

THE

# UNITER

FREE.WEEKLY.  
VOLUME 70 // ISSUE 23 // MAR. 10

## LABOURS OF LOVE

The true face of the starving artist

BE YOUR OWN  
POPE P10

FROM DUMPSTER TO  
DESKTOP P18

LACKLUSTRE  
LEADERSHIP P21

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG



## \* ON THE COVER

Eric Rae is a Winnipeg actor who also works as a teaching assistant at the University of Winnipeg.

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Ghislaine Alleyne entertains the crowd with her powerful voice during Class Acts Eight at the University of Winnipeg's Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall on March 4. (Article on page 20).

PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

# BRIGHTER DAYS

We've finally landed in that awkward phase of spring that's kind of like a pre-teen growth spurt. Winter boots may feel heavy, but we haven't quite grown into sandal weather yet. Maybe in our hearts we feel like our jackets should be unzipped and we can ditch the mittens of yesteryear, but every now and then we skid on the icy bottom of a puddle, or a patch of sidewalk turned slick by the chill of an office building's long shadow.

Students are ready to ditch the books and start going outside, but the responsibilities of exams call out and pull them back in for just a little longer. We're on the brink of spring, and we can smell it, but we're just not quite there yet.

Looking towards the last three issues of this publication cycle (not including the one you're reading right now), I can really see how much we've grown over the past seven months. We've hit a good stride, and it seems like this team is really coming into their own. We're a learning paper, and there's always a lot more to learn, but it's also important to pause and take stock of what's been gained so far this year.

We've still got some new names coming in, and it's exciting to read first and second pieces from volunteer contributors, to expand the voices in the paper. We've had some regular writers whose work is improving with every submission. And I really have to hand it to our staff - our editorial team, staff reporters, photographers, creative director and illustrator. Over the last few weeks I've been consistently impressed by the caliber of the work coming in to these recent issues, and am growing more and more excited for our capstone issue coming out on March 31 - The Urban Issue.

There's a lot of work that doesn't get as much public acknowledgment as it deserves, the phone calls and organizing and accounting that keeps this paper running from inside a dark little office while the daylight extends its reach outside. Our business manager, Margaret Howison, should be commended for keeping *The Uniter* both stable and growing at a healthy pace. She's gone the extra mile to organize some amazing Speakers Series events, and has been a great editorial support as well.

It's been a long winter full of hard work, so let's give ourselves a little pat on the back and take a minute to look forward to the new possibilities that spring can bring. Even if there are still a few more weeks of studying, reading, working and not-being-outside ahead, let's tuck those mittens into our pockets (just in case) and pop our heads out into the world: it's getting pretty bright out there.

- Anastasia Chipelski

## DOWNLOAD OF THE WEEK

DOWNLOAD "TOMORROW" BY OZ JACKSON AT UNITER.CA. (ARTICLE ON PAGE 7).



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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](mailto: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.

# THE UNITER SPEAKERS SERIES

## WATER AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S WISDOM

On Thursday, March 17, The Uniter Speakers Series is hosting Water and Indigenous Women's Wisdom, a partnership with the 6th annual Grass Routes Sustainability Festival. We invite you to join us for this free event at 6 p.m. at Convocation Hall in the University of Winnipeg.

We spoke with Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie (who came up with the idea for the event), Kevin Settee (who was involved with organizing the whole festival), as well as Freda Huson and Chickadee Richard (the guest speakers) about how this all came together, and about the importance of water, of ceremony and of indigenous women's wisdom. Here's what they have to say.

## WATER TALKS

Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie and Kevin Settee share their inspiration for Water and Indigenous Women's Wisdom

ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI



MANAGING EDITOR

The sixth annual Grass Routes sustainability festival was planned using a more collaborative model than the last festivals, mainly because of this year's lack of budget for speakers and event programming. Kevin Settee, vice-president external affairs with the UWSA, got together with other UWSA staff, students, faculty and community members to figure out how to still make it happen this year.

"We reached out to all our friends and all our student groups and everything, we put out a call and asked people if they were interested in partnering with or working with the festival, for putting out an idea or an event, or a film screening," Settee says.

The resulting festival stemmed from an open call for proposals. The idea for Water and Indigenous Women's Wisdom came from Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie, a two-spirit student who is also completing their term as co-president of the Aboriginal Student Council at the University of Winnipeg (U of W).

"I wanted this event to be centered around Indigenous women fighting for the water and the importance of water, and having a water ceremony present," Lavoie says.

Lavoie has been involved in Grass Routes before, and sat on a panel in 2013 titled "Extractive Industries, Indigenous Development, and the Environment."

"We all got to share and say what we thought of resource extraction and how it's really bad for Indigenous people, and also helping non-Indigenous settlers understand where we're coming from in regards to that, so they have a little bit of a better understanding when they come across certain events or protests," Lavoie says.

Featuring speakers who are known for defending their land and water is a statement in its own right, Settee

explains. In January 2014, Phil Fontaine was invited to the U of W to make a speech.

"There was some Indigenous land defenders that came in and had a message to share... that they don't want extractive resource industries in their traditional territories, they don't want pipelines coming through," Settee says. The response from Lloyd Axworthy on behalf of the U of W, as well as coverage in major media outlets, vilified the land defenders, Settee says. With this event, he hopes to "shine a light" on the work they are doing, and the reasons why they do it.

"In my eyes, these people are the ones that are on the front lines, and they're the ones that are sacrificing a lot to be there and to stand for the land and the water," Settee says. "That's who I think our leaders are."

For the 2016 festival, Lavoie was encouraged by Settee to propose an event, and so they wrote down what they thought would be a great event.

"We need to work with Indigenous women, need to listen to them, they're the governing structure, really, the brains of governance in traditional governing system," Lavoie says. "There's also that dialogue saying that women are water carriers, and they speak on behalf of the water and the land, and they put that first, and so I really wanted to use those two things and put them together in a sustainable way."

Lavoie met Freda Huson at the People's Social Forum in Ottawa over the summer, and was amazed by Huson's presentation about what she was doing in her home community, in Unis'tot'en territory. Huson has shared videos online documenting her encounters with surveyors and other uninvited visitors to her community.

"She's asserting her sovereignty, and that's her posting those videos on social media for people to see, and educating Canadians about the importance of asserting that sovereignty," Lavoie says.

"You could see the emotion that she had, and the attachment and connection she has to the land and how she was really hurt by a lot of those companies, and that kind of solidified her firmness."

Lavoie also invited Chickadee Richard to be a part of the event.

"(Richard) does a lot with the First Nations environmental network and has been a phenomenal grassroots



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie, co-founder at Red Rising Magazine and co-president of the University of Winnipeg Aboriginal Student Council.

organizer here in Manitoba, she even started up the Bear Clan patrol way back in the beginning... I know the amount of work that she has done, I felt like she deserved to be there," Lavoie says.

"I knew that she was really centered in the decolonizing aspect of things in the relations to the land and the importance of that, so I really wanted to work with both of them, and they both agreed and that was really exciting," Lavoie says.

The two speakers will come together to share the work that's being done in Manitoba, and also in another province, but both are important to highlight, according to Lavoie.

"I know that these are the things that the community wants to hear; they're thirsty to hear about that."

The event will open up with a water ceremony – the first time that ceremony has been included as part of the Grass Routes festival, Settee says.

"I think that's a statement in itself, in terms of the shifting paradigm that's happening within the University," Settee says.

"We should be able to do our ceremonies wherever we want and whenever we want because we're on

our ancestral territory, our traditional territories, and so we have every right to do that here."

Settee believes that it's important to bring ceremony to the city, to where people are living, because not everyone has access to transportation and gas money to leave town.

"For me it's a matter of making people feel safe and comfortable (at a ceremony)," Settee says. "(A) ceremony is to teach, and to welcome, and to learn, and to listen, and sometimes to pray too, to think positive."

Settee and Lavoie both hope that this event can foster understanding, connection, and open up chances to continue to make change.

"I hope people come in with an open mind, and a good heart, and acknowledging their own individual responsibility to be more understanding or sustainable in their daily lives, and to support these sustainable efforts that are happening across Canada in any way that they can," Lavoie says.

"And I hope that people take a more intimate feeling when they come, to take back from the event. I hope people feel moved by it, and feel inspired to do something."

# FREDA HUSON

MEG CRANE

 @MEGCRANE

ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

Freda Huson is the spokesperson for Unist'ot'en Camp, which was founded in 2009.

"We live in a blockade right now. So, I technically don't call it a camp, but everyone knows it as Unist'ot'en camp," Huson told *The Independent* in an interview published on YouTube. She said there's a family living in a cabin year round. Others come and go.

The Unist'ot'en Camp is a cabin and resistance camp located in the Wet'suwet'en Territories, in Talbits Kwah at the mouth of Gosnell Creek and the shores of Wedzin Kwah. It stands there to protect their lands from seven proposed pipelines.

"If you have a relationship with the land you automatically protect the land as the land provides you with food, medicines and waters. You will ensure your critical infrastructure is protected," Huson says.

The Unist'ot'en (C'ihlts'ehkhyu / Big Frog Clan) is occupying the land as an exercise of its historical free prior and informed consent protocol, and it stands there as an expression of their jurisdiction and inherent right to give or deny consent to use of the land.

However, they do not consider the camp to be a protest or demonstration. Rather, they are occupying their traditional territory in traditional ways as a peaceful expression of their connection to the land.

"Staying on my territory has brought me health spiritually, mentally and physically. Physical work daily keeps me fit. Chopping wood and packing it in to stay warm. Snowshoeing during



FLICKR/NO ONE IS ILLEGAL VANCOUVER

Freda Huson shares her experiences protecting the Unist'ot'en Camp.

winter to check traps. Drinking water that is in natural state with all minerals intact," Huson says.

Huson told *The Independent* that they let people over the single bridge into the territory if they can answer a series of questions to the Unist'ot'en people's satisfaction, including if they work for industry or government that are destroying lands and how their visit will benefit the people.

"So far, the only company that has been permitted across the bridge is CanMore. They've been sitting down with my chiefs and revising their operational plans and stuff and changing

the plans to suit our people's needs," Huson told *The Independent*. She said they can't do anything on land where they trap, pick berries or medicines.

The entire Wet'suwet'en territory is currently unceded and governed by traditional indigenous legal systems. The people have, so far, successfully blocked Lions Gate Metals plans at Tacetsohlhen Bin Yintah, and Tar Sands Gigaproject and LNG from the Horn River Basin Fracturing Projects in the Peace River Region. They are also stopping Enbridge and Pacific Trails Pipeline's projects which would cross the river at the Unist'ot'en's

pithouse and permaculture garden.

Huson told *The Independent* that people need to start taking greater action to stop the environmental damage that is being done by industry.

"If we don't start doing something about it, all of us are going to be extinguished just like the dinosaur. So people need to wake up and start doing something. You can't just stay in your little apartments and go to your nine to five jobs and pretend you don't know what's going on around you," Huson said to *The Independent*.

# CHICKADEE RICHARD

MEG CRANE

 @MEGCRANE

ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

Chickadee Richard has been part of many environmental networks, but is currently fighting independently. Her main focus is protecting water, which she thinks is an inherent responsibility of indigenous women.

A strong voice for change, Richard has some things to say to the younger generations about getting involved in movements of change.

**U:** *What does it feel like to be such a voice for change?*

**CR:** Well, for me I think it's being that good ancestor. I think one day my granddaughter will probably say, "What did you do, cuckoo? When they came around trying to poison our waters, what did you do, cuckoo?" And for me, I'll say, well, I protected the waters. I spoke against development and pipelines. I stood on the front lines. I went out in the rain. I'll have

many stories to share with her.

**U:** *What advice do you have to younger generations who want to see change but who aren't yet actively doing anything?*

**CR:** You need to stand up and fight for what you believe. If you believe, you know, that your water is sacred, then fight for the sacredness of that water to continue to give us life. If you believe in the trees that give us our air, then stand for those trees.

Stand up against development. Not only in your own personal life, but out there, in your daily life, your work. Your school. Whatever it is. I think that you have to back up your words with action. People can talk and say, "I protect the environment. I believe in the environment." Or, you know, "I want to be part of saving the Earth." Then follow your words. Make sure that you're doing something, be proactive.

I think the dialogue needs to happen between First Nations people and non-indigenous people, too. That has to come to the forefront and say that we're not only doing this for ourselves. A lot of people don't understand when we go out there. It's like we're mishaps or they look down on us and say, "Oh, look, a bunch of angry Indians." No.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Chickadee Richard believes that protecting the land is part of being a role model of love.

We're a bunch of loving Indians. We love the land. We love the water. We love our children. We love the future. Let's change the words a bit. Instead of all these people calling us protesters, let's say we're defenders. We're lovers of the land. We're lovers of life.

**U:** *How does it feel to see your children getting involved?*

**CR:** For the most part, I'm proud. Part of me is sad because it's another

generation standing to industry and development. I hope it doesn't go into the third generation with my grandchildren. To me, I'm glad they're doing what they're doing. They're honouring the Earth, they're honouring their waters. They're honouring life. The way I see it, the defenders are probably the greatest role models of love because they're loving the future, and they don't even know who it is that's in the future.



PHOTOS BY SIMEON RUSNAK

THOMAS PASHKO

@THOMASPASHKO

FEATURES REPORTER

The downtown home of Andrew Eastman and Anthony Nelson is clearly a space inhabited by two people who live and breathe art.

Nelson, who is a visual artist, inspired Eastman to get into the art world and co-create Synonym Art Consultation, which has been putting on art shows and cultural programming around the city since 2013.

"I felt so passionately about Anthony's work," Eastman says. "I wanted to represent him and help him get his foot in the door in the art community. I partnered up with (Synonym co-founder) Chloe Chafe, who was throwing these underground art shows, and we really hit it off."

The couple take a "found object" approach to decorating their spacious apartment, in addition to the artwork and photography lining the walls.

"We're like treasure hunters," Nelson says. "We mostly like going to Value Village or going through the dumpsters and finding the best stuff."

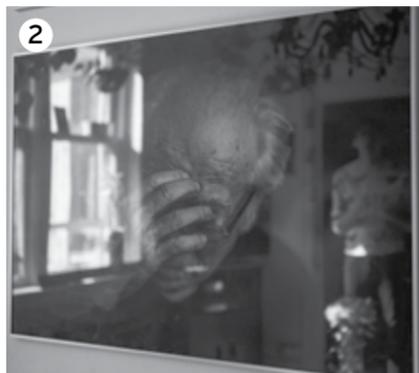
"It used to be even more full of stuff," Eastman says. "It was kind of a museum. Anywhere you went there was something to look at. Believe it or not, we just went through a big purge, and this is a very pared down version of what we used to have in our space. We just kept the objects that really mean a lot to us."

#### 1) SNAKE ARTWORKS

"That's our little snake shrine. I love snakes and collect snake stuff. The piece above is by Erin Josephson Laidlaw. The mask is from the Mayan Riviera. The candlesticks and the silver snake are found objects," Nelson says.

#### 2) JOSEPH VISSER PHOTO

"This is a beautiful piece that was in one of our shows. This man's family asked (Visser) to come photograph their father. He was beginning to suffer from Alzheimer's, so they wanted to capture him before he slipped away a little bit," Eastman says.



#### 3) CHINA CABINET BOOKSHELF

"We don't really have any use for having china, but we definitely need room for books," Nelson says.

#### 4) GIMLI PHOTOGRAPH

"This is one of my most prized art pieces. We have another home, a house in the country just north of Gimli. We have 160 acres that we bought and moved a house onto the property. It's still a work in progress. Anthony took this photo of me on our land and framed it for me. It's like a window into that magical place we have," Eastman says.



#### 5) VINES

"We recently just started stringing these vines across the ceiling. We have these different pots of them growing and entangling with each other all across the apartment," Eastman says.

#### 6) MANNEQUINS

"Anthony's mom gifted them to us. We repainted them. The necklaces on there are my favourite jewellery objects. They're by Corey Moranis," Eastman says.



#### 7) PHARAOH

"One of my prized possessions is my pheasant here. His name is Pharaoh. Anthony's uncle raises exotic birds. He (stuffed and mounted) this one and Anthony gave it to me for our anniversary," Eastman says.

#### 8) COLOURING BOOK

"I just spent the last six months working on a colouring book. It's called *AWAYKIN with Colour*. I'm now in the process of publishing it through a publisher in Victoria. It should be out in a couple months," Nelson says.

## DROPPING UNI FOR THE MIXTAPE

Winnipeg rapper releasing second EP

JUSTIN SARIDES

 @JUSTINSARIDES

VOLUNTEER

Imagine telling your parents – who moved from Zambia for the sole purpose of furthering their education – that you’ve decided to drop out of university to pursue a career as a hip-hop artist.

This was the task Winnipeg rapper Oz Jackson faced.

“Where they’re from, to make it out, school is the only way,” Jackson says.

But he wanted something different; he wanted to make music.

“At first they weren’t sure about it, but then they saw I wasn’t just messing around. I’d be making music till five in the morning,” Jackson says. His parents saw his passion and decided to support him in his endeavours.

Jackson documented this initial struggle in his first EP, *Undecided*, which was released a year ago, and he hasn’t stopped working since.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Winnipeg rapper Oz Jackson walked away from school to focus on his musical career.

He’s performing shows and working on a yet to be titled second EP which he has scheduled to be released this April. Jackson refers to this EP as an appetizer for the full length album he plans to release this fall.

Despite the initial tension Jackson experienced with his parents, he still sees them as his biggest inspiration.

How far his parents have come and how much they support him is a constant source of motivation for Jackson.

“If they can be that good at what they do, from where they came from... I want to be even greater at what I do here, and be able to give back,” Jackson says.

Jackson hopes to one day be compared

to Jay Z.

“Because of all that he’s done, not just musically but also in his work outside of music,” Jackson says.

Jackson sees the impact Jay Z has had on his neighbourhood, not only through charity but also as a role model, which Jackson thinks is just as important as his musical contributions.

It’s truly all about giving back for Jackson.

“Even if I had no money and somebody could still come up to me in the street and be like ‘Yo man, I still listen to your songs to this day and it still makes my day better,’ then hey, I did my job, you know?”

Jackson describes his music as being

energetic, honest, vulnerable, melodic and vivid.

His new album set to be a combination of cloud rap (for the uninitiated, think ASAP Rocky), with heavier drums, a darker, more moody sound, and a lot more singing than fans are used to.

Catch Oz Jackson on March 12 with Winnipeg DJ Peter Takis, Young Zaire, and DJ Leenin, from 9:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. The location of the secret show will be announced the day of. Follow him on Twitter @itsOzJackson for all the details, and check out his SoundCloud of the same name for a taste of his music.

## ARTS AND CULTURE BRIEFS

MEG CRANE // ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

 @MEGCRANE

### Manitoba Music in Austin

Manitoba is taking a taste of prairie music to Texas. Manitoba Music will be hosting a Manitoba Showcase at Austin, Texas’ SXSW music festival, which is taking place March 11 to 20. Royal Canoe, Mise en Scene, The Lytics and The Mariachi Ghost are apart of the showcase. Winnipeg’s JP Hoe will also be getting on stage at the festival.

### Myth of the Ostrich

Tom Hendry Warehouse is ending its season with *Myth of the Ostrich*. The play centres around two mothers who discuss the budding romance between their teenagers. This conversation is a hilarious exploration of two polar opposite parenting styles, values and beliefs. The show is on stage March 9 to 26. Tickets are available through royalmtc.ca.

### The Windys

*The Editor* stole the show at The Windys, walking away with five awards at the award show for local independent film, organized by the Winnipeg Film Group. *On the Trail of the Far Fur Country*, *Loss of Contact*, *The Healing of Heather Garden* and *Andrew Milne Dreams of Machines* also walked away with awards.

### Federal Lights

Five-piece band Federal Lights is playing an album release show at The Good Will Social Club on March 10. *Coeur De Lion* is the band’s sophomore album. It has been traveling across Canada with the album since late February, and is returning home to close off the tour with one final show. Go to federalights.org for more information.

### Another Night Out

Winnipegger Michael Kontzamanis has published his first novella, *Another Night Out*. The book explores what technology means to millennials. In it, we follow Mike, who goes too far when he picks up his ex’s phone and starts posing as her in the digital world. For more information and to buy the book, go to anothernightoutnovella.com.

### Empty Train

Juno winner David Francey is coming to Winnipeg on March 13. He’ll stop at the West End Cultural Centre as part of his cross-Canada tour promoting his latest album, *Empty Train*. The album was inspired by the introvert’s years of people-watching and interesting conversations he’s had on his travels. Tickets are \$23 and available through wecc.ca.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



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**Alana Trachenko** >> volunteer@uniter.ca

You can also stop by The Uniter office (Room ORM14 in the Bulman Centre at the U of W) every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. for a volunteer orientation. We’ll cover the basics and give you more of an idea of what writing for The Uniter is all about, and after that you can get started anytime.

**Illustrators, contact the creative director:**

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Volunteer illustrators are visual artists who provide some of the eye candy that goes along with many of our articles. We’ll send you an outline of technical requirements and a weekly list of possible assignments to choose from. This is a great way to build your portfolio!

**Photographers, contact the photo editor:**

**Daniel Crump** >> photoeditor@uniter.ca

If you’re looking for variety, our volunteer photographers cover events as well as shooting fashion streeters, headshots and local landscapes. We’ll send you the assignment list and help you connect with the subjects. Get ready to share your photos with the city!

## BIG SHINY NOSTALGIA

Indulge in '90s hits done local

MELANIE DAHLING

 @SUGARDAHLING

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Before Google Play Music and iPods, there was the compilation CD. Released by Much Music in 1997, *Big Shiny Tunes 2* (BST2) is still a talking point for many Canadians in their late 20s and early 30s.

On March 20 at 7 p.m., The Good Will Social Club will open its doors and allow patrons to hear the album performed front to back by local musicians Kevin Roy and Daniel Peloquin-Hopfner.

Peloquin-Hopfner has a soft spot for the album, as growing up in St. Rose Du Lac, Man. limited his music exposure.

“For new stuff it was pretty few and far between,” Peloquin-Hopfner says. “We had AM radio, mostly country music, and that didn’t really speak to me. I remember seeing (BST2) on tape at the local gas station and thinking the graphic design on it was really rad. Then my friend’s older brother bought it the very same day.”

It was this album that inspired Peloquin-Hopfner to save up for a

discman, a story familiar to other Generation Y kids.

“I was a competitive curler in junior high and high school,” Janelle Desrosiers, owner of Bloom + Brilliance web design, says. “And my team won this bonspiel. One of the prizes was a No Doubt CD. It’s kinda funny because now I would have thought that was awesome, but I went to the mall to trade it for *Big Shiny Tunes 2*. It was the only CD I had for a while. I saved up forever for a CD player.”

Desrosiers says the album was the soundtrack to her early teenage years.

“It was such a pivotal time for me when it came out. It was the first year that I was a teenager, and it was the first year that I started developing my own personality and standing on my own,” she says.

Peloquin-Hopfner has been hearing similar stories since announcing the event.

“We’ve had a lot of all caps responses,” he says. “Which I thought was pretty great. The conversations around it have been hilarious. It was a seminal time for Canadian rock music.”

Though '90s teens are sometimes criticized for being too nostalgic, Desrosiers doesn’t see the issue.

“We didn’t start nostalgia. It was the Baby Boomers who made *Dirty Dancing* and *Grease* in the '70s and '80s. It’s natural.”

The *Big Shiny Tunes* tribute is the third in a series of throwback rock concerts Peloquin-Hopfner and Roy have put on at The Good Will. The first was Green Day’s *Dookie* followed by Blink 182’s



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUSTEIN-BLACK

Kevin Roy and Daniel Peloquin-Hopfner, the organizers of Big Shiny Tunes show at The Good Will Social Club.

*Enema of the State*.

The duo will start by performing the entire album. After an intermission, they will perform audience requests sent to them through the Facebook event page.

“What other ridiculous bands have we missed?” Peloquin-Hopfner says. “Every request is considered, but request soon so we have time to learn them.”



**Big Shiny Tunes 2, with Kevin Roy and Daniel Peloquin-Hopfner, is taking place at The Good Will Social Club on March 20. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Cover is \$10 or equivalent in Fruit by the Foot.**

## ART CLASS RE:UNION

Fine Arts grads exhibit together

RACHEL NARVEY

 @RACHELNARVEY

VOLUNTEER STAFF

It’s not often we notice how important things are until we lose them. This was the case for artist Jordan Miller, who injured her right hand in the midst of working on her contribution to upcoming Cre8ery exhibition, *Re:Union*.

Miller is one of the seven artists who became friends at the University of Manitoba’s School of Art. Now, 13 years after graduating, they’re exhibiting their work together for the first time.

“I had to think differently about my art process,” Miller says about continuing to create with her non-dominant hand. “I don’t plan any of my work. It’s all intuitive, so it’s emotionally very close. In some of the pieces, you can really see my frustration.”

Miller had to change her technique, using a palette knife instead of a brush to better manipulate the paint.

According to the artist, it took some relearning before what she was making began to look like a ‘Jordan Miller’ painting again. Although, what a Jordan Miller painting looks like has evolved over the years.

“My art has completely changed since I was in fine arts,” Miller says. “I went from being a voice with a concept, to being less of a concept, more of a style.”

She’s looking forward to seeing how her past classmates’ work have changed



PHOTO BY SIMEON RUSNAK

University of Manitoba Fine Arts graduates have put together a collaborative art show at Cre8ery.

as well.

Another *Re:Union* contributor, artist John Roshon, feels similarly about the exhibition.

“I think it’s going to be interesting just to see the correlation of how everyone’s pieces can still work together, even when we’re not working side by side in the studio,” he says.

After moving from Winnipeg to Edmonton, Roshon needed a place to toss around ideas, so he joined a printmaking group. For both Roshon and Miller, forging that community where art is a priority is an important part of the creative process.

“You always end up talking about different approaches,” Roshon says. “If you’re at a roadblock, you can talk things through with like-minded

people. You might be introduced to a different technique you would never have considered, and that might lend itself better to a piece that you’re working on.”

Miller looks back on her time as a fine arts student through the same lens.

“I think it’s really different from other faculties, like science, where you might know the person that you sit with every day, but in fine arts, you’re all sitting around in a circle and talking about your work,” she says. “You end up with a really close connection.”

The idea for *Re:Union* surfaced about three years ago, when one night the friends got together for dinner. After getting on a gallery wait list and selecting their dates, seven out of the group of nine said yes to being in the show.

“One of them lives in Vancouver and

the other one had a baby,” Miller says of the two who opted out. Although they stay in touch, sometimes maintaining those connections can be tricky.

“Some of us are so busy, you know, with kids and family,” she says. “It’s really hard for us with everything that we’re juggling to get together. But when we finally do, it doesn’t feel like we’ve been apart for that long.”



**Re:Union Art Exhibition opened March 4 at Cre8ery Gallery and Studio, 125 Adelaide St., and will run until March 15.**

## CKUW TOP 20

February 29 - March 6, 2016

TW = This Week // LW = Last Week // ! = Local content // \* = Canadian Content



TW	LW	LC/CC	ARTIST	ALBUM	LABEL
1	1	!	Scott Nolan	Silverhill	Transistor 66
2	7	!	The Unbelievable Bargains	Exuberance Abounds	Transistor 66
3	2	!	Roger Roger	Fairweather	Self-Released
4	3	*	Kacy & Clayton	Strange Country	Big White Cloud
5	6		Savages	Adore Life	Matador
6	17	*	The Radiation Flowers	Ill	Sundowning Sound
7	10	*	Basia Bulat	Good Advice	Secret City
8	11	*	Matt Andersen	Honest Man	True North
9	21	!	Smoky Tiger	Rainbow Tiger	Self-Released
10	14	*	Shuyler Jansen	The Long Shadow	Big White Cloud
11	8	*	Junior Boys	Big Black Coat	City Slang
12	22	!	Trampoline	Sometimes A Song Is Just A Cigar	Self-Released
13	5	!	Autumn Still	When It Was	Self-Released
14	15	*	Various Artists	Level Up	CJSW
15	16	!	Federal Lights	Coeur De Lion	Aporia
16	18	!	The Small Glories	Wondrous Traveller	Self-Released
17	9	!	William Prince	Earthy Days	Self-Released
18	RE	*	Metric	Pagans In Vegas	MMI / Universal
19	NE		Charles Bradley	Changes	Daptone
20	25		Beat Happening	Look Around	Domino



SUPPLIED PHOTO

WHERE TO  
INVADE NEXT

THOMAS PASHKO

@THOMASPASHKO

FEATURES REPORTER

Opens in Winnipeg March 11

★★★★☆

Chances are, if you've seen a Michael Moore film, you've already formed an opinion on him.

Most people who *haven't* seen any of his movies have made up their mind about him. The point being, he's nothing if not consistent. His movies are sort of like Ramones albums. Stylistically, they're all basically the same, and they're about the same things, but if you like one album, you'll probably like the rest.

His latest film, *Where to Invade Next*, might not capture the cultural zeitgeist the way *Bowling for Columbine* did, nor does it contain the passionate urgency of *Fahrenheit 9/11*, but it's still a fun and thought-provoking entry into today's most vital social conversations.

The film's premise is simple: Moore travels to countries around the world, looking for their best ideas, and "steals" them to bring back to America and implement.

The central joke that he's "invading" these countries doesn't really work or make sense, but whatever. His travels take him mostly to western European countries like Finland, Iceland and Portugal, but more far-flung locations like Slovenia and Tunisia are explored as well.

He looks at government policies and social programs, like Italy's 35-day annual paid vacation, or Iceland's legislation ensuring gender equality, and asks, "Why aren't we doing this in America?"

Fortunately, *Where to Invade Next* avoids Moore's go-to love of Canada,

his favourite example of a country that does things better than America. It's a smart move because virtually every idea he explores in the film is as absent from Canadian life as it is from America. Whether it's Slovenia's free college tuition, Finland's revolutionary education system or Norway's rehabilitation-based prison system, every example highlights a glaring omission in our society.

Certainly Moore isn't presenting a nuanced picture. He's upfront about this fact, saying he's emphasizing the positive ideas of the countries he visits, not examining their social ills.

While detractors can certainly use this to quibble with his argument, it's undeniable that most of what he presents are simple, easily-implemented solutions to massive problems. One of the film's most revelatory moments is when Moore examines a French paycheck, which includes a line-by-line breakdown illustrating exactly what the employee's tax dollars are being spent on. It might not seem like a big deal, but Canadians would likely be vocally outraged if, every two weeks, they could see that eight per cent of their federal taxes go towards defence spending, while a comparatively measly 12 per cent is split among Environment Canada, Parks Canada, Veterans Affairs, Health Canada, Transport Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and "numerous (other) federal departments and agencies."

A pitiful three per cent is split among dozens of crown corporations, including the CBC, Telefilm Canada, and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

Moore manages to keep the whole affair feeling funny and lighthearted, even when he's provoking righteous anger or being genuinely moving. Again, Moore's most provocative work is behind him, and *Where to Invade Next* won't spark the 2016 equivalent of the gun control debate. But it'll certainly make viewers laugh, and then make them angry.



## Destroyer

Poison Season

Merge Records



Pitchfork described *Poison Season* as "Kaputt II it is not", which is a preposterous lie because *Poison Season* is essentially the same album as *Kaputt* in that it finds Dan Bejar merging his traditional style of indie rock with knotty and angular lyrics with a retro sophisti-pop sound (with knotty and angular lyrics). Although where *Kaputt*

gathers inspiration from the pop music of the late 70s and early 80s, *Poison Season* takes musical cues from the mid-fifties and early 60s.

Dan Bejar is not a man who likes pop music. According to him, he left the two catchiest songs from the *Poison Season* recording sessions off the album and apologized for the presence of "Dream Lover", his most straightforward (and bizarrely Bruce Springsteen-y) song on the album.

The mood is significantly gloomier on this album compared to *Kaputt*, which appears to be something of a reaction to the pop appeal of that album, which, for some inscrutable reason, actually charted.

All in all, you basically know what to expect from a Destroyer album at this point - this is his tenth, and according to him he's been mostly just listening to Van Morrison, Joni Mitchell, and Bob Dylan for the past decade, so he's not exactly planning on reinventing the wheel and you, the listener, are probably not hoping that he will.

As a result, this album is simultaneously recommended for seasoned Destroyer aficionados and for the three Canadian indie fans who have yet to look into his catalogue yet.

- Topher Duguay

## Kevin Gates

Islah

Dead Game Records



Baton Rouge rapper Kevin Gates is as well known for his antics as he is for his music. Never one to keep his thoughts to himself, Gates receives a mixed reception due to his at least strange and at best questionable - but always entertaining - Instagram videos, and is therefore one of those rappers that many people know *about* without having ever listened to.

Most recently, Gates made negative headlines after a video surfaced of him kicking a female concert attendee in the chest after she tried to grab his crotch during a performance. In an age where non-music headlines can maintain a career that does not have much musical

substance, Gates is the exception rather than the rule. His studio debut, *Islah*, named after his daughter, is an incredibly well rounded album showcasing both his singing and rapping abilities, that is full of introspective, emotional tracks, as well as songs that have the potential to be giant crossover hits.

"You will never love me like my daughter love me" Gates sings at the end of the first verse on "Not The Only One" a song about the complications that come along with love. Love is a common theme on the album, with first single "Kno One", a love song about being 'a dog'-and it's chorus of "she say I'm a dog but it takes one to know one" having the kind of infectious sing-a-long quality to it that could cause listeners to overlook, or not even notice, the actual content of the song - much like Fetty Wap's breakout hit, "Trap Queen".

This same infectiousness is found on "Two Phones," a song about all of the different reasons - the plug, the load, women, money - Gates has multiple phones. One of the album's most introspective and honestly emotional tracks is "The Truth," a song where Gates addresses the aforementioned controversy that came about during one of his concerts.

The album's seventeen tracks contain only three features, and all are on the same track, but listening to Gates does not grow tiresome. He has enough styles, switching - sometimes within the same track - between feverish, technical rapping to melodic crooning, keeping the album engaging the whole time. All in all, *Islah* is the kind of debut album that every artist aims to create - engrossing, entertaining, and sonically diverse, while never spiraling out of control.

- Mischa Decter

## FUN AND GAMES

Locals toss their pope hats into the ring

MELANIE DAHLING

 @SUGARDAHLING

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Human interaction is so in right now.

In 2011, Cards Against Humanity, sold as “a party game for horrible people,” became a huge success and sparked a widespread interest in conversation starters. But some want to play by their own rules.

Will O’Donnell and Bart Rucinski, who operate collectively under Yak and Shadow, have been working together for more than 10 years on film, comic books and TV shows.

Surplus of Popes (SOP) is their first collaborative contribution to the gaming world.

“The plot of the game is that every single player is a pope,” O’Donnell says. “And what you’re trying to do is come up with the coolest life story.”

The idea came to them as they were involved in a tedious stage of another creative project.

“We were working on a kid’s book literally waiting for the paint to dry,” O’Donnell says. “I started thinking



(Left) Bart Rucinski one of the creators of Surplus of Popes. (Right) On March 11 come to Across the Board for Surplus of Popes game launch, and get your face printed on a card.



PHOTOS BY KEELEY BRAUSTEIN-BLACK

of ideas and I’d never even thought of making a game before. It was more of a challenge. Bart has a better idea of how the mechanics work and had a lot more yes or no answers. From there, the process was throw it at the wall and see what sticks.”

But the pair hadn’t originally thought of mass producing the project.

“It was more of a thought experiment,” Rucinski says. “It started out as ridiculous ideas that made us laugh – stuff you could never feasibly turn into a game.”

They thought of creating something with the sole purpose of confusing their friends, but as they began to work on it, SOP began to take shape. “We had people asking if they could buy it from the very first draft,” Rucinski says.

Novice gamers need not feel

intimidated by SOP as it is designed with every level of player in mind.

“It’s meant to have a really light playability,” O’Donnell says. “It’s a party game. It’s hard to mess up.”

O’Donnell and Rucinski are ready to sell their product with a little help from an Indiegogo campaign for printing costs.

Other locals have had success going this route with their games including Trevor Lehman, founder of Convergent Games and designer of Crop Cycle.

Lehman wrote the card game as an homage to farming on the prairies but describes it as “fun first and learning second.”

After a bountiful harvest on Kickstarter in 2015, Lehman has already seen three retail locations sell out of Crop Cycle.

He was able to share a table with Yak

and Shadow at Comic Con where they traded information.

“They were picking my brain about the least interesting aspects of the process,” Lehman says.

O’Donnell and Rucinski are planning to keep things interesting for their fans, promising a few hijinks on their site as the campaign progresses.



Surplus of Popes officially launches on March 11 at 6 p.m. at Across The Board Café, 93 Albert St.

## IN WITH THE OLD

The rising popularity of antiques

MEG CRANE

 @MEGCRANE

ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

Although there’s no shortage of new stuff lining store shelves, people are still clamouring to buy antiques.

There’s some disagreement over what actually makes something old an antique, rather than vintage, but it is commonly brought down to age. If something is more than 100 years old, it is an antique.

Wendy Ryder, the operating manager of Old House Revival, says many people are recognizing the quality of old items, such as furniture.

“I find the young people who come here have moved a dresser, a cheap one, and realized they can come here and buy a solid piece of wood that’s 100 years old and will still be a good dresser in 100 years,” Ryder says.

However, that’s not true of items from all eras. Ryder looks to the ‘50s and ‘60s when many items were made of plastic. A lot of stuff from those decades have already made their way to the landfill and will never last to reach antique status.

Once what we currently call antiques are gone, she wonders what time period’s stuff will be around to be the next generation of antiques.

“It will be interesting to see if there will be much from your generation left for the future generations to call antique,” Ryder

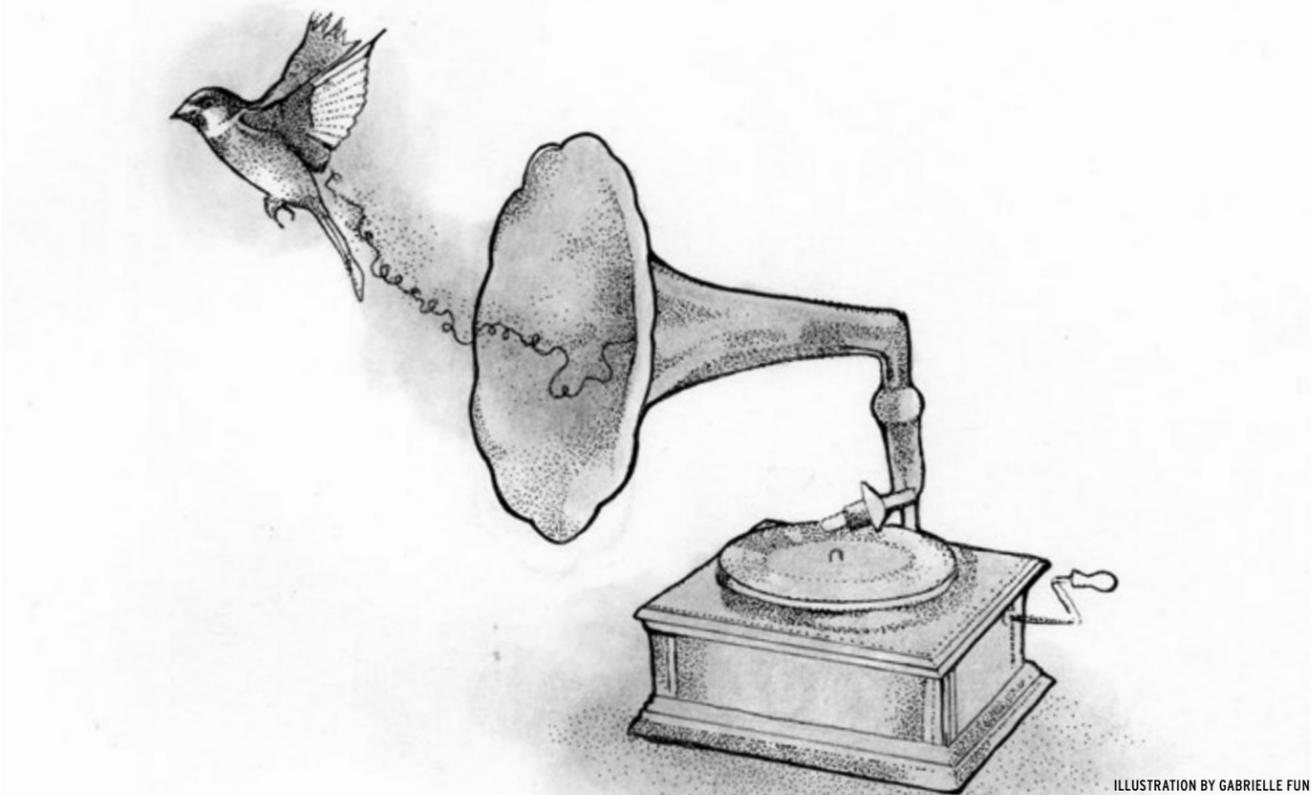


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

says.

People aren’t just turning to antiques for the quality, though; it’s also about aesthetics.

She sees a lot of young homeowners scouring Old House Revival for antique lighting, old doors and hardware, and other items to soften the modern look of their newer homes.

Ryder says antique recycling, especially when it comes to architectural salvage such as this, means less is heading to the landfill.

Upcycling, a process by which you repurpose an item into something new, is also fuelling the antique industry and keeping stuff out of the trash.

“There’s so much out there now, like the Pinterests and the Etsys. They’re becoming more creative and crafty on

how to upcycle,” Ryder says. “And that’s across the generations. There could be an 18-year-old, and then there could be a 65-year-old that’s wanting the same Etsy look on something.”

While there is no shortage of antique stores in Winnipeg, there are other places folks can go to pick up furniture, clothes, housewares and other items from yesteryear.

On March 13, the Manitoba Antique Association (MAA) is hosting its annual spring sale.

The association has been around since 1967 when it was formed as a club for people to meet, admire and preserve antiques.

Almost 50 years later, the association is still going strong with monthly meetings, annual events and a library of more than

700 reference books.

While it’s not certain what tomorrow’s antiques will be, it’s probably safe to say that antique stores, associations and markets will continue to thrive, at least for a little while.

– With files from Jory Strachan



The Manitoba Antique Association Spring Sale is taking place March 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Viscount Gort Hotel. Admission is \$5.

# LABOURS OF LOVE

## The true face of the starving artist

WORDS BY MELANIE DAHLING

PHOTOS BY DANIEL CRUMP

 @MELANIEDAHLING

 @DANNYBOYCRUMP

In February 2016, Ipsos Reid released a study that determined almost half of Canadians are within \$200 of not being able to pay their monthly bills. This survey has many people concerned, while others would see it as a miracle to have \$200 left to play with after paying their bills. For those who work in the arts, this is especially true as it is a challenge to find a steady source of income that allows them to apply their strengths.

“I make just enough money to pay my way each year,” Jordan Miller, visual artist and owner of the Cre8ery gallery, says. “I’m in a low tax bracket... on paper it always looked like I made money when in fact I make less than minimum wage. I’ve never been ‘broke’, however I have cut everything fun out of my budget.”

While the term “broke” is commonly used, it’s all relative. For some, being broke simply means having to loosely monitor spending on nights out.

COVER FEATURE continues // NEXT PAGE

# Working for students



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**James Allum**

MLA for Fort Garry-Riverview  
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A visitor to the CreBery Gallery takes in some of Jordan Millers paintings.

"I have friends who will say 'oh I'm so broke I can only afford one beer,'" Kendall Marie, tattoo artist, says. "And I'm like, yeah that's great. I'm just going to sip my water."

There's a catch 22 on the Winnipeg arts scene. Artists need to make money to support themselves, but recreational activities such as going to see bands or plays, and buying art pieces won't get priority over rent and food, so many are unable to support their peers.

"People always ask me to do things with them and the entrance fee is always something I just can't budget for," Miller says. And many other locals echo that sentiment.

"Unfortunately, and maybe ironically, (not making money as an artist) stops me from going to the theatre as much as I'd like and probably should," Eric Rae, theatre actor, director and teacher, says.

It's difficult for people who work more traditional jobs to grasp the concept of working as a creative. In many situations this can lead to resentment on both sides.

"My friends who have regular jobs and steady paycheques don't understand that this is what I do for a living," Marie says. "I've had people who assume or flat out ask for a discount because we know each other. I had one guy say 'can you make it any cheaper? I have bills to pay.' They don't understand... dude. You are what pays my bills."

Because she regularly fights to stay above water, Marie has recently made the decision to take a break from tattooing and work in a call centre.

"I'm tired. I just want to go in and make a steady paycheque. I need a mental

break from the industry," she says. "I mean, it is what you put into it, but it's a hard industry to start out in."

Marie has worked as a tattoo artist for six years but had trouble getting ahead.

"It's an expensive thing to get into. You're supplying ink, needles," Marie says. "Thousands of dollars worth of equipment. It's a challenge while you're still trying to build a clientele."

Marie Lou Morneau, communications coordinator for ACI Manitoba, has met many artists in Marie's position. "Creative people aren't naturally as good with the business side of things," she says. "You need to manage your finances when work isn't as steady and it takes some time to build your audience. It's hard work."

Mental health and stress levels are a hurdle for many creative types who are seeking reliable income. The creative path is a difficult one financially, but spending eight hours a day in a career that doesn't fit is emotionally taxing.

"I'm relatively new to the arts. There was no high school drama class for me. Art was never really a thing in my family. So when I got out of high school, I got a desk job in market research," Rae says. "I did that for five years before realizing that I couldn't do it my whole life without losing my mind. Now that I've fallen in love with the theatre, I will never go back to working at a desk full-time... at least not willingly."

Living an artistic life can be especially frustrating as there is no real graduation day or regular job placement opportunities. An artist's financial situation can change monthly or even weekly.

"I still do more of it for free or for a small

honorarium," Rae says. "Realistically, it's a part of the industry and I've accepted that. We don't value the arts in North America as much as we do other sectors."

The uncertainty of it all leads people into some scary or just plain embarrassing situations.

"I consider myself lucky because I am an only child," Marie says. "I had \$2 in my bank account around December so I asked my parents for rent for Christmas. They were really nice about it, but it hurt to ask. I'm working hard. I want to be able to be an adult and have a career without sacrificing what I love doing."

Simplifying daily life seems to be the best option for those in low income situations, forcing many to micro-manage their finances.

"I tuck away \$100 each month to my RRSP as I have no pension as a self-employed person. I look through the discount food bin at the store when I purchase food. I've found bags of perfectly good produce in them," Miller says. "I have cut out movies, cable, alcohol, clothing purchases. I don't wear make-up and I grew my hair long to save money on haircuts."

ACI does offer programs for artists who need some guidance. A yearly membership is an affordable \$25 and includes discounts on workshops as well as networking events and free advertising for creative projects.

"A lot of artists who've taken our workshops are full time artists now, they are paying the bills," Morneau says. "Lennard Taylor (a fashion designer) went through our Art of Managing your Career program, and Justin Currie (a graphic artist) recently had to move out of our studio space because it wasn't big

enough for him anymore."

Though it can be difficult to start out, making a living as an artist is not impossible with the right support system. For most creatives, giving a day job priority over their passion won't work in the long term.

"I do want to go back, whether that's a few months or a couple of years down the line," Marie says. "I love it. That moment when you draw something up for a client and you know that they're going to love it for the rest of their life... it makes it worth it."

In some ways, living outside the traditional definition of success simply allows artists the opportunity to get creative not just in their work lives, but their approach to life itself.

"You know, actually thinking about this has made me realize I've adapted fairly well to this, all things considered," Rae says. "The media is constantly bombarding us with stuff we need to spend our money on to be happy."

Though the life of an artist comes with financial challenges, it is a price worth paying for a creative mind that simply wouldn't fit in the 9-5.



Think you can "make the month" on a low income? Try United Way's simulation to gain more insight into living on a budget. Find it at [makethemonth.ca](http://makethemonth.ca).



Kendall Marie is a tattoo artist who's currently working in a call centre for more steady income.



Eric Rae is a Winnipeg actor who also works as a teaching assistant at the University of Winnipeg.



Jordan Miller, in front of some of her paintings. Miller is an artist and the owner of CreBery Gallery, 125 Adelaide St. in Winnipeg's Exchange District.



PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

Eric Rae (right) performing in *As You Like It*.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Eric Rae performing in *Scrooge*.



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A tattoo piece by Kendall Marie.



Jordan Miller, the owner of Cre8ery Gallery, 125 Adelaide St.



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## SMALL TALK

WITH DUNJA KOVACEVIC

@BILDUNGSROMANC3

### IF A VALUE FALLS IN A FOREST AND NOBODY HEARS IT, DOES IT EXIST?

Apathy, maybe second only to snark, is the supposed scourge of our generation. Sure, we've got hashtag activism and viral insert acronym bucket challenges, but it's much easier to double tap a photo or share a status than it is to canvas tirelessly, show up in the cold to protest or call friends out on their problematic behaviour.

Comedian Louis C. K. has a bit about watching a uniformed soldier board his flight and momentarily considering giving up his business class seat to this young veteran, who has, presumably, fought valiantly for his nation. C.K. doesn't, in the end, give up his seat, but just having had the thought sustains him and makes him *feel* like a good person.

Values are kind of like that. Having them makes us feel good but doesn't count for much unless we're committed to acting on them and living accordingly – particularly when to do so requires an element of personal risk or bears social consequences.

Like most people, I stayed quiet on the topic of my former abuse and abusers, not wanting to take up space, not wanting to ask of my friends to "pick a side." This means I also quietly stood by and

watched the oppression of others, because I didn't want to "get involved," until one day I realized that this was a cop-out. We are, sometimes, too easy on ourselves. We give ourselves an easy out.

You can – and should – demand of the people who love you to, at the very least, not condone or associate with those who have caused you physical or psychological harm. It is, really, the least we can do for one another.

Letting someone know you see and believe their pain, that you respect their right to bodily safety, to psychological ease, more than your own momentary awkwardness, requires so little of us, but reverberates in others. No longer supporting abusive bands, artists and

people requires a bit more courage, and a lot less apathy. As venues or organizations, no longer booking these individuals requires even more still.

What incentive do abusive people have to stop being abusive, if they experience zero consequences in response to their behaviour? How does an ignorant person recognize problematic behaviour if no one is willing to enlighten them? Listen, no one likes conflict. But I'll say it again: silence is complicity. Bystanders force marginalized or oppressed people – those who experience or have experienced racism, sexism, image or ability based discrimination – to have to educate or confront their offenders repeatedly.

Sharing that Jian Ghomeshi article

isn't doing the work. Neither is tweeting about #oscarssowhite. The *work* is telling someone that their behaviour sucks and that it won't go unnoticed, which isn't the same thing as maliciously hurting someone. And as long as we keep pretending they are equivalent, because the former makes us uncomfortable, we're prioritizing our feelings and the feelings of bullies over those with considerably less power. Don't be that person. Give up your seat.

*Dunja Kovacevic is a writer and co-founder of Dear Journal, a bi-annual print anthology that centres the lived experiences of women and non-binary individuals. Connect with them on Instagram: @dearjrn.*



ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT A. FORD

## STREETER

BY ANASTASIA CHIPLESKI // MANAGING EDITOR

**Q: "TEMPERATURES ARE FORECAST TO HIT THE DOUBLE-DIGITS THIS WEEKEND. HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO CELEBRATE THE WARMER WEATHER?"**



**GENEVIEVE MAY, AGE 20**

**STUDYING: BUSINESS**

"I THINK I WILL PROBABLY GO TO BIRDS HILL, AND JUST TAKE A NICE WALK AROUND. BIRDS HILL'S MY FAVOURITE."



**SEBASTIAN GBUDJE, AGE 19**

**STUDYING: BIOLOGY**

"WEAR FLIP FLOPS, ENJOY THE BREEZE, THE WIND, JUST WALK AROUND."



**ELIZA RAIZEN, AGE 18**

**STUDYING: THEATRE**

"TRYING TO GET OUTSIDE. IT'S BEEN A COUPLE MONTHS OF NOT REALLY WANTING TO OR BEING ABLE TO."



**KARLEE LILJEGREN, AGE 26**

**STUDYING: DISABILITY STUDIES**

"I'M GONNA TRY TO GO OUTSIDE, PROBABLY NOT GOING TO DO AS MUCH OF THAT BECAUSE IT'S EXAM TIME, BUT PROBABLY SITTING OUTSIDE AND JUST ENJOYING THE WEATHER."

# TAKE THE PLUNGE!

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG ABOUT FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

To: Dr. Annette Trimbee, President, University of Winnipeg;  
Brian Daly, President and CEO, UW Foundation;  
The Board of Regents; and whom it may concern;

On the cold afternoon of October 23rd, a group of University of Winnipeg students gathered between the RecPlex and McFeetors on the grass of the Richardson Green Corridor to build a homemade Slip-n'-Slide. In harsh winds just above zero degrees, the students covered themselves in ponchos, stripped down to their trunks and slid down a path of black polyethylene and biodegradable soap. We didn't need to use any of Shoal Lake's water; mother nature graciously provided a downpour of freezing rain. And luckily there was no snow, like the cold Octobers of our childhood. How fast the climate changes.

The black plastic symbolized an oil slick; like the 200,000 litres spilled in southwestern Manitoba by a Tundra Oil & Gas pipeline in March 2015, or the 100,000L they spilled two months before. This Slick n' Slide was part of Divest UWinnipeg, our ongoing campaign pushing UW to withdraw its \$3.5 million invested in fossil fuels. We risked hypothermia, soaked clothes and funny looks to prove how much students care about this issue; to show that even when something seems daunting, uncomfortable, or downright ridiculous, sometimes you have to take the plunge.



Last April, after a year of Divest campaigning, you ordered your divestment risk assessment. You're seriously considering being the first university in Canada to divest! To help you along, we wanted to let you know what we've been doing and how much people care. We've collected another 750 more petition signatures on paper and online from students, faculty, staff, community members, and

even our school's MP, Robert-Falcon Oullette. We've partnered with the UWSA Bike Lab to make sustainable Bike Blender smoothies. We went to the Ottawa Climate Welcome to bring the issue to the Prime Minister's doorstep. (His administration wasn't nearly as responsive as yours.) We've helped organize the 6th annual Grass Routes Sustainability Festival coming up this month, featuring Unist'ot'en land defender Freda Huson. And we supported our friends in UWFA when they initiated divestment in their pension and called on other other UW entities to do same.

Sure, divestment raises questions. Where will the lost revenue come from? \$3.5 million is a lot of money. But it's only 6% of our endowment; not hard to find elsewhere. Coincidentally, \$3.5 million is also how much was donated by Richardson & Sons to build the Richardson Environmental College and the Green Corridor. Richardson owns Tundra Oil, and divesting would make them less likely to buy us new buildings. So that's the issue.



But isn't there a contradiction in using oil money to build green spaces and environmental colleges? Enbridge pulled the same trick when they sponsored the Eco-Kids program. The oil industry uses our school for P.R., and we use oil for their money. We let them greenwash their image, and we profit off their pollution. We can't promote social justice and sustainability on the surface and undermine it with our chequebooks behind the scenes.

A university, like a country, can grow dependent on oil. You know you should move away from it, but your economy is so rooted in it that you don't know how. But fossil fuels aren't sustainable environmentally *or financially*. Our school has already lost money due to collapsing oil prices. We used to believe that oil was an infinitely profitable investment, but in financial terms this is called a 'bubble' and it's a good sign an industry is about to come crashing down. Oil stocks are overvalued under the assumption that *all* the fossil fuel reserves will be extracted; but when climate change intensifies and carbon regulation increases, companies will be forced to halt extraction and their stocks will plummet. This is assuming our governments act fast enough. If they don't and all the reserves are extracted, the environment is destroyed and Earth becomes uninhabitable. Those are our options: lose all the money, or lose the planet (including the money).

It's our obligation to change things now. We're not pointing fingers or asking anyone to feel guilty — all of us have used the fruits of environmental destruction; the products, the wealth, the funding. But it's time, as a school and as a society, to say thanks for the gifts fossil fuel has given us and move on.

The first step to breaking a dependency is admitting you have a problem. This risk assessment could be a chance to dwell on our fears and fall back into old habits, or it could be a chance for what those in recovery call a "searching and fearless moral inventory". Students and faculty stand with you. Whether you follow your heart or your head, the answer is clear. Follow the lead of those brave, reckless students on that freezing cold slip and slide — because we're counting on those controlling our future to be brave, and not reckless.

Take the plunge.



Sincerely,

Andrew Vineberg  
Divest UWinnipeg

## A BILL OF ONE'S OWN

Local MP seeks citizens' ideas for legislation

SARA ARENSON

@SARAARENSON

NEWS REPORTER

A new approach by a Winnipeg Member of Parliament will give ordinary Canadians a chance to propose legislation.

On Feb. 23, Robert-Falcon Ouellette, MP for Winnipeg Centre, announced on Facebook that he will be accepting ideas for private members' bills.

"I'm taking a different approach to the way things are done in Ottawa," Ouellette wrote.

"With some hard work, your ideas can be introduced in your House of Commons."

A private member's bill is a piece of draft legislation crafted by an individual MP rather than the government. The House of Commons devotes only one hour per day to debating such bills. Although 3,322 have been introduced since 2001, only 59 have become laws, versus 372 of the 647 government-sponsored bills. However, private members' bills do influence government.

"I was looking for a way to involve more people in the democratic process because sometimes governments will take those private members' bills, and might convert them or add them to a line of major legislation," Ouellette says.

Although a lottery determined that Ouellette is number 236 on a list of MPs to have one of their bills reach second reading – not until 2018 or 2019, he estimates – like others, he can announce new bills and use them as concrete talking points with the media and ministers' offices.

Dr. Royce Koop, a political studies professor at the University of Manitoba who has written about private members' bills, has never heard of a politician drafting them based directly on citizens' ideas. Although he finds the approach "neat", he doesn't see it as "radical." He believes that MPs already champion their constituents' ideas.

"If you convince an MP that there's this big issue, you know, growing in importance, then there's a good chance they'll act on it. (MPs) need to be re-elected. And so they're looking for issues that they can embrace. They're looking for things that they can fight on behalf of their constituents for."

However, individual MPs have limited legislative power in a system focused on government-proposed legislation and party discipline. Koop believes that private members' bills are a way of breaking ground on an issue, citing a 2010 paper from Kelly Blidook.

"His argument was that private members introduce issues, they get them



Robert-Falcon Ouellette on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

onto the public radar, you kind of hash out debates, you see where the weak points are, what the main objections are, all that kind of stuff."

"The government can kinda see that, and (say) 'So, well, do we want a government bill on this? Do we want to push this forward?'"

Sometimes private members' bills have led to dramatic results, as in 2012 when the long gun registry was eliminated.

"There were bills to abolish the gun registry," Koop says. "The government could never pass these, until it was

proposed in a private member's bill put forward by Candice Hooppner. And the idea was, because it was a private member's bill, the parties wouldn't whip their members."

Recent private members' bills by various MPs include acts to create a Leif Erickson Day, develop a national poverty reduction strategy, and allow police officers to use devices to detect airborne alcohol.

All current bills can be viewed on the LEGISinfo system at the Parliament of Canada's website.

## NEWS BRIEFS

PALMER FRITSCHY // NEWS EDITOR

@PALMERFRITSCHY

### Heritage classic

This October, the Winnipeg Jets will host the Edmonton Oilers at Investors Group Field in the 2016 Heritage Classic, an outdoor NHL game. The event on October 23 will be the first outdoor game for the Jets. Winnipeg was scheduled to host the outdoor game last season, but the NHL was unable to reach an agreement with the Blue Bombers.

### Emotional letter

A indigenous Winnipeg teenager who wrote a letter to the Winnipeg chief of police with instructions if she goes missing met with Mayor Brian Bowman on Monday. In the letter, author Brianna Jonnie implores the police to do better for missing indigenous people, and believes if she were to go missing, her case wouldn't be handled with urgency because of her ethnicity.

### Liberal moves

The Manitoba Liberal party's chief of staff has resigned just days before the start of the provincial election campaign. Spencer Fernando, 27, quit during the party's annual general meeting last weekend. He is a former Conservative party staffer who switched to the Liberals about a year ago.

### Grass routes

From March 14-18, the UWSA and the Campus Sustainability Office's presents the Grass Routes festival run at U of W. This year's festival is the sixth annual celebration of ideas, skills, and creativity for a sustainable future with workshops, exhibits, and lectures and dialogues. View the schedule at grassroutes.ca/2016program

### Citizen Trudeau

On March 12, U of W political science professor Dr. Allen Mills will launch his new book *Citizen Trudeau, 1944-1965: An Intellectual Biography* at McNally Robinson Books at 7 p.m. According to a release from the U of W communications department, Mills' biography is a multilayered portrait of the Canadian Prime Minister. The launch is free and open to all.

### Starbucks service

On March 15, Starbucks will launch their mobile order and pay system in all Winnipeg locations, allowing patrons to use their app to place orders in advance, pay for it electronically and pick it up in the store while skipping the line. Mobile orders account for almost 20 per cent of all Starbucks transactions in Canada.

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PHOTO BY MIKE SUDOMA



## CORYDON OSBORNE AREA PLAN

Plan aims to densify neighbourhood, improve streetscapes and ease parking

HANNAH OWCZAR

@HANNAHOWCZAR

VOLUNTEER STAFF

On Wed. March 9, the City of Winnipeg hosted an open house to discuss the logistics of the Corydon-Osborne Area Plan, officially adopted by city council in December 2014.

The planning guide was developed between 2011-2014 through consultation with area residents, business owners, community stakeholders and members of the public. The plan intends to guide future growth and change in the Corydon-Osborne area with transit developments supplementing the Osborne Station, improvements to streetscapes and better connections to the downtown.

The plan also aims to preserve and maintain the character of the community while adhering to protocol laid out in Our



Corydon Arch at Confusion Corner.

Winnipeg, the city's 25-year planning guideline.

According to Michael Robinson, a city planner with the City of Winnipeg, the plan aims to increase density in the area, specifically around Osborne Station, while making the neighbourhood more diverse and vibrant.

However, the plan has been met with opposition from some residents.

Shirley Forsyth, an executive member of the Corydon Village Residents Association, feels the association was left out of the planning process.

"We didn't have any input into which (consultant) they hired, or a term of reference of what they were going to do."

In a letter to Mayor Brian Bowman, Forsyth states she is opposed to the rezoning of homes from single-family to two-family homes. She states that the

Corydon-Osborne area does not need to be densified and the rezoning of 950 properties will reduce green space she feels is already limited in the area.

"We have very little green space in this area except the small yards, by expanding the houses and taking up the yard we will have even less."

The city claims that the rezoning of the area will benefit residents as laws will be adjusted to build secondary suites in basements and second storeys on existing homes more easily.

For residents who fear this new zoning target will decrease the value of their properties, the city's taxation division believes there will be little to no change in property value in the area based solely on the change to two-family zoning.

Forsyth is nevertheless concerned that her neighborhood will become less

accessible for families.

"There will be no children. The area won't be a family neighborhood anymore."

The Corydon-Osborne Plan also aims to encourage more street activity by allowing businesses to build outdoor patios more easily by loosening regulations in the current planned development overlay, a zoning tool that modifies land uses and development standards in an area.

The plan also encourages shared parking that will provide restaurants and businesses along Corydon more access to rentable parking, in an effort to curb reliance on residential street parking.

*A public survey on the Corydon-Osborne Area Plan Implementation is available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CH3DW58](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CH3DW58).*

## OLD COMPUTERS, NEW LIFE

Computer Refurb Festival offers deals and information

SARA ARENSON

@SARAARENSON

NEWS REPORTER

Winnipeggers will have a chance to pick up cheap but perfectly usable old computers and parts, along with some tips on fixing up old systems this month.

Skullspace, a technology club and "hackerspace", will be running a Computer Refurb Festival on March 12. The event will bring together tinkerers, students, vendors, and anyone interested in computers, to learn about refurbishing old machines while selling spare hardware.

"It's a fun activity if you're into computers, if you're into building things and you like to see results," Troy Denton, a member of Skullspace's board of directors, says. "It can be a pretty satisfying hobby to get into."

This hobby can also cost very little, as Denton discovered in his high school years.

"I certainly didn't have money to go out and buy the latest computer parts and stuff like this, so I'd often take in used computer parts, and fix them together, build working units. I learned to install Linux on stuff like this, and basically the computers I was pulling out of the dumpster behind the computer store."

Denton has made some cool projects,

including a music recording system from an old laptop that was just sitting around.

Computer refurbishing has other benefits – it's also environmentally smart. Before sending that old system for recycling, it may be possible to replace a part. Components such as motherboards, RAM, hard drives and video cards can be swapped in and out.

"Not everything is really all that recyclable in a computer when you get down to hazardous materials and things like this, so, from that perspective, environmentally it's a pretty noble thing to do," Denton says. "And as a hacker tinkerer myself, I just don't like seeing these things go to waste, right?"

Jeff Ritchot of Mother Earth Recycling, a social enterprise specializing in electronic waste management, knows first-hand that old computers can be given new life.

"It all depends what your functions are for using them for," Ritchot, MER's senior technician and supervisor of sales and training, says. "Like, word processing, you don't need anything fancy. But you wanna do videos online, you need the newer operating system, which you need new hardware for."

MER sells basic computers suitable for entry-level users, seniors, or students. For \$150, one can purchase a system with Windows 7, four gigabytes of RAM, a 160 gigabyte hard drive, and a 19-inch monitor. The systems are suitable for word processing, reading websites, watching videos on Netflix, burning DVDs and using social media sites. Layaway plans are available.

Ritchot estimates that MER sells 50 to 200 refurbished computers per month.

MER accepts donations. What they can't refurbish, they send to recyclers, who ensure that toxic substances like leaded glass, mercury and cadmium



Skullspace member Michael Kozakewich with one of the computers the club is selling at the Computer Refurb Festival.

are kept out of the environment while reclaiming gold, copper, aluminum, and other valuable materials.

The Computer Refurb Festival will also feature a market, an auction, and talks.

Anyone who pays the \$5 table fee can be a vendor. And with computer buffs cleaning out their closets, there will be deals – even desktop towers for as little as \$5.



The Computer Refurb Festival will be held Sat., March 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Skullspace, 374 Donald St. [skullspace.ca](http://skullspace.ca).



## PLAN YOUR FUTURE

The U of W launches a new student planning tool

ELENA SPITCZYNA

 @CAMPUS\_ELENA

CAMPUS REPORTER

An enhanced student planning tool is now available for University of Winnipeg (U of W) students.

The tool, called Student Planning, is the most recent addition to WebAdvisor, the U of W online registration system, which provides students with an opportunity to be more autonomous in managing their degree.

With this tool, the students are able to plan their courses in conjunction with their degree requirements and choose the sections they want to take.

Inga Johnson Mychasiw, the director of student support services, says that it will help students to be on track and to be clear on what they need to take.

“What it does is it combines ongoing planning of a degree,” she says. “You can plan every term and a year up ahead. It’s an online system that combines planning of all the courses you want to take in your

degree and you can select your sections and do your timetabling right in this program and then you’ll actually register through this program.”

Judy Tanner, the coordinator for the student records office, says that the new interactive system is very user friendly and intuitive.

“It’s colourful and it’s going to tell you if (the course is) completed, it’s going to be in green. If it’s planned, it’s going to be in yellow and if you haven’t started it will be in red.”

Another addition to the system is the online self-service graduation application, which will allow students to have a quick and easy way to apply to graduate.

“It will tell you you’ve met those 90 credit hours. It will tell you you’ve met all the requirements to graduate. So then a student will just know and not be sort of madly confused – is it OK, is it not OK. The system says you’ve met all the requirements. And then they know they can go to that self-service application for graduation,” Mychasiw says.

The new student planning tool has benefits not only to students, but also provides the opportunity for advising staff to be more accurate and available for students who need help.

“Now the students that are comfortable with student planning will be able to do self-service and figuring it out themselves. And if students that want to meet with an advisor, hopefully there will be more availability,” Mychasiw says.

“And in terms of the advisors’ work they won’t have to manually figure things



PHOTO BY DANIEL CRUMP

The University of Winnipeg’s info page about the student planning app.

out, they will just be able to log in and see, so they can have more time to be discussing things with students rather than just figuring out degree plans.”

Busola Akinola, a third year student majoring accounting, says that the student planning tool will be very convenient.

“I think it’s a great concept because it’s trying to give students the opportunity to plan ahead. Prior to this, students were able to plan only for each semester and sometimes they didn’t consider the

prerequisites needed for the course. We can now monitor our progress and schedule classes ahead, which I think is fantastic!”



For more information go to the [techsolutions.uwinnipeg.ca](http://techsolutions.uwinnipeg.ca) or visit Student Central at 489 Portage Ave.



PHOTO BY SIMEON RUSNAK

## The PROFile - DR. CANDIDA RIFKIND

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

PALMER FRITSCHY

NEWS EDITOR

Dr. Candida Rifkind is an associate professor of Canadian literature and comic books at the University of Winnipeg in the English department who specializes in graphic biography.

“Mostly of well known people, but not always, in the form of a comic book,” she says.

Rifkind generally works with what she calls “alternative comic books.”

“I’m interested in ones that are really experimenting with how to tell the story of a real person’s life, visually and verbally.”

“Comics and graphic novels have grown exponentially in the past couple decades. There’s been a number of new associations for comic studies, conferences, scholarly journals, but I think we still have so much to learn about what they mean to readers and what they can tell us about our culture.”

Rifkind cites Art Spiegelman’s *Maus* as the breakthrough text for comic studies.

“That really launched or opened the field up for autobiography,” Rifkind says.

She describes how graphic works on the subjects of trauma, war, genocide, the Holocaust have contributed to the genre being taken seriously as an academic text.

“This is how comics become serious or are taken seriously, because they’re telling serious stories.”

Graphic narratives also have advantages over prose, Rifkind says.

“The visual can communicate faster. You can communicate all kinds of information in one comics panel, even if it’s in the background to set the scene. Comics can convey a kind of sensory experience about a person’s life, what it felt like, looked like to be them.”

Rifkind is editing a forthcoming scholarly collection with Linda Warley, *Canadian Graphic: Picturing Life Narratives*, due later this year on Wilfrid Laurier UP and is working on a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded book project, *Graphic Biography*.

**AREA OF RESEARCH:** Comics and graphic narratives, with a focus on life writing (autobiography, biography, diary).

**NUMBER OF PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:** One book, about 15 journal articles and book chapters, and a co-edited collection of essays on Canadian graphic life narratives coming out this spring. I also write comic book reviews for the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

**LOWEST GRADE IN UNIVERSITY:** I was a bit of a Lisa Simpson, but I’m not a morning person, so my lowest grade was a B in an 8:30 a.m. poetry course. Ever since then I’ve avoided taking or teaching 8:30 a.m. courses.

**FAVOURITE THING ABOUT YOURSELF:** I’m kind to animals.

**WHAT’S YOUR SUPERPOWER:** I have a highly developed sense of irony, which may be more of a survival strategy than a superpower.

**WORST TEACHING MOMENT:** Every time the video doesn’t play in class.

**FAVOURITE PART ABOUT WINNIPEG:** The arts scene.

**BOOK RECOMMENDATION:** I tell everyone I know to read *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, which is one of my favourite recent Canadian novels. It’s set in a post-flu pandemic dystopia but less depressing than that sounds. It’s a totally gripping read about survival on a basic individual level, but also a collective and artistic one.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL CRUMP

All the performers of Class Acts Eight take to the stage to lead the audience in a round of the Canadian version of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" as the grand finale.

## CHANGING ROLES

U of W faculty and staff showcase their talents in support of U of W General Scholarship Fund

ELENA SPITCZYNA



CAMPUS REPORTER

Hidden talents were once again unveiled at the University of Winnipeg (U of W) last Friday.

On Mar. 4, Class Acts, a cabaret of music and arts featuring the U of W faculty and staff as the performers, returned for its eighth incarnation since the first show in 2002. In 14 years the event has raised nearly \$30,000 for the U of W General Scholarship Fund.

For many years, the organizers of the event have been Neil Besner, the academic provost and vice-president, and Dr. Ed Byard, a recently retired biology professor, who's remained committed to the show.

"It's a great way for people from the whole variety of departments to get together and do something like this with the single goal – to benefit the university," Dr. Byard says.

The event is run by volunteers and everybody performing, participating in, or helping organize it are doing it out of goodwill.

"There is a lot of talent in the people who volunteer to come forward for this

fundraiser. They're choosing to be a part of it because they want to be a part of it. It's fun for them," Dr. Ryan Bullock, who helps with organization of the event, says.

Performances this year included comedy, skits, dances and musical numbers from classical piano to jazz from solo singers, duets and bands.

"One of the things that I was pretty blown away about is that these guys described it as a cabaret kind of a fundraiser thing, and I didn't know what to expect, and the level of talent among the faculty and staff that performed was really high," Bullock says.

This year's event featured eight performers and a traditional "court jester" – Paul Friesen, the library's circulation and shelving assistant, who is also a slam poet and comedian.

Devin Latimer, a chemistry faculty member, together with his wife have been playing in Class Acts for many years.

"I think it's really good for the community. It fosters our community spirit, reminds us all that we can get together outside of work as well," Latimer says.

Tanis Kolisnyk, an academic advisor at the U of W, performed in Class Acts with her son for the first time this year. She says the show is much more than a fundraiser.

"First question I always ask myself is 'what is the U of W known for?' And I think we're known for community. So I think (Class Acts) is a piece of that. And I think it really embraces four things," she says.

"It embraces and celebrates diversity. It also celebrates excellence because people who are participating have been refining... what they're going to offer to the best of their ability," Kolisnyk says. "We always talk about that life-work balance and how it's important...It's about giving back."



Tanis Kolisnyk (left) performs with her son Nick Kolisnyk (right) during Class Acts Eight at the University of Winnipeg's Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall on March 4.



Ed Byard, former biology department chair at the University of Winnipeg, plays his banjo during Class Acts Eight at the University of Winnipeg's Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.

## MANITOBA'S DEFICIT IS POLITICAL

A lack of inspiring leadership means democracy needs an overhaul

TIM RUNTZ

@TIMRUNTZ

COMMENTS EDITOR

Manitobans may find themselves between a rock and a few hard places when it comes time to elect a new premier on April 19. After a lackluster campaign season, voters will be left choosing between the least-liked provincial leader in Canada, a political rookie, and a Harper-supporter with pro-corporate ideals.

The election comes after 17 years of New Democratic Party (NDP) rule in Manitoba. But despite its traditional base of support and a relatively stable economy, NDP approval is at its lowest since 1988.

Premier Greg Selinger's popularity dropped so low after a 2013 tax hike that several of his own cabinet ministers publicly called for his resignation. Instead of stepping down, the premier ousted the

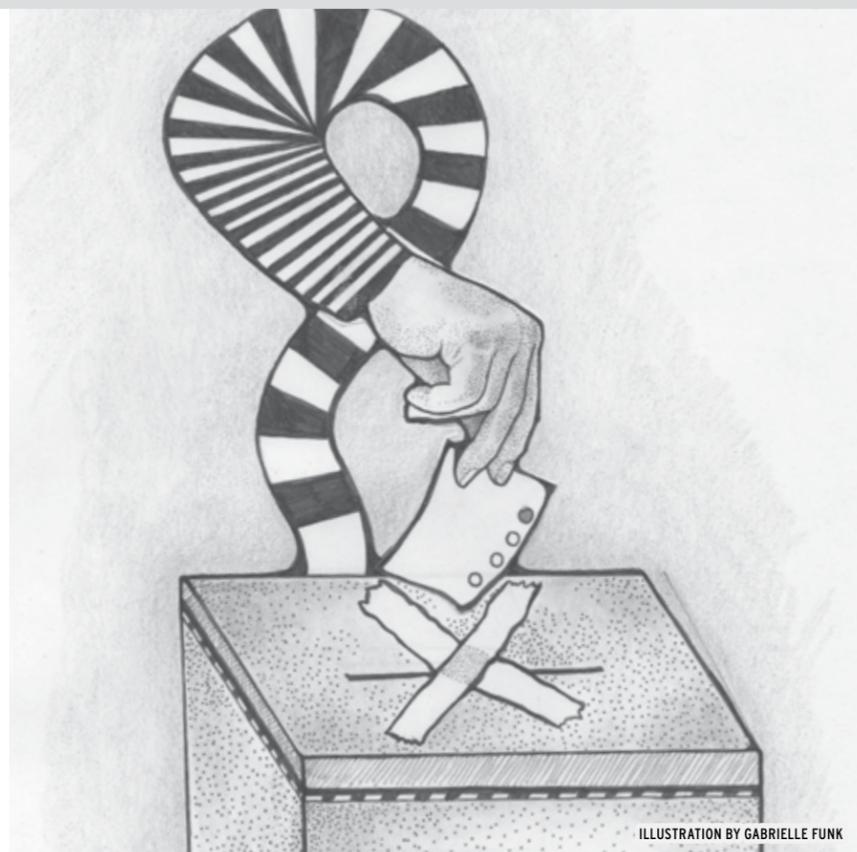
dissenting ministers and carried on with business as usual.

Liberal leader Rana Bokhari, on the other hand, hopes to glean support from disenchanted progressives across the province. With promises of tax cuts as well as new social programming, momentum seems to be on her side, but her party faces an uphill battle: the provincial Liberals haven't actually held official status in the legislature since the '90s, and they haven't been in power in nearly six decades.

Bokhari herself is political rookie, and to complicate matters further, the charismatic and talented Wab Kinew has recently announced his MLA candidacy against her in Fort Rouge. If Bokhari can't demonstrate a firm grasp on her own potential seat in the legislature, support for her party more broadly will likely reflect a loss of confidence.

On the political right, the Progressive Conservatives led by Brian Pallister currently lead in the polls. Pallister is arguably better known for his obscure off-hand comments than for his political astuteness. In an apparent attempt at inclusivity, his 2014 holiday greeting included a nod to "infidel atheists," and last year he suggested that Halloween threatens children's integrity.

In this traditionally left-leaning province, Pallister's probable ascent to the premiership will have less to do with his pro-corporate policies and quasi-fundamentalist ideologies than a lack of other viable options. Such a pendulum swing from left to right would mirror Rachel Notley's recent win in Alberta,



where the NDP dethroned an entirely dysfunctional PC party after 44 years in power.

While newcomers like Rana Bokhari and Wab Kinew are reason for optimism in the long-term, it will take time and a lot of effort for realistic leadership options to emerge outside of the old guards of the PC and NDP.

In an era where voter apathy is common enough to be cliché, the ongoing and

uninspiring race for Manitoba's provincial leadership has gone a long way to justify disenchantment with the political process.

Manitoba's biggest deficit is in its leadership, and it's becoming clear that simply showing up to vote is not sufficient participation for making democracy work.

*Tim Runtz is the Comments editor at The Uniter, an associate editor at Geez magazine, and an occasional bicycle mechanic.*

## SLOWING DOWN THE 'CHILD APPREHENSION MACHINE'

Indigenous leaders call for an update of CFS

REINALDO CONTRERAS

VOLUNTEER STAFF

The Child and Family Service (CFS) system carries on the legacy of residential schools, according to Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) leader Derek Nepinak. Family Services Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross has also admitted a connection between the current CFS system and the colonial legacy of the Sixties Scoop.

An increasing number of indigenous families and communities are hoping to replace CFS institutionalization with family care. Instead of being helped, families are being additionally torn apart by CFS, and youth with complex needs are unnecessarily cut off from their families and networks of support. Of the total of missing persons reported to police in Manitoba, 80 per cent are CFS children. In June 2015, the placement of CFS children in hotels in Winnipeg was banned, while some children under care languish behind bars longer because CFS lacks foster parents.

The number of children under care in Manitoba is the highest in Canada:

10,283 as of the last official count in 2014. Of those children, 87 per cent according to Minister Irvin-Ross are indigenous. The number has now increased to close to 11,000 children as the CFS system has spun out of control apprehending one newborn child daily. AMC leader Nepinak has called CFS "a child apprehension machine."

Efforts led by the province, such as the Hughes Report in 2005, did not include the participation of indigenous communities, and the AMC responded with the initiative Bringing Our Children Home last year. The plan proposed to keep "children out of formal child and family service care as well as repatriating children who are in care to their families."

Last year also, the AMC designated Cora Morgan as the Children's Advocate. Soon after Morgan contacted families of CFS children, CFS threatened the families not to seek further contact with her office. Morgan said she was even kicked out of meetings between CFS staff and parents.

These events led Morgan to organize a fast with other indigenous women at the Legislature grounds last year demanding the return of CFS indigenous children to their parents.

In the meantime, the community organization Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre has been using an approach borrowed from the Maori people in New Zealand, the Family Group Conference (FGC). The FGC approach involves the child's extended family and support network in the design of a plan to support the parent and keep the child with family. The FGC has been successful and the Centre is now seeking to extend the program with provincial support.

Last December, Irvin-Ross announced a piece of legislation to amend the Child



and Family Services Act. With such amendment, First Nations will have more say in child welfare policy and "parents would maintain guardianship of their children in customary care arrangements."

But the struggle of the indigenous community is far from over, and they have to be vigilant of every step made by the province. Just last month, Morgan had to explain that "voluntary placements" of children by their parents are not voluntary at all and that women have been blackmailed into signing them

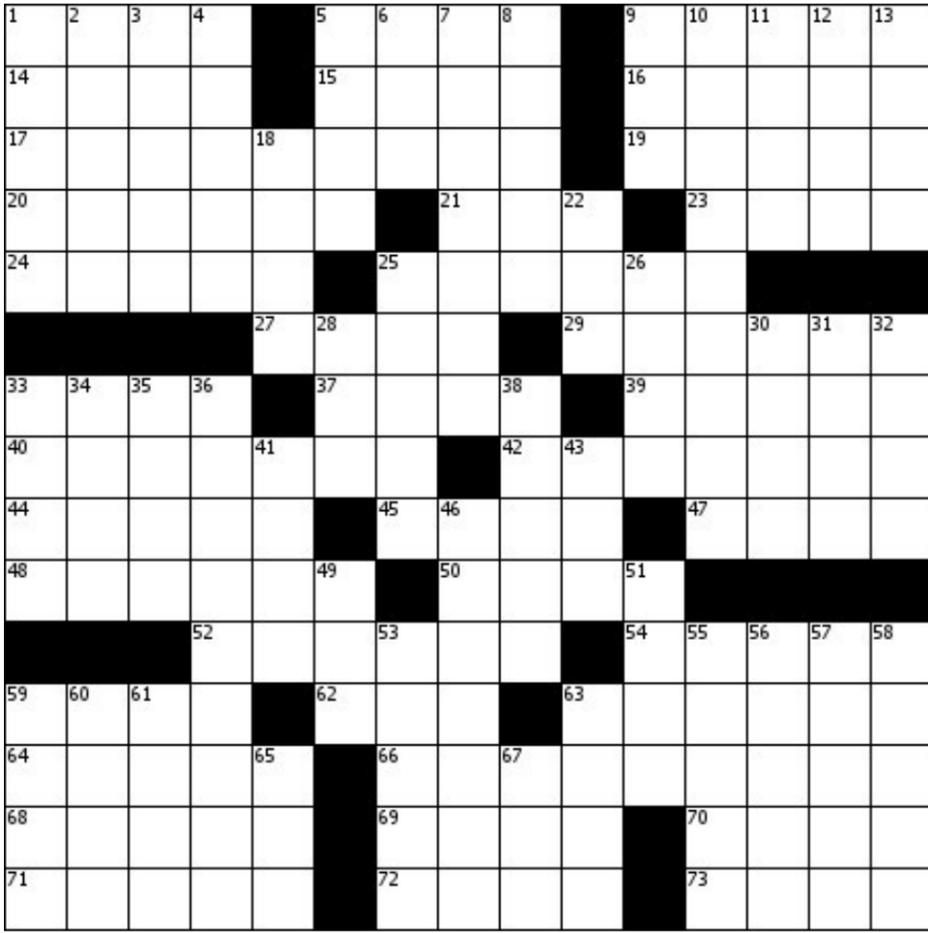
and losing their children to the system. Morgan's explanation came after the province announced that children under "voluntary placement" would no longer be counted in the total of children under CFS care, an action that would give the appearance of progress, but has since been abandoned.

*Reinaldo Contreras is a second year student in the University of Winnipeg's Urban and Inner City Studies program and former director of El Latino Newspaper of Alberta.*

# DIVERSIONS



ONLINECROSSWORDS.NET



## ACROSS

1. That's opposite
5. Clutch
9. Snaky letters
14. Departed
15. Pause
16. Movie music
17. Lacking the ability
19. Distinguishing quality
20. Trapped
21. Aye's opposite
23. Supplements
24. Sample food
25. "\_\_\_\_ Street"
27. Stadium cheers
29. Capital of the Philippines
33. Inquires
37. Mexican house
39. Stingy one
40. Pittsburgh footballer
42. Least fatty
44. U.S. symbol
45. Wooden pins
47. Obtains
48. Missing
50. \_\_\_\_ Valley (vineyard site)
52. Compel
54. Twangy
59. Englishman, for short
62. Conger
63. Paper fastener
64. Scary
66. Work together
68. Dark wood
69. Korea's

continent

70. Bloodhound's clue
71. Cookstove
72. Skin
73. Loch \_\_\_\_ monster

11. Drench

12. Great Lake
13. Movie backdrops
18. British noble
22. Sweet spud
25. Clever
26. Doll's cry
28. Expert
30. Understood! (2 wds.)
31. "\_\_\_\_ we forget"
32. Crafts
33. On the ocean
34. Wild attempt
35. Beer barrels
36. Picking
38. Water plants
41. Letterman's rival
43. Psychic ability (abbr.)

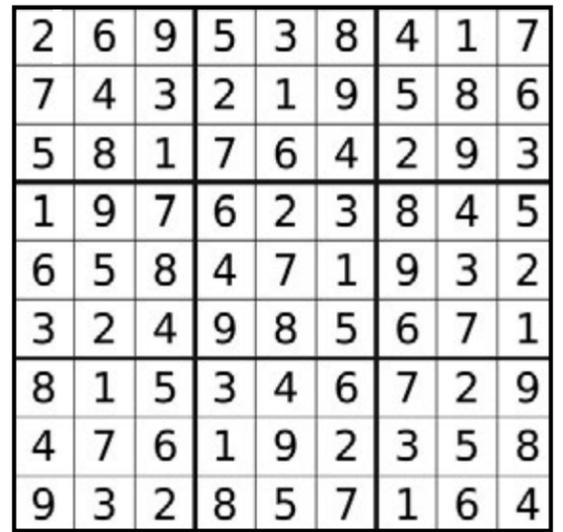
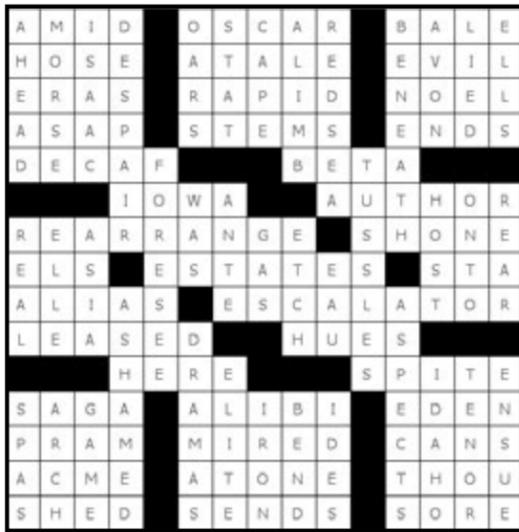
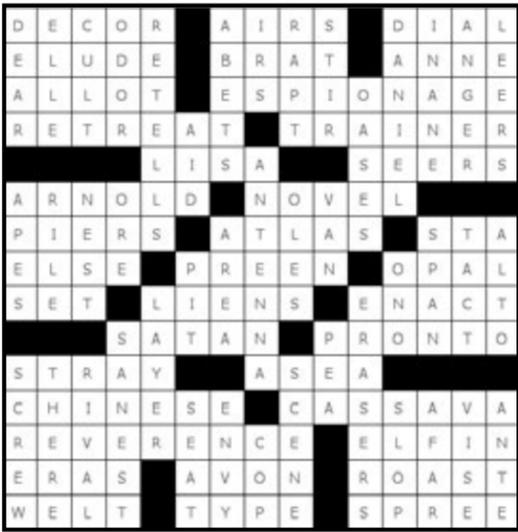
46. Surround

49. Golf device
51. Poker payment
53. Brief summary
55. Slugger Hank \_\_\_\_
56. Digging tool
57. Female singers
58. Malicious looks
59. "Cheers" order
60. Country singer \_\_\_\_ McEntire
61. Treat pleats
63. Minor quarrel
65. Needle opening
67. Furnace fuel

## DOWN

1. "Oliver \_\_\_\_"
2. Hair dye
3. Peruvian natives
4. Begin
5. Happy
6. Chafe
7. Sickness
8. Entreaties
9. Detroit time zone (abbr.)
10. Movie showing

SOLUTIONS TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## 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.

### STUDENT CENTRAL

#### GRADUATION

EXTENSION! Students who wish to graduate in June 2016 should complete an Application for Graduation form and submit it to Student Central ASAP. (All required courses must be completed by April.)

#### SPRING TERM (U2015S)

The Spring Term Timetable has been posted for undergraduate courses between May - August. Go to [www.uwinnipeg.ca](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca), click on "Student" and then "Timetable."

Tiered Registration Times will be emailed to Webmail accounts soon. Tiered registration begins March 21st.

### SIGN UP NOW FOR "STUDENT PLANNING" INFO SESSION!

Learn more about "Student Planning" - a new online tool for degree planning and course registration - by signing up now for an information session. Sessions will be held throughout March. Visit our website: [uwinnipeg.ca/student-planning](http://uwinnipeg.ca/student-planning)

All undergraduate students will need to use "Student Planning" to register for courses in the upcoming

Spring Term and in all Terms in the future. The old way of registering will no longer be available.

Students can access "Student Planning" by logging in to WebAdvisor and looking under Registration for "Student Planning."

### MINDFULNESS MEDITATION DROP-IN SESSIONS

These sessions are offered each Mon & Thurs, 12:30-1:00pm in the UW Chapel. More Information is on the UW Events Calendar. All are welcome!

### NATIONAL COLLEGE HEALTH ASSESSMENT SURVEY

All undergraduate UWinnipeg students will be surveyed to participate in the National College Health Assessment (NCHA), sponsored and distributed by the American College Health Association (ACHA). The ACHA-NCHA is a survey designed to assess student health behaviors in order to provide better services and support for University of Winnipeg students. You may benefit by knowing that you have assisted in providing accurate information regarding health/wellness behaviors on

our campus. The information will be used to develop wellness programs and services for The University of Winnipeg.

The survey is completed online. We encourage you to complete the survey in one sitting, which typically takes about 20-30 minutes. All students who submit a survey will be automatically entered in a random drawing for one of five \$100 gift certificates for the campus bookstore!

There may be some personal discomfort with the content of certain questions. For example, there are questions regarding illegal substance use, interpersonal violence, and sexual behavior. If you'd like to talk with someone about issues addressed in the survey, you may contact a counsellor at [studentwellness@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:studentwellness@uwinnipeg.ca) or (204) 988-7611.

Your participation is completely voluntary and confidential. To ensure confidentiality, e-mail addresses are destroyed by ACHA before data are compiled and shared with The University of Winnipeg. The raw data file that is shared with the University of Winnipeg will not contain any unique identifiers. If you feel that answering specific demographic questions might reveal your identity, you may leave them blank. You may answer only some questions, or you may choose not to participate in the survey at all. Any reports or publications based on this research will use only

group data and will not identify you or any individual as being affiliated with this project.

By taking this survey, you consent to participate in the study and agree that the purpose of this study has been satisfactorily explained to you. You understand you are free to discontinue participation at any time if you so choose and that the researcher will gladly answer any questions that may arise during the course of the research. Refusing or withdrawing from this study will be at no penalty or loss of benefits to you.

You may contact Jan Byrd, Executive Director, Wellness and Student Life at [j.byrd@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:j.byrd@uwinnipeg.ca) or 204-988-7563 if you have questions or concerns about the survey.

Data transmission is encrypted and firewall securities are in place. After you submit the survey to the secure server, a message thanking you for taking the NCHA-Web will be displayed in your browser window, and you will receive a confirmation email.

This research has been approved by the University Human Research Ethics Board. For any questions related to research ethics, you may contact Heather Mowat, Program Officer, Research Implementation, Ethics and Contracts, at [h.mowat@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:h.mowat@uwinnipeg.ca) or (204) 786-9058.

If you agree to participate in the survey, check your webmail for your personal survey link by Friday March 18.

PHONE: 204.779.8946

EMAIL: [studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:studentcentral@uwinnipeg.ca)

# The CREEPS

BY JEAN FLOCH  
www.gocomics.com/the-creeps



## FASHION STREETER

Madison

"I like to be comfortable."

Larissa

"I wear lots of dark colours, button-up shirts."

PHOTO BY ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI

## Un-Supermarket

by Sari Habiluk

facebook.com/SariHabilukArtisticWorks



## SUMMER SESSION IS...

▶ your chance to get the classes that are full in the fall.

REGISTRATION STARTS MARCH 21.  
[umanitoba.ca/summer](http://umanitoba.ca/summer)



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Extended Education

## ENERGY EAST: OUR RISK. THEIR REWARD.

Wednesday, March 16

7 pm, Fort Garry Hotel Ballroom  
222 Broadway, Winnipeg  
[www.canadians.org/WinnipegEE](http://www.canadians.org/WinnipegEE)

Join us to find out why Energy East is all risk and little reward for Manitoba.

Free Public Forum Featuring:

Maude Barlow  
Council of Canadians

Daryl Redsky  
Shoal Lake 40 member

Michael Matczuk  
Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition

Chickadee Richard  
Advocate from Treaty 1 Territory

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The UWSA & The Campus Sustainability Office present the 6th annual

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# Grass Routes

Sustainability Festival  
March 14 – 18, 2016  
University of Winnipeg

Ideas.  
Skills.  
Art.

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