothers.

"Even though they were around, I didn't know them that well," the 26-year-old says of her grandma Min and baba Nettie. "They're both old fashioned female names, and I do vintage clothes for women. So I just wanted to commemorate them. I think, even though they're just regular moms, they raised my parents in a weird sort of time, being housewives and all that. They did so much for their families and sacrificed a lot. This seemed like a good way to honour them."

N+M's beginnings as an Etsy shop has led to work with the Winnipeg Etsy Street Team, a collective that promotes and organizes sales for local sellers. Pokli-

tar's expansion into a pop-up location is a first step towards creating a physical store, an endeavor that's already in the works, planned for 2015.

"The whole point of me wanting to open a brick and mortar shop is that I like talking to people," Poklitar says. "I think it's more personal than buying online. Even I don't shop online much. Going into stores and trying things on it's my favourite. It'll be there for those people who, like me, don't trust the Internet and want an experience shopping."

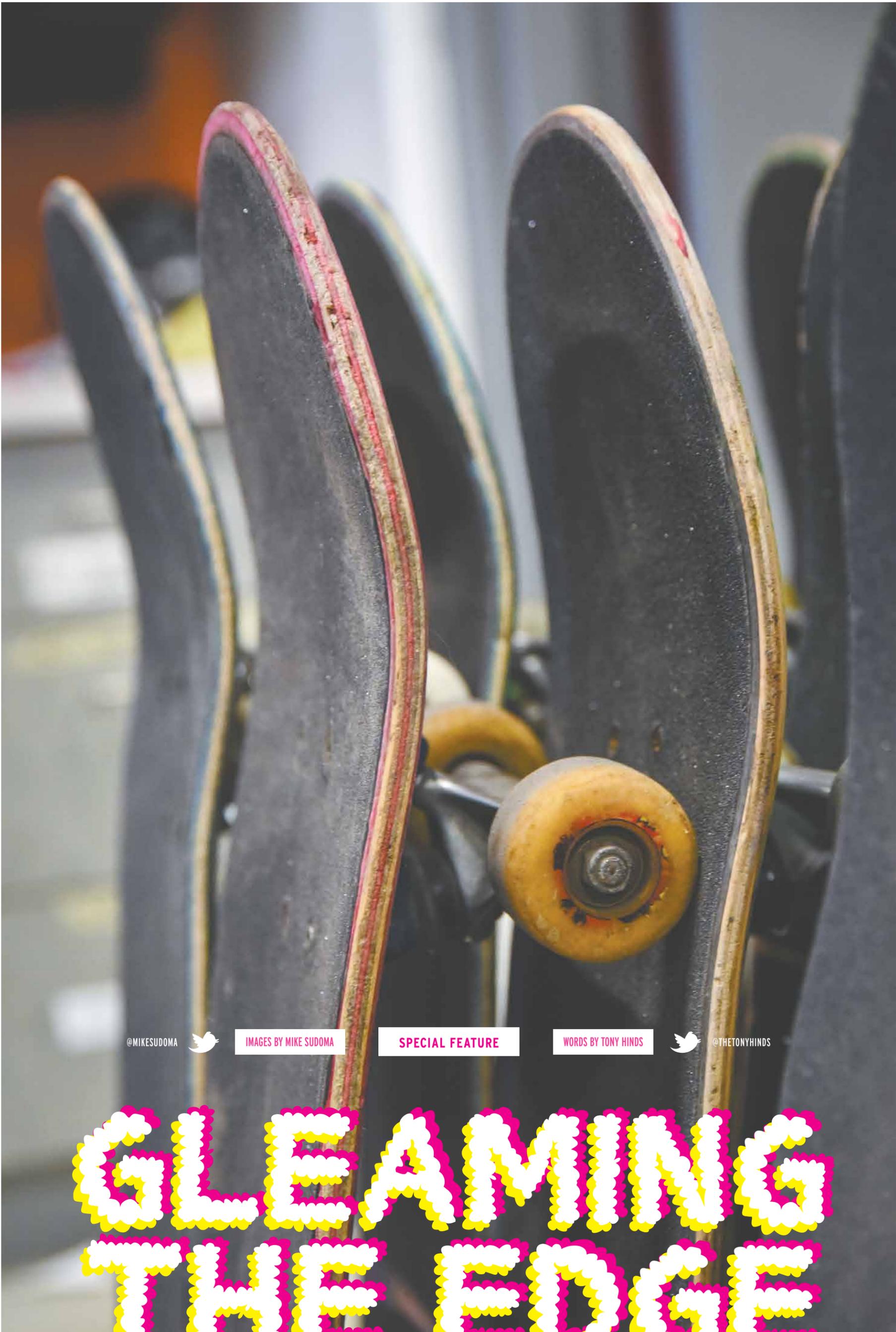
N+M's ethos is a practical approach to vintage clothing. On her Etsy, Poklitar describes the collection she curates and restores as clothing "for women who work, women who ride their bikes, women who don't always have time or money for dry-cleaning, and women who are sick of shoddy garments from Forever 21... for

women who like to have fun when they dress and who don't mind when people look (politely)."

Poklitar expands on that ethos in person. "It's for people who realize that dressing completely in vintage, very old or high end stuff, just isn't possible for everyone," she says. "Not every job or commute accommodates that. It's not practical. So it's taking the style and quality of vintage, but bringing it into a more modern usage. I call it 'vintage for the modern lady.' Or whatever."

She laughs at that last part. "Or whatever," she repeats. "The 'or whatever' is very important. You can quote me on that."

Follow Nettie + Min at [facebook.com/nettieandmin](https://www.facebook.com/nettieandmin) and [@nettieandmin](https://www.instagram.com/nettieandmin) on Instagram. Visit the temporary pop-up shop at 438 Graham Avenue throughout December.



@MIKESUDOMA



IMAGES BY MIKE SUDOMA

SPECIAL FEATURE

WORDS BY TONY HINDS



@THETONYHINDS

GLAMMING THE EDGE

INDOOR SKATE PARK KEEPS WARM ALL WINTER LONG



kateboards and snow don't mix, which becomes an annual problem for local practitioners of the sport, though many think of it as an art form. What happens when your addiction, your passion, your life vanishes for half of the year? When the white stuff falls, the Winnipeg skate scene is forced indoors.

Except for watching skate videos or goofing around with a tech-deck, there's no way to scratch that itch. That's why The Edge Skatepark (333 King St.), the

Reimer asserts that the popularity of The Edge rises and falls with the passing seasons.

"In the summer, we do about as well as an outdoor pool does in the winter," Reimer says.

During the summer, the Forks Skateboard Plaza is a major draw, in addition to the miles of city streets available to skaters bold enough to risk a security guard encounter.

To maintain business during summer months, the Edge team makes surprise weekly visits to outdoor skate parks



“WITHOUT THE EDGE, THE SKATEBOARD COMMUNITY IN WINNIPEG WOULD SUFFER. EVERY SKATEBOARDER PILES IN THERE ALL WINTER. IF WE DIDN'T HAVE THE EDGE, WE'D LOSE OUR MINDS.”

- COLIN LAMBERT, OWNER AND TEAM MEMBER OF SK8 SKATES

biggest indoor facility of its kind in Manitoba, has become a haven for local skaters.

Geoff Reimer, assistant director of The Edge, believes the community depends on the park.

"The Edge is Winnipeg's plan B," Reimer says. "Even in the summer, it always seems to rain. It's like an ongoing joke in the city."

In fact, Reimer reveals that "75 per cent of pro demos here" have been affected by rain. A major pro demo held by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, featuring such pro names as David Reyes, Sascha Daley and Garrett Hill encountered that exact fate. However, with the aid of Sk8 Skates' Colin Lambert, the venue was moved to the Edge, where the demo went off to great success.

This summer even included a visit from skate legend Jamie Thomas, who stopped by the park with his son.

The Edge, which originally opened at a smaller location in Elmwood, was located for the majority of its 22 years at the 8,600 square foot site on Pacific Avenue. In 2011, the park nearly doubled in size (13,000 square feet) when it moved to its current location on King Street.

The organization also maintains strong relationships with the local teams, which include Sk8 Skates and Green Apple Skateboard Shop. The shops even sponsor and donate prizes for competitions and skate camps held regularly by the park.

throughout the city, offering skate lessons to persons of any age. This allows younger kids to get involved, as the indoor park maintains the policy that all skaters must be over the age of 12.

As the snow descends, The Edge is already planning its season, which will include new Saturday skate sessions and their seasonal snowboard club on Wednesday nights for ages 12 - 17.

The skate community has come to see The Edge as its home indoor skate facility. Sk8 Skates team member Colin Lambert insists the rest of the community is as grateful for the park as he and his teammates.

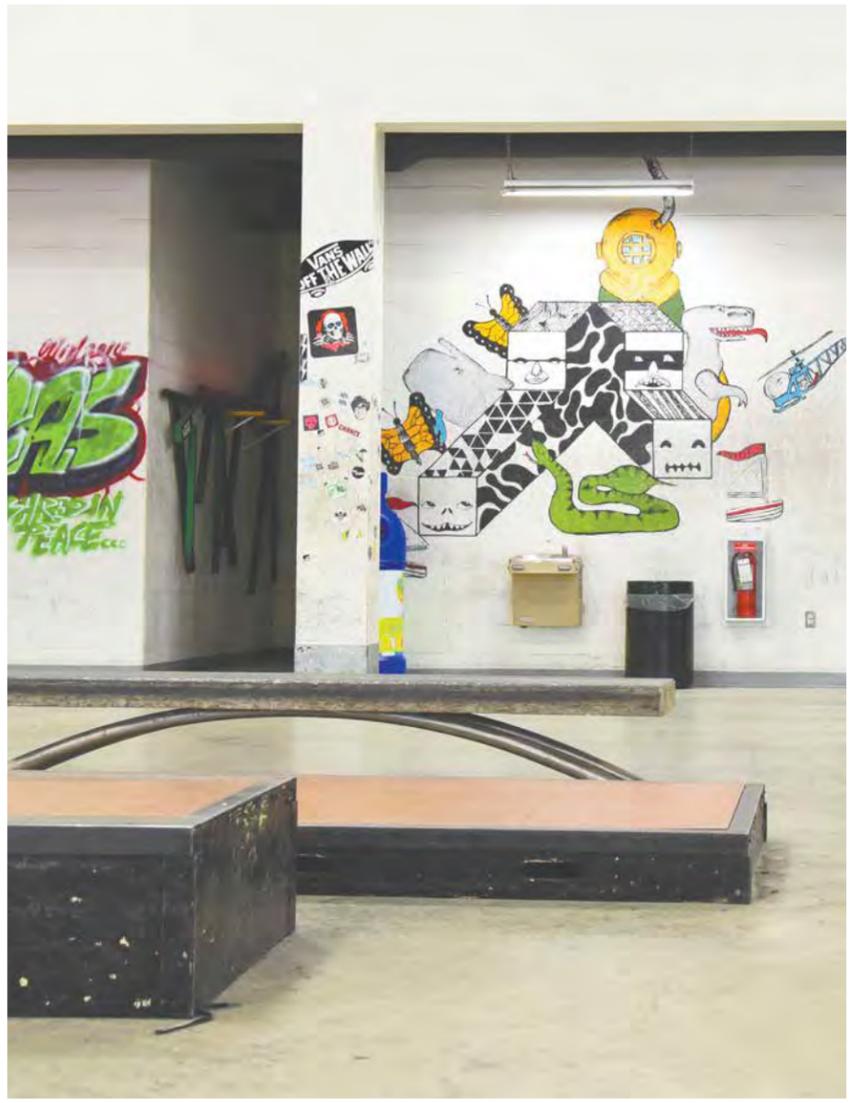
"Without The Edge, the skateboard community in Winnipeg would suffer," Lambert says. "Every skateboarder piles in there all winter. If we didn't have The Edge, we'd lose our minds."

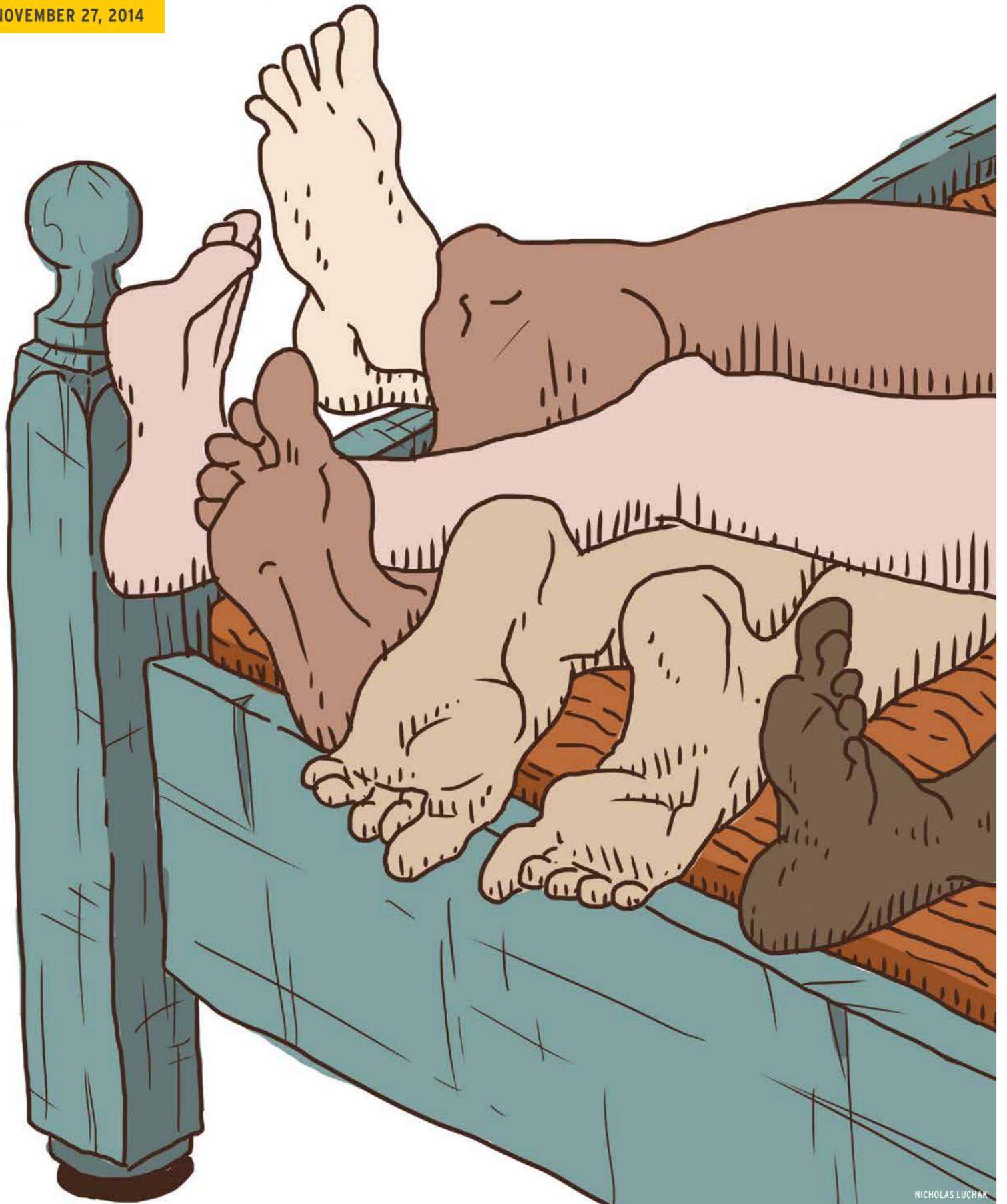


Visit The Edge Skatepark @ 333 King Street.

Requirements to skate: Just bring a board and signed safety waiver, which are printable from their website. Helmets are mandatory but provided. Ages 12+.







NICHOLAS LUCHAK

SHARING THE LOVE

Winnipeg's polyamorous community grows ever so slowly



JAMES WILT

 @UNITER_CULTURE

ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

At this point, most are somewhat aware of the tenets of polyamory. Monogamy is restrictive, if not a totally bunk relic of Judeo-Christian metaphysics. Why can one become emotionally intimate with new people, but not physically? Why bother drawing such lines? As long as consent and honesty ground everything, anything goes. The logic seems sound.

That doesn't mean that polyamorous relationships have exploded in popularity. Anlina Sheng, the coordinator of PolyWinnipeg, notes that the organization's seen a spike in numbers since it formed five

years ago. Between 10 and 20 show to each monthly discussion. There's more young and queer folk involved than in other cities, Sheng says. But it's still in its infancy.

"There's been growing public interest," Sheng says. "It's still not mainstream. There aren't many social models of how to have polyamorous relationships. For many people, it's really important to seek out community and other people they can share experiences with and have camaraderie with."

Internet forums have served as a critical tool to build such connections, Sheng says. Back in the day, people would have to resort to coded messages in the classified sections of newspapers. Now, participants can remain anonymous and find other poly folk without any form of risk. Maybe Facebook isn't so bad.

But face-to-face interactions are still significant. That's where events like the monthly PolyTalk come in. Like-minded people gather at the Rainbow Resource Centre on a Sunday afternoon. A facilitator guides a discussion around various issues, ranging from finding community,

to the downsides of poly dating. It's not seamless. That's part of the point.

"We've worked to create a culture where it's okay to make mistakes, but we also do expect accountability for those mistakes," Sheng says. "I hope it's a safe space where if someone makes a mistake and uses language that's not appropriate or says something sexist that we can address that within the context of the community rather than ignoring it or downplaying it."

There's lots that non-poly people can do to get better informed about the relationship orientation. Read a Wikipedia article or two. There's some solid long-form pieces out there on the subject. Work on valuing diversity. Don't slut shame. Be sex positive. Also, recognize that polyamory varies enormously from person to person.

"Polyamory can mean a lot of different things for different people," Sheng says. "For some people, it is just a way of describing the way they do and structure their relationships. For some, it's an orientation, like being heterosexual, queer or asexual; it's a very fundamental aspect of their identity. There's others for whom polyamory is

informed by the way they view and interact with people in their lives in general."

All are welcome to PolyWinnipeg, regardless of perspective or experience. Sheng mentions that PolyTalks and social events such as potlucks and games night will continue with regularity in the coming months. Public education and workshops are also being mulled over as potential opportunities. There's lots to come, and plenty to experience.



PolyWinnipeg's next PolyTalk is being held on Sunday, Nov. 30 at Rainbow Resource Centre (170 Scott St. in Osborne Village).

For more info, check out its Facebook page at [facebook.com/PolyWinnipeg](https://www.facebook.com/PolyWinnipeg).

A good intro to polyamory is *The Atlantic's "Multiple Lovers, Without Jealousy,"* which you can find online.



Letters to Our Children: Stories of Refuge

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBOURS

Documentary examines refugees who have recently made Winnipeg home

DEBORAH REMUS

 @DEBORAHREMUS

ARTS REPORTER

Every year, hundreds of people flee war-torn refugee camps for a more peaceful life in Winnipeg. In 2013, Manitoba welcomed 1,484 refugees - the highest per capita in the country. The dramatic transition between countries and cultures is what's explored in *Letters to Our Children: Stories of Refuge*.

Leona Krahn - a local filmmaker who last released *Beyond the Beat*, a documentary about Winnipeg Grammy-nominated Christian rapper Fresh I.E. - began shooting the 45-minute film in 2012. She's always been interested in the challenges immigrants face, which is mostly why she chose to tackle the subject matter.

"I've long admired how they are able to make such a huge transition," Krahn says. "They really leave behind everything they know to move to a new country and start all over, without knowing the language or the culture here in Canada."

Krahn was introduced to KidBridge founder Lorelle Perry at a women's retreat and was impressed by her work with the program, which serves as a weekly meeting place for mothers and their young children to make new friends and practice their English. Perry had also just received a grant so KidBridge could publish a book about the experiences these women have faced.

"It was really perfect timing because they were going to be embarking on this six month project and that ended up being the perfect story arc," Krahn says.

The book tells the stories of 18 different women from 12 different countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. They write letters to their children explaining why they left their home country, what they miss most and why they ended up coming to Canada. The film documents the process, and the formation of the illustrated book.

One particularly emotional story is read by a woman from Ethiopia, who explains that her children would be orphans if she was still in Africa because there's no way she could access adequate health care for the cancer she was recently diagnosed with. Another family from Iraq with two sets of twins describes making the transition from a large house with a swimming pool to a small apartment in Winnipeg, a decision they say they were forced to make because of the brutal, ongoing violence in the region.

"I was surprised by how most of them were actually very comfortable in front of the camera and getting to know the women was probably my favourite thing," Krahn says. "They invited us into their homes and offered us special tea from their homeland or cooked us a meal so it was just a great opportunity to learn about other cultures."

The documentary had a private premiere at the Winnipeg Art Gallery just in time for International Women's Day earlier this year. MTS Stories From Home and the CBC's Absolutely Manitoba series also aired the film. Now it's playing on the big screen at Cinematheque.

"I hope that people will look at our newcomer community through new eyes and just recognize what great perseverance these people have," Krahn says. "They have a wealth of knowledge and they're so appreciative of coming to Canada and they really want to give back to our country."



Letters to Our Children: Stories of Refuge is screening at Cinematheque on Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

Admission is between \$6 - \$9.

Head to www.kidbridge.ca for more information.

FILM



THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

★★★★☆

In theatres now.

It's interesting that *The Theory of Everything* is billed as a romance. The film follows the real life story of world famous astrophysicist Stephen Hawking and his relationship with Jane, a religious Cambridge arts student, who later became his wife. The two had only known each other a short time when Hawking was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) at the age of 21. Indeed, it's a love story, but not necessarily one of romantic love.

Eddie Redmayne (*My Week with Marilyn*) is masterful as Hawking, totally vanishing into this well-known persona. It's a flashy, Oscar-baiting performance, but it's also very effective. You never for a moment feel as if you're watching an actor playing a scene. Felicity Jones (*Cemetery Junction*) is subtly understated in contrast, as a sweetly intelligent and selfless woman, who refuses to give up on her husband. The cast is superb, rounded out by such greats as David Thewlis (*War Horse*)

and Emily Watson (*Punch-Drunk Love*).

Director James Marsh (*Man on Wire*) shows an acute flair working with cinematographer Benoît Delhomme (*Lawless*), achieving an often lush visual style. Anthony McCarten's script refreshingly avoids all of the expected bio-pic clichés. Every nuance feels competently crafted, but far from groundbreaking.

The Theory of Everything is the Hallmark card version of Hawking's life. That's not an insult. Hallmark cards have a function.

This is a quaint and civilized film, occasionally bordering on bland. Stephen and Jane must have gone through hell during their 30 year relationship, but the audience is needlessly spared the gritty realities. Why bother with the true life horrors of ALS, when you could simply cut to another magic hour shot of Hawking grinning and cue the inspirational music?

It's a skillfully-made and well-intentioned film, but were it not for that outstanding cast, *The Theory of Everything* would be nothing.

TONY HINDS



DUMB AND DUMBER TO

★★★★☆

In theatres now.

In my books, 1994's *Dumb and Dumber* is a classic comedy. Sure, writers/directors Peter and Bobby Farrelly have made better and funnier movies (*Kingpin*, *There's Something About Mary*), but the naively hopeful performances of Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels elevated that goofy, juvenile material in an undeniably endearing fashion.

The sequel, *Dumb and Dumber To* is utterly shameless, seemingly willing to go *anywhere* for a gag, no matter how puerile or taboo. The screenplay is inventively silly and unabashedly crude, alternating bodily fluids with absurd plot twists that may cause even the snottiest of audience members to crack a reluctant smile.

There's an innate likability to Harry (Daniels) and Lloyd (Carrey). We actually care about these underdog losers, thanks to the strong lead performances. Unfortunately, the Farrellys' attempts to outdo themselves often falter, straying too far into absurdity. During these

moments, you wonder: "But if they're *that stupid*, how could they possibly have..."

The film also overstays its welcome with an almost two-hour running time. Like too many comedic failures, when that pesky third act rolls around, we're forced to sit through the resolution of a paper-thin plot orchestrated merely as an excuse to make dick and fart jokes, albeit amusing ones.

Dumb and Dumber To is most successful when our dopey heroes can play off of the more grounded, realistic comedic foils that surround them. It's when these two cartoon characters (which they basically are, by the end) are left to their own devices that the film threatens to fall apart.

As a comedy, it's a mild success. I frequently laughed, but so did the families with surprisingly young children in the rows behind me. If you loved the original or simply haven't hit puberty, you'll probably enjoy *Dumb and Dumber To*. Very mildly enjoy it.

TONY HINDS



NO BELLS AND WHISTLES

Main Street's latest restaurant combines well-prepared food, thoughtful service and a social ethic in a minimalist approach

CAROLINE WINTONI

DINE-O-MITE

JAMES WILT

@UNITER_CULTURE

ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

Lunch Bell Bistro opened a few months ago on the ground floor of Main Street's Bell Hotel Supportive Housing Complex, between Higgins and Logan Ave. The small diner's staffed mostly by people living with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Press coverage was initially sparse. But as Josh Marantz, the restaurant's general manager, welcomes us at into the nearly empty spot on a snowy Wednesday, he informs us that it's one of the slowest days in memory.

The rapid increase in popularity is well-justified. There's nothing overly flashy about Lunch Bell Bistro: it's a well-lit, clean venue featuring prompt and kind service. A partially enclosed roof built from a raw pine creates an open vibe, complementing the white walls and wide windows. Frank, one of the servers, swiftly seats the three of us, filling water glasses and telling us the specials for the day (black bean meat chilli with a roll and salad for \$10, or cream of mushroom soup for \$5).

Marantz, the amicable manager, wanders over to recommend the Baron's Court Burger (\$7 with bacon and cheese for an extra \$1-an-item) and the Basil Street Roasted Chicken sandwich (\$8). After a few minutes, we decide to go with both of Marantz's recommendations (the latter paired with a house salad in a combo for \$8), in addition to a Greenwich Garden Wrap with creamy mushroom soup combo

(also \$8). Veggie options are unfortunately sparse. But the menu, while limited, offers much for the omnivore.

Coffee and pop's available, but we stick with water. Soft music plays as we wait 15 minutes for the food. The atmosphere's pleasant, and pretty perfect for hanging with friends on an early afternoon. The three dishes arrive on spotless white plates. The presentation's minimalist and effective; a ramekin of coleslaw sits in the middle of the two offerings of the combo, which arrive on an unconventional rectangular plate.

The food's really quite good. The veggie wrap is tragically small but packed with flavour: roasted squash, sweet peppers, garlic, onion and yam interact delicately. It's a surprisingly filling side. The soup's an excellent pairing, with the caramelized onions pairing well with the plethora of mushrooms. My pals were delighted by the

meaty options. The burger was a fine size, with the cheese and bacon adding plenty. The sizeable Kaiser bun didn't overwhelm the flavourful patty. A side salad would've been a nice addition.

There's a generous spreading of the basil aioli on the baguette. Unfortunately, the amount of chicken was lacking. There could've been a bit more of the dressing, as well as a touch more seasoning (Yellow Dog's house salad sets a high bar). But the presence of fresh spinach, scallions and tomatoes suffices. The three of us stuck around a while after 2 p.m. - Lunch Bell's closing time - but we never felt rushed out. The spot will long serve as a solid option for downtown eats and catering, as well as demonstrating an admirable commitment to quality and equality.

Lunch Bell Bistro is located on 662 Main Street, and is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A WHALE OF A TIME

Threatened marine mammals in the Hudson Bay subject of pub discussion

JAMES WILT

@UNITER_CULTURE

ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

It's so easy to forget that Manitoba's a coastal province. But travel some 1,700 kilometers north from Winnipeg to Churchill and spend a few days kayaking amongst the belugas in the Hudson Bay. That sort of memory won't fade in a hurry. It was that experience that eventually convinced Kristin Westdal to return to the frigid area for a full-time gig.

First, she spent a half-decade running a kayaking operation in the Hudson Bay; it's the world's best spot to site belugas, given that some 65,000 migrate through the region in the summer months. Today, she's working as a marine biologist for Oceans North Canada, working on tracking and researching narwhals and belugas.

"After observing them every day for two months of the year, I just found that I was seeing things that wasn't reading in the



BUILD FILMS

literature," she says, referencing the years spent leading tours in the sea.

Westdal will be tapping into such expertise - in addition to previous work she's done on killer whale activities in Nunuvut, and the impact of seismic exploration for oil and gas on narwhals - when she participates in an upcoming panel discussion on the human activity at Finn's Pub (on the second floor of the Johnston Terminal at The Forks).

"People will say, 'Why should I care about whales in the Hudson Bay when I've got all these other things going on?'" Westdal notes. "But with all these big questions I think the most important thing to

remember is that it's all connected. It's one big system. What's happening in Hudson Bay is affecting us here. What we're doing here is affecting the Arctic."

The North has been long eyed by the federal government as a massive source of revenue, especially since Alberta oilsands operations have been taking hits with the rise of the oil boom in North Dakota. The website for Canada's Economic Action Plan gloats at the prospect of "world-class diamond mines" and "massive oil and gas reserves" we're tapping into.

But such intense industrial development - which Westdal points out is already happening - has very real consequences on

marine mammals. The process to locate underwater oil reserves creates enormous noise pollution, which can interfere with the ability for animals to locate food and breathing holes. The sound of icebreakers only exacerbates the problem.

"Things are changing fast in the Hudson Bay and the Arctic. We have a few weeks more of open water now than we did 10 years ago in Hudson Bay. It's substantial. Especially for the summering population, the increased development and mining and possibility of increased shipping is a big deal, and could have an effect on them in the long run."

In spite of such issues, Westdal remains hopeful about the future of the North: she mentions that many people are collaborating to figure out solutions to the issues. Oceans North Canada, for instance, is currently working with the province to draft a beluga habitat management plan, which would protect areas for the mammals. It's not all lost.



Cafe Scientifique takes place at Finn's Pub on Thursday, Nov. 27 at 7:30. Westdal will be joined on the panel by Amelia Fay (the curator of the HBC collection at the Manitoba Museum) and Trish Kelley (research associate at the University of Manitoba).

Bartley Kives of the Winnipeg Free Press will moderate.

Attendance is free.

WINTERIZING ABILITY

How a Winnipeg winter affects accessibility

ROBYN OTTO

@ROBYNOTTO

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Winter in Winnipeg is upon us. The mercury has plummeted and the snow has started falling. Buses have filled as people trade their walking shoes and bike helmets for bus passes (except for the winter cyclists, whose grit puts us all to shame). In the true Winnipeg way, conversations have started to begin with a brief synopsis of the long-range forecast. Such is winter.

Like most people, I felt a familiar mix of excitement and dread as the first snowflakes fell. The childlike excitement always comes from the possibilities of skating on the river trail, watching the city light up at night with holiday decorations and drinking hot chocolate from the safety of the indoors. The dread, often longer lasting, comes from the inevitable cases of frostbite



NICHOLAS LUCHAK

and fender-benders that many of us will experience this upcoming season.

As of late, I have realised that my initial excitement at the advent of winter is not a universal experience. I am not talking about those who relish in hating winter, but rather people with physical disabilities. As an able-bodied person, I experience privilege (the term able-bodied in and of itself suggests how far we have to go in improving accessibility. Do people with physical disabilities not still have bodies that are able to do many things?).

That privilege is heightened in the winter months. I am not subject to annoyed groans and rolling eyes when I catch a

crowded bus. I am not forced to modify my day because of awkward and unreliable Handi-Transit schedules nor am I tasked with finding safe and accessible taxis, which is no simple feat. I am not housebound because of sidewalks that remain impassable for weeks. I am not put in danger for months on end because of snow piles from street clearing that make wheelchair users nearly invisible to drivers.

Recently, I saw an unpleasant altercation between a bus driver and a passenger using a wheelchair. In the name of safety, the driver not only attempted to badger the passenger into changing seats on a nearly empty bus, but also called in

a transit official to intervene. The official affirmed that the passenger was within their rights, but violated the passenger's personal autonomy by attempting to move their wheelchair without consent. This is all to say that harsh weather undoubtedly creates challenges to achieving universal accessibility, but it should not be an excuse for mindlessness. Sidewalks do need to be cleared in our sprawling city, but attitudes also need to change.

As a city and as people, we need to do better.

Robyn Otto is a German major with mild caffeine and major pug addictions.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

What we need for democracy

KIERAN RICE-LAMPERT

VOLUNTEER STAFF

The political landscape in Manitoba is in vast need of a shakeup. Barely a month after a shocking municipal result, the spotlight, whether Brian Bowman likes it or not, has quickly shifted to the provincial stage. This stage will feature an election within 18 months and currently hosts a governing party in a rare state of dysfunction.

One of the core principles of democracy continues to evade us at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels of electoral politics. More and more people are voting not for who they feel best represents their interests, but for the person they feel will prevent the "greater evil" from gaining power. This is not what democracy is built upon, but I myself, and those on all sides of the political spectrum, are guilty of not so subtle fear mongering that constrains the range of candidates, visions, and policies available for public consideration.

What Manitoba needs now is something bold. It needs a brand new political party. This province has the chemistry required for such an audacious political



The Manitoba Legislative building interior

endeavour. It is ripe with grassroots activists looking for change all across the political gamut from the environment, to the women/transgender movement, to Indigenous justice, to local economic innovation. This idea was toyed with briefly a couple years ago, but in the wrong way. The Manitoba party sought to muddy the already crowded middle by driving a wedge between the centre-left NDP and centre-right PCs. Some of the general policies and principles released included such clichés as "a provincial government must welcome debate" or "creation of a political alternative that does away with right versus left" distinctions.

The room for the new party in this province is in fact on the "new left." That would

be the frontier staked out by a new generation of progressives for whom the status quo positions of the NDP cannot properly address the ever shifting and defining challenges of the present time. These issues include but aren't limited to First Nations inequality, climate change and post-carbon economic transformation.

When you see an incumbent party abundant with infighting between their highest ranking members and you have an opposition leader and party so out of touch with the needs of everyday Manitobans, you'll naturally encounter apathy. But seeing the daily reminders of social inequalities within this city and across the province reveals the true cost of apathy. The entrance of a new political party may

be exactly what is needed to end this lethargy, invigorate the politics of our province, and re-engage voters.

A new party, not one with some original, passionate ideas and thoughts that centre key issues such as the environment, First Nations equality, and a new modeled sustainable economy. These are just a few stepping stones but hopefully something like this can arise to stoke the political passion from our younger generations and get people excited about what democracy stands for again.

Kieran Rice-Lampert went to Gordon Bell High School. He is a political junkie and enjoys staying afloat with current issues and sports.



LOST IN THE FLOOD

Ebb and Flow First Nation left floating in uncertain waters following more flooding

JILLIAN GROENING

@JILL_GROENING

BEAT REPORTER

Quietly and without much fanfare, more than 800 people from First Nations communities were evacuated from their homes this year.

This spring, seasonal flooding combined with a severe thunderstorm in June resulted in emergency flood situations on some southern Manitoba First Nations.

According to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) as of Oct. 31, 857 people remain evacuated from First Nations due to flooding in 2014.

Peguis First Nation, Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation and Ebb and Flow First Nation were all hit hard by the flooding.



Currently there are 240 people evacuated from 25 damaged homes on Ebb and Flow First Nation - a small community located west of Lake Manitoba in the rural municipality of Alonsa. That number is comparably more than the 49 people evacuated during the devastating flood of 2011.

Some evacuees have relocated to Winnipeg where they are living in apartments and local hotels.

"The flood was a drastic event which [the government] had no plan for," Ebb

and Flow First Nation Chief Nelson Houle explains over the phone. "They didn't know how to deal with something as huge as this."

Despite an investment of \$10.9 million by the federal government to make temporary dikes built in 2011 permanent at 11 First Nations - including Ebb and Flow - chronic flooding is still impacting the community.

Not all people of Ebb and Flow have left their homes, however. Some households were spared in the flooding and

others decided to stay and face mould and saturation issues instead of experiencing the uncertainty involved with becoming a displaced person.

"The mould is definitely a problem," Adrienne Flatfoot, flood coordinator for Ebb and Flow says. "Little kids are coughing already."

Both the Red Cross, which manages First Nations evacuees affected by flooding, and the provincial government declined to comment on the 2014 evacuations. Instead, spokespersons for both groups said AANDC is handling all media inquiries.

Despite lengthy notice, by deadline AANDC was still working on a response.

According to the AANDC website, mould remediation is in preparation and a clay dike is under construction for future floods. There is no estimate for when evacuees can return.

Houle says he is hopeful that with government aid a drainage plan involving the Portage Diversion could be put in place which would help all communities affected by yearly flooding.

"Short term we can fix roads, replace homes and lower saturation levels with ditching and drainage but there's no plan for long term," Houle says. "There's people living in homes that are unhealthy. There are mould issues, people are getting sick more often due to respiratory illnesses associated with mould spores getting in the lungs. Nothing is really being put in place health-wise."

Not to mention the emotional effects of being removed from home.

"For some people this is the hardest stuff they will ever have to go through," Houle states. "It's definitely a process."

A DIFFERENT ENDING

Documentary tackles MMIW

BROOSE TULLOCH

@BADBROOSE

VOLUNTEER STAFF

If every picture tells a story, filmmaker Cameron Monkman is counting on several stories to reveal the big picture.

His new film, *Missing: The Documentary*, is about the nearly 1,200 murdered and missing Indigenous women (MMIW) in Canada, told through the stories of seven people: victims, advocates and celebrity supporters.

"It was heartbreaking to sit down and hear what [John Fox Sr.] had to say - a father who had to bury his daughter who had been thrown off the 24th floor," recalls Monkman, also known as rapper Young Jibwe. "That's why I wanted to put this documentary together."

Forty-nine per cent of the murdered women in Manitoba are Indigenous, yet they make up only 4.3 per cent of the total female population in Canada according to the RCMP's Report of Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. In real numbers, that's 1,017 mur-



dered and 164 missing across Canada and a total of 1,181 since 1980. Over 220 of these cases remain unsolved.

"We need to do this [the documentary], not just for me, but for the families," the Toronto-based filmmaker, who originally hails from Winnipeg, says. "We need to draw attention to these issues."

To complete the year-long project, Monkman worked with a team that included three camera people in different cities. The film is characterized by intimate moments with its subjects and narration that is kept to a bare minimum.

"I just wanted to hit record and let them speak," he says, "I didn't want to be the centre of attention."

While the statistics would indicate that MMIW is indeed a crisis, Monkman contends it is a symptom, a trickle down issue from such larger problems as poverty, racism, and addiction.

"(MMIW) is one issue, and you have to focus on that," Aaron Peters, a local Aboriginal musician who filmed the documentary, says. "But if you back up, the picture is huge."

Monkman and his family have been directly affected by many of these issues at various stages of their lives.

While his mother battled addiction, Monkman bounced around in foster homes and lived with his grandparents, before moving out on his own at 19. He experienced homelessness in Toronto while he was battling his own demons.

"But I can't sit in that one spot and say, 'Oh, I've had a bad life,'" he explains. "I wanted to change, I wanted to be the change."

He kicked the drugs, alcohol, and self-destructive behaviour and stopped associating with gang members.

"Not for anyone else, but for me," he says. "You can't help anyone else until you help yourself."

The change was dramatic, he got serious about his music and his community.

"I learned how to be humble, how to have respect for people and how to have respect for myself, how to be proactive," he says. "When there's things in the community I want to see changed, I need to go out and do things."

"We have to collaborate with one another, to have the story end in a different way than it has for so many of us," Peters says. "We need to come together, we need to speak about the issues and the way Cameron is going about this [documentary] is just that, getting people to collaborate."

Missing: The Documentary can be viewed on Young Jibwe's YouTube channel, AMGVEVO.



EDUCATION AT THE CORE

Inner-city learning the focus of Heather Hunter's course

RACHEL DYCK

VOLUNTEER STAFF



Heather Hunter

SUPPLIED

After years of working in Manitoba's education system, Heather Hunter is helping others learn through her extensive experience.

Hunter is the instructor of an inquiry-based urban and inner city studies course at the University of Winnipeg called "History of Education in Winnipeg's Inner City."

"[This course] is a way for me to continue to share my experiences in inner-city teaching and research," she says.

As a former public school teacher, vice-principal, and principal, she is an educator working to make schools work for all and to get people thinking about what that may look like.

Laurel Cassels is the community programs assistant in the department of Urban and Inner-City Studies at

the U of W, and is currently taking Hunter's class.

"Heather Hunter is one of those rare pros that really inspires students with her obvious passion and insight for the subject she teaches," Cassels says. "It's hard not to get swept up in her enthusiasm for improving outcomes for inner-city learners."

Hunter says teaching at the university is an extension of her work that started in public schools 30 years ago.

After graduating from the UW she planned to become a librarian and worked in a library for a time, where she enjoyed doing story hours for kids, but her involvement in other aspects of the community soon led to a different kind of job.

Hunter began working on a project to offset tax discounting which was set up by now-premier Greg Selinger.

"It was a real exposure, [a] tough area," Hunter says.

The goal of the project was to help people fill out their own income tax forms rather than sign them away for a measly sum.

"Next to dollars in the pocket, education is the best way to make a difference," Hunter says.

"For young people with lots of turmoil, education can be part of the solution. And it really did seem to make sense."

She went back to school and got her education degree, doing practicum in the inner city. She then taught at William Whyte, Hugh John Macdonald, and Argyle Alternative schools and later completed a master's in social work examining how education can be used to re-engage students.

At one school, Hunter ran a group where gay students could meet and support one another, working with a gay public health nurse. It was the mid-80s, so AIDS was just becoming a big scare.

Hunter also earned a PhD in education from the University of Manitoba, focusing on the role of schools and public education in community economic development.

Now as the director of the Manitoba Education Research Network, which she helped start 11 years ago, Hunter works with all five faculties of education in Manitoba.

"In my work I always feel like I'm learning," she says. "That [learning] is what the spark is for anyone."

To connect with Heather Hunter and the Manitoba Education Research Network visit www.mern.ca.



SUPPLIED

The PROFILE - CHRISTINA SZURLEJ

Instructor of Conflict Resolution Studies

SHKELZEN MISKIOI

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Before diving into a lecture on human rights and conflict resolution, Dr. Christina Szurlej likes to start off her class with some music. She even takes requests, and if you just happen to ask for Tanita Tikaram's *Dust on My Shoes* she'd likely be happy to oblige.

Szurlej is a member of the Global College and Menno Simons College and has been teaching for three years. Her research areas include the human rights monitoring mechanisms of the United Nations, the responsibility to prevent and protect, and the balance between counter-terrorism initiatives and human

rights. Currently, Szurlej has written one book which has been accepted for publication and is due out in 2015.

Szurlej says she sometimes marks papers while cycling at the gym and even though the increased endorphins may make for a happier prof, she says she doesn't enjoy giving bad grades, but good grades need to be earned.

Her best lecture came on what could be called a terrible day.

"After spilling coffee on my beige blazer and breaking a heel, I delivered one of my best lectures to the largest class I've ever had just a few weeks ago," she says.

And with a coffee stained jacket and a broken heel, Szurlej has a trick to manage stage fright.

"I remember it's not about me; it's about conveying the content."

AGE: "My best kept secret."

AREA OF RESEARCH: Human rights monitoring mechanisms of the United Nations, the responsibility to prevent and protect, balancing counter-terrorism and human rights, the travaux preparatoires of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

NUMBER OF PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES PUBLISHED: 2

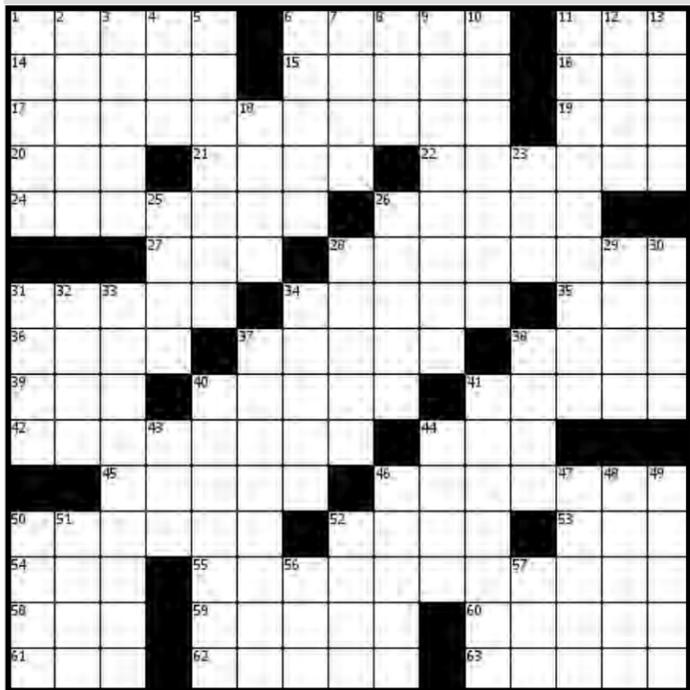
BIGGEST CELEBRITY CRUSH: Stephen Colbert

LOWEST GRADE IN UNIVERSITY: B

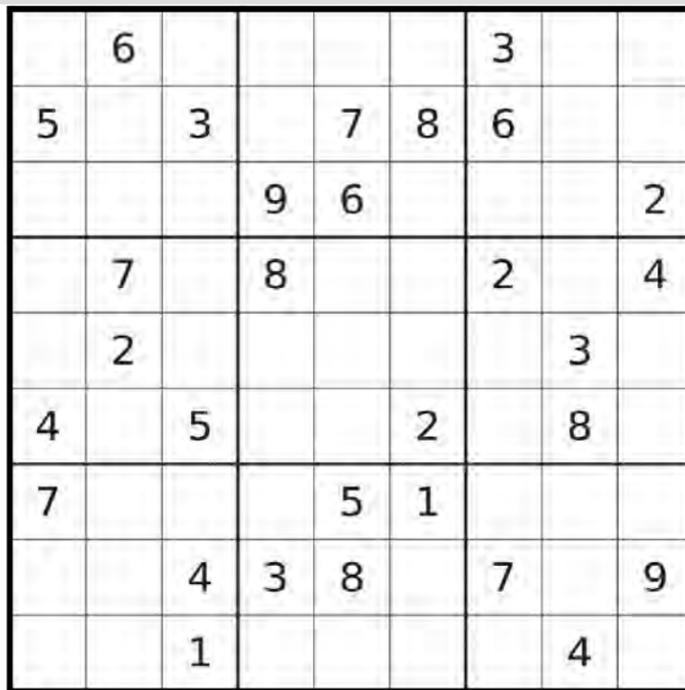
SUPERPOWER: "It would be nice to magically produce accurate, transparent, fair and thorough marking in the blink of an eye, though this takes more time than students may think."



DIVERSIONS

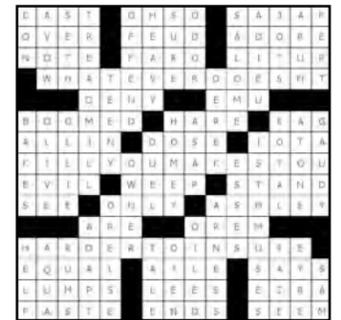


WWW.ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET



WWW.SUDOKU.NET

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES.



2	5	7	8	9	1	6	4	3
8	3	6	2	7	4	1	9	5
9	1	4	5	3	6	8	7	2
7	8	9	6	4	5	2	3	1
3	4	1	9	2	8	5	6	7
5	6	2	3	1	7	4	8	9
1	9	3	4	6	2	7	5	8
6	7	8	1	5	9	3	2	4
4	2	5	7	8	3	9	1	6

ACROSS

- Dennis Doherty and John Phillips
- Categorizes
- Royal Navy designation
- Minute
- Indonesian boat
- Suffer
- Famous physician; zoo containers?
- Savings instrument, briefly
- ___ of Reason
- Celt
- Stereotypical inducement
- Essay count
- Possessing sound quality
- Not a particular
- Wield; breakfast item?
- Discoveries
- Rib
- New prefix

- Some assault weapons
- Be vainglorious
- Fervor
- Music's Secada
- Spaceman Gordon
- Actress Spacek
- Seeker of perfection; innovator's agenda?
- Make lace, in a way
- River near Nottingham
- Newcomers; without faults?
- Be infuriated
- Word after "que," in song
- Clark's "Mogambo" co-star
- ETO commander, familiarly
- Sure things; specific Father's Day gifts?
- Half a score
- Ban legally
- Pressure units

- Naval carrier letters
- Pedometer's measurements
- Like Santa's suit on December 26th

DOWN

- Drat!
- Spanish pal
- Word with clip and money
- Matterhorn, e.g.
- Madison Ave. creations
- Binge
- Spoken
- Informer
- Far West region
- Aesthetics philosopher Langer
- They may be receding; toupe catalogs
- Spanish painter Joan
- Wood strip

- Sly
- X-ray unit
- Pops
- Incinerator input
- Beauty lover
- Black and Red, e.g.
- Pious
- Honshu mount
- Company with a reptilian logo
- Really big shoes; young baseball team?
- "Skoal," e.g.
- Least able to see
- Penne kin
- Overcharges
- Scholars
- O'Hare abbreviation
- Entertainer Amos or Spelling
- Semimonthly tides
- "The Purple Rose of ___"

- Winner of six U.S. Opens
- Pert
- In ___ (original place)
- ___ out (barely gets)
- Word in an octagon
- 1 or 66, briefly
- Overly

Student Services You of W

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

AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

CAMPUS JOBS!

The Awards and Financial Aid Office is now accepting applications for the Fall/Winter 2014-15 Work-Study Program.

Work about 5-10 hours a week. Get valuable research experience. Work flexible hours. Build your résumé

For more information, deadlines and applications, visit the Awards & Financial Aid website: www.uwinnipeg.ca. Deadline is December 1. APPLY NOW!

CAREER SERVICES

Career Services is hosting the following information sessions below. For more information, visit www.uwinnipeg.ca/career-services/

Occupational Therapy Program, University of Manitoba

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2014
Time: 12:20pm-1:30pm
Room: 1L04, UofW

STUDENT CENTRAL

SC's regular hours are 8:15-5:30 Monday-Thursday and 8:30-4:15 on Fridays.

RENT A LOCKER TODAY!

Brrrr! It's cold out there! Need a place to leave your toque and mitts? Lockers are available on the lower level of Manitoba Hall and on the 3rd floor the Richardson College. Lockers are \$40 per person now until the end of April exams. Rent your locker by sending an email with your preferred location to studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca from your UWinnipeg email account, or visit Student Central in person.

DROPPING COURSES

The final day to withdraw from a U2014FW class for 50% refund of the base tuition, UWSA and UWSA Building Fund fees is November 21, 2014. No refund is applicable from November 22, 2014 - January 21, 2015.

Courses are dropped through WebAdvisor using the "Register/Drop Course Sections" link.

MAKE UP CLASSES

A make up day for classes missed for Thanksgiving Day will be held on November 26. Classes will be held according to a Monday schedule on November 26.

A make up day for classes missed for Remembrance Day will be held on November 27. Classes will be held according to a Tuesday schedule on November 27.

WAIT LISTS

Don't lose out on a seat in a wait listed course! Remember to check your Webmail for permission to register every Monday and Thursday.

EVALUATION PERIOD

Exams will be held from December 2-15.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

The UWSA and Academic Advising Office have collaborated to bring you Drop-in Mindfulness Meditation sessions every Wednesday and Thursday until Dec 18, 2014, 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. in the Bryce Hall Chapel.

Tired of the hustle and bustle of life and just need some quiet time to relax and reflect? Then come join us! Bring an open mind and wear comfy clothes. These are FREE and all are welcome.

More information can be found on the website under Study Skills Workshops and the UW Calendar of Events, and will be soon on the UWSA Calendar of Events.

ASK! You of W PHONE: 204.779.UWIN (8946) | EMAIL: studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca

HEALTH & WELLNESS
SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

FREE!

FOR STUDENTS : AT A GLANCE

HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRE:

2nd floor, United Health & Recplex

- Full-time Intake Social Worker
- Full-time Counsellor
- Full-time Manitoba Adolescent-Treatment Centre Mental Health Clinician (shared position: male and female clinicians)
- Part-time Addictions Foundation of Manitoba Community Addictions Worker (two days per week)
- Part-time Social Work Student Counsellor (four days per week)
- Three Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Student Therapists (including evenings and weekends)

KLINIC ON CAMPUS

Sparling Hall

- Full-time Nurse Practitioner
- Part-time Dietician
- Full-time Medical Assistant

ABORIGINAL STUDENT SERVICES

Lockhart Hall, 2nd floor - 2L01B

- Four Elders-in-Residence Tuesday - Friday; 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

24 hours/day | 7 days a week

- Clinic Crisis Line | 204-786-8686
- Clinic Sexual Assault Line 204-786-8631
- Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Mobile Crisis Services 204-940-1781
- Crisis Response Centre 817 Bannatyne Ave.

UWINNIPEG.CA/THRIVE

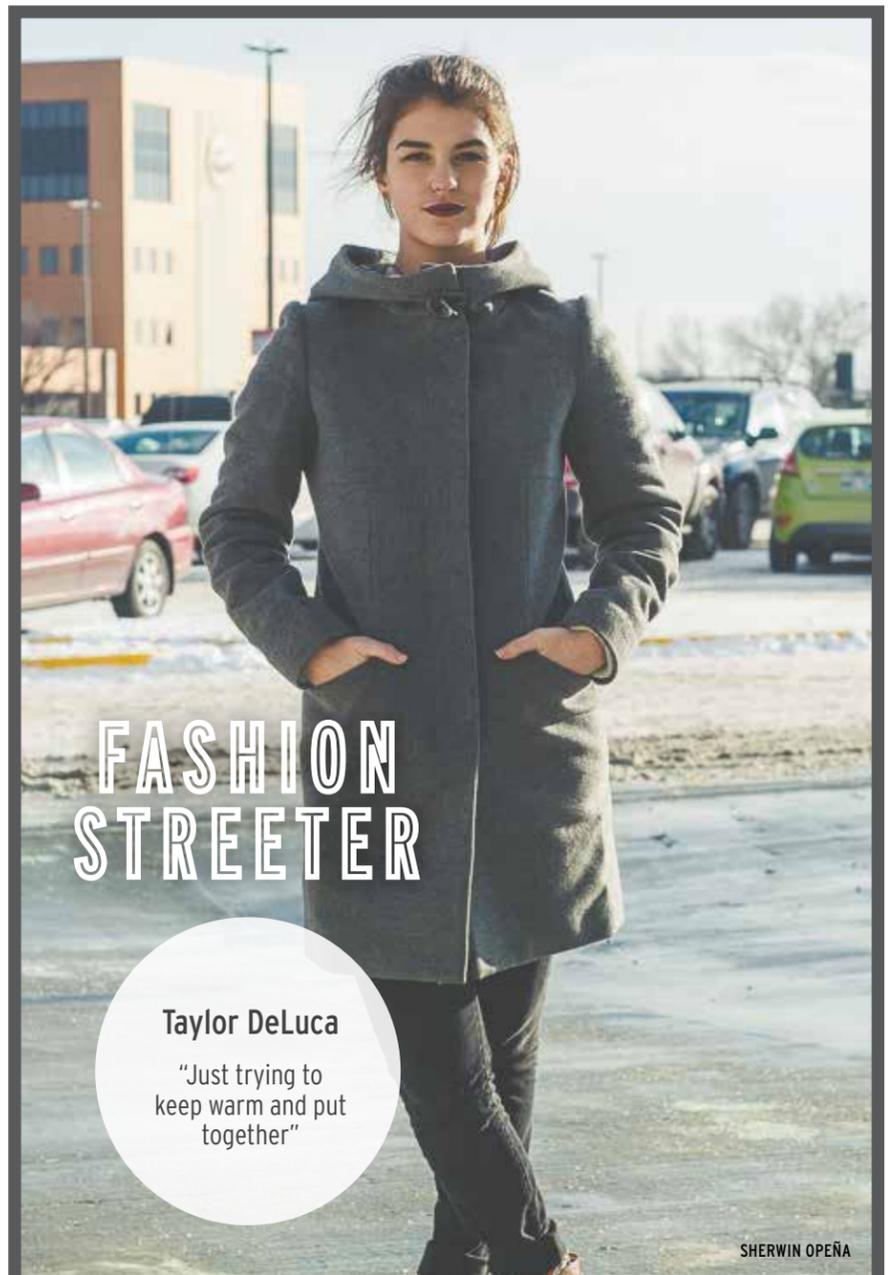
Interested in talking about arts,
culture, news, opinion, campus
and downtown life?

Volunteer with THE UNITER

You don't need experience,
just a desire to tell stories.

Volunteer orientation sessions happen every Wednesday
12:30-1:20 in the Uniter office (ORM14).
Email volunteer@uniter.ca for more info.

UNITER.CA



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.

U WE'RE HIRING!

The Uniter is seeking a Arts & Culture Editor

The University of Winnipeg's street weekly is seeking an up-and-coming, plugged-in individual to take over the Arts & Culture section of the magazine. This individual should have experience and a passion for writing about such topics as music, film, dance, fashion, literature, food, visual art and more. The successful candidate should feel comfortable running a team of contributors,

assigning and editing their work, providing feedback, organizing meetings and building relationships with publicists, venues and artists (locally and nationally). The A&C editor is responsible for ensuring visual content will accompany each piece printed in their section, which makes up five pages (on average) per issue.

Skill Requirements:

- Ability to multi-task, make decisions and work independently.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.
- Knowledge of Google docs.
- Ability to oversee a team of volunteer and paid writers.
- Must enforce deadlines and multi-task.
- Should have at least two years experience in Arts & Culture writing.

Interested parties should submit a resume including references, CV, three writing samples and a cover letter by noon on December 5, 2014. Application packages should be sent to Managing Editor Nicholas Friesen at editor@uniter.ca or deliver resumes in person to:

The Uniter
ORM14 Bulman Centre

515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9

Duties:

- Must conduct classroom presentations to potential volunteer contributors in collaboration with the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Must be available to attend Monday night editorial meetings.
- Must be available to conduct monthly meetings with writing team.
- Must write at least one cover feature per semester.
- Assignments: Will work closely with the Managing Editor in constructing a weekly story list.
- Must work with publicists, story subjects and the photo/graphics department to ensure each piece submitted for print includes at least two possible pieces of artwork.
- Will provide honest and constructive feedback to all contributors in a timely fashion.
- Should be available Friday/Saturday to edit work to ensure it is submitted to the Copy & Style Editor by 6pm on Saturdays.

The position runs from January 2 to March 26, 2015 and pays \$200/week. It is a part-time position that will require approximately a 15 hour/week commitment.

We thank all applicants, however only those shortlisted for an interview will be contacted.



"HAVE YOU HEARD MY NEW BAND?"

It's hard to make a name for yourself with everybody and their dog releasing music. We'd like to give you a chance to be heard.

If you're a singer, a rapper, in a band, or making sound collages on a 4-track, you should enter

THE 2015 *Uniter Fiver*

Five acts will play an industry showcase and be featured in *The Uniter's* new music issue, in addition to receiving other helpful goodies to get your new project off the ground.

SUBMISSIONS OPEN DECEMBER 4. FOLLOW @THEUNITER ON TWITTER FOR MORE DETAILS.

Open to Manitoba projects that began after January 1, 2013.

Must be available to play an industry showcase on January 15, 2015.

Full details will be available in the December 4 issue of *The Uniter*.

