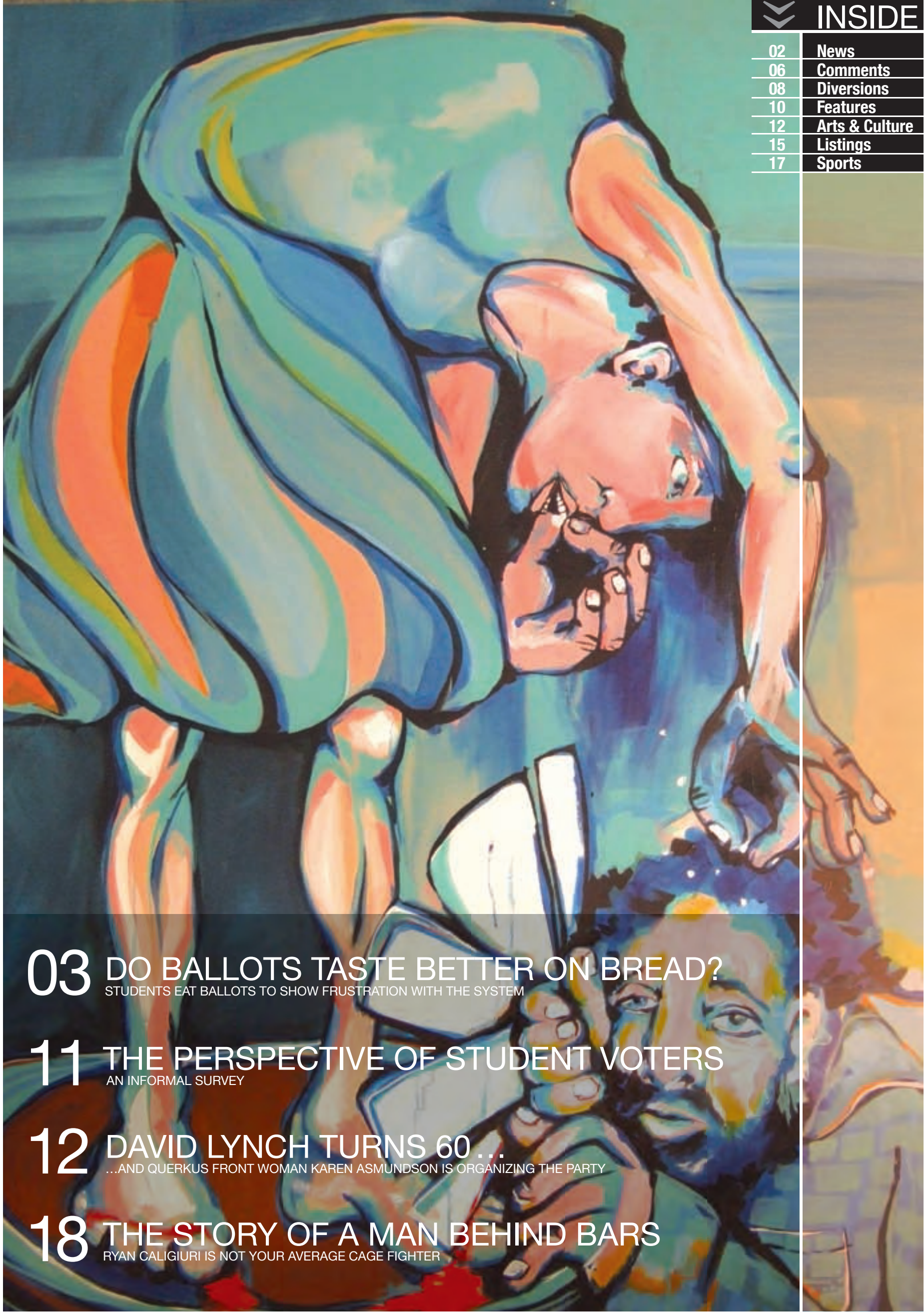


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UNITER STAFF

- 01 | Managing Editor >> Jo Snyder
editor@uniter.ca
- 02 | Business Coordinator & Office Manager
>> James D. Patterson managing@uniter.ca
- 03 | NEWS EDITOR >> Vivian Belik
news@uniter.ca
- 04 | NEWS PRODUCTION EDITOR >>
Derek Leschasin
newsprod@uniter.ca
- 05 | SENIOR EDITOR >> Leighton Klassen
senior@uniter.ca
- 06 | BEAT REPORTER >> Whitney Light
beat@uniter.ca
- 07 | BEAT REPORTER >> Alan MacKenzie
beat2@uniter.ca
- 08 | FEATURES EDITOR >> Lori Ebbitt
features@uniter.ca
- 09 | ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR >> Mike Lewis
arts@uniter.ca
- 10 | SPORTS EDITOR >> Mike Pyl
sports@uniter.ca
- 11 | COMMENTS EDITOR >> Daniel Blaikie
comments@uniter.ca
- 12 | HUMOUR EDITOR >> Matt Cohen
humour@uniter.ca
- 13 | PHOTO EDITOR >> Wade Andrew
photo@uniter.ca
- 14 | LISTINGS COORDINATOR >>
Nick Weigeldt listings@uniter.ca
- 15 | COPY & STYLE EDITOR >>
Melody Rogan style@uniter.ca
- 16 | DISTRIBUTION MANAGER >>
Scott McArthur
- 17 | GRAPHICS EDITOR >>
Sebastian Podsiadlo
graphics@uniter.ca
- 18 | PRODUCTION MANAGER >>
Sarah Sangster
designer@uniter.ca
- 19 | ADVERTISING MANAGER >> Ted Turner
tturner2@uwinnipeg.ca
786-9779

THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTORS

Christopher Webb, Za Ceu Lian, Deniz Izzet, Marika Olynyk, Albert St., Erin McIntyre, Dana Krawchuk, Shane Gibson, Ben MacPhee-Sigurdson, Ben Snakepit, Iain Ramsay, Kalen Qually, Daniel Falloon, Joshua Boulding, Thomas Asselin

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CONTACT US >>

General Inquiries: 204.786.9790
Advertising: 204.786.9779
Editors: 204.786.9497
Fax: 204.783.7080
Email: uniter@uniter.ca

LOCATION >>

Room ORM14
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515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9

COVER IMAGE

"Knit Picking" - FREYA BJORG OLAFSON
Images from upcoming debut solo performance. Showing Feb 9, 11 @ WCD 2nd Flr 211 Bannatyne Ave. Presented in collaboration w/ PLUGIN Inc. in connection w/ VOLCANA Icelandic Women artists ending at the PlugIn in Feb 11th - Show will be FREE

UNITER NEWS

NEWS EDITOR: VIVIAN BELIK
E-MAIL: NEWS@UNITER.CA

SENIOR EDITOR: LEIGHTON KLASSEN
E-MAIL: SENIOR@UNITER.CA

NEWS EDITOR: DEREK LESCHASIN
E-MAIL: NEWSPROD@UNITER.CA

Local Federal Candidates Debate Post Secondary Education

By Christopher Webb

Local political candidates in the upcoming federal election faced off last week in a debate hosted by the UWSA and the University of Winnipeg politics department. The debate on Jan. 11 focused on issues affecting post-secondary students. Although the debate was filled with the usual political banter and name-calling, it addressed a wider variety of issues than expected. Questions were raised regarding Canada's role in Haiti, the status of refugee students, proportional representation and the possibility of eliminating tuition fees entirely.

The candidates who attended were: Scott Bruinooge (Conservative), Vere Scott (Green), Mark Wasyliw (NDP) and Anita Neville (Liberal).

Bruinooge, running in Winnipeg South, emphasized what he called the Liberal government's failure in funding and maintaining the standards of post-secondary education. He promised a tax exemption for the first \$10 thousand of bursary programs received by all students, and improvements in the flexibility of existing student loan programs. His other promises included providing credits to cover the cost of university books and a government which Bruinooge claims, "will negotiate with the provinces to provide dedicated funding to universities which can be counted upon."

Neville, candidate for Winnipeg South-Centre, defended the Liberal Party's contributions to post-secondary education. She argued the Liberals provided funding which directly affects the student, such as the announcement in the last federal budget that the government would provide a grant for low-income students to access post-secondary education. She also emphasized the role which the "50/50 policy" would play if Liberals retained power: "We shall pay up to \$3 thousand of your first and last year of tuition," she promised.

Wasyliw, also running in Winnipeg South-Centre, provided a series of damning statistics against his opponents and struck a chord with students frustrated with the inevitability of amassing huge student debt.

"Tuition fees have gone up 400 per cent, and average student debt is about \$20 thousand," Wasyliw stated. He slammed the Liberals for taking money out of the education budget and finding it in



Photo: Wade Andrew

Laughing all the way to the House? - Winnipeg Liberal MP Anita Neville has a good guffaw at a candidates' forum at the University of Winnipeg.

the pockets of university students. "An educated workforce is how we develop our economy; it's how we are going to be rich," he proclaimed. Wasyliw raised the issue of rural and aboriginal students not having similar access to tuition, and providing grants towards prospective students in these communities.

Finally, Vere Scott, who is also running in Winnipeg South-Centre, outlined his belief in ecological literacy at all levels of the educational system and the ecological impact of our linear thinking society. While he commented on the effect this linear thinking has on the environment and the waste it creates through our economic processes, he failed to make significant comments on funding for post-secondary education and his party's position on the issue.

The question and answer period was a productive exchange between students and the candidates. Most of the questions revolved around tuition fees, student loans and the fee freeze. When candidates were questioned on the possibility of eliminating tuition fees entirely, there was a clear divide between the Conservative opposition and Scott's belief in eliminating them entirely.

There were a few surprises and disappointments in the debate, most of which occurred as a result of the candidates being uninformed about their parties' positions on certain issues and at times entirely changing their parties' position. All of the parties seemed to agree with a proportional representation system of democracy and agreed that the current system needs reform; even Conservative candidate Mr. Bruinooge strayed significantly from his party leader's (Stephen Harper) views on the issue. Bruinooge stated that "going down the road of proportional representation is good for a lot of reasons."



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Fight the System? *Local Candidates Debate Electoral Reform*

By Derek Leschasin
News Editor

Voter turn-outs are declining within democracies throughout the Western world. In Canada, the last election saw one of the lowest turn-outs since Confederation. Is it time to change not only the government, but the electoral system?

With these questions in mind, four candidates from the largest national parties, students, and members of the public gathered in Eckhardt-Grammate Hall in the University of Winnipeg last Friday for a debate on electoral reform in Canada. Moderated by Dr. Joan Grace and sponsored by the University and The Uniter, the debate focused on the potential for some form of Proportional Representation in Canada, or other reforms to strengthen public

participation in government. Representing the parties were MP Steven Fletcher (Conservative), MP Pat Martin (NDP), Vere Scott (Green Party) and MP Ray Simard (Liberal).

The current electoral system, known as "First Past the Post" (FPP), elects Members of Parliament based on whomever gets the most votes in a riding. Just as this means that an MP can win a seat with less than 50 per cent of the votes in that riding, federal parties win more than half the seats in parliament with less than half the votes nationally. Parties with concentrated regional votes are over-represented, and parties with votes spread across the country are under-represented.

"As it stands, First Past the Post produces distortions," said Daniel Blaikie, Comments Editor for the Uniter, who introduced the debate.

With this in mind, the concept of introducing Proportional Representation (PR) in Canada was put to the candidates. Most democracies use some form of Proportional Representation, and while there is no one model, the system is based on ensuring that the percentage of seats a party has in Parliament accurately reflects the percentage of votes each party received nationally.

"The NDP is firmly committed to a change in the system," said Pat Martin, noting that the party was not committed to any certain form of proportional representation. Throughout the hour-long debate, Martin was the strongest proponent of electoral reform.

Ray Simard echoed many of Martin's comments, noting that he had been part of an all-party delegation to Europe which had

looked at the way PR operated in a number of countries. Simard emphasized that whatever system Canada may adopt, it should be one uniquely suited to the national conditions.

"What works in Germany doesn't necessarily work somewhere else," Simard said.

While the NDP, Liberal and Green candidates agreed on the benefits of PR, Fletcher, the Conservative, differed.

"The Conservative Party is committed to having an elected Senate," said Fletcher, and he also criticized what he called high-profile "parachute candidates" being dropped into ridings without the support of party members. Fletcher listed his opponent in the last election, former Mayor Glen Murray, as an example. He also spoke of eliminating "systemic barriers" in society that prevent minorities from attaining power.

Another element of the debate was increasing the participation of ordinary citizens in politics. The candidates agreed that PR would

increase diversity in Parliament and ensure that each person's vote would count, but had misgivings.

Scott suggested that alternative democratic structures would strengthen citizen participation. He presented the idea of citizen's councils "with teeth" that would bring politics to a local level.

Simard noted that while politicians may not be fulfilling a responsibility to involve the public, "it works both ways... I do think that you also have a responsibility."

"I think our democracy is in a very fragile state if people only vote every four years," said Martin.

Efforts are being made to organize a chapter of Fair Vote Canada, an organization pushing for electoral reform, here in Winnipeg. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 1st, 7:00 p.m. in room 2C13 at the U of W. Go to www.fairvotecanada.org for more information on the organization.



Taking a Bite Out of Federal Politics *Ballot-Eaters Protest Current Democratic System in Canada*

By Vivian Belik
News Editor

While most people will be neatly placing an "X" on their voting ballot during next week's election, there will be a few who will choose to add ketchup to theirs and eat it.

Shelagh Pizey-Allan, a first-year student at the University of Winnipeg, chose to eat her ballot at an advanced polling station this past week as a way to protest a political system which she feels is not working.

"I think that voting in general legitimizes the [political] system that we have - there are some small changes that can be achieved but I think that the system is very undemocratic and when we vote for it we legitimize it - that is why I've decided to eat my ballot," said Pizey-Allan.

Pizey-Allan, who ran in the Fort Whyte provincial by-election this past December on a Green Party platform, and is helping Green Party candidate Vere Scott with his federal election campaign, says that the existence of alternative political options in the federal election is important but admits that she won't be voting for the Green Party this time around because she does not agree with all of its platform policies.

"When you vote for a party you endorse all of their policies and personally I have some problems with some of the Green party policies," she said.



A ballot-eater prepares to chow down at last week's advanced polling station. Photo: Chris Webb

Pizey-Allen is not the only disillusioned young citizen who is hungry for change. Pizey-Allan was flanked by five others who also chose to eat their ballots at advanced polling stations around on Monday.

Beau Burton, a member of the New Socialist Group, ate his vote because he did not want to support what he considers to be a capitalist system of democracy here in Canada.

Speaking at a political forum last week held at the University of Winnipeg entitled Does the Federal Election Matter?, Burton stated that our current system,

which he believes to be highly corporate-influenced, "radically subverts the power of the people," and "disconnect[s] people from [political] issues." Much like Pizey-Allan, Burton also thinks that very little change can be accomplished through the federal electoral system.

"As long as there is private control over the economy we will see only very small policy changes," says Burton. Chris Webb, a landed immigrant who has been living in Canada for the past five years cannot vote and has chosen to eat a fake ballot instead.

"I think that the system is very undemocratic and when we vote for it we legitimize it."
- Shelagh Pizey-Allan

"I'm eating a [fake ballot] in solidarity with the immigrant community in Canada who is given no voice in the democratic system," says Webb. "I think the system needs to be reformed [to take into account] the way that votes are represented in the House and who is eligible to vote." Eating one's ballot is an offense

in Canada according to Elections Canada, the independent body set up by Parliament to manage the electoral system. On their website it states that "eating a ballot, not returning it or otherwise destroying or defacing constitutes a serious breach of the Canada Elections Act."

In the 2000 elections, three voters in Edmonton were charged for eating their ballots. Although the charges were later dropped it prompted Elections Canada to sternly warn voters about the repercussions of defacing their ballot in the 2004 election.

It is not the illegality of eating one's ballot, however, that is stopping other frustrated voters from carrying out similar acts of protest.

Sally Rudd, a fifth-year political science student working as a briefing secretary for the Minister of the Environment in Ottawa agrees that the system needs reform but feels that there are ways of enacting change by working within the current system. "A more constructive way of achieving change in Canada is to vote for a party in Canada which has participatory democracy as part of its ideological platform," says Rudd. She believes that if people feel alienated from the democratic system here in Canada it is not for lack of avenues open to citizens to become involved in the political process. "It's the citizen's own responsibility to get involved in politics. There are a lot of opportunities to do so beyond voting such as taking part in forums, online debates, and political party events - it just takes a little more work than voting."



Hemispheri-what?

Activists Organize Around Globalization Summit

By Whitney Light
Beat Reporter

Guess who's coming to town? Last spring Premier Doer and Mayor Katz announced that Winnipeg would host the second annual Summit Hemispheria, a meeting of government and business leaders from Canada, the US, and Mexico. It's billed as an event aimed at developing partnerships and strengthening relationships for North American trade, security, and transportation.

The meeting, set for May 31 to June 2, 2006, appears to some of the local business community to be a great opportunity to showcase the city. However, detractors of the event are fired-up and coming together in what one might call a joint un-welcoming committee.

A group of local activists, calling themselves the Hemispheria Action Group (HAG), are leery of the Summit's implications for increased globalization and pushing forward a neo-liberal agenda. HAG is the result of a call to action sent out last summer by UWSA President Kate Sjoberg and UMSU President Amanda Aziz. Since that first successful meeting, HAG has been meeting regularly to discuss and plan educational and protest events.

At a recent meeting, Sjoberg, David Camfield, Alana Swartz, and Nicole Dzuba admitted it's been difficult planning around an event about which little is known. Donne Flanagan, a representative of Hemispheria said that's because at this point the agenda and the guest list are still evolving. The theme of the Summit is "Security, Prosperity, and Quality of Life for the People of North America." However, that title might sound a bit ironic to HAG members who see the Summit as "promoting the neo-liberal agenda of competition and privatization that seeks to expand the wealth and power of corporations at the expense of people and the environment."

Flanagan allayed some of these fears,

however, by pointing out that HAG's concerns might be shared by participants of Hemispheria. Although extending free trade will be a topic of discussion, Flanagan says relevant concerns such as green energy planning and fairness to workers' rights will also be addressed. Last year's Summit was held in Monterrey, Mexico and resulted in ten commitments made by attendees around issues such as the advancement of NAFTA, energy policy, education, and infrastructure. At that time, Premier Doer spoke of the need for Canada, the US, and Mexico to work towards fair dispute-settlement mechanisms for NAFTA, a North American energy strategy, a smoother and more secure transportation system, enhancing international competition, and ensuring enforcement of environmental treaties.

Located at the centre of North America, Winnipeg is an "inland port" and plays a major role in international trade. Long referred to as the "Gateway to the West," a profile of the Transportation and Distribution Sector by Destination Winnipeg states that the city is now also the northern hub of the Mid-Continent Trade Corridor, a major trade route based

on super-highways that stretch from the Arctic to Mexico and which accounted for \$8 billion in two-way trade in 2003. Through the encouragement of trade, says the profile, NAFTA has aided the growth of Winnipeg's value added goods and services sector.

There are those, however, who remain skeptical of agreements like NAFTA and summits such as Hemispheria. "NAFTA has contributed to the concentration of more wealth into the hands of the few," say HAG. Privatization of public services, the erosion of democracy, union-busting and weakening of workers' rights, and commercialized education are just a few of the concerns shared by HAG and the larger activist community opposed to free trade and a corporate-driven landscape.

The next event planned by HAG is a screening of *Fourth World War*, a film which snapshots the resistance to oppression and neo-liberalism around the world. The screening takes place Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. in the UMSU Council Chambers with an informal discussion to follow. The next meeting of HAG, open to anyone interested, is 7 p.m. on Jan. 24 in the UWSA Boardroom.

The Price is Right

Winnipeg Parking Authority Sets Back Rates on Balmoral Parking Meters

By Leighton Klassen
Senior Editor

New parking meters installed on Balmoral Street in mid-November meant a new price — \$1 per-half-hour — a price that the University of Winnipeg Administration wasn't going to support.

In the Nov. 24 issue of *The Uniter*, Hugh Swan, executive director of facilities at the University of Winnipeg, said the university was unaware of the price change and that they would "certainly follow it up."

And that they did. Just last Thursday, the metered prices were back to the original price — a price consistent with all downtown meters — of 50 cents per-half-hour.

"We're pleased," Swan said in reaction to the price change. "It shows that the city and the parking authority are willing to sit down and work with us, and they did."

The administration put in a request in December to the Winnipeg Parking Authority — the department of the City of Winnipeg which administers and maintains all downtown parking meters — and Dave Hill, chief of operations answered their demands.

"It's been done — go check outside," he said last Thursday. "The university asked us to lower (the price) and we did."

Hill said the reason for increasing the price was a tactic to make parking on Balmoral undesirable and to also create a higher turnover rate.



Photo: Leighton Klassen

Parking Prices on Balmoral Street were reduced to 50 cents per-half-hour by the Winnipeg Parking Authority this month

"We put in the higher rate to move (vehicles) out of there more quickly," he said.

Unable to release the amount of revenue the meters generated during the time they charged \$1 per-half-hour, Hill said the city's 2500 meters put \$2.3 million dollars into the city's pockets per year.

The new meters on Balmoral Street were installed in November after the

University's accessibility committee brought concerns of congested traffic during the hours of 3-5 p.m. to the City of Winnipeg.

Wardrop Engineering Inc. — a contracted traffic engineering firm the University hired — evaluated the parking concern and forwarded the results to the Winnipeg Parking Authority who then determined that the new metering system and the prohibition of parking

from 3 to 5 p.m. would rectify the problem.

Currently, there are 12 of the new meters — which accept credit card payments as well as all forms of coin — placed throughout the city. Hill says there will be a total of 100 in about a year.

'Clicking' across the Maritimes

Education technology spreading across Atlantic universities

By William Wolfe-Wylie
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CUP) -- What began as a technological phenomenon at a single maritime school is rapidly spreading across Atlantic Canada. The Classroom Participation System (CPS) is the latest in a line of technological advances introduced into the classroom environment. Already on the list of participating Maritime schools are the University of New Brunswick, University College of Cape Breton, Mount Saint Vincent University, and Dalhousie University.

The "clicker" system, as it is commonly known, operates by placing a number of short-range radio sensors around the classroom which respond to handheld devices purchased by each student. The result is a system similar to that used by audience voters on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" and "America's Funniest Home Videos".

The system is designed for professors to be able to gauge student reaction in the classroom or to spring pop quizzes which can be graded instantly. Questions such as "Does everyone understand" or a simple question based on the class's assigned readings are answered instantly by students carrying the clicker device.

"Although still in the assessment stage, this technology seems to allow a timely response to questions and feedback on correctness," said Bill Waterman of the Mount Allison University Department of Commerce, who has recently begun using the technology in his Introduction to Accounting II class.

"It initially seems like a tool that can benefit both students and instructors alike," he said.

Adam Sarty of the St. Mary's University department of Astronomy and Physics has been test driving a number of classroom technology systems for that university and is happy with the CPS.

"CPS worked great, and a few new instructors at SMU have come on board this semester," said Sarty.

Some students feel that the technology is more appropriate for larger schools, such as the University of Toronto or Guelph University, both of which are using the system, than for smaller Maritime schools.

"The class is less than thirty people," said one student in Waterman's class at Mount Allison. "I really don't think it's that necessary."

"He's a really good teacher, so I don't really see the need," continued the third-year student.

Students in classes using the technology are required to purchase the handheld device as they would be required to purchase textbooks for the class. The "clicker" sells for \$7.56 with taxes and students are required to register the clicker on the e-instructions website for an additional \$15 per semester.

"It's a little annoying because the textbook was like \$100 so it adds another \$25 to the price of the class," said one student.

The technology is designed and marketed by eInstruction Corporation, based out of Denton, Texas. Outside of Atlantic Canada, the CPS is also being used by the University of Victoria, University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, Guelph University, Laval, and Lakehead University.



World News Report

COMPILED BY DEREK LESCHASIN

Scotland – Documents released by Whitehall reveal that bureaucrats in the mid-'80s were trying to determine how the Loch Ness Monster, if it existed, would be protected under law from hunters or other human activity, according to The Scotsman.

This concern was generated by an inquiry from the Swedish government, which was concerned about protecting its own legendary creature, the Storsjo Monster. After many memos back-and-forth, civil servants decided that if "Nessie" were ever found, it would be covered under the Wildlife and Countryside Act as a protected species.

After the Swedes were informed, in 1986 they wrote back that legislation had been passed in Sweden to protect the Storsjo Monster species from destruction, injury or capture, extending to its offspring, eggs, or nests.

Mexico – The leaders of several Central American countries have issued a joint statement condemning a bill in the United States that would toughen US-Mexico border protection and criminalize illegal immigrants, the BBC reported last week. The bill passed through Congress last year, and is set to be debated in the Senate this February. While the leaders refrained from specifically mentioning the bill, their statement is widely interpreted to be targeting the legislation.

The Central American leaders stated that the United States should set up a guest worker program and give legal recognition to the illegal immigrants already residing within the country. About 10 million Mexicans alone live in the United States, and about half that number hold the proper legal papers.

The bill about to face Senate could lead to construction of a 700-mile fence along the US-Mexico border, and the classification of all illegal immigrants and workers as criminals.

Iraq – In the 24-year history of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Iraq has become the most deadly country for journalists to cover, Editor and Publisher reports.

In an annual report, the CPJ recorded 22 journalist deaths in 2005 in Iraq, and 60 deaths since the United States invaded in 2003. Nearly three quarters of those deaths in 2005 were classified as homicides; a number of those murdered had been kidnapped and executed. As most foreign journalists are staying within American-controlled zones, 21 of those 22 deaths were Iraqi journalists.

The CPJ recorded 47 journalists killed in 2005, 37 of which were classified as murders. 90 per cent of these killings went unpunished. Only 15 per cent of journalist murders since 1992 have led to arrests and prosecutions.

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The Right to Vote is a Privilege

By Za Ceu Lian

As January 23, 2006 – the federal Election Day – is approaching day by day, leaders of the different political parties and their respective candidates across Canada are campaigning hard in order to get elected. In a democracy, the right to stand for office and the right to vote, or not to vote, in elections is enjoyed by every citizen. Although in countries like Australia this is only half-true because voting is compulsory.

Growing up under one of the cruelest military regimes (the Burmese military regime) in our day, I understand the right to vote as a real privilege, and not one to be taken for granted. In a country like Burma, where military dictators rule at gunpoint, people do not have a chance to vote for the government of their choice.

Even if elections are held, the military regime will not honour the result of the election unless they win. Indeed, in 1990, two years after the Junta's mass killings of thousands of demonstrators who were demanding the restoration of democracy in Burma in the year 1988, the Burmese despotic regime held general elections, promising the citizens that legitimate power would be handed over to the winning party. Believing that the regime would respect the outcome of the election, the people of Burma participated in the general election called by the military regime in 1990. In that election, the National League for Democracy (NLD), the party led by Noble Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi, had won a landslide victory, winning more than 83 percent of the seats in the Burmese parliament.

Shameless and corrupt, the group of dictators flatly ignored the will of the people clearly expressed in the general election. Contrary to their promise, instead of handing over power to the winning party, NLD, the military dictators imprisoned those political leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the ongoing pro-democracy movement.

Still today, the regime refuses to give power to the winner of the 1990 general election. Besides their flagrant refusal, more than 1500 political prisoners including the Noble Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi are still in detention.

By looking at the example of Burma, I

hope my Canadian friends will understand that democratic rights, particularly the right to vote in elections, is a real privilege, and a rare one that so many people of the world do not enjoy.

I understand that some people might disagree with me for comparing a democratic country like Canada, where we enjoy our fundamental freedom and democratic rights, and an undemocratic country like Burma where there is no freedom or democratic rights whatsoever under the current military junta. Regardless of whether or not one country is democratic, the point I want to make here is how fortunate people here are to have the right to vote. Let us appreciate the fact that we have a right to vote and make use of it for the sake of our nation's well being.

Out of interest, I talked to some of my local friends both at school and at work regarding this coming election. Most of them are quite cynical about the terms 'politics' and 'politicians'. I am disappointed by the fact that some of them intend not to vote. To them, it seems that there is no party they want to vote for. "I don't care about politics" and "All the politicians are corrupted," is what I was mostly told.

Given the sponsorship and Income Trust scandals, it is understandable that some of my local friends are cynical about politics. I think many might share this feeling of frustration about politics. I understand the frustration discouraging people from participating in the election, but am worried that not enough attention is paid to the reasons WHY we should participate in elections.

Even though I fully respect an individual's right not to vote in elections, the notion that concerns me personally is the question of being a responsible citizen. No matter how much corruption is going on or how messy politics is I believe that we owe it to our nation to fulfil our responsibility as a citizen through our vote or other means.

Let's be aware of the impact of our vote and our obligation as a responsible citizen. Whether we have alternatives or not in this coming election, I think we should choose to get out and vote for a party from the alternatives available to us. As responsible citizens, we should care about the future course of our nation. I believe that elections are the time when we can alter the course and future direction of our nation. This is the moment allowing us, especially well-informed students, to make the right choice by making use of our individual right to vote which so many people all over the world, like students and other people in Burma, do not have at all.

Food, or Thought? What to do with your ballot

By Daniel Blaikie
Comments Editor

So it seems some disaffected youth have decided to eat their ballot this time around, in order to protest "the system". I think that's great! If only because they'll have to take their heads out of their asses to do it. The change might do them good.

Of course I don't mean to single anyone out in particular. These latest protesters simply offer a representative sample of a certain segment of Canada's population. This group is generally reputed to be young and definitely unhappy with the current system of government. They feel it is undemocratic, offers only the illusion of choice because parties are all ultimately the same, and even if they weren't, the corporations are the ones in charge anyway. The result is the disempowerment of the citizenry. Ordinary citizens are invited to participate only once every four years and then the elected representatives are left calling the shots. A real democracy, they contend, would be one in which citizens wouldn't have to write letters or organize rallies, because they would be able to represent themselves at the table.

Right off the top, I think we should be suspicious of any account of democracy that makes dialogue and public action only a contingent aspect of democratic society, but this in itself is not enough to rebut the concerns raised by those who choose to mark their ballot with their teeth, or those who – I think more disappointingly – choose not to mark their ballot at all.

I'm willing to grant the argument that Canada is undemocratic, so far as it goes. It's the premise that's absurd. If we understand by 'democracy' a society wherein every citizen is implicated in every decision made, then of course Canada isn't a democracy, nor has there ever been a democracy anywhere on earth. "Fine, that's the point," one might respond, "but that's no reason not to aspire to the ideal of democracy." And this would be a knockdown response if my claim were an empirical one. However, I'm not just pointing out that there hasn't ever been the kind of direct democracy some people think is the solution to their woes, and that such a system would be difficult to set up. I'm making the further claim that their conception of democracy isn't even desirable.

A couple of problems come to mind. First, even if we were to decentralize our political system to put final decision-making power in the hands of local committees, capitalists and criminals are not going to do the same. It takes organized, central governments to take on multi-national corporations and organized crime.

Second, there is the problem of human rights and the environment. If we want to see human rights enforced across the world and the planet preserved, then there has to be some way of enforcing international standards. In other words, there will have to be some form of world government, which entails an increase, rather than decrease, in centralization. Advocates of direct democracy on the Left are in the precarious, if not self-defeating, position of advocating a particularistic politics on the one hand, and a universalistic moral program on the other. How can one say that same-sex marriage is a human rights issue, while at the same time saying the question of same-sex should be decided at the local level? If that were the case, same-sex marriage would be a reality only in the big city centres.

I don't pretend to have exhausted the arguments for some kind of centralized government. The fact remains that

centralized government in some form is, will, and ought to remain, a reality. I want to now turn to the question of citizen participation in a democracy.

I am in no way defending all types of centralized government, nor am I suggesting that Canada's democracy – yes, democracy – is beyond reproach. In fact I think it is in desperate need of reform. As it stands, our federal parliament lies to us about the country. By portraying all Albertans as Conservatives, all Ontarians as Liberals, and all Quebecois as sovereigntists, it exaggerates and reinforces regionalism in Canadian politics. It intimates that the face of Canada is predominately male and white. Women and First Nations people especially are underrepresented. Moreover, political parties receive an amount of seats ridiculously disproportionate to their share of the popular vote; sometimes for better, sometimes for worse. Some type of mixed-member proportional system would go a long way, I think, toward correcting some of these deficiencies in our current system.

Electoral reform is not enough though. A proportional system that doesn't engage ordinary citizens would not be much of an improvement over our present situation. To that end, I think it's important that elected representatives reach out to their constituents through mailing, community meetings, etc.

On the other hand, if citizens want to be involved they should just go out and bloody well get involved. As it stands, politicians of all stripes do make considerable efforts to engage their constituents, whether it's through House Holders, Fletcher Forums, or by making phone calls to ten random constituents each night from Ottawa as NDP MP Peter Stoffer does. I've been at community meetings held by politicians, the kind everyone is always clamouring about, and the turnout is always pitiful. I've phoned for political campaigns, and maybe one out of every couple hundred ever wants to talk about their political concerns. Then they complain their concerns aren't being addressed. As if telepathy should be a perquisite for holding public office.

The profound irony at play here, I'm beginning to be convinced, is that these 'hardcore' Lefties actually have a consumerist approach to politics. If they don't agree with a party's entire platform – or rather, if the party doesn't agree with them – then they don't want the product. One can imagine advising a friend not to spend their money on a car unless they're completely satisfied with all its features. It's the mistaken assumption that democracy means everyone gets what they want – and without working for it – that gives these people over-inflated expectations of the system. Then, when it fails to deliver on what it never promised, they become disillusioned and start doing wonky things, like consuming one of their best tools against capitalism.

Businessmen who are bothered by a particular piece of environmental or labour legislation don't say "The system doesn't work for me. I'm out." They get people elected who will strike the law down. That's why they're so bloody successful, but it cuts both ways. Not to participate in electoral politics is to take on the powers that be with your best hand tied behind your back. That's not principled, it's stupid.

Depending on the parliament that this election produces, serious headway on electoral reform and budgets that move to eliminate the social deficit – created by Paul Marin's crusade against the fiscal deficit – are possible. So on January 23rd, make yourself a nice breakfast and go vote on a full stomach.

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CANADA: The Great Pretender

By Marika Olynyk

Democracy is a term we're all familiar with. We all know that it's government by the people, ruling by the ruled, the common people as wielders of political power. And Canada is a democracy, right? Damn right, we're told - it's a long-lasting, stable democracy. We know this because every Canadian 18 years and older has the right to vote for our three levels of government. And, as we all know, voting equals democracy.

Right?

The absurdity of this idea is overwhelming. We vote every four or so years, spend the rest of the time complaining about the government, and then proclaim ourselves a democracy. That's like declaring that a single grape is a meal, then whining about being hungry all day. We need to open our eyes: Canada is not a democracy.

I propose that the direction we need to head in is not one where citizens' power is directed towards a multitude of non-governmental activities and consumer habits, while still pretending we live in a democracy. Instead we need to face the fact that we are disempowered and then fight to take that power back. In a real democracy there should be no concept of ourselves as separate

from government; we should think of the government as simply being the people.

This is not a quick and easy concept to understand or achieve, and it is unlikely to be supported by anyone who currently holds power. Becoming a real democracy requires a shift in our way of thinking. It requires a realization that government can be part of our every day lives, and that every person is capable of participating if given the chance. It also requires systemic shifts away from bloated bureaucracies and centralization. Grassroots systems of communication and local empowerment are necessary to allow people to take power and use it effectively in the places they live. The concept of democracy has stagnated in the last century, and it is time for us to evolve the concept and bring true meaning to democracy. It is not simply an ideal but is something that we need to work towards and someday achieve.

Increasingly, Canadians are becoming aware of some of the flaws of our system. These usually relate to electoral reform and the need to make elections fairer and more accurate. Studies have shown that in recent elections 50 percent of Canadian votes are meaningless in our antiquated system. Many people end up casting a vote against someone, rather than for a person they actually support, simply settling

for the lesser of the evils. Majority governments are easily and regularly formed with less than a majority of votes. These are the issues we hear about when someone talks about improving Canadian democracy. Although it is important to deal with these things through electoral reform, we need to go beyond them and create democratic reform.



Our current political system has little room for the average citizen. Political elites, under the control of hierarchical parties, make decisions and bureaucracies enforce them. Sure I could write a letter to my MP or march in the street if I really care about an issue, but there's no guarantee that anyone will pay attention to my voice. Furthermore, why should I be resorting to letter writing and protesting when a real democracy would

actually have a place for me - the average citizen - in the decision-making.

The average person is not very likely to involve themselves in politics and government because there is simply no effective or inclusive way to do so. Consciously participating in government is something we do apart from our day-to-day lives; it's practically a special occasion. We are almost totally disempowered by our so-called democracy. We are expected to simply give away our political voice and awareness to our representative in government and forget about the whole thing. Is it any wonder that less and less people are voting? That young people are especially apathetic toward government? We can see the system running without us, so why should we make any effort when it's unlikely that anyone's listening anyway?

For most people who do care about their political voice, government is not the way they choose to exercise their political power. We are encouraged to think about our power in terms of being consumers, not citizens. Even socially progressive professors at this university have told me that change must be consumer-driven and not government-driven. Our power lies in what we buy and how we spend, not in any sort of power in the government. We are so disenfranchised by our system that virtually no one believes we are capable of affecting real change in the governmental arena, and therefore we ignore it. We need to claim our political power and become the democracy we pretend we are.

Election 2006: *The Fight for the Top Spot*



By Deniz Izzet

The sudden calling of this election took everyone by surprise. I guess it is partly due to the events that occurred before the non-confidence vote: The Paul Martin Liberal money spending parade across Canada, Jack Layton squeezing out what his party could from the Liberals in exchange for NDP support of Martin's government, and the endless demands of Stephen Harper's Conservative Party for a non-confidence vote and election call. The person with the power to end the minority government and cause an election was Jack Layton. Eventually, Layton got to have his cake and eat it too; his party got what he wanted from the Liberals, and then decided to vote against the government, causing our winter election.

Recently, my biggest fear for Canada seems to be materializing; the possibility of a Conservative Federal Government. Canada may be freezing over into a clone version of the Bush administration hell canadienne. Not that the Liberal government is a shining example of responsible government; at least myself and the rest of the Canadian population wouldn't have to worry about the PM morphing into President Bush Jr. The next thing you know, Mr. Stephen Harper will be selling Medicare off to the biggest privatized medical clinic corporation.

The more Conservative signs I see in people's snow-filled yards the more I worry that my nightmares are coming true. It's enough to make my blood turn cold. Then again, I live in South St. Vital, which probably explains the lack of concern to maintain the social well being of all Canadians, not just the ones who shell out the extra green. What ever happened to social consciousness? Or people even having a conscience?

The one thing that makes me the angriest is the end of post-secondary education tuition government funding, tuition freezes, and the beginning of increases in admin/service fees and tuition fees as a whole.

Right now, I am undecided with less than a week until Jan. 23. The only thing I am sure

of is that I will vote. Also, this election, party leaders were the most boring old white men that have ever run in a political election. If the parties were to learn anything from Canadians' lack of interest for any of the leaders and their parties it should be: DON'T JUST HAVE OLD WHITE MEN AS CANDIDATES. For a country that claims to be so multicultural and equal for all genders, races and cultures, why are all the leaders of each major party older white men? There are no women, no aboriginals, and no other visible minority except for the Bloc Leader representing the French, but that doesn't count either, because they only campaign in one province! Canada is made of all kinds of people; so, the candidates for the parties and especially the leader should represent this fact as well.

The five major choices are: the Bush wannabe Stephen Harper. We also have the extremely boring Paul Martin, whose party got caught with their hands in the cookie jar. Then there's 'Jumping' Jack 'Flash' Layton who seems to be the only leader who wants to protect all Canadian social programs, like Medicare, and who also traveled all over Canada so fast that the media could not keep up with him. Gilles Duceppe, leader of the separatist movement of Quebec, and his party don't even want to be a part of CANADA, so why be a part of the Canadian Parliament?

It doesn't make any sense. Last, Jim Harris, Leader of the Green Party, the youngest and only leader to be shut out of the Election Debates as well as the most unknown leader of all the major parties that are running in this election. Honestly, I didn't even know his name until I started looking into the election coverage on news websites. Frankly I don't have any opinion of him, which means that he and his party haven't really been an active presence in this election.

Finally, for the love of God, end the horrible television ads! I can't take it anymore! I might have to go without watching T.V. for the rest of the campaign. They're just so crappy, especially the Conservative and Liberal ads because they are exactly the same. Why are you torturing us? That's enough ranting from moi. Good luck on deciding who to vote for and please vote, because every vote does count. I just have to think long and hard about which party will be getting an X on my ballot.



CAMPUS CROSSWORD | By Shane Gibson

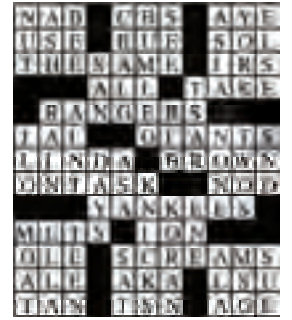
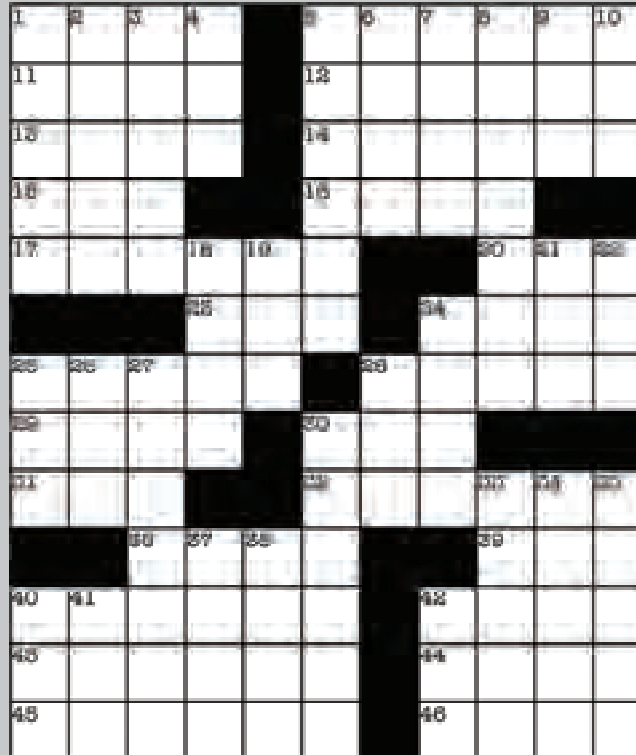
Last Week's Answers


Across

- 1. Loathe
- 5. P.M. choice on 01/23/06
- 11. Length times width
- 12. Absurdity
- 13. Lease
- 14. Without a hint
- 15. ___-cone
- 16. Opposites of WNW
- 17. P.M. choice on 01/23/06
- 20. Faucet
- 23. Record types abbr.
- 24. Alone
- 25. Styles
- 28. Mode
- 32. Types
- 34. With 5 and 29 down; Ondaajte Novel/film
- 29. Messy substance (slang)
- 30. Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
- 31. Minute pt.
- 32. P.M. choice on 01/23/06
- 36. Otherwise
- 39. Tone
- 40. Lose colour
- 42. Red's Rose
- 43. High quality
- 44. Dry
- 45. Snoozes
- 46. Stan and Tommy

Down

- 1. Cruel
- 2. Stadium
- 3. Choir voice
- 4. Have lunch
- 5. Coal diggers
- 6. To-dos
- 7. ___-a-Roni
- 8. Russian author: Leo
- 9. Hospital ward abbr.
- 10. Bill the science guy
- 18. Pleaded
- 19. Record types abbr.
- 21. Everything
- 22. Edgar Allan
- 24. Don't leave
- 25. Hammer and others
- 26. 5 down's find
- 27. P.M. choice on 01/23/06
- 28. Ocean
- 30. Censors with "out"
- 33. In attendance
- 34. Belly button choice
- 35. Desires
- 37. Not on time
- 38. Pig feed
- 40. Some snow racers
- 41. Texas T
- 42. Friend





WE APOLOGIZE

The Uniter would like to apologize to the author of Loserz, Erik Schoenek, and our readers. Last week it was brought to the attention of the Uniter that we were unwittingly publishing comics under the pretense of original work, that were in fact plagiarized from a series of comics by Mr. Schoenek. The Uniter does not condone plagiarism and we would like to thank our loyal readers, for catching the offence and informing us immediately.



By Iris Tse and Chris O'leary The Gateway (University of Alberta)

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The UWSA Chair of the Board is responsible for:

- ensuring that regulations established in the UWSA By-Laws are adhered to in all UWSA proceedings
- maintaining and enforcing the rules for conducting meetings as outlined in Bourinot's Rules of Order
- being an active member of the By-Laws and Policy Committee, being the agent and secretary of the Elections Commission, and chairing the Executive Review Committee
- distributing meeting dates, times and agendas to the Board of Directors
- facilitating Board development
- assisting with planning of Board Orientation for the following year
- chairing meeting of the Board of Directors

Applicants for the UWSA Chair of the Board must:

- not be an employee of the UWSA
- have been a student for at least two full years at the University of Winnipeg, or have completed at least five full course equivalents (FCEs)

Qualifications that would be an asset:

- experience chairing or facilitating meetings
- knowledge of the UWSA structure and familiarity with the By-Laws and Policies
- knowledge of Bourinot's Rules of Order, or a similar system of rules of order such as Robert's Rules, or King's and Kerr's Rules

Time commitment required:

- Board meetings are held at least bi-weekly, more frequently during busy times
- During an Election/Referendum Cycle, the Chair of the Board is on the Elections Commission
- The Chair of the Board must attend, and possibly chair, the Annual and Special General Meetings of the UWSA
- Preparation for Board meetings including assembling Board packages

Application forms are available in the UWSA General Office and the Info Booth, as are copies of the By-Laws and Bourinot's Rules to borrow.

Applications are accepted from all qualified parties and are encouraged from women, aboriginal people, people with disabilities and visible minorities.
Please submit applications with attached resume to Vice President Advocate at uwsavpa@uwinnipeg.ca or:

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* Deadline for applications is Tuesday January, 31 2006. *

McDonaldland Characters:

By: Kevin Hebert

- Ronald McDonald, a clown who frequents McDonald's apparently quite often, and loves kids. McDonald's also has characters associated with its various products.

- Mayor McCheese, the Mayor of McDonaldland, has a head shaped like a cheeseburger.

- Big Mac, a policeman character, has a head shaped like a Big Mac sandwich.

- Grimace, a purple, endearing blob character, loves McDonald's milkshakes. According to the "Straight Dope" syndicated column, who quoted McDonald's spokeswoman Jane Hulbert, Grimace is a "big fuzzy purple fellow...[who] personifies the child in everyone...He is Ronald's special pal. Everyone loves Grimace because of his innocent loving nature. He occasionally causes trouble in McDonaldland because he is clumsy, but his friends overlook this because he is so happy." Grimace is not related to Barney! Grimace was originally called the Evil Grimace. He had a penchant for stealing milkshakes from small children, was fuzzier and had six arms.

- Uncle O'Grimacey was introduced in the 1970s. He is Grimace's Irish uncle, although Grimace's heritage has never been fully explored. He was used to pitch the delicious Shamrock Shake.

- Fry Guys, little mophead-like things, were originally called Goblins, but an ad campaign in the '70s changed that. They love McDonald's fries, as do their counterparts, Fry Gals.

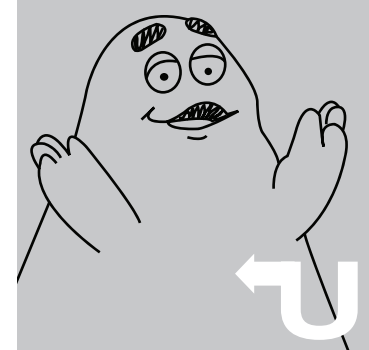
- Captain Crook is the hero of the Filet-O-Fish sandwich.

- Birdie the Early Bird was introduced when breakfast began being served at McDonald's.

- Hamburglar is the villain who steals hamburgers from McDonald's.

- Mac Tonight, a character who had a head shaped like the moon and a theme song to the tune of "Mack the Knife".

From (<http://www.kevinhebert.com/alt.mcdonalds.html#3>)



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TALKING HEADS-X.A. Matt Urban



Illustration:
Joe Madureira

■ **ST. CATHARINE'S, ON. (CUP)**-When most people think of games they think of hide and go seek or they think of Monopoly or they think of card games or computer games. Playing games has been an important part of our culture since before we can remember. Whether it was the game Hungry Hungry Hippo that you played as a kid, or the game of Pogs, or a favourite doll; most people can remember games that they've loved and cherished.

The first game ever to have been recorded in history is a Babylonian board game similar to checkers and chess played in 4000 B.C. The next game to evolve was one that was similar to Backgammon played in Ancient Sumeria in 3000 B.C. Stone marbles and checkers were then played in Egypt in 3000-2000 B.C.

In the year 969 playing cards began to be used in Asia. In the year 1843 "The Mansion of Happiness" was the first board game to be sold in North America. In 1887 Thomas Edison combined his phonograph technology with the speaking doll invented by Johann Maelzel in 1820. In 1914 Tinker Toys were created. In 1931 Scrabble was invented. In 1936 Monopoly. In 1949 Lego was invented. After that Mr. Potato Head, Hoola Hoops, Barbie Dolls, G.I. Joe's, Hot Wheels and a whole lot of other toys and games that kids play with today were invented so that children could play make belief. In 1972 a very important game was invented, the video game machine which featured a primitive form of paddleball.

Some people have never stopped playing games; in fact, many students at Brock get together on a regular basis and play Role Playing Games (RPG).

The idea of a RPG was not marketed until 1973 when Dungeons and Dragons was invented by Dave Arneson and Gary Gygax, a game designed to create a whole new fantasy/adventure category of toys, which has now become a \$259 million market.

Ryan Cvirik, a philosophy major at Brock, is one in several groups of people who get together on a regular basis and play RPG games or LARP (Live Action Role Playing) games.

"Currently I play a role playing game called Rifts but also random card games to pass time before and in between classes," said Cvirik

Cvirik has been playing RPG "on and off for maybe five years now," he said.

Many of us don't know what RPG entails. Cvirik made it sound quite simple.

"[The games entail] the creation of a character that is literally out of this world because it is in a fictional setting and the adopting of that character so that you can interact with other characters in the setting, usually under the guidance and mediation of someone who has the plot in mind, which makes it very fun," he said.

Role playing games: truly another world

By Vivian Thomas
The Brock Press (Brock University)

Identity in play. Literally.

"It's just a way of spending time with friends that doesn't involve talking shop," said Cvirik.

Cvirik explained that there are all different sizes of groups for different sizes of games.

"In our Rifting group there is anywhere between 5-10 people, depending on who can make it, in another game I was involved in we could have up to 20-25 people all interacting, all at once, so it can be pretty crazy," he said.

Cvirik said that in order for these games to function properly there is usually a main storyteller that directs the course of the game.

"Unfortunately not everyone gets the chance to play," said Cvirik, "so there needs to be someone sitting on the sidelines making it fun for everyone else, and it can be fun for them too."

Cvirik said that usually these stories are "made up on the spot."

"Our storyteller or our Game Master, as he's affectionally known, tells his stories the way he writes his essays, which is to say he comes up with them on the spot, but he has lots of prior knowledge to draw on," he said.

Cvirik said that he plays these role playing games with Brock students (many who are part of the Brock Gaming Society) but that these games are not only limited to Brock students.

Cvirik explained that the plots of these RPG are "heavy into the quirks of mythology that have been adopted mainly for a gaming setting, like there's the stereotypical dungeons spelunking where you'll go into a place that's extremely dangerous and come out with treasure, but when we're feeling more creative, we'll travel the globe, making friends with different cultures and just trying not kill each other on the way."

He continued to explain what these games look like when they are being played.

"I haven't done LARP in a while," said Ryan, "LARP stands for Live Action Role Playing, when you would actually pretend you were at a play and just be in character constantly. We use a 'pen and paper system' so we sit around, we usually crack jokes when it's not our turn to speak, and dice are involved, we try to stay in character but it doesn't always work because the nights are long and everybody has to deal with the fact that they are not only interacting with the characters but with the players who are playing the characters. It's just an amazing group dynamic."

Cvirik tried to explain a current plot in one of his RPG games.

"This will sound a little strange coming out of context," he said, "but at the moment, our gaming group has just arrived in Egypt, rather forcefully, because someone was kidnapped, and you know, when someone is kidnapped the first place you ought to look is Egypt right? So this is supposed to be Egypt in 2087, or something like that, and the international relations have degraded a little bit so the natives aren't too happy to see us and so we have a crisis we're dealing with and how we deal with the crisis will influence how the rest of the story proceeds."

"Our group consists of some jokers," said Cvirik, "some people who are just really skilled and some people who don't have a clue

and when they throw us all into a situation like this, anything can happen, so I can't be more specific."

The characters that the players play are one of the most unique and interesting parts of RPG games.

"Some of our characters are stereotypical elves from a Tolken-esque story, but not all of them are," said Cvirik. "For instance, one guy is a king of sorts but he's not in his land so he doesn't have any kind of great authority so he really dislikes the idea that he doesn't get any respect and consequently has a lot of violent outbursts. Another one is a weapon smith who thinks anything that is shiny is really cute and must be giggled at ... Ironically when it comes to battle this person is one of the greater fighters in our group, so the same person that is swinging the war hammer will be the one who is giggling and saying 'oh you're cute,' We have a person who has an affinity for a variety of rocks, who is also a bartender. We have a plucky little girl who is apparently able to bite through solid metal without being able to break a sweat ... and also a harpist who is a holistic medic who occasionally dissolves into the air, because, well you can do that when you're just using your imagination."

Cvirik said that the group of gamers meet on a regular basis and that the RPG sessions can last anywhere from three to five hours.

"But not always, people do have to sleep," he said.

Mike Pisiak is a Brock alumni who plays a completely different kind of RPG all together, this one involves video games and the internet and is called a MMORPG which stands for Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game.

"It's a world in itself," said Pisiak, "and you create a character, just like a pen and paper RPG."

Pisiak explained that the basic point of these games is to do all of the "quests and missions to get your character level up," he said.

He also explained that MMORPG are renown for being addictive.

"Because it takes a lot of time to build up a character and sometimes quests take hours and hours to play, so most of the time, you can't just sit down for half an hour or an hour and play," he said. "Plus there are guilds and teams in these games, so there's an element of social interaction."

Pisiak said that there are "people in Asian countries who have been beaten up in real life because they screwed with someone in an RPG."

"One kid," he said, "I can't remember which country this was ... but one kid spent like a year just to get this one weapon and he lent it to a friend who sold it on him ... so the kid killed himself in real life ... This game was all this kid did at this time, so he took it pretty serious."

These games, which become pretty serious addictions, all look different depending on the game.

"There are fantasy D&D (Dungeons and Dragons) like games," said Pisiak. "One of the biggest being World of Warcraft right now, and one of the first being Everquest. They look

like a fantasy world with knights and dragons and elf chicks with big titties and everything. And there's other games like City of Heroes, which is set in modern times, and you play a superhero. And there are city zones and superheroes and villains ... and superhero chicks with big titties."

Pisiak explained that there are tons of people that play these games all at the same time and they are all connected together and can interact with each other.

"Tons of players are connected to whatever server you're on," he said. "In World of Warcraft (WoW) there are around 10,000 people on any given server during the day."

Pisiak said that MMORPG is a world "where you can travel around and do a bunch of different things," he said.

"In WoW you can literally log on and just hang around a bar all day and get your character drunk and yell at people if you want," he said.

Pisiak explained that the point of the games are to basically make your character more powerful.

"The more powerful you become, the more places you can go and fight shit in the world," he said. "And there are all these different storylines in the game, which I'm not going to get into because I'd be [talking] forever."

Pisiak admitted that sometimes he doesn't really like MMORPG.

"I find that they get boring and repetitive after a while," he said. "And I don't like that I can't just sit down for half an hour and play. When you play it's like a commitment."

There are all different time ranges that people play these games.

"There is a huge scale of players ranging from casual, like me, to powergamers," he said. "Powergamers ... is like ... that's all they do. They log on when they wake up and log off when they sleep, unless they've figured out a way to live without sleep."

There are all sorts of people that build relationships with other people through these games.

"There are some people that start dating in real life after meeting in online games," said Pisiak. "There are couples that play these games as well. These guys are like ... game characters ... that meet and then ... build relationships. In these games you have no idea what the person looks like in real life."

In order to play these games, a gamer has to spend a considerable amount of money on a regular basis.

"It's 60 bucks for the game itself and I think 20\$ a month for an account per month," said Pisiak. "It's a monthly subscription thing. And some people sell virtual weapons in the games in real life, like on eBay and shit. Sony recently created a site for the sole purpose of auctioning off rare items from videogames. You buy the item, log into the game and they give the item to your character. It's usually for rare and hard to find items in the game ... sometimes daddy just needs a new sword of wounding."



Student Election Perspectives

AN UNOFFICIAL POLL OF THE U OF W STUDENT BODY

By Robbie Lietiphin

There is a growing attitude in our parents' generation that claims today's youth don't care about their future. What I mean is, the baby boomers think that most young people today would rather play video games and engage in the smoking of certain herbal substances than actually think or be active in things like politics.

There's a word that has been coined to describe these kinds of youth all over the world - disaffected. The reason this term has popped up again and again has to do with a few factors, besides not caring about politics. Psychologists have used this term to describe youth at risk, applying it to youth that are apathetic and inactive in society at large. Certain characteristics of disaffected youth include lack of education and poverty. Being educated or wealthy doesn't necessarily make you less disaffected but may in fact be a contributing factor to becoming disaffected.

Voting behaviour is also an important element in determining how apathetic youth are today. You may have heard that voter turnout has gone down considerably in the last few years. There have been plenty of focus groups and surveys that have tried to determine why that is. There is a pervasive assumption about non-voting youth and it is that they simply don't care.

While it's true that popular culture has a strong hold on youth today, more so than in any other generation, I asked myself, is this really why youth today are not voting? So, I set my sights on finding out what my fellow students, you, the readers, are actually thinking about the upcoming federal election. I devised a survey with the help of a trained pollster, Ava Bobiak, who helped in the creation of the survey and tabulated the results, with some contributions from Peter Ives and Alan Mills, politics professors here at University of Winnipeg. The survey, however, is not scientific, nor is it strictly academic by any means. There were 50 surveys completed, and the questions were designed to simply show you, the reader, what your fellow students are thinking and to draw some simple correlations between your answers. Hopefully, in the process, the information gleaned from this survey may widen the scope of your political or anti-political views.

The survey was comprised of three parts: a. voting attitude and party opinions b. simple demographic categories/exposure to politics and c. basic assessment of political knowledge.

If I had only the knowledge that voter turnout was low amongst young people today, and crossed that knowledge with the 'anything goes' nonchalance which permeates popular culture, it would be logical to draw the conclusion that young people don't care

about voting. The results, of my survey at least, don't show that at all. Of the surveys, only 16 per cent of you said that you were not voting. But even the reasons for not voting were interesting. Twenty-six per cent answered a dislike for the candidates, 20 per cent don't think voting is important or interesting, and 13 per cent think voting doesn't make a difference. Besides either not being registered or a Canadian citizen, most answers reflected a thoughtful answer. There is a belief that not voting, while it may appear to be disengaged from a democratic system, is still a valid position.

In India, there is a growing penchant among young people not to vote. At the same time however, these non-voting youths have a strong sense of nationalism that strives to abandon old traditional values and move towards a more contemporary political 'modus operandi' and way of life. By not voting, they are disengaging themselves from the democratic system that gives them the right to change society for the better. They are also growing a strong sense of what they want India to be. After all, it will be theirs someday. I believe that, however illogical their action (or inaction in this case) seems, there is some sort of unconscious method to their madness.

For those that are voting, 61 per cent of you know whom you are voting for, and 49 per cent feel they have enough information to base a decision on. However, 12 per cent of those surveyed have made up their minds but do not feel they have enough information to base their decision upon. As for where you get your information from, most said either television or the newspaper. Only two people surveyed said that they learn about politics/party platforms from discussion.

The next question asked if you either actively seek out party information, or rely on the information to come to you. Does turning on the TV and flipping channels, or passing the front page and/or politics section in the newspaper on the way to the sports section, constitute actively seeking out information? With today's spoon-fed media and images coming at us from all directions, it is hard not to run into some kind of political ad or Liberal bashing/Liberal scandal commercial. The amount of political pamphlets in the recycling bin beside the mailbox at my apartment is enough to start a nice fire. So, relying on the information to come to us is not hard to do. However, when asked which party you knew the most about, 48 per cent of you answered Liberal, 24 per cent said NDP, and only 12 per cent said the Conservative Party.

Although the information in this survey is certainly not conclusive, it struck me that I need to ask myself, am I learning about the Liberal Party, for example, from the Liberals, or am I learning about them from other parties? One person said they didn't know whom they knew the most about and I'm inclined to say thank you for your honesty. That kind of answer may be the most revealing of all. There is the possibility that



the main reason people know the most about Liberals

is simply because they've been in power so long. But as I've already said, this survey is not conclusive.

The next few questions got down to the nitty gritty of what you really think about politics. When asked which political ideology best represents your political beliefs, most of you answered social democrat, followed by liberal. The ranges of possible answers were from communist to nationalist, with only five per cent answering conservative. Voting strategically is becoming a common behaviour these days, but 68 per cent said they believed it was more important to vote for the party that most accurately represents their political beliefs. However, when asked if you were actually voting strategically in this election, the numbers changed somewhat; 54 per cent said they were going to vote strategically, while only 31 per cent said that they actually believed in it.

How do we really make sincere and meaningful change in a representational democracy? Well, we can look to history for some answers to this question. When in the past have there been movements started by the people who are not in direct power within a democratic system, that, while fighting to have their voices heard, created meaningful change? The examples are numerous, but one that we can most easily identify with is the Cultural Revolution of the '60s, which included the peace movement, the feminist movement, and the sexual revolution. If you talk to anyone who lived through that era as a youth, there is always a sparkle in their eye and a fond look of nostalgia on their face. If you ever have the opportunity to talk to someone about it, I suggest you take it.

To be clear, I'm not thinking about organizing a peace protest, throwing my bra in the street or anything like that (thankfully those in the '60s did that for me so I don't have to). But I am reminded of a subject that we are very passionate about, the environment. Those in the '60s dramatically

changed western society, and they were doing it blind. Nothing similar had ever happened before, and they were fighting not with bullets, but with their mouths (and possibly the occasional fist). Youth today are fully aware of the environmental challenges ahead, but face them bravely and steadfastly, knowing that everyone plays a part. The underlying philosophy that is behind every revolution is that the power of one means the difference between change and no change at all.

What does this have to do with my survey, you ask? Well, maybe I was rambling a bit there. The rest of the questions dealt with social issues (healthcare was number one), Canadian identity (the Liberals and the NDP were tied at number one for the party who best represents our identity), and Canada's best international representation (Liberals won that one). Also, 58 per cent thought that the Prime Minister should be more effective in national politics than global politics.

This is the end. The end of my rambling, the end of my unscientific survey results, and the end of this article. The only conclusion that I might make from these results is that opinions do matter, that voting is a complex issue, and that surveys are very hard to design if you want conclusive evidence of anything. In the end it is only a pencil, those silly little boxes and you inside that voting booth. As for me, I would never vote and tell. Actually, I couldn't say even if I wanted to, because I'm undecided. For me, the issue I will be thinking most about over the next few days is whose face I hope to see beside George W. Bush at the next G-8 meeting. Happy voting!



LYNCH NIGHT

ARTS EDITOR: MIKE LEWIS
E-MAIL: ARTS@UNITER.CA
PHONE: 786-9497
FAX: 783-7080L-R: Jeremy Pillipow (Cake Builder), Julia Ryckman (Slatern), Jaimz Asmundson, Karen Asmundson & Edgar Ozolins (Querkus), Eve Rice (Vav Jungle)
Center: Aliza Amihude (Smallgirl)

To mark the work of this master of dark surrealism, Asmundson is hosting a celebration of Lynch's work on the day of his 60th birthday, Jan. 20.

I always assumed that everyone knew the work of David Lynch. I've seen most of his movies. I even understand what someone means when they say "and it was 'Lynchian.'" So, I was shocked when Mike Lewis (Arts and Culture Editor for the Uniter) asked at a recent contributors' meeting if anyone knew who David Lynch was and the response was...silence. One girl commented that she was only four in 1993 (ouch). I made it my business to, hopefully, direct the unaware to the passion of the Lynch. Specifically, showcase the passion of Karen Asmundson, who dreamt of creating a multi-media night of all things David Lynch. After ten phone calls, navigating through publicists and talent agents, Asmundson received the okay from Lynch to throw an official party.

She explains, "All the artists that are adding to this celebration are Lynch fans, and much attention to detail is being put in to create something beautiful, strange, and memorable. This is a one-time only event, the man will only turn 60 once so come out and celebrate it with us."

Asmundson, a local singer, shared how Lynch has inspired her art. "I admire Lynch for being a true artist and holding fast to his artistic vision. I do my best to uphold that ideal with my own work."

At the moment, Asmundson's favorite lines from Lynch's films include,

"This is where pies go when they die." (Agent Cooper in *Twin Peaks*)

"That's for me to know and you to find out." (Jeffery to Sandy) when she tells him, "I can't figure out if you're a detective or a pervert."

"I put every damn pipe in this neighborhood. People think that pipes grow on trees. But they sure as hell don't! Look at my knees! Look at my knees!" (Mr. X (Mary's Father) from *Eraserhead*)

You know that Movie Village poster, the black and white picture of the crazy guy with hair standing straight up? That's David Lynch's *Eraser Head*. Go to the Director section and begin studying. You will find many Hollywood stars who were at one time Lynch's dark muses -- take a pre-Oscar Nicholas Cage.

Asmundson explains, "Sailor Ripley (*Wild at Heart*). That whole Elvis/speed metal thing...Nicholas Cage sure was hot when he was 26, that's inescapable."

Even Laura Dern had something "hot" going on in *Wild at Heart*. But then, she went *Roadhouse* with Patrick Swayze, very un-Lynch. The stars of his movies have a shine about them that quickly fades the further they get from his writing and directing. Consider Kyle MacLachlan in *Showgirls*. The two exceptions are Isabella Rossellini and, most of the time, Dennis Hopper,

who was, arguably, at his most freaky-freak in *Blue Velvet*.

I would love to party in a David Lynch movie. I think I'll be Jacques from *Fire Walk With Me*, who famously proclaimed (subtitled in a demented cabin scene): "My mind is a fart." The atmosphere will be dripping calm weirdness as slow grinding devil music battles the angel in the morning voice of a tragic Julie Cruz. You are cordially invited to dress up and cast yourself into the dark park of your imagination, pushing the envelope of glamour and strangeness.

And, Asmundson promises "Damn Good Cherry Pie" will be provided by Winnipeg's own My Place Pie Place.

So, go for the pie, stay in character.

Event Details
LYNCH NIGHTDate: Friday, January 20th 2006, Doors at 8:00 pm,
Show at 9:00 pm

Location: Pyramid Cabaret, 176 Fort Street

Cover: \$4.99

Advance tickets at: Into The Music, Kustom Kulture, Raggickers and The Pyramid Cabaret.

Featured Acts: Querkus, Zublotnicks, Smallgirl, Slatern, Cake Builder, Unraveled Broken Orchestra, Eve Rice, Jaimz Asmundson. Also Featuring Local Lynchian Short Films by Deco Dawson, Mike Maryniuk, Jaimz Asmundson and more.

This Event is presented by CKUW 95.9 Campus and Community Radio

By Albert St.

Photo: Dave Grywinski

Karen Asmundson's top three David Lynch films (depending on what day you ask her) are *Mulholland Drive*, *Blue Velvet*, and *Fire Walk with Me*. Maybe today though is more of a *Wild at Heart*, *Straight Story* or *Dune* kind of day.

O'Neill Comes to the Peg in 2006

By Erin McIntyre

From Jan. 19 to Feb. 5, MTC is presenting its sixth annual Master Playwright Festival, this year honoring the four-time Pulitzer Prize winner, Eugene O'Neill. O'Neill was born in 1888 and died in 1953, leaving behind 45 plays as his legacy. George Jean Nathan, an American drama critic of the 1950s, once said that O'Neill "single-handedly waded through the dismal swamplands of American drama, bleak, squashy, and oozing sticky goo, and alone bore out the water lily that no American had found there before him."

Born out of a hotel room, O'Neill spent most of his young life on the road being the son of James O'Neill, a then-famous actor. His mother's drug addiction and father's

distance from the family provided O'Neill with an insightful position on the American family dynamic, which he would later explore in several of his plays. After dropping out of Princeton after only one year, O'Neill spent six years as a nomad, traveling from Buenos Aires to Liverpool to New York City before finding himself in the theatre. O'Neill's final years were spent in aggravation and heartache. Unable to work due to a crippling illness called cortical cerebella atrophy, he spent the last years of his life living in a Boston Hotel with only his third wife and his doctor as company.

Nick Kowalchuk, the executive producer of O'Neill Fest, believes the Master Playwright Festivals are imperative to the

U OF W Theater Student's Association presents *Desire Under the Elms*

Winnipeg theatre scene as they help to expose Winnipeggers to influential playwrights who are, for whatever reason, under-produced. Kowalchuk hopes that making these playwrights more accessible will both enlighten those unfamiliar with particular significant works, while satiating the needs of theatre-lovers who are interested in seeing these plays produced. O'Neill, Kowalchuk feels, is one of these playwrights worth learning about. Despite O'Neill's passing away over 50 years ago, he remains relevant in his ability to examine the unchanging truths of the North

American family dynamic and the human condition. At the 1936 Nobel Prize ceremony at which O'Neill became the only American to be awarded for literature, Robert Fries, Director of the Bergius Foundation explained O'Neill's unique capacity: "It is perhaps most difficult to sound the human mind and to understand the soul in its shifting phases. With passionate intensity and impulsive genius Eugene O'Neill has done this in his dramas, and one cannot but be captivated by the masterly way in which he deals with the great problems of life."

Kevin Longfield, U of W alumnus is producing "Welded" for Theatre Anywhere to perform at O'Neill Fest. Longfield attributes his interest in participating in O'Neill Fest to its being a practical opportunity for him and his theatre group to do "a play (they feel) passionate about" outside of the Fringe. Longfield explained that O'Neill Fest offers increased exposure for both under produced playwrights as well as independent theatre groups. When asked about how O'Neill influenced modern theatre, Longfield credited O'Neill with bringing American theatre from stagnant "crowd-pleasers" into the "modern era" by introducing reality to it. O'Neill's ability to examine "the primal things that drive people" stretched the confines of what playwrights could talk about, Longfield continued, and has thereby influenced the definition of a play in the modern theatre. Even O'Neill's poetic language is influential, according to Longfield, and appears to echo in the works of Tremblay and David Mamet.

"Theatre is difficult," said Longfield. "It's not worth it if you're not involved in something you feel

passionate about...the more we rehearse ("Welded") the more we love it." "Welded" will run Jan. 21, 22, 24-28 and Feb. 1-4 at Raggickers Antifashion Emporium at 216 McDermot.

Longfield and his U of W grad- and student-filled Theatre Anywhere, is not the only U of W connection at O'Neill Fest. The University of Winnipeg Theatre Students Association will be performing "Desire Under the Elms" in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall Jan. 19, 20, 21, 22, 26-29. Ticket information and show times for all of the plays and events at O'Neill fest can be found at www.oneillfest.com.

The festival itself will showcase 13 of O'Neill's plays as well as several other mediums, such as film adaptations of his plays and a lecture series to further an increased understanding of O'Neill. Cinematheque will present the film versions of both "The Iceman Cometh" and "Long Day's Journey into Night" along with a documentary on the life and works of O'Neill: "Eugene O'Neill: A Glory of Ghosts." The free lecture series, "O'Neill Unbound," covers the basics of O'Neill's career in "O'Neill 101," how to tackle the challenges of acting or directing an O'Neill play in "Acting and Directing O'Neill," and finally the personal aspects of O'Neill's life and how they influenced his work in "O'Neill 301- Autobiographical

Impulse: O'Neill's Alcoholism." "O'Neill 101" will take place at Cinematheque on Jan. 21 at 4 pm,

Portrait of Eugene O'Neill
Library of Congress, Carl Van Vechten Collection

"Acting and Directing O'Neill" will be held at Cinematheque on Jan. 28 at 4 pm, and finally "O'Neill 301" will take place at the Irish Club on Jan. 29 at 4 pm. Prairie Theatre Exchange School is also offering Acting and Directing O'Neill workshops. For more information call Jey Thibedeau Silver at 925-5252.

Finally, for those who enjoy theatre better with a pint, a reading of "The Iceman Cometh" will take place at the King's Head Pub on Feb. 5 at 5 pm as a fundraiser for the Actor's Fund of Canada.



A Frozen Moment

The Photography of Nihad Ademi

Reviewed by Whitney Light

Art and life converge in the photography of Nihad Ademi, whose powerful images have recently been published in book format, a glossy-paged portfolio titled *A Frozen Moment*. The book represents a selection of Ademi's work over the past ten years, a period through which he has embraced both a new culture and a new approach to artistic sensibility.

Having dabbled in music, sculpture, and writing, Ademi picked up a camera with serious artistic intention for the first time after emigrating to Canada in 1993 from Bosnia. The war in the former Yugoslavia was just coming to a close. The opportunity to come to Canada came through a deal with the United Nations; it gave Ademi and his brother, Samir, a second chance in life. While there's no perfect place, as Ademi realizes, he has a motto to live by now: enjoy life and live for the present.

Ademi shoots only traditional black and white film and uses commercial processing and printing. No darkroom and no Photoshop. Just a snapshot of life, a moment in time the way it was. Manipulation, says Ademi, would alter the relationship between the image and audience. In his work, that relationship feels perfectly familiar. There is no trace of the awkward, distanced position that proper Art often seems to impose.

Ademi's work is about life, often in the form of informal portraits of people but also through shots of the places and objects that speak to the experience of a culture. "War II," for example, shows row upon row of white grave-markers shot through a cross-wire fence. Cold and yet peaceful, it's about the loss of life, a barrier between past and present, the living and the dead.

The photographs in this collection are emotional, sensual, and revealing in the sense that they capture the essence rather than just the surface of a moment. Intertwining images from both Eastern Europe and Canada, it is apparent Ademi has a meaningful connection and interest in both environments, though he admits it is only recently he has felt like a 'pegger. However, his work is not about Canada versus Bosnia. "It's not about borders," he says. Each image will resonate differently with the individual viewer, each with a different perspective on the world.

In fact, the realism of Ademi's work may re-invoke a lingering question about the medium - is photography art? When one is brought into such seemingly intimate contact with the subject, as in the portraits "Lizanne and Bud" or the shot of a drug bust on the street from "Please Feel Secure," it is less and less clear where life ends and art begins.

That realism, Ademi suggests, is precisely why people are drawn to his work. It's accessible, it's familiar, it's "grounded" in reality on a level that audiences can relate to. Consistent with this approach to art, Ademi prefers to exhibit in non-conventional spaces, where audiences feel invited rather than intimidated. Currently some works are on display at Bar Italia, where a very successful

launch of *A Frozen Moment* was held. Ademi has also shown works at The Orbit Room and in the Exchange at Roxy, now The Library.

Of course it's not just any moment that one sees in Ademi's work. It is just those precise and poetic moments that stimulate a memory of a mood or a feeling. In an image titled "Jazz," a performer at the Winnipeg Jazz Festival at Old Market Square perches backstage atop a bass drum. His back facing us, the man's crisp white shirt contrasts the black circular drum head. Instantly one recalls summer in Winnipeg and the relaxed informality of the outdoor concert line-up.

But even in those images which are not familiar, like the playful faces of gypsy children in Eastern Europe, the photographs plainly describe an intimate relationship between artist and subject. Ademi shoots what he knows. To do otherwise, he says, would appear false.

Since the release of *A Frozen Moment*, Ademi is already looking ahead to his next project, the Main Street Project, stemming from a piece in the book titled *North End*. Having worked at a food store on north Main, Ademi feels a connection and insight into the area. He's "walked the walk." In photography, says Ademi, "you can't just show up."

A Frozen Moment is available for purchase at McNally Robinson Grant Park and at Mondragon.

Food for Thought

By Mike Lewis



I remember seeing this science fiction movie when I was a kid. It was called *The Beginning of the End* and it had Peter Graves in it. A scientist had been trying to

genetically manipulate fruits and vegetables so that they'd grow quicker, bigger, and yield more nutrition. Unfortunately, the insects, specifically grasshoppers, that co-existed with the fruit and vegetables mutated as well. The result was the destruction of Chicago and the surrounding area. Also, Peter Graves got the girl.

Two films being shown at Cinematheque, namely *The Future of Food* and *Seeds for Change*, are along roughly the same lines: scientists try to genetically alter crops for the betterment of humanity. And while there are no 50-foot grasshoppers, and thankfully, no cameo appearances from Peter Graves, these two films are no less horrifying.

After being locked away from the viewing public for three years by the University of Manitoba, *Seeds for Change* is finally being allowed to see the light of day. Originally a submission for Ian Mauro's PhD, *Seeds for Change* focuses on the effects of genetically manipulated crops (GM) on Manitoban farmers. The film presents the argument both for and against the use of GM's and most importantly, allows the farmers themselves to speak on the issue. Some farmers like the consistency of the GM, others are wary of the long term effects that GM's may have on the environment. In addition to the environmental aspects, many are concerned about the power that multinational corporations like Monsanto, who produce GM canola, have over the lives of the individual farmers. While the film is informative, there is a lot of technical detail, and it tends to drag somewhat.

The other film, *The Future of Food*, is a compelling look at the global effects of GMs and Monsanto on the farming industry. The film features testimony from farmers directly affected by the actions of Monsanto, via law-suits, or simply competitive marketing campaigns.

The case of Percy Schmeiser, the Saskatchewan farmer sued by Monsanto a few years back for unknowingly having a GM seed on his property, is used as the archetype for the problems faced by other farmers, and is typical of the kind of big-business bullying that goes on around the world everyday.

The argument surrounding the patenting of living organisms is explored as well. If this part of the movie doesn't make you just a little bit outraged, you're not human.

The Future of Food also takes an in-depth look at food itself, how it's manufactured and sold to us, the consumers. Many rather alarming details are brought to light, which, to sum up without giving anything away, has left me wary of grocery stores everywhere.

Both films are effective and present their arguments in straightforward and effective manners. Monsanto probably has a big-screen blockbuster rebuttal on the way, but in the meantime, feel free to explore the non-corporate side of the debate.

If you are in fact what you eat, these films will scare the hell out of you.

Seeds of Change will be screening at Cinematheque Jan. 21-26, at 7pm

The Future of Food will be screening at Cinematheque Jan. 22-26, 9pm

CD REVIEWS

Sarah Harmer

I'm a Mountain

2005 Cold Snap - Universal



The newest effort by Southern Ontario singer/songwriter Sarah Harmer, is a collection of hearty folk songs. Bluegrass and old fashioned country describes the tone of the album. But, some of her melodies and lyrics are so classic-sounding that it's often surprising that these songs haven't been pulled out from a dusty bin of sheet music somewhere in her basement. For example, "Oleander" uses a plant to describe regret, love, loss and waiting, but beautifully so. And the lyrics are richly poetic: "Oleander, Oleander/Will you bloom again this spring?/I adored you/Then I ignored you/And now to me you're everything/And those white blossoms that you gave freely /Are now just twinkles in your eye/Oh behold her/Oleander grows on the inside." With a wealth of instruments, all her best musical buddies, Harmer's steady, sweet voice (occasionally accompanied by her father), and even a Dolly Parton cover, this record is a success and a testament to Harmer's seemingly unending inspiration. (www.sarahharmer.com)

-Jo Snyder

The Afterbeat

Personals

2005 Bacteria Buffet Records

The long awaited full-length release by Winnipeg's favourite ska ensemble The Afterbeat is finally here. *Personals* is a collection of 13 tight, bouncy and energetic tracks, layered with sax, trumpet, trombone, keys and sparse guitars. Vocal duties are split between keyboard player Jessica Brown and guitar player Mike Reis. Brown's voice is charmingly straight up, bringing poignant songs like "People Before Profit" alive. The record is held together by the strong song writing of Reis and promises to keep the Afterbeat in the spotlight of Canadian ska.

-Jo Snyder



Daddy Yankee

Barrio Fino en Directo

2005 El Cartel Records



This is a CD & DVD set based on Daddy Yankee's hugely successful album, "Barrio Fino." The CD includes 10 tracks from "Barrio Fino" that were recorded live at various concerts and

five brand new studio tracks. The DVD contains a documentary (approximately 40 minutes) showing the artist as he speaks on various topics including his early musical career, his family, and life in the barrio. Also included on the DVD are four live performances, the "Corazones" music video and its behind-the-scenes counterpart, a few other clips from the stage and recording studio, a trailer for Daddy Yankee's new movie *Talento de Barrio*, and a small photo gallery. The majority of the DVD is presented in black and white with a few distracting visual effects that can sometimes make it difficult to get a feel for his live performances. Despite this small drawback, the content is always interesting and this release is highly recommended. (www.daddyyankee.com)

- Dana Krawchuk

TEDIOUS MINUTIAE

Or: Ineffectively Detailing One's Cultural Consumption for the Uncaring. Installment #13

By Ben MacPhee-Sigurdson

Avoided: thesis drafts

As I sit thinking about my week, life, or wherever it is the fodder for *TM* comes from, I can't help but notice out of the corner of my right eye the dusty, droopy pile of papers sitting on the hardwood floors underneath my desk.

My thesis. Many, many drafts of my thesis.

I graduated in October and defended the thing in August. It's bound, printed, catalogued at the U of M library, and yet these piles of drafts just don't seem to be either a) tossed in the recycling bin or b) put away.

I hesitate on the former, the reasons for the hesitation presumptuous and smug of me. I guess if some recycling employee suddenly scored a book deal because of a depressing novella about death and grieving I might have cause for concern. But really.

Storing it, then, seems like an easy enough undertaking: get a box, put said papers in, and store box. But the thought of my eyes meandering over even one lone sentence of the damn thing is enough for me to look away in terror.

I mean, I spent the better part of eighteen months and thousands of dollars writing my thesis. I killed a lot of trees in the process; I must have done at least five or six drafts, each of which was many dozens of pages, most of which contained full-colour printouts that cost a minor fortune. I made multiple copies to proofread, for my committee, and sometimes for friends or schoolmates.

I loved grad school, mostly, and while the writing of the damn thing was daunting and emotionally draining, finishing my thesis brought with it such a great feeling of accomplishment and reward that no dollar value could possibly touch. I actually cried a little as I wrote the acknowledgements. Aw.

So why, then, can't I bring myself to pick up one saggy pile of paper, put it in a box, and move it somewhere out of sight?

The other day I tried to write up a query letter to send off to publishers to see if they might be interested in publishing the thing, and I couldn't even bring myself to talk about the plot, the characters, or the themes in the text. I feel like I have

extrapolated on these depressing people *ad infinitum*, and want nothing more to do with them.

I know, writing about my thesis *here* hasn't yet been a problem, and all of this could be seen as self-deprecatory narcissism, a cry for attention that even supersedes writing a column about the random minutiae of my life. Dear readers, waste not one moment of pity or anger on me; I am merely looking around the room in search of a topic for this week's column and my eyes happened to fall upon the only unique object in this room.

(Other objects in the room: a laundry basket full of clean laundry but not put away, two pictures of cats, a copy of *NHL06* for my computer, a 'random trivia' desktop calendar, a saggy bookcase, a copy of *Blue Velvet* on DVD for another column, an envelope full of receipts from the Liquor Marts and wine stores, and a lint remover.)

Maybe this *is* my query letter, all hidden within the nails-on-chalkboard irritability of this roundabout pseudo-therapy session, stuff that should be written in paper journals in real handwriting, then crumpled, uncrumpled, and kept in a shoebox until one is older and looks back in sheer nostalgic terror.

More than likely, however, it's that I can't bear to think of this weighty piece of art buried in my storage space under the fake Christmas tree, the fan that doesn't work, my two Sherwood PMP 5030 wooden hockey sticks, and the rest of the clutter. Instead, the thesis lurks in the corner of my eye as it does in the corner of my mind, refusing to let me forget that at one point I created something in which I should take real pride and that took significant effort.

My pledge: columns of more general appeal! Happiness! Enthusiasm!

Attn. Dr. Phil:
tediousminutiae@gmail.com

Attn. internet:
tediousminutiae.blogspot.com

[DAVE STREIT]

TYPESCRIPT / VINYLDRIP

Vinyl Drip/06

Campaigner
 where even richard nixon
 has got soul- neil young
 THE
 man who sold the world
 i thought you died alone
 a long long time ago-david bowie

high plains drifter
 three on the tree in the middle
 of the night- beastie boys

Polson Prison blues/cry cry cry
 i walk the line (C.R.E.A.M)

Typescript:neopolitan
 (neopolitician)

i don't know if it's monday
 a monday in january or me
 after a late afternoon nap
 ...wake me in february

howabout that weather?

you have been chosen
 for a poll:
 press one: for liberal
 two: for conservative
 press three: N D, F

i depressed

the automated machine coldly clicked
 dial tone done with me and onto the
 next poll call
 what happened to four five or six?
 was that like a vote? my selection
 will join a few thousand more
 plus or minus three %
 for accuracy (i was groggy)

The real winner of this election
 hands down/"at the end of the day"
 is the pollster makes meaty fodder
 for pundits and laurie mustard
 to chatter

wow how about that weather

i'm not even going to try and make
 a comment about the leaders debate
 i slipped in and out of a post dinner
 coma unable to change the three
 channels of the same dream about
 three men fighting over ice cream

scripted moments in a nightmare
 that tastes like a re occurring
 dream about three flavors of
 slightly differing vanilla

as if you could scoop it
 no matter what the media
 leads you to believe

|||||/|||/|||/|||/|||

you ought to vote

(or thro^W a VOTE party)
 -david streit

95.9 FM CKUW CAMPUS/ COMMUNITY RADIO TOP 10 CD - ALBUMS JANUARY 8 - 14, 2006

! = Local content * = Canadian Content *NB: RE=Re Entry NE = New Entry

LW • TW • Artist • Recording • Label

- 1 ● 1 ● Various Artists > Northern Faction 3 > Balanced Records
- 4 ● 2 ● !The Hummers > Modern Entrance > Sisyphus
- 2 ● 3 ● !Propagandi > Potemkin City Limits > G7
- 3 ● 4 ● *Ladytron > Witching Hour > Ryko
- 8 ● 5 ● *Wolf Parade > Wolf Parade > Sub Pop
- 5 ● 6 ● !The Quiffs > The Quiffs > Independent
- 7 ● 7 ● !Albatross Note > The Art Lodge Tapes > Evil Evil
- 6 ● 8 ● !Fascade@137db Character of the Moment Balanced
- 16 ● 9 ● Gang of Four Return > The Gift > V2
- 11 ● 10 ● !Park Like Setting > Craftsmen > Peanuts & Corn



LISTINGS COORDINATOR: **NICK WEIGELDT**
E-MAIL: LISTINGS@UNITER.CA
PHONE: 786-9497
FAX: 783-7080

Want to submit your listing to Uniter Listings? Email your listings to listings@uniter.ca. **Deadline for submissions** is Wednesday, eight days before the issue you'd like your listing to first appear in. The Uniter publishes on Thursdays, 25 times a year.

For January 19th & onwards.

ON CAMPUS ONGOING

THE UNITER will hold General Contributor Meetings the first Monday of every month. These meetings will be for those who are interested in contributing to the paper and need some direction, or want to write for several different sections. It is also an opportunity to meet Uniter staff and other Uniter contributors. Meetings are held in the Uniter office, located on the mezzanine level of the Bulman Centre, ORM14. Everyone is welcome to attend.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PARTNERS needed in the English Language program, U of W Continuing Education Massey Building, 294 William Avenue. Language partners are native (or fluent) English speaking volunteers who give ESL (English as a Second Language) students an opportunity to practice English outside of the classroom and to learn more about the Canadian way of life. The day and time partners meet is decided by the student and the Language partner. Time commitment 1-2 hrs/week. A letter of reference is available after completion of the program. Contact Rina Monchka, 982-1151, email r.monchka@uwinipeg.ca

DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? Are you taking even a single course through the English department? If you answered yes to either of the above questions, then the English Students Association wants you! Speak English with like-minded people, consult our semi-professional paper-editors, party like a poet. The ESA meets every Wednesday during the free period in 2A47, the English studies common room. Join us there or e-mail our simply amazing president, Susie Taylor, at uowf.esa@gmail.com for more details.

EVENTS

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG THEATRE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION presents, as part of MTC's O'NeillFest 2006 'Desire Under The Elms' January 19, 20, 21, 26-28 at 7:30pm; Jan 22, 29 at 2pm in Eckardt-Grammatté Hall, University of Winnipeg. Admission \$10; \$8 students/seniors/matinee.

DAVID McMILLAN'S OPENING RECEPTION for 'Mexico' in Gallery 1C03 on January 19, 4-6pm. Winnipegger David McMillan depicts the haunting beauty of the aftermath of the hurricane that hit the Yucatan in 2002. On January 20, he will present a public lecture about his work in the Gallery, 12:30-1:30pm.

LOOKING FOR GIRL LAND, part reading, part discussion, part performance, part lecture by award-winning author Chandra Mayor as she embarks on an artistic feminist road trip to find and uncover Girl Land. She shatters silences to tell girl stories that are funny, beautiful, painful and real. Part of the Margaret Laurence Women's Studies Centre Speaker Series. January 19 at the Graffiti Gallery 109 Higgins Ave, 7-8:30pm.

READING CULTURES SPEAKERS SERIES presented by the English Department. A Literary and Cultural Studies Faculty Colloquium. Everyone is welcome to attend. All events in room 2M70. January 20 12:30-2pm: Tina Chen, History Department at the University of Manitoba "Soviet Cinema and Everyday Internationalism in Maoist China".

CATHOLIC OUTREACH Campus Mass January 23 at 12:30pm in room 2C13. There will be a prayerful reflection, great acoustic music and many friends waiting to be made. The mass is open to anyone who would like to attend.

GOING TO SCHOOL TO MAKE ART? Saturday, January 28 from 1-5pm, Room TBA at the University of Winnipeg. A forum, to think about the role of the university in teaching the creative arts. Panels will address the current issues that surround the incorporation of artists, artistic practice, and artistic methods of research in the university setting. How can art be fostered, informed, and evaluated as part of a course in university? Join us and speak with artists, artistic directors, instructors of literary and performing arts--representatives from a broad cross-section of the literary and performing arts. Emerging writers and

students of the arts will have a chance to speak with the people who are working as professional artists, and as instructors and administrators. What can students expect when they graduate? What should emerging writers be trying to learn, in the halls of the academy or in professional development workshops outside the university setting? Where and how will artists develop their skills, and what is the professional world beyond their initial training? Call 986-4294 for more information.

UW MATH/STATS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION Movie "N is a Number" (Paul Erdos) January 25 at 12:30-1:20 in room 1L07.

PUBLIC LECTURE Dr Pamela Leach, Political Theory at Canadian Mennonite University presents a philosophy lecture entitled "Hannah Arendt and the Public Use of Judgement." January 25, Room 1L12, 12:30-1:30pm. Everyone welcome.

VIRTUOSI CONCERTS Guy Few, trumpet & piano, Stephanie Mara, piano. February 4, Eckardt-Grammatté Hall, University of Winnipeg. Tickets \$28 adults / \$26 seniors / \$16 students at 786-9000.

WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH presents "Breaking into the Writing Business", a workshop with Kent Bruyneel, Editor-in-Chief of Grain Magazine. February 3, 2:30-3:30pm in room 1L08. Everyone welcome, contact Candida Rifkind at 786-9954 for more details.

CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE Information Session: Canada Connection: Find out more about Canada Connection, an agency arranging ESL teaching positions in Korea. January 24, 1-1:30pm in room 3M67.

Information Session: Graduate Studies at the University of Ottawa: Find out about graduate opportunities at the University of Ottawa, including academic programs, scholarships, and assistantships. January 25, 12:30-1:20pm in room 3M62.

Information Booth: Footprints Recruiting: Footprints Recruiting offers ESL teacher placement services to native English speakers from around the world. January 27, 9am-4:30pm in Riddell Auditorium.

DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION Title: Public Relations Fundamentals I Instructor: Carl Radimer Date: February 18-March 25, 2006 Time: 6 Saturdays, 9:00am-4:00pm Cost: \$350.00 Location: 294 William Ave Registration or Information: 982-6633 Summary: In today's fast-changing world individuals who can apply the principles of public relations in a strategic way are becoming increasingly valuable to many organizations. This introductory course lays a solid foundation for a career in public relations by familiarizing the student with the basic concepts and principles of the profession. The professional, ethical and legal responsibilities of public relations practitioners will be discussed.

Title: Public Relations Fundamentals II Instructor: Adelle Stevens Date: January 10-March 28, 2006 Time: 12 Tuesdays, 6:00-9:00pm Cost: \$350.00 Location: 294 William Ave Registration or Information: 982-6633 Summary: This course applies the theory of public relations already covered in Public Relations Fundamentals I to practice areas including: media relations, community relations, corporate communications, issues management and crisis communications using case studies and guest lecturers. Special emphasis will be given to mastering the old and the new technologies of information dissemination and meeting the public demand for accountability.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DO YOU LIKE WORKING WITH NEWCOMER CHILDREN? Do you believe you can change our community? If you said Yes, you are invited our Programs as a volunteer! The Citizenship Council of Manitoba Inc. International Centre is looking for student volunteers to help new arrivals to Canada learn English and feel welcome in our country. Opportunities exist for volunteers to give their time and support to the Centre's Immigrant Children and Youth Programs including Sports Activities for Newcomer

Kids, Empowerment for Newcomer Kids and Newcomer Kids Welcome Program. If you'd like to help out, contact Si-il Park at 943-9158 or at sisocanada@hotmail.com.

AROUND TOWN CONCERTS

TWO NIGHTS OF ROOTS AND MAYHEM WITH THE DUHKS January 19 and 20, West End Cultural Centre, 8pm. Thursday night will be a sit-down event while Friday will be an all-out dance party. Tickets \$15 in advance through Ticketmaster and at WECC.

SUE FOLEY Jan 20 Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club. Tickets \$15.

LYNCH NIGHT Jan 20 Pyramid Cabaret 8pm. Featuring musical acts Querkus, Zublotnicks, Smallgirls, Slattern, Cake Builder, Unraveled Broken Orchestra, Eve Rice, Jaimz Asmundson and featuring local Lynchian short films by Deco Dawson, Mike Maryniuk, Jaimz Asmundson and more. Tickets \$4.99 and available in advance at Into The Music, Kustom Kulture, Ragpickers and The Pyramid.

HAYDN AT HOME January 21 298 Yale Avenue, 3pm. Featuring pieces for violin, viola, cello and fortepiano. Tickets \$22 at 774-3601.

ROOT-BILLCARBON - GANDY January 21 109 Higgins Ave. 10pm. Offering experimental audio, turntablism, performance art and video. \$5 or \$3 with a nonperishable food. THE DOUG AND JESS BAND CD RELEASE January 21 West End Cultural Centre 8pm. Bluegrass, old time, country, and gospel with guests Chris Saywell, Joel Titchkosky and Chris Carmichael and Stony Point. Tickets \$10 in advance and \$13 at the door.

WINNIPEG CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL ARTIST CONCERT SERIES featuring Goran Krivokapic (Serbia) - solo recital. January 21, 8pm at The Planetarium Auditorium, The Museum of Man and Nature, 190 Rupert Ave. Advance Purchase through the Winnipeg Guitar Society: Adults \$15 / WCGS Members \$10 / Students \$10 / WCGS Students \$5. call 775-0809.

ZAMFIR AND THE ATHENAEUM STRING QUARTET January 23 Centennial Concert Hall 8pm. Tickets \$52-64 through Ticketmaster.

LABEL GALLERY SHOW January 23, 7pm All ages. With Hollow Ground, Go It Alone, The ALX, Three Two Eleven. \$5.

BLUEBIRD NORTH TOUR featuring Jimmy Rankin, Tom Wilson, Wil, Shari Ulrich, Lennie Gallant, and more! January 27 West End Cultural Centre 8pm. Tickets \$15 in advance at WECC and through Ticketmaster.

LIONS DU JAZZ January 27 Centre culturel franco-manitobain 8pm. Featuring Kjarten Valdemarsson on the piano. Tickets \$10 at the door or 477-1515.

HORIZON 3 Electronic Hip Hop Party. Jan 28 Ramada Conference Centre, 331 Garry St. 9pm-6am. Tickets \$30 through Ticketmaster and various other locations. Visit www.groove204.com for more information.

MANITOBA CONSERVATORY World Café Chinese New Year Celebration to ring in the Year of the Dog. January 29 Conservatory Recital Hall, 211 Bannatyne Ave. Tickets \$15, \$10 for students and seniors. Call 943-6090. BLOU February 3 Centre culturel franco-manitobain 8pm. A night of music inspired by their Acadian roots. Tickets \$18 per person or \$125 for a table of eight. Call 233-8972 for more information.

JAZZ WINNIPEG Canadian Jazz Concerts. February 3 Phil Dwyer and Rob Pittch, 8pm. In the Salle Pauline-Boutal at the CCFM (340 Provencher Blvd.) Tickets Adult \$22.50 (advance), \$25 at the door, students/seniors \$15 and available at CCFM (233-8972) or McNally Robinson Grant Park.

COMEDY

RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB 2025 Corydon Ave Until January 28: Joey Elias. Jan 31 - Feb 11: J.P. Brow.

IMPROV SUPPER CLUB Mondays, Toad in the Hole Pub & Eatery, 8, 9, 10, 11pm.

JACK 'UM AND ATTACK' EM IMPROV featuring Ron Moore. Tuesdays, The Park Theatre & Movie Café, 8pm. \$4.99.

PULFORD STREET IMPROV PALACE Weekly shows and workshops. All shows/workshops \$4.99 at the door. SHOWS: Fridays, 12am (midnight): Rotating performances by Outside Joke, The Jist, George, Young Lungs and more. Saturdays, 8pm: Showcasing Winnipeg's newest improvisers and some "brand spanking new" improv troupes with the support of the Manitoba Improv League. Hosted by Stephen Sim. All ages. Saturdays, 10 pm: The world reknowned CRUMBS! DROP-IN WORKSHOPS: Sundays, 1:30-2:30pm :The Ladies Room (an improv comedy workshop for Ladies only). Sundays 3 - 4pm The Social Hall (an improv comedy workshop for Ladies and Gentlemen only). The Pulford Street Improv Palace can be found at 109 Pulford St (Augustine Church across from the Gas Station Theatre), side door, second floor.

TRAILER PARK BOYS RANDY IS BEAUTIFUL TOUR February 3 at 7pm. Burton Cummings Theatre. Tickets \$34.50 through Ticketmaster.

FILM

CINEMATHEQUE 100 Arthur St Sundays at 2pm: Cabin Fever! Free Films for Kids including January 22: The Black Stallion, from the classic novel. January 29: The Laurel and Hardy classic Big Business. January 20 at 7pm, January 21 at 12pm: As part of MTC's O'Neillfest 2006, Eugene O'Neill: A Glory of Ghosts by Peter Miller Adato, 1986. Jan 21-26 at 7pm: Manitoba-produced documentary Seeds of Change: (Farmers, Biotechnology, and the New Face of Agriculture) by Ian Munro, Stephanie McLachlan and Jim Sanders. Jan 22-26 at 9pm: Deborah Garcia's 2004 documentary The Future of Food. Jan 27 at 7pm, Jan 28 at 11:30am: As part of MTC's O'NeillFest 2006, John Frankenheimer's interpretation of O'Neill's The Iceman Cometh.

PARK THEATRE 698 Osborne St 478-7275 Neighbourhood theatre and venue. Free matinee shows during the week. Jan 19 & 20, 1pm & 2:45pm: Comedy Classics. January 23 - 27: Mobster Movie Madness from the '30s, '40s and '50s. ELLICE CAFÉ & THEATRE 585 Ellice St 975-0800 Neighbourhood theatre and restaurant. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays - free movies. On weekends, local musical acts.

LYNCH NIGHT in celebration of David Lynch's 60th Birthday. January 20 at the Pyramid Cabaret. Featuring musical acts bringing to life scenes and music from Lynch's films and short films by local filmmakers. Tickets \$4.99. See Concerts for more details.

THEATRE, DANCE & PERFORMANCE

THE GRIND Every second Thursday at Ellice Café & Theatre (585 Ellice Ave) The Grind, a venue to encourage and develop performers and their ideas through the presentation of scenes, sketches, monologues, spoken word, short film, stand-up and music in front of a live audience. 7pm, \$4 per person.

THE BLACK HOLE THEATRE CO. presents, as part of O'NeillFest 2006 'Ah, Wilderness!' by Eugene O'Neill January 19-21, 24-27 at the Black Hole Theatre, basement of University College at the U of Manitoba. The classic coming of age story: high school senior Richard Miller toys with communism, love and alcohol on the Fourth of July. Directed by Dr William Kerr. Tickets \$11 adults and \$9 students and seniors. Call 474-6880 or visit www.umanitoba.ca/theatre.

THE CERCLE MOLIÈRE THEATRE SEASON The dramatic comedy 'Visites à M. Green' by Jeff Baron. Until Feb 4 at Theatre de la Chapelle 825 Rue St Joseph. Tickets \$11-29.50. Call 233-8053 or email reception@cerclemoliere.com.

MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE presents one of the greatest musicals of the 20th century, 'Guys and Dolls' directed by Robb Paterson. Until January 28. Tickets available at 942-6537.

MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE WAREHOUSE presents, as part of O'NeillFest 2006, 'Long Day's Journey Into Night'. Until February 4.

Tickets available by calling 942-6537.

O'NEILLFEST 2006 Festival. Various events around the city from January 19 - February 5. Lectures / Panels - O'Neill Unbound: 'O'Neill 101' Jan 21, 4pm at Cinematheque. 'Acting and Directing O'Neill' Jan 28, 4pm at Cinematheque. 'O'Neill 301: Autobiographical Impulse: O'Neill's Alcoholism' Jan 29, 4pm at the Irish Club 654 Erin St. A Reading of 'The Iceman Cometh' at the King's Head, Feb 5, 5pm. Visit www.oneillfest.com for a complete list of events, plays and performances. PARK THEATRE presents, as part of MTC's O'NeillFest 2006, 'The Hairy Ape'. January 19 - 21, 25 - 28, February 1 - 4 at 8pm. Admission \$10. Call 952-1533.

PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE presents 'Girl in the Goldfish Bowl' by Morris Panych. Winner of the 2004 Governor General Literacy Award for Drama. Until January 29. Tickets \$22.47 - \$32, or \$18.19 on Wednesdays (rush seating). Call 942-5483 or visit www.pt.e.mb.ca.

MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA presents Liu Fang on the pipa, a four-stringed lute dating to the 2nd century BC. Featuring Scott Yoo, Valdine Anderson and Fubuki Daiko. January 31, Westminster United Church, 745 Westminster Ave, 7:30pm. Tickets \$23 for adults, \$21 for seniors and \$7 for students, plus GST. Call MCO at 783-7377 or pick up tickets at McNally Robinson or Ticketmaster.

WINNIPEG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA January 20 - 21 at 8pm: Masterworks/Choral Series 'Voice of the Prophet' Mandelsohn's 'Elijah'. January 26 at 7:30pm. Musically Speaking - Go for Baroque. January 27-28 at 8pm, January 29 at 2pm: WSO Pops Salute to the Oscars.

JAZZ WINNIPEG and Global Arts Concerts present Flamenco in Concert - Paco Peña. Thursday February 2 at 8pm at Pantages Playhouse Theatre. Tickets \$39.50 plus taxes through Ticketmaster.

MUSIC 'N MAVENS SERIES January 19 Klesmer on the Fringe, an 8-piece band led by Eli Herscovitch. January 24: Good Sax/Crazy Sax featuring Shane Nestruck. January 26: Jazz Demystified, a whirlwind musical tour of jazz in the 20th Century with Steve Kirby and students from the U of M Jazz Studies Program. All shows 2-3pm at Rady Jewish Community Centre, 123 Doncaster St. Tickets \$5/\$7 available at 477-7510 or www.radyjcc.com.

TRIP DANCE The Company of One featuring three solos and two choreographers. February 3 and 4 8pm at the CanWest Global Performing Arts Centre, 2 Forks Road. Tickets at 942-8898.

LITERARY

M McNALLY ROBINSON BOOKSELLERS (GRANT PARK) January 19: Stephanie Staples presents and autographs Your Life Unlimited: A Guided Journal at 8pm. Jan 23: Winnipeg launch of Chicken Soup for the Cat Lover's Soul by Sharon Melnicer, who has a story featured in the book. At 8pm. Jan 25: K.C. Oliver launches Pretty Pretty a novel for young adults. 7:30pm. Jan 25: Eden Robinson will be reading and signing Blood Sports, fiction, at 8pm. Jan 26 at 7pm: Ben Herosian's launch of his new children's book Jungleville Trails: New Equipment. Jan 30: Launch of The Honourable Member for Vegreville: The Memoirs and Diary of Anthony Hlynka, MP 1940-1949. At 7:30pm. Jan 31: Glenn Hopfner presents his collection of adventurous vignettes from the Churchill area Tales of the Tundra at 8pm.

SPEAKING CROW OPEN-MIC POETRY First Tuesday of the month at Academy Bar & Eatery. 8pm. Free admission. February 7 - featured reader Tanis MacDonald. Two-open mic sets to follow.

AQUA BOOKS 89 Princess St ideaExchange: AquaBooks, in conjunction with St. Benedict's Table, is pleased to present our award-winning monthly conversation series dealing with issues of faith, life, theology and pop culture. Come early as seating and parking will be limited. Admission is free. January 21 at 8pm: 'In Through The Wardrobe: Why C.S. Lewis Created Narnia, and What He Found There' - Rev. Jamie Howison, St. Benedict's Table. The Stone Soup Storytellers' Circle, veteran Winnipeg storytellers, meets for storytelling once a month on Saturdays at

continued 

CLASSIFIEDS

Room & Board for female students in a Christian Faith and Vocation House of Discernment in Windsor Park; \$450.00 per month; negotiable according to computer, phone and related needs. Easy access to public transportation downtown Wpg & to U Manitoba. No pets, no alcohol, clean, non-smoking environment, Call Sr. Elaine at (H) 253-9786 or (W) 474-9784 or email ebaete@ms.umanitoba.ca

IS YOUR BIRTHDAY IN APRIL? First April-born U of W student to e-mail us wins.

Taste-the-World "all-you-can-eat" buffet for two (\$30 value) plus \$25 betting voucher to spend in our Las Vegas-style big-screen horseplaying area at Assiniboia Downs. Five others win \$10 betting vouchers.

contests@assiniboia downs.com. Watch this space each issue for new birthday months!

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16 Listings@uniter.ca

7:30pm. All are welcome. Next get-together is on February 11.

WORDS PERFORMED A monthly event of Spoken Word where open-mic and slam poetry are re-invented. Calling all Spoken Word artists (and those that love them). The first half of the evening is open-mic style, where participants can 'sign-up' prior to the event via email or at the door the night of the event. If you want to use props or read/perform pieces written by someone other than you, go right ahead. Anything Spoken Word is possible within 5 minutes (for longer pieces contact the organizer). The second half of the night is feisty, competitive original Spoken Word! The time limit is three minutes and you can use props. There are no score cards or time penalties, but there is still a prize and a 'winner'! Prizes sponsored by Sugar Vintage. For more additional info or to 'sign up' for either half of the evening, contact WordsPerformed@Canada.com or shapid@shaw.ca.

OUT LOUD is an open mic opportunity for you to give your words voice. Every two weeks a special guest will kick off the evening after which the mic is open for your words of any genre in five minutes or less. Runs every second Tuesday at the new Millennium Library. Sign up is at 7pm. Free.

AD LIB is an evening of improv-style word games. Every night is guaranteed to be different and full of laughs. From round stories to fridge magnet poetry, from opening lines to creating new endings, there's no limit to the places these games – or your writing – can go. Runs every second Tuesday, alternating with Out Loud. 7:30pm. Free.

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

ACE ART INC. 290 McDermot St 944-9763 Tues-Sat 12-5. January 20 – February 25: Brian Flynn uses carpet underlay and his fingers to produce these huge portraits by removing the black bits in 'Belfast Portraits'.

THE ALBERT HUB www.thealberthub.com Artist-run multimedia gallery.
THE ANNEX GALLERY 594 Main St 284-0673 Tues-Sat 12-5. Contemporary art.

ART BEAT STUDIO Floor 4-62 Albert St Biannual art exhibit entitled 'Nightlight'. January 20 – 27. Opening reception Jan 20 at 7pm.

ART CITY 616 Broadway Ave 775-9856 Mon 5-8 ,Tues-Fri 4-8, Sat 12-4. Featuring high quality artistic programming for kids and adults.

CREAM GALLERY 944 Portage Ave 957-7367 Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 11-5. Emerging and mid-career contemporary art. January 20 – February 17: "3 Guys in a Truck"

GALLERY 1C03 Centennial Hall, University of Winnipeg 515 Portage Ave 786-9253 Mon-Fri 12-4, Sat 1-4. Non-profit public gallery providing everyone opportunities to learn about visual art. January 19 – February 18: David McMillan – 'Mexico'.

GALLERY LACOSSE 169 Lilac St 284-0726 Tues-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5. Small neighbourhood gallery. On now: 'Size Matters' a group show by the Gallery Lacosse-represented artists.

GALLERY ONE ONE ONE Main Floor Fitzgerald Building, School of Art U of Manitoba 474-9322 Until Jan 27: An exhibition of the 1970s work of Gordon Lebrecht. This exhibition will include paintings, drawings, prints and three-dimensional pieces.

GRAFFITI GALLERY 109 Higgins Ave 667-9960 A not-for-profit community youth art centre, using art as a tool for community, social, economic and individual growth.

KEN SEGAL GALLERY 4-433 River Ave 477-4527 Tues-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5. Showcase of original contemporary art. Until January 21: Remembering Ernie Wilson (1933-1987), Paintings and Drawings.

LA GALERIE at the CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCO-MANITOBAIN 340 Provencher Blvd 233-8972 Mon-Fri 8am-10pm, Sat-Sun 12pm-10pm. Until February 2: 'Nature Morph', recent works about the transformations nature goes through over the year, by Don Reichert.

LABEL GALLERY 510 Portage Ave 772-5165 Tues-Sat 12-5. Until January 23: University of Manitoba student and professor Human Rights show. On January 27: A Label for Artists' 5th Anniversary Show entitled "Blurred Vision" organized by James Cullen.

THE LION AND THE ROSE GALLERY 2nd Floor 70 Albert St 452-5350 Mon-Fri 11-5, Thursday evenings 6-8pm. Until January 22: "Arthur Adamson – A Celebration".

MANITOBA CRAFTS COUNCIL EXHIBITION GALLERY 214 McDermot Ave 487-6114 Tues-Fri 11-5, Sat 11-4.

MARTHA STREET STUDIO 11 Martha St 772-6253 Mon-Fri 10-5. Showcasing the fine art of printmaking.

MEDEA GALLERY 132 Osborne St 453-1115 Mon-Sat 10:30-5, Sun 1-4. Until January 28: 'Small Works for Those Tiny Places' Paintings, Photographs and Sculptures by Gallery Artists. January 29 - February 11th: 'Winter Pastels' Paintings in Watercolour & Pastel in the Colours of Winter by Maureen Johnson.

MILLENIUM LIBRARY 251 Donald St 986-6450 Until February 8: Text Art 2006 - The Millennium Library presents a visual arts show with a twist! Photos, drawings and sculpture will be accompanied by poetry and prose created by the writers and artists themselves. The show features works by Winnipeg Public Library Writers' Circle members Brenda Sciberras, Sandra Stechisen and Ron Romanowski, with special guest Writers' Circle alumnus Agatha Grant. Check it out at the main floor Reader Services.

OSBORNE VILLAGE CULTURAL CENTRE 445 River @ Osborne St 284-9477 Now showing: Works by Yisa the Artist.

OUTWORKS GALLERY 3rd Floor 290 McDermot Ave 949-0274 Artist-run studio and exhibition space in the Exchange. 'No Flow' opening January 20 until Feb 11 featuring several artists.

PLATFORM (CENTRE FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC AND DIGITAL ARTS) 121-100 Arthur St 942-8183 Tues-Sat 12-5. Until February 17: Meera Margaret Singh – 'You're All That I Ever Think About'. Opening January 6 with an artist talk at 7pm and Reception at 8pm.

PLUG-IN ICA 286 McDermot Ave 942-1043 Until Feb 11th: 'VOLCANIA Iceland Panorama' Drawing upon his frequent travels in Iceland and the relationships he has cultivated here, guest curator Kevin Kelly explores lingering traces of this mysterious land in the work of five female artists dividing their lives between Reykjavik and New York.

URBAN SHAMAN 203-290 McDermot Ave 942-2674 January 20 – March 3: 'Sacred Feminine', a photographic testament to the ancestral lands of the Dakota people by Lita Fontaine.

VIDEO POOL MEDIA ARTS CENTRE 300-100 Arthur St 949-9134 Contemporary media art.

WAH-SA GALLERY 302 Fort St 942-5121 Contemporary Aboriginal art. February: Carl Fontaine and Terry Young.

WAYNE ARTHUR GALLERY 186 Provencher Blvd 477-5249 Manitoba-based art gallery. Until Jan 24: 'Paintings of love of the garden' by Walter Veito. February 5 – March 1: 'Open Minds' by David Cooper, Bill Lucenkiw, Omar DeWandel.

WINNIPEG ART GALLERY 300 Memorial Blvd 786-6641 Until Mar 5: Selected Works 1980-2004 of Nancy Edell, including rug-hooking, paintings and prints. Until Mar 19: 'Aliyah Suite' by Salvador Dali. Commissioned to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, these works combine biblical texts with references to the Second World War, creating images at once both tragic and hopeful. Until April 2: 'Early Masters' a collection of Inuit Sculptures. January 27 – Mya 14: 'supernovas', an eclectic explosion of art by Winnipeg's emerging new artists—performance, video, audio, installation, sculpture, painting, drawing, and craft. Thoughtful and provocative with a distinct Winnipeg sensibility. January to March: lone Thorkelsson 'Arboreal Fragments'. Manitoba's leading glass artist, positions familiar objects in unexpected contexts, thus removing the familiar and suggesting new possible meanings.

WOODLANDS GALLERY 535 Academy Road 947-0700 Until January 28: Featured Artist Hugh G. Rice, 'Flatness of the Prairie'. Feb 2 – 18: Art works by emerging artists from the University of Manitoba School of Art.

BARs, CAFES & VENUES

ACADEMY BAR & EATERY 414 Academy Rd Mondays: Student Night. First Tuesday of the month: Speaking Crow poetry night. Jan 19: Academy Idol Finals. Jan 20: Ashley Carter. Jan 21: The Monty Yanks. Jan 22: Sunday Night. Jan 28: Arbra Hill.

BARCA CLUB 423 McMillan Mondays: Live hip hop/RSB/soul & open mic with Breeze and the Nu Funk Federation. Wednesdays: Back to the Lab DJ Night.

BAR ITALIA 737 Corydon Wednesdays: Joints & Jam w/ Hot Sauce Duo. Thursdays: D-L.O. Fridays: DJ TwentyTwenty. Saturdays: My Generation featuring djharrychan. Sundays: Sindays featuring Spitz and ICQRI of Mood Ruff.

BELLA VISTA 53 Maryland St Wednesdays: Scott Nolan.

BILLABONG AUSTRALIAN BAR & BISTRO D-121 Osborne St. First Monday of the month: Open Mic.

CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCO-MANITOBAIN 340 Provencher Blvd Mardi Jazz, Tuesdays in Salle Antoine Gaborieau (2nd Floor) at 8:30pm.: Jan 24: Jay Harrison. Free admission. Every second Thursday: Keith Price Trio and Invitees jam session, 8:30pm. January 26: Zandra Cross.

COLLECTIVE CABARET / DIE MASCHINE CABARET 108 Osborne St Thursdays: '80s and '90s Night. Fridays: Goth/Industrial. Saturdays: WinnipegJungle.com presents DJs Dextt, Whupass, Krisco, Gumby Buzblaze and guests. Jan 27: The Ruffnecks, Quagmire, Murder Death Fight. Jan 28: Suicety, Pornocracy, AMF, Forgetful Jones, Numbskull.

DYLAN O'CONNOR IRISH PUB 2609 Portage Ave Mondays: Open mic night w/ The St. John's Jammers. Tuesdays: Pat Alexander. Wednesdays: Guity Pleasures. Jan 19: Jenn Joziawk. Jan 20: Jodi King. Jan 21: The Black Aces. Jan 22: The Hamsteaks. Jan 25: Funk Dubious. Jan 26: Joanna Colledge. Jan 27-28: Quinzy. Jan 29: Scott Place.

ELEPHANT & CASTLE PUB 350 St Mary Ave Fridays: Jazz guitar and vocals by Lawrence Patzer. Sundays: Student Night. Jan 22: Sean Buchanan & Doug McLean. Jan 29: Jenn Joziawk.

ELlice CAFÉ & THEATRE 587 Ellice Ave. Neighbourhood café and theatre showing films and showcasing local talent. As part of MTC's O'NeillFest 2006: Jan 19, 21, 26, 28 at 9pm; Jan 20, 25, 27, Feb 1, 3 at 7:30pm; Jan 22, 29, Feb 5 at 1pm: A performance of 'Here Before You' by The Hen Coop/Seeking Productions. Admission \$10. As part of MTC's O'NeillFest 2006: January 19, 21, 26, 28, Feb 2, 4 at 7:30pm; Jan 20, 25, 27, Feb 1 at 9pm; Jan 22, 29, Feb 5 at 2:30pm: A performance of 'Hughie' by Lyndesfarne Productions. Admission \$10.

FINN'S PUB 210-25 Forks Market Rd Johnson Terminal Tuesdays: Ego Spank – Jazz w/ Murray Pulver, Marc Arnould, Gilles Fournier, Daniel Roy, 10:30pm-2am. Wednesdays: Open Mic w/ Guy Abraham.

FOLK EXCHANGE 211 Bannatyne Ave First Monday of the month: Festival Folk Club. \$4.99. Anything and everything for the love of performing folk music. Open mics, guest performers, folk jams and more. Second Monday of the month: Folk Workshop Series. \$25. Third Monday of the month: Traditional Singers Circle. \$2. Fourth Monday of the month: Hand Drumming Circle. \$5. Jan 27: Sheena Grobb. \$15 at the WFF Music Store.

GIO'S 155 Smith St Mondays: Student Night. Wednesdays: Karaoke. Thursdays: DJ Perry. Fridays: DJ Chris. 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month: Womyn's Night. 2nd Saturday of each month: live lounge music. 2nd Sunday each month: Prime Pages book club, 5pm. Jan 19: Mardi Gras Cruise Night. Jan 21: Bad boys fashion show plus the Underwear or Hot Buns Contest.

HEMP ROCK CAFÉ 302 Notre Dame Ave Jan 21: Liberte, Senseless Destruction, The Exception, No Hope, FTS, Lacka, Johnny Sizzle, Angel Lust.

HOOLIGAN'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB 61 Sherbrook St Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays: Karaoke. Wednesdays: The Perpetrators. Thursdays: Andrew Neville and the Poor Choices. Sundays: Blues Jam with Scotty Hills and Curtis Newton. Jan 21: Trouveres, The Reception, Castrati. Jan 28: Banchee's Wait, B.Sc.

INN AT THE FORKS – THE CURRENT LOUNGE 1 Forks Market Road Thursdays-Saturdays: January 24-26: Jodie Borlé.

KING'S HEAD PUB 100 King St 1st three Wednesdays of the month: Fillment Funk, 8-11pm. Last Wednesday of the month: Papo Mambo Latin Jazz Night. Sundays: All The King's Men. Jan 20: Jodi King. Jan 21: Rubber Soul. Jan 26: Men In Kilts. Jan 27: Guy Abraham Band. Jan 28: D. Rangers.

McNALLY ROBINSON BOOKSELLERS – PRAIRIE INK RESTAURANT: Portage Place All shows at

6:30pm. Jan 20: Three Blind Mice, folk music. Jan 27: Celtic fiddle with Eric Ross. Grant Park: All shows at 8pm. Jan 20: Jennilee Martineau, a bluegrass quartet, 8pm. Jan 21: Soft Rock & Blues with Dem McLeod & Jan Smith, 8pm. Jan 27: Jazz with Eddie Goertzen. Jan 28: Nightfall Jazz Ensemble.

OSBORNE FREEHOUSE 437 Osborne St Mondays: Jazz Hang Nights with Steve & Anna Lisa Kirby and various other artists, 8-11pm. Wednesdays: 'Why Not Wednesdays?' Live local and touring music. Jan 25: Mystery Formula.

PARK THEATRE 698 Osborne St Jan 22: 'Seize the Day' Musical Cabaret featuring songs from 'Little Women'. An original Canadian musical by Jim Betts. January 24: Bob Watts Live on Stage.

PYRAMID CABARET 176 Fort St Thursdays: The Mod Club w/ DJ Sean Allum and the Invisible Man, doors at 8pm. Jan 20: Lynch Night: David Lynch Birthday Celebration w/ Querkus, Zublotnicks, Smallgirl, Slatern, and many more. See Concerts for more details. Jan 21: The Morning After CD Release Party. Jan 25: Jordan Knight, \$15 through Ticketmaster. Jan 27: UFMF Party featuring Novillero, American Flamewhip and guests. Jan 28: Ham 10th Anniversary CD Release Party. Jan 31: God Forbid, Sworn Enemy, Manntis, Cannae.

ROYAL ALBERT ARMS 48 Albert St Mondays: Karaoke. Saturday Afternoons: Blues Jam, 4-7. Jan 17: Castrati, Katelyn and Callahan (Vancouver). Jan 27: Misanthropik Deity, Igor & The Skindiggers. **SHANNON'S IRISH PUB** 175 Carlton St Sundays: cascade@137dps. Mondays: Patrick Keenan. Wednesdays: Sons of York. Thursdays: Power Thursdays – various bands. Jan 19-21: Telepathic Butterflies. Jan 25: Robbie Burns Day with the Dust Rhinos. Jan 27: The Dust Rhinos. Jan 28: The Wind-Ups.

TIMES CHANGE(D) HIGH AND LONESOME CLUB Main St @ St. Mary Ave Sundays 9:30pm: Jam with Big Dave McLean. Jan 19-22: 5th Anniversary Celebrations with Matt Monsoon and the Riff-Riders CD Release (Jan 19), Sue Foley (Jan 20), Righteous Ike, The D.Rangers (Jan 21), and "The Whiskys" hosted by Big Dave McLean and guests (Jan 22). Jan 26: Righteous Ike. Jan 27: Stony Point Bluegrass Band and Romi Mayes. Jan 28: Andrew Neville & The Poor Choices.

TOAD IN THE HOLE / THE CAVERN 108 Osborne St Sundays: Vinyl Drip w/ Uncle Albert. Mondays: Improv Supper Club hosted by Steve McIntyre. Jan 19: Love City Overdose. Jan 20: The Rowdymen. Jan 21: National Monument. Jan 24: Dringo. Jan 26: D.Rangers. Jan 27 & 28: The Perpetrators.

WEST END CULTURAL CENTRE Ellice Ave @ Jan 19 and 20: The Duhks. See Concerts for more details. Jan 21: Doug & Jess CD Release. 8pm, Tix \$10/\$13 @ Ticketmaster. Jan 27: Bluebird North Tour. See Concerts for more details. Jan 29: Sick City w/ The New Aesthetic and the Aliibi. 8pm, Tix \$7 @ the door.

WINDSOR HOTEL 187 Garry St Mondays: Jams with Tim Butler. Tuesdays: Latin Jazz Night featuring Jeff Presslaff, Rodrigo Muñoz, Julian Bradford, 10pm. Wednesdays: Jams with Big Dave McLean. Saturdays: The Perpetrators. Jan 19-21: B-Man and The Chickenhawks. Jan 26-28: Big Dave Mclean.

WOODBINE HOTEL 466 Main St Tuesdays: Karaoke and 3Ball Tournament. Jan 20 & 21: Billy Joe Green. Jan 27 & 28: Cal Richard & The Big Stone Band.

THE ZOO / OSBORNE VILLAGE INN 160 Osborne St Tuesdays: Heavy Metal & Draft Night. Fridays and Saturdays: Stripfest. Jan 20: Saliva. Jan 21: Pretty Train Crash w/ guests. Jan 27: Tele, Sons of York, Alverstone. Jan 28: General Stone w/ guests.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OP SKI WAXING CLINICS Join us for free in-store waxing demos every Saturday morning in the Ski Dept. Find out how to prep, wax and maintain your x-country skis from our knowledgeable staff. Call the Member Services Desk at 943-4202 for more info. Saturday mornings, 9am at MEC, 303 Portage Ave.

ATTENTION WINTER CYCLISTS: The Bike Dump will be open all winter, providing free help fixing your bike and free recycled parts. Stop by any Sunday between 12-6pm at 594 Main St. -- access through the back lane off King or Logan. Visit: <http://bike-dump.ca> for more info.

MANITOBA MUSEUM Until March 19 presents: 'Opium: The Heavenly Demon' a new controversial exhibit from the Vancouver Museum. The exhibit explores all sides of the drug's colourful history. Learn why this valuable substance, harvested from innocent-looking poppies, caused such upheaval throughout history. Sunday, January 29 at 1:30pm, come to the Museum to celebrate Chinese New Year with traditional lion dance, performed by the Ching Wu Athletic Association, followed by a lecture by U of M Professor of Chinese History Dr. Tina Chen and her Masters student Nick Simon as they discuss The History and Cultural Meanings of Opium. The exhibit, performance and lecture are all included in the price of regular Museum admission.

SKYWALK CONCERT SERIES AND LECTURES Co-presented with the University of Winnipeg, the Skywalk Concerts and Lectures series is held every Wednesday for lectures and Thursday for music from 12:10 until 12:50pm at the Carol Shields Auditorium, 2nd floor, Millennium Library. Bring your bag lunch and be informed, entertained and enlightened! Free admission. Seating is limited. Upcoming events: January 19: Concert: Romanian Inspiration – performed by the Winnipeg Duo, violin & piano. January 25: Jeff Martin, UW Physics. Lecture: People Are Strange. January 26: Concert: Canadian Mennonite University Student Classical Guitar Ensemble.

SMARTVOTE FEDERAL ELECTION ARTS FORUM Liberal, Conservative, Green Party, NDP. Where for 'Arts' thou? To give parties an opportunity to state their cultural policies, to raise the profile of the arts issues, and to reinforce all-party commitment to increase Canada Council funding to \$5.00 per Canadian. January 20, 12:15pm at the MTC Warehouse.

MANITOBA NATURALISTS' SOCIETY INDOOR PROGRAM "The Digital Naturalist: Global Information Systems in Species Conservation" with Dr. David Walker (Asst Professor, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources, U of M). January 23 at the Pauline Boutal Theatre, Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, 340 Provencher Blvd, 7.30pm. Admission \$2 for members with valid membership card and \$6 for non-members. For information call MNS office at 943-9029.

THE WINNIPEG HISTORY WORKSHOP Presents Elizabeth Jameson, author of All That Glitters: Class, Conflict, and Community in Cripple Creek will be giving an outlined history of miners in Colorado. January 24, 7pm. Free admission (donations welcome).

BOLIVIA IN REVOLT On December 18, 2005, Evo Morales, the leader of the MAS (Movement Towards Socialism), was elected president of Bolivia. The election of an indigenous leader as president has raised hopes for radical change. Will Morales fulfill popular hopes? What lies ahead for the social movements that drove the two previous Bolivian presidents from office in less than two years? Jeff Webber, an editor of New Socialist, returned in late August 2005 from his fourth visit to Bolivia. Jeff's talk will be followed by presentations by local activists reflecting on indigenous oppression and resistance in Bolivia and Canada. Open discussion to follow. January 26, 7pm in Room 1L04 at the University of Winnipeg.

IS THERE A PLACE for Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge In Native Studies? Dr. Rice will talk on his experiences as an Aboriginal person who taught in a Native Studies Department for six years. Upon graduating from an Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Doctoral Program, he lost his position in Native Studies. Since then, he has never been short listed for a Native Studies position outside of the University where he once taught. This is in spite of having written numerous peer-reviewed articles, manuals and books in the area of Native Studies. January 27 12:30-1:20 pm, 307 Tier Bldg., University of Manitoba. Everybody Welcome. Free Admission.

VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY The Winnipeg Public Library, in partnership with the Simplicity Practice and Resource Centre, invites you to discover the principles and practices that increase our quality of life while reducing debt, stress, rush, and environmental damage. Find out how less can be more. Buchwald Room, Millennium Library. January 30 at 4:30pm. To register call 986-4294.

PASSIONATE CONNECTIONS presented by the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba. Explore connections and passions in the arts with visual artists, dancers, poets, filmmakers, musicians, dramatists, teachers and students through workshops, performances, panels

and stimulating conversations. Featuring keynote speaker Buffy Sainte-Marie, renowned singer/songwriter/artist. At the Caboto Centre, 1055 Wilkes Avenue. Thursday evening February 16 and all day Friday, February 17. Luncheon and refreshments provided. Fee for members: \$125; fee for non-members \$140 (includes membership). For more information contact Sylvie Cottée at scottee_aaem@shaw.ca.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

BECOME A MENTOR at the Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba. Being a Mentor will entail speaking to a variety of audiences on how being a first or second-generation immigrant has impacted your life, along with your personal challenges and choices. Advantages of being an IWAM Mentor include receiving a generous honorarium, learning new skills, making new contacts and meeting interesting people. Please call the Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba's office at 989-5800 or email iwam@uwinnipeg.ca.

CONVERSATION CIRCLES Practice speaking English, make new friends and visit the library. The Library's English as a Second Language (ESL) Conversation Circles program returns this winter. The program is intended for adults who can understand English spoken at an almost normal rate and who can speak in short sentences. Join others who are interested in improving their English conversational skills. All meetings are led by a trained ESL volunteer from the International Centre of Winnipeg. Millennium Library Meeting Room 1. Wednesdays, January 11 - March 8 from 6:30 - 8pm. To register call 986-6475.

FRONTIER COLLEGE There are one-hundred and sixty-eight hours in a week. We are asking for one! Frontier College is a non-profit literacy organization that recruits volunteers to act as tutors to work with children, youth and adults who want to improve their literacy skills. Frontier College aims to strengthen communities by enhancing the pride, self-esteem, and confidence in individuals and their families. We run a variety of fun literacy programs in various Winnipeg neighbourhoods and schools. Programs are one hour once a week and run from October through to December and January through to April. Training and on-site support are provided. For more information please visit our website at www.frontiercollege.ca or contact us at 253-7993 or wpgcoordinator@hotmail.com.

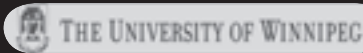
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS – FOR THE WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL HAND-MADE VILLAGE The Hand-Made Village features artisans who design and produce their own work. Our primary basis for selection is the overall originality, aesthetics and quality of the work. Other important considerations are the professional presentation of your application and the overall balance of work in the show. All applications must include high quality photos or samples of your work for the selection committee. The application deadline is February 9. If you have any questions, please contact Arwen Helene at ahelene@winnipegfolkfestival.ca or (204) 231-0096. We look forward to receiving your application. Visit www.winnipegfolkfestival.ca.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE BIKE DUMP Come spring 2006, the Bike Dump would like to expand the number of days we're open to three, or at least two. To do this, we'll need more volunteers knowledgeable about bikes to help others out. Even if you're new to bike repair and maintenance, if you're interested, get in touch by writing to bikepunks@bike-dump.ca and we'll see if we can help get your skills honed in time.

SINGING FOR BEGINNERS Resolve to be more musical in 2006 - join the Singing for Beginners class for adults at the Manitoba Conservatory of Music & Arts. This fun, 7-week evening class starts February 8. If you've always wanted to take voice lessons, but were afraid to try, this is the perfect opportunity! Participants sing solo and in groups, learn basic voice technique, and have a lot of fun. Spaces are limited - register today! Call 943-6090 or visit www.mcma.ca for details.

WEST CENTRAL WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM WOMEN ARTISTS interested in engaging our membership in a collaborative art-making project. Proposed activities will take place in eight Wednesday afternoon sessions beginning on March 15. Email artfromtheheart@hotmail.com or call Tammy at 775-7238 for a detailed request for proposals. Application deadline February 15.

* AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID: INFORMATION



AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID: INFORMATION UPDATED WEEKLY

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG INTERNAL AWARDS:

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG BURSARY APPLICATIONS: Application forms are now available in student services located in Graham Hall, and at the Student Central Kiosk located in Centennial Hall. Bursaries are small, supplementary financial assistance awards, normally \$300 - \$750 in value. In order to be considered, you must prove financial need and you must be making satisfactory academic progress (i.e. maintaining a "C" average). Because funds are limited, not everyone who qualifies will receive a bursary. Many of our University of Winnipeg bursaries are available to our students in any year of their program. Return completed applications to the Awards office. Deadline date: January 31 2006.

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES APPLICATION EXPENSES BURSARY: This bursary assists students with respect to the high costs associated with applying to Graduate and Professional Schools. Applicants must meet the following criteria: 1) have a minimum GPA of 3.55 in the previous academic year. 2) be registered in the final year of an honours or four-year degree program in Arts or Science, or in the final year of the Integrated B.Ed program. 3) have documented financial need: a Canada Student Loan/Provincial Loan or a Student line of credit at a banking institution. 4) both full-time and part-time students may apply. Applications are available in the Awards office located in Student Services and will be accepted beginning October 15, 2005. Students may apply any time during the Fall/Winter academic year, providing that funding is available for this bursary. Applications will be evaluated on a first come, first serve basis.

EXTERNAL AWARDS:

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Countries - Chile, Colombia, Korea, The Philippines and Russia Awards are available to Canadian citizens for graduate studies or research abroad at the master's, doctoral or post-doctoral level. For most countries, applicants must have completed a first degree or, for post-doctoral fellowships, a Ph.D. by the beginning of the tenure of the award. Apply on-line at website, www.scholarships.gc.ca Deadline: January 27, 2006 Note: the governments of Italy, Japan, The Netherlands and Spain also offer awards to Canadian graduate students. The embassies of these countries in Canada are responsible for the administration of their respective scholarships.

ORGANIZATIONS OF AMERICAN STATES FELLOWSHIPS: Fellowships are available to Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada who hold a university degree, to pursue graduate studies or research in any field, with the exception of the medical sciences and introductory language studies. Countries where tenable: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela. Please note that a permanent resident of Canada is not eligible for a scholarship tenable in the country of which he/she is still a citizen. Apply on-line at website, www.scholarships.gc.ca Deadline: January 27, 2006

INTERNATIONAL SPACE UNIVERSITY 2006: The Canadian Foundation for the International Space University (CFISU) is a private, non-profit charitable organization, which promotes the International Space University Program in Canada. Typically, 10 Canadians receive sponsorship each year, in whole or in part of this program. Eligibility is as follows: -be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.-be proficient in English and at least conversant in a second language, preferably French.

- completed an undergraduate degree at the time of the application with the exception of students who are currently in Medical or Law School and were accepted without first obtaining an undergraduate degree, but have at

least completed four years of university. -the competition is open to university graduates and practising professionals are eligible provided they have not been in the workforce longer than six years. -have a minimum cumulative average of 75% at the time of application Value: Tuition, travel, room and board on campus (approximately \$26,000) Duration: July 3 to September 1, 2006 Location: ISU Central Campus, Strasbourg, France Applications can be found at www.auca.ca Contact Michelle Crawley for more info. Deadline: January 27, 2006.

THE DATATEL SCHOLARS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS: The University of Winnipeg is a new Datatel client institution and as such, Datatel is offering unique scholarships ranging in value from \$1,000 to \$2500 to students from our institution. - Returning Student scholarships assist current outstanding students who have returned to higher education after an absence of five years or more. - Nancy Goodhue Lynch scholarships are awarded to outstanding undergraduate students majoring in information technology-related curriculum programs. Application Process: The Datatel Scholars Foundation online scholarship application process is as follows. 1. A student attending an eligible Datatel client institution may apply via the online application form between September 1, 2005 and January 31, 2006. (NOTE: applicants must complete and submit an application in order to be considered for nomination.) 2. The scholarship administrator from each participating Datatel client institution reviews, evaluates, and nominates applicants between Feb. 1, 2006 & Feb. 15, 2006. 3. Nominated student applications are forwarded to the Datatel Scholars Foundation review committee for final evaluation and award determination in the spring. Submit your application online at www.datatel.com/dsf DEADLINE: January 31 2006.

SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA: Grants for Women The Soroptimist Foundation of Canada provides several grants of \$7500 to female graduate students in Canada to assist them with university studies that will qualify them for careers that will improve the quality of women's lives (Masters or PhD). Examples include but are not limited to: providing medical services, providing legal counselling and assistance, counselling mature women entering or re-entering the labour market, counselling women in crisis, counselling and training women for non-traditional employment, and positions in women's centres. More information can be found at www.soroptimistfoundation.ca Applications are available in the Awards office. Deadline: January 31 2006.

ROYAL BANK ABORIGINAL STUDENT AWARDS: Value: Five students will receive \$4,000 for education expenses to a maximum of four years at university. Eligibility: If you are a status Indian, Non-status Indian, Inuit or Metis, you are eligible to apply for a RBC Royal Bank Aboriginal Student Award provided you meet the following qualifications: -you are a permanent resident/citizen of Canada -you can provide proof of acceptance (with transcript of marks) or are already attending a university or college listed in the Directory of Canadian Universities, in a discipline relevant to the banking industry (e.g. business, economics, computer science) -you maintain a full course load leading to a recognized degree, certificate or diploma -you are in need of financial assistance to pursue your education Process: An independent committee of aboriginal academics reviews all applications and makes its final selections based on each individual's financial need. In addition, recipients who indicate an interest in pursuing a banking career are considered for summer and postgraduate employment at RBC. Apply on-line at www.rbc.com and send your documentation to:

RBC ROYAL BANK ABORIGINAL STUDENT AWARDS RBC Royal Bank 330 Front Street West, 10th floor, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3B5 Fax: (416) 348-6455 More information can also be found by emailing aboriginalstudentawards@rbc.com Deadline: January 31st 2006.

MACKENZIE KING SCHOLARSHIPS: Open Scholarship: One scholarship of \$9,000.00 is awarded to a graduate of any Canadian University who engages in postgraduate study in any field in Canada or elsewhere.

Traveling Scholarship: Four scholarships of approximately \$10,000.00 for graduates of any Canadian University who engage in postgraduate study in the United States or the United Kingdom in the field of international or industrial relations. Applications can be downloaded from website www.mkingscholarships.ca or can be picked up from the Awards office in Graham Hall. Return all completed applications to the awards office located in Graham Hall by Deadline: January 31, 2006.

TERRY FOX HUMANITARIAN AWARD PROGRAM: Terry Fox Humanitarian Awards are open to graduating secondary level students and those currently studying towards a first university degree or diploma in a Canadian post-secondary institution. Award recipients must

meet the following criteria: -involvement in voluntary humanitarian work -be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants -be an undergraduate student studying towards their first university degree or diploma at a Canadian post-secondary institution in Canada -maintain a satisfactory academic standing -continued involvement in voluntary humanitarian and community work The value of the award is \$7,000 per year, renewable for a maximum of four years or until a first degree is obtained. It is subject to satisfactory progress, and is tenable at any Canadian university or college. Approximately 20 awards are granted each year. The field of study is open and at the discretion of the successful candidate. Consideration for a Terry Fox Humanitarian Award requires students to submit an application form and three reference forms from the past two years of schooling - no other forms are required. Applications are available on their website, www.terryfox.org Deadline date: February 1 2006.

KIN CANADA BURSARIES: HAL ROGERS FUND: Kin Canada Bursaries, a program of the Hal Rogers Endowment Fund, provides financial assistance to eligible persons in their quest for higher learning. Applicants to the Kin Canada Bursaries must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. Also, applicants must be full-time students in the process of graduating from high school, or currently studying or registered at a post-secondary institution. All applicants for a bursary must complete the current application form and submit it to a Kinsmen, Kinette or Kin Club nearest your permanent residence. 2006-2007 application forms are available at www.bursary.ca Additional information is available at 1-800-742-5546 ext. 215 Deadline: February 1st 2006.

CIBC YOUTHVISION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Candidates must meet the following criteria: -be enrolled in an approved mentoring program with Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Canada. -maintain a minimum of 60 percent average until and including graduation-must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents. The values of these 30 awards are \$4,000 or actual tuition fees, plus paid summer employment with YMCA Canada. You are eligible if you attend any approved post-secondary Canadian educational institution in recognized programs. The duration of this award is four years or until first degree/ diploma is obtained, whichever occurs first. Applications forms are available from Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Canada member agencies or by phoning the toll-free number 1-800-263-9133. Deadline: Feb 1, 2006.

POST SECONDARY AMBASSADORS: The Millennium Foundation is interested in employing post-secondary ambassadors starting in September 2006. PSA's will be compensated with an honorarium of \$3,000 per year, paid out in installments. Applicants should already be enrolled in at least the first year of their post-secondary program of study within Manitoba. Travel within the province will be required. A strong sense of work with adolescents and a commitment to pursuing post-secondary education are paramount. For an application form and more information go to www.futuretodiscover.ca Deadline date: February 3, 2006.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS: Application forms for University of Manitoba Graduate studies are available on the web www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies You can fill out the necessary forms directly on-line. Hard copies are available in the Awards office. Applications must be received in the Faculty of Graduate Studies by Deadline: February 10, 2006.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME: The Manitoba Legislative Assembly Internship is open to individuals studying in any discipline at one of the Manitoba universities and permanent residents of Manitoba studying outside the province who have graduated or will do so before September 2005. Six interns will gain first hand experience of the legislative process and provide research assistance to Members of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly and their caucuses. The program includes a 10 month Internship, bi-weekly stipend of \$1033.74, study tour of the House of Commons, Ottawa, study tour of the Minnesota State Legislature, and regular special interest seminars. Applicants should meet the following criteria: -have a university degree with academic excellence in any discipline by the time of the start of the internship year -have facility in written and oral communication in English -knowledge of written and spoken French will be considered a strong asset -show ability to conduct independent research and write reports -applicants invited for interview will be asked to do a short written assignment following the interview -demonstrate evidence of involvement in extracurricular activities. A complete application must include 7 copies of each of the following: -a completed application form -a statement of motivation of not more than 250 words -three letters of reference from academics -copies of the university transcripts of the applicant -one page résumé Applications available on line at www.gov.mb.ca. You will have to go to the Legislative Assembly link: About the

Assembly - Internship programme. Deadline: Feb 14, 2006.

TALK ABOUT CANADA SCHOLARSHIP QUIZ: Operation Dialogue is a Canadian non-profit organization with a mission to get students interested in learning about Canadian history, politics, geography and popular culture through an online quiz with scholarship opportunities. Students who participate in this quiz will be eligible for scholarships. The quiz will take place from January 23 - February 20, 2006 and will be entirely online. It is multiple choice and each answer has a link to information on the web. Over \$45,000 in scholarships to be won: 1 at \$5000, 20 at \$1000, 40 at \$500 Go to www.talkaboutcanada.ca to participate. Deadline: February 20, 2006

EPILEPSY CANADA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS: These \$1000.00 scholarships are open to students aged 16 to 29 years of age who are Canadian citizens or who have landed immigrant status and who are currently under a Canadian physician's care for the treatment of epilepsy. Please note that visa students are not eligible for this award. The application form will also require a resume, and a 600-1200 word essay, Theme: "How I can personally help increase epilepsy education in my community." Applications forms at www.epilepsy.ca toll-free 1-877-734-0873 or email EpilepsyCanada@epilepsy.ca Deadline: February 25, 2006

ROBERT KAUFMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: These 20 undergraduate scholarships are valued at \$250.00 - \$5,000 for students studying in the area of accounting, attending a recognized accounting program. Selection is based on monetary need. For more information contact: Independent Accountants International Educational Foundation, 9200 South Dadeland Blvd. Suite 510, Miami FL, 33156 Deadline is February 28, 2006.

Surfing for more Dollars? Try these websites for more possibilities! These two sites will lead you through Canadian based scholarship searches. www.studentawards.com www.scholarshipscanada.com

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

MANITOBA STUDENT AID SECOND DISBURSEMENT:

When you receive your Manitoba Student Loan document in the mail, the University of Winnipeg will have electronically confirmed your full-time enrollment and deducted fees that you owe to the University of Winnipeg. Bring this document to the Manitoba Student Aid office located on the fourth floor of 1181 Portage Ave. for processing.

You will need to bring the following documentation: -your SIN card -some photo ID -bank transit information

Please note: if you have reduced your course load, these changes will affect your Manitoba Student Loan assessment.

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DID YOU KNOW.... Manitoba Student Aid staff is on campus regularly on Fridays 1 - 4p.m. You can book an appointment by coming to student services or phone Tanis at 786-9984.

Love & Basketball

By Patrick Faucher

Every 3rd week, Patrick Faucher brings you Love & Basketball, a breakdown of all that is NBA. E-mail him (love or hate) at pfauch@hotmail.com

I own you.

"The Raptors (9-22) are 3-0 against the Hawks this season, accounting for one-third of Toronto's wins." - Charles Odum from AP Sports. While it might not be true following Toronto's five-game winning streak over the league's other cellar dwellers (see: Houston, Orlando, Houston), it certainly sums up their season. They can beat the teams that would have a hard time in the NBDL, but can't put it together to get to the next level.

Respect. noun. A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. Or, if you prefer, get a tape of the Wesmen Classic's High School Final. Rowdy Sisler fans packed the house, with a couple Jeanne Sauve supporters sprinkled throughout the room to watch the city's top two teams go at it. With both members of CJS's twin-duo in foul trouble facing a 49-43 deficit at halftime, there were whispers in the crowd of them being "over-rated." That is, until the Loters started hitting five-feet-behind-the-arc treys over three defenders and successfully running one-on-four fast breaks. Even Sisler fans dropped their jaws as Nick Loter scored 40, and his brother Dan chipped in 27 of his own, despite playing nearly the entire game in foul trouble. CJS won the game 101-93. But if you had the pleasure that I (a CJS alumn) had, seeing the faces of the Sisler fans go

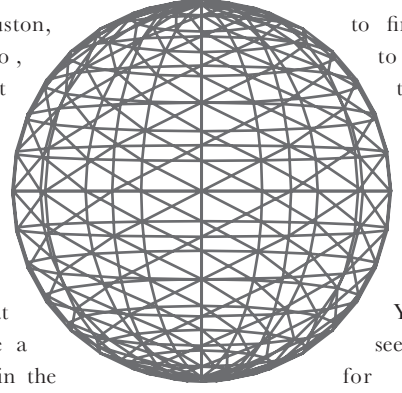
from excitement, to uncasiness, to panic, to awe, you'd truly understand what "respect" means.

24-second drill: RonRon, when will you learn? \$10,000 for requesting a trade. To the Knicks. The Pacers have benched him until they can find a team suicidal enough to accept his services. All I can say on the Raps' behalf is, "Why not?"... Yao Ming is leading All-Star votes. His teammate T-Mac is tops for Western forwards. Their team, the Houston Rockets, are last in the West. We need to find a way to control the planet Asia vote if they're going to play favourites like this. You don't see me voting for Jamaal Magloire, now, do you?

Line of the Month: Vince Carter Jan. 8 at the AGC. 42 points against his former team, including 24 in the 4th quarter. The 3-point game-winning buzzer beater. And one forced ejection of an old friend (after being playfully slapped by Carter, MoPete retaliated with a palm of his own. Unfortunately, the ref only saw the latter). Vince called it his greatest shot ever. (The buzzer beater, not the slap. I think).

Game of the Week:

Friday, Jan. 20, 2K and 6 at 7 p.m. on The Score. Tim 'The Fundamentalist' Duncan and his Spurs (first in the West) try to harness Dwyane 'Flash' Wade and the Heat (second in the East), who don't seem to be taking the regular season too seriously. Well, except for Wade, who last week averaged 27 pts, 10 asts, 7 rebs, and 3.5 stls per game while shooting 57 percent from the field. Fall down seven times, stand up eight. I'm not even sure I get what that means, but I believe it.



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Not Your Average Cage Fighter

By Kalen Qually

Despite what some may believe it doesn't just take a cage, an opponent, and tight to become a cage fighter. Kip Dynamite can attest to that (see film: Dynamite, Napoleon). But, so can Ryan Caligiuri. Lucky for us, this local fighter was willing to impart some of his own ass-kicking wisdom. First and foremost, let's clear up some confusion over this term "Cage Fighter". As Ryan would like to clarify, "I wouldn't really call myself a cage fighter, I'm more of a mixed martial artist. Cage fighting is an aspect of it." Duly noted, now get that triangle choke-hold away from me.

It must be understood that in order to succeed at this most gruesome (and cool) of sports, it takes years of serious focus and training. You must be in remarkable physical condition to compliment a wealth of knowledge in many styles of fighting. Further, as I've learned, there are not any mixed martial arts dojos. It's not a sport you can train for, like Dodgeball or knife-throwing. Rather, it's a collection of fighting styles (hence "mixed" martial arts). As Ryan spells it out,

"In cage fighting you're not going to be successful if you only have one skill. If you only have one skill, the guy you're fighting against may have four skills and he's going to end up being better than you." Even Napoleon Dynamite will tell you it's all about the skills. Ryan is expertly trained in areas of Shotokan karate, Kyokushin karate, Brazilian jujitsu ground-fighting, Muay Thai fighting, and kick-boxing. Needless to say he has trained very hard to achieve the privilege of being referred to as a cage fighter.

Ironically, Ryan never aspired to this. At a young age, instead of picking up a hockey stick or chucking pigskin like a lot of his friends, he got into karate. As he recalls, "While everyone was going to practice after class, football games, soccer games, I was going to my dojo and training." From there, the seeds of martial arts were planted in a young enthusiastic mind. Like a true student, he trained hard and wanted to learn how to be the best fighter possible. He would eventually get his black belt in karate. But like your grandma and board games,

she's not happy kicking your ass at checkers. She can also school you in backgammon. Likewise, Ryan wanted to learn other forms of martial arts. Although he puts it more eloquently, "The reason why I got into the rest of them was just to become a complete martial artist, and just know within myself that I'm the best martial artist that I can be." That's why grandma rocks at Monopoly, too. Because she's the complete board gamer.

If you couldn't tell by Ryan's comments on his eternal quest to be an awesome fighter, he's a very focused individual. He attributes much of his focus to his idol, Bruce Lee. Ever since he was a young karate chopper, he has looked up to the kung-fu guru. At one point, Ryan wasn't quite so awesome and had considered quitting martial arts. But after watching a lost interview with Bruce Lee he felt encouraged to "keep on truckin." To quote Ryan, "Bruce Lee had so much philosophy and wisdom in his words that it inspired me to be something better, somebody better."

At a young age he would lose his first two matches, which he

now reflects on as a very positive experience. Ryan's focus would pay off, as he has since gone undefeated in all of his fighting disciplines. He has won 46 straight martial arts matches, as well as all 13 of his mixed martial arts (cage fighting) contests, compiling a flattering 59-2 record in competition. In his base form of fighting, Shotokan karate, he is ranked number two in Canada and number ten in the world. But getting him to admit he's that good isn't all that easy. "I don't want to be cocky because I hate gloating." Which is understandable -- who really wants to brag about being internationally ranked? Ryan went on to say, "When people ask, are you really that good? If I say that I am that good then you're going to think I'm boasting. But if I say I'm really bad I'll be lying."

Ryan may not boast more than most, but he isn't one to shy away from self-reflection. When asked about where he hoped his fighting would lead him, he delivered a lengthy response consisting of quotes like, "I think my aspiration and where I want to end up is just to feel whole in the end," "To feel complete so that I know I'm good enough. That might be tomorrow," and my personal favourite, "When I know Ryan Caligiuri is ready, then that's when I'll stop the game." All quotes were necessary to reach the ultimate conclusion of,

"To be honest I don't know where it will take me."

While he was on that train of thought, I asked him to reflect on the mixed martial arts scene in Winnipeg. "There's a lot of martial arts competitions coming up in Winnipeg that there hasn't been before. A lot of mixed martial arts schools are coming up now because of mixed martial arts popularity." One of the major events Ryan talked about was Cage Wars, which was featured at the Convention Centre in October of 2005. He also went on to talk about Winnipeg's own Joe Derksen, who is currently busting heads in the UFC. "You get a little star like that, it's big. Having Joe Derksen in Winnipeg, it's a big boom for the martial arts community."

And for the young-uns looking to get into cage fighting like their UFC heroes? Ryan would like them all to know, "I really hope that people don't get into it to show off and be fancy and kick butt. I think it's going to be a huge wake up call for kids, especially when they get into mixed martial arts and find out how hard it is, and how disciplined you have to be, and how much mentality plays into it."

So if watching Napoleon Dynamite has inspired you into becoming a cage fighter, you may want to look up Bruce Lee.

Wesmen Wallop Wolfpack

Youngsters delight in weekend

By Daniel Falloon

The next generation of basketball in Winnipeg was in attendance at Saturday evening's "WMBA Night" Wesmen game. The Wesmen men's team thrived in the role reversal as the teachers, not the taught. The home side improved to 6-8 on the season with 99-86 and 92-74 victories over the Thompson Rivers Wolfpack, first-year participants in the CIS.

"Tonight was a tougher night. Last night we made a ton of shots, and tonight, some of them didn't drop, and I told the kids that could happen. We were smarter, we moved the ball and we got a lot of easier looks in around the basket and made those, and that was a big difference," said head coach Dave Crook.

When asked about keeping his team focused, Crook said, "I just talked about how critical the weekend was and how we needed to win these games. It would be a huge setback if we lose tonight after winning last night. We just can't afford to have that happen."

The Wesmen were lead by Erfan Nasajpour and Dan Shynkaryk. Nasajpour scored 18 points, dished out 7 assists and gathered 8 rebounds while Shynkaryk added 17 points to go with 14 rebounds. Matt Opalko pitched in 13 points to go with

7 assists, while Ryan Roper, Phil Swart and Will Bergmann contributed 8 points apiece. Jeff Friesen scored a team-high 14 points for the Wolfpack. Brian Smith added 12 points despite hitting just 2 of 8 field goal attempts, epitomizing a squad that made only 29 percent of field goal attempts.

"Most of the guys played pretty well. We got a real good effort from a lot of players. I thought Danny was real good, and Erf (Nasajpour) was real good, and they just played a solid game. Matthew was real strong. Josh Sjoberg had a real strong weekend, and I was really happy for him. He did some really good things with his energy and was really active for us," said Crook.

While not lighting up the scoreboard, guard Jon Menjivar displayed hustle in limited playing time. "He had great minutes off the bench. He made some great passes and played real well. He's in such a tough spot because playing behind Erfan's not easy. Jonny works real hard and he's a good guy and he was important for us today," said Crook.

The Wesmen only trailed early in the game, with their largest deficit being four points when the Wolfpack took the initiative to grab a 4-0 lead in the game's first minute. From there, the Wesmen dominated,

hitting 51 percent from the field and out-rebounding Thompson Rivers 60-36. The Wesmen, after opening up a 46-35 halftime lead, came out gunning to start the second half, embarking on a 20-2 run to open up a game-high 29-point lead. During that hot streak, the speedy Nasajpour passed to Dwhyte Brissett, who let the ball fall through his hands, but Nasajpour caught it and popped it in for two.

One disheartening stat for the hosts was the 30 personal fouls called against them, with Brissett and Dallas Bosko each fouling out. The Wolfpack took advantage, hitting 30 of 45 shots.

In Friday night's action, the Wesmen let loose, shooting 51 percent from the field, as well as firing 10 for 19 from beyond the arc. Shynkaryk and Nasajpour each recorded double-doubles. Shynkaryk dropped 21 points to lead all scorers, as well as grabbing 10 rebounds. Nasajpour



File Photo: Wade Andrew

The Wesmen opened the second half of the season with a 3-1 record after beating Thompson Rivers in both contests last weekend. The team is now second in the Great Plains division. 3rd year guard Erfan Nasajpour (file photo) leads the team in points with 249, posting an 8th place spot in the CIS.

drained 19 points and fired off 12 assists. Both scored 15 first-half points to stake the Wesmen to a 56-44 lead at the break. Brent Traxel paced the Wolfpack with 18 points.

The women's team had nearly as enjoyable a time as the men did in beating up the first-year Wolfpack, winning 63-54

on Friday and 76-58 Saturday. After struggling in the early game, guard Uzo Asagwara dropped 30 in the latter, as the Wesmen used a 22-7 mid-second-half run to blow the game wide open. The Wesmen improved their record to 10-4 with the win.

SPORTS EDITOR: **MIKE PYL**
 E-MAIL: SPORTS@UNITER.CA
 PHONE: 786-9497
 FAX: 783-7080



NFL Picks

Each week the Uniter Sports team will attempt to disseminate and scrutinize five of the upcoming week's most intriguing National Football League's matchups for ours and yours, the reader's, leisure. The parity of the NFL consistently embarrasses even the most knowledgeable of analysts. Why not let it embarrass us too?

Game #1: Pittsburgh @ Denver

"In the AFC match, look for the surging Broncos to come out on top of the Steelers. While the Steelers were able to handle Indy at home, Denver's a completely different beast. The Broncos played nearly mistake-free football in the process of dismantling the defending Super Bowl champs, and while Pittsburgh's opponent, the Colts, had a better regular season record, they hadn't played a meaningful game in over a month. The Pats on the other hand, have been clutch in the playoffs in recent years (10-1 in the postseason over the last 4 years)." – Thomas Asselin

"Not the dream matchup that the NFL's script writers were hoping for (bye bye Pats/Colts). The definitions of "bump" and "grind" will face one another in the AFC Championship game, and the only thing we can hope for is that the average yards per carry is 4.5, and not 3.8. This game may have the entertainment value of a Matlock marathon. So the real question becomes; which run-pounding, ball-securing, moderately-blitzing squad will come out victorious? Let's go with the home team. Denver goes to Super Bowl XL." – Kalen Qually

"This game marks the sixth trip to the AFC Championship Game since 1995 for the Pittsburgh Steelers. But in this time, how many have they won? Just one, back in 1996, when they were consequently dumped in the Super Bowl by the final en-core of Aikman, Smith, Irvin, et al. Bill Cowher has, for whatever reason, struggled in this game. While I still do not trust Jake Plummer, history dictates a Bronco Super Bowl appearance." – Mike Pyl

Thomas Asselin says: Denver
 Mike Pyl says: Denver
 Kalen Qually says: Denver

Game #2: Carolina @ Seattle

"In the NFC championship game between Seattle and Carolina, things aren't so easily put in place as injuries may tip the balance to either team's favour. League MVP Shaun Alexander left the game against Washington on Saturday (he claims to be fit to play as of Sunday the 15); while for Carolina, DeShaun Foster and Julius Peppers both left their team's match against the Bears. The biggest factor in this game however, is home field advantage; and no team has a better '12th man' than Seattle." – Thomas Asselin

"Both teams could face an interesting problem: winning without their top running back. However, Seattle's running back was the NFL MVP this season, which stands as a serious hit to their offense. If he isn't back from a concussion, can the 'Hawks do it without Shaun Alexander? They barely did against Washington, despite what the 20-10 final score tells you. I'm guessing that Alexander doesn't return to top form, if at all, and Carolina does it with the passing game, à la Steve Smith." – Kalen Qually

"In two playoff games thus far, Panther WR

Steve Smith has caught an incredible 22 passes for 302 yards and 3 touchdowns. Smith, who garnered some darkhorse MVP consideration from several prominent media members, enters the game as the clear focal point of the Carolina offense, now that RB DeShaun Foster is out. On paper, this one-sided attack looks like it should be easily contained. But what Smith has done in the last two games cannot be quantified on paper. Can he be stopped?" – Mike Pyl

Thomas Asselin says: Seattle
 Mike Pyl says: Carolina
 Kalen Qually says: Carolina

Standings

Qually	41-23	.640
Pyl	39-29	.574
Verville	25-19	.568
Asselin	38-30	.559
Lamb	36-35	.507
Symons	25-24	.510
Geisheimer	11-19	.367

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Voting hours for your polling station are indicated on your voter information card and on the Elections Canada Web site at www.elections.ca by clicking on the voter information service icon.

If you haven't received this card, you may possibly receive the voter card. Please allow for extra time to receive your polling station information slip. January 23, last present with the document that includes your name, address and signature. If you do not have your signature, you will not have the opportunity to verify that you are eligible to vote at the polling station you are in, as long as you are accompanied by a voter registered in the same polling division who can verify your identity.

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GREENING THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG:

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY POLICY TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Be sure to attend the upcoming **Greening The University of Winnipeg: Campus Sustainability Policy Town Hall Meetings** to find out more about the University's new proposed Sustainability Management Policy on campus, future plans, and to share your ideas.

For information on Campus Sustainability, visit the newly launched **Campus Sustainability Office** website at: sustainability.uwinnipeg.ca In preparation, those planning to attend the Town Halls are encouraged to read the "Backgrounder" document on the campus sustainability website.

(NOTE: Date & Venue Change)

Wednesday, January 25, 2006	Friday, February 3, 2006	Wednesday, February 8, 2006
12:30 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.	12:30 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.	12:30 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.
Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall	Theatre B (4M47)	Theatre A (4M31)

Following the Town Hall meetings, a Sustainability Blog will be available on the website so that you can share your comments, suggestions, and great ideas for a greener, more sustainable campus.



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